

Florida Gaming Control Commission

PUBLIC MEETING

June 08, 2022

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 8, 2022

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 10:32 a.m.

PLACE: The Florida State Capitol
Cabinet Meeting Room
400 South Monroe Street, PL-01
Tallahassee, Florida

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

LISA D. WILKERSON (Via Telephone)

Job No.: 254360

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2 A T T E N D A N C E
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4 COMMISSION MEMBERS:
5 Commissioner John MacIver, Chairman
6 Michael Yaworsky, Vice-Chairman
7 John D'Aquila, Commissioner
8 Julie Imanuel Brown, Commissioner
9 Charles Drago, Commissioner
10
11 SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS and SPEAKERS:
12 Louis Trombetta, Executive Director
13 Ross Marshman, General Counsel
14 Lisa Mustain, Director of Administration
15 Susan Whitmire, Chief Information Officer
16 Joe Dillmore, Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering
17 Elizabeth Stinson, Senior Attorney
18 Mark Dunbar
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23
24
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1 Commissioner.
2 We're going to move on to Agenda Item
3 Number 2, which is introduction of
4 commissioners.
5 I'd like to give each commissioner just a
6 brief moment. I know that we did this as well
7 at the last commission meeting, and got maybe a
8 little more of an in-depth look at everybody.
9 But just so we can hit the ground running
10 with both commissioners and staff, if everybody
11 wants to take just a minute or two and tell us
12 about, I guess, what brings you to the
13 commission and, I guess, an introduction of
14 yourself.
15 Vice-Chairman Yaworsky, do you want to
16 start?
17 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: As the chair
18 said, my name is Mike Yaworsky. I'm honored to
19 be the vice-chair of the Florida Gaming Control
20 Commission. It's a tremendous honor to be
21 appointed by Governor DeSantis to this
22 important post.
23 Looking at the work that both the
24 commissioners and our new staff, which is in
25 the front row, have already begun doing, it's

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: All right. Good
3 morning.
4 We're going to call the June meeting of
5 the Florida Gaming Control Commission to order.
6 If I'm popping, someone let me know.
7 I see the front row of our commission
8 staff here, and that's more than
9 understandable. For the rest of you in the
10 audience, I'm slightly confused what on this
11 agenda garnered your interest, but I'm happy to
12 see you this morning.
13 If we can move directly to Item Number 1.
14 Commissioner Drago, I believe you gave the
15 Pledge of Allegiance at the last commission
16 meeting. Would you be inclined to lead the
17 pledge for us today as well?
18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Absolutely. I'd be
19 glad to.
20 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Thank you, sir.
21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Will you please rise?
22 Will you all join me in the Pledge of
23 Allegiance?
24 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)
25 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Thank you,

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1 very nice to see this new entity come together
2 and begin to gel and become cohesive. I'm
3 really proud to be a part of that endeavor. I
4 think that together we have a great opportunity
5 to go a long way to help Florida, in general,
6 and move the ball forward on creating a great
7 regulatory state for gaming interests
8 throughout the state. Thank you.
9 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Commissioner D'Aquila?
10 (Brief technical *interruption)
11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Let's try that
12 again.
13 My name is John D'Aquila. I'm from
14 Jacksonville Beach, Florida. I'm honored to be
15 here. I'm honored to be appointed by the
16 governor. It's my first foray, serving the
17 state of Florida.
18 I come here with 36 years of business
19 experience. I'm a CPA, both in the State of
20 Florida and the State of New York, active.
21 I'm a graduate of Binghamton University.
22 I've been blessed with serving my career, both
23 as an auditor with Ernst and Young, a CFO, a
24 CEO, and an entrepreneur founder, and several
25 boards over the years, both a nonprofit

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1 university and corporate.
2 I look forward to contributing to this
3 commission.
4 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Good morning. Thank
5 you so much for the opportunity to introduce
6 ourselves here. I'm grateful, as well, to be
7 able to serve the state of Florida --
8 continue serving the state of Florida in this
9 capacity as commissioner on the new Gaming
10 Control Commission. So much work has been
11 done, and it's super exciting to be a part of
12 this new entity.
13 I've been in public service for 15 years,
14 practicing attorney for 22. My focus has
15 primarily been on energy and real estate. As
16 secretary of DBPR, I got exposed to a lot of
17 what PMW does. I'm so excited to continue that
18 path here today. Thank you. And I live in
19 Tampa, Florida.
20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Good morning. My
21 name is Chuck Drago.
22 I was a career law enforcement officer.
23 Spent 35 years in law enforcement in the state
24 of Florida. I started out in the City of
25 Fort Lauderdale, and then retired from there

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1 as well. Thank you.
2 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Good morning. My name
3 is John MacIver. I've been appointed to be the
4 chair of the commission.
5 I started my career in the State of
6 Florida government, back in approximately 2001
7 as an intern for one of the finest men I've
8 ever known, then state senator, and now
9 Congressman Bill Posey.
10 I worked there for approximately
11 seven years, while finishing up
12 my undergraduate degree from the University of
13 Central Florida. At which point in time, I was
14 kicked, screaming out of the nest to go to
15 law school.
16 I'm a graduate of the Northwestern
17 University School of Law. I've spent most of
18 my legal career working in State of Florida
19 administrative spheres.
20 I used to joke that I'm actually a really
21 nice guy, but I've seemed grumpy for the last
22 decade because I work in admin law.
23 I most recently have served our Chief
24 Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis, as his
25 general counsel. I was in that position for

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1 and became the chief of police in the City of
2 Oviedo, just outside of Orlando, which is where
3 I live still today.
4 After that, I went to work in DBPR as
5 well, and served as the secretary of DBPR, and
6 then as deputy chief of staff at the
7 governor's office.
8 After that, I decided to go into the
9 private sector for a while. I started my own
10 business, a police practices consulting
11 business, which I still do today.
12 I'm grateful to have an opportunity to
13 come back and serve the state of Florida in
14 this capacity. This is a new and exciting time
15 for gaming enforcement in this state. In terms
16 of starting a new agency, getting off on the
17 ground floor in a brand new agency is something
18 that doesn't happen very often.
19 I'm also excited to have a -- not only a
20 regulatory part to this commission now, but
21 also a law enforcement component.
22 So I'm looking forward to working with my
23 fellow commissioners and with the staff of the
24 Gaming Control Commission, and working with
25 everyone in the industry and in the community

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1 about two years before landing in this
2 position.
3 I'm also very, very excited to see how
4 this commission can form. The idea of forming,
5 from the ground up, a brand new commission,
6 state agency, the team that you get to gather,
7 the procedures you get to put in place, to make
8 sure that we are effecting the will of the
9 people as expressed through their legislature,
10 and at the same time minimizing the red tape
11 and bureaucracy that can sometimes go along
12 with executing those policies.
13 So again, I'm very, very excited to see
14 what we can build here together. I think it's
15 going to be a great adventure.
16 I'm now going to move on, with great
17 thanks, to our executive director for the
18 initial team that he is already putting in
19 place.
20 I would like to introduce some of our
21 senior staff members, who are recent hires to
22 the commission, and let the general public know
23 what an outstanding team we're already starting
24 to put in place.
25 Lou, would you like to take the lead on

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1 that? Sorry, Director Trombetta.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Thank you,
3 Chairman.
4 Yes. As you said, we have essentially
5 four new senior employees to introduce to you
6 and to the public.
7 The first has been selected to be the
8 director of the Division of Pari-Mutuel
9 Wagering. So he will be taking on the lead of
10 the regulatory agency within the Gaming Control
11 Commission, Joe Dillmore, who is seated
12 upfront.
13 Next we have hired our CIO, our chief
14 information officer, Susie Whitmire. She's in
15 red here in front.
16 Next to her is Lisa Mustain, who's going
17 to be the director of administration.
18 Then finally, we have Ross Marshman, who's
19 taking the role of the general counsel.
20 So I think with these, you know,
21 four people immediately -- they've been here a
22 short amount of time, but they've immediately
23 made contributions that are going to benefit
24 the commission, the state, and it really is a
25 very optimistic and exciting time to go

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1 with the executive director's office.
2 The guidelines I asked him to explore that
3 were, if something is a ministerial act, if it
4 is a shall issue or a shall deny, then I don't
5 see why that ministerial act necessarily has to
6 come before this body before we can actually
7 get the ball rolling and have the regulated
8 folks in this state have an answer more
9 quickly.
10 At the same time, if it is a matter of
11 agency discretion, then, yes, we have not only
12 the responsibility, but we have to remain
13 accountable to the people of the state of
14 Florida by making those decisions.
15 Of course, we are working within the
16 boundaries of the administrative law precedent
17 that precedes us.
18 So there are going to be some boundaries
19 and some obstacles to reaching that goal of
20 being able to clearly delineate what would come
21 before the commission and what would be able to
22 be handled at a staff level.
23 I had asked the director and the
24 general counsel to put together a presentation
25 for us on exactly what some of those parameters

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1 forward. Thank you.
2 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Thank you, Director.
3 If we could move on to Agenda Item
4 Number 3, approval of the minutes from the
5 March 31st meeting.
6 Commissioners, I believe you all, in
7 advance of the meeting, received a copy of the
8 commission meeting minutes from March 31st.
9 Is there a motion to approve those
10 minutes?
11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: So moved.
12 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Is there a second?
13 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Second.
14 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Any objection? Hearing
15 none, show the minutes adopted.
16 Item Number 4, discussion of commission
17 procedures and processes.
18 Let me kind of just walk through how this
19 has developed. In an early conversation with
20 the director, I had asked him to explore the
21 concept of streamlining inefficiencies of --
22 delineating what things would actually have to
23 rise to the level of approval by a collegial
24 agency head and what things could be approved
25 or denied in the ordinary course of business

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1 are, so that we can vote in those specific
2 procedures.
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Thank you.
4 So in front of you, I've included a memo
5 in the meeting materials that contains
6 recommendations for five items. We essentially
7 went through and, as the chairman said, looked
8 for items.
9 Right now, we focused simply on the
10 regulatory actions that, after July 1st, will
11 need approval from an agency. These are the
12 actions of -- final agency action that will
13 need to be signed off on by the commission.
14 So we did not look at essentially criminal
15 or some of the administrative procedures. That
16 will probably come up in subsequent meetings.
17 But going forward, again, I've grouped
18 these into five different items.
19 The first one deals with permitting
20 issues. So these are the items that involve
21 anything essentially with the modification of
22 permits, adding permits, or revoking permits.
23 They will all need final agency action.
24 So the recommendation is that the
25 division, through me, will conduct all of the

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1 fact-finding; present some sort of report,
2 memo, item, to prepare and have it included on
3 an agenda; and be available to respond to any
4 questions the commissioners may have at the
5 meeting. Sorry. One second.

6 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Just for the other
7 commissioners, as a note on procedures for this
8 meeting, please, for this presentation, don't
9 wait for recognition by the chair. If you have
10 a question of the director or any presenter,
11 please feel free to ask a question at any time
12 without waiting for recognition by the chair.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: So
14 continuing, an item that would require
15 signature from the commission would be prepared
16 and vetted through the gaming commission
17 underneath you, the Division of Para-Mutuel
18 Wagering. It will then be presented to you for
19 signature at the commission meeting.

20 The same is the case for operating
21 licenses. So these are any issue involving
22 operating license tied to a permit will
23 essentially follow the same process. The
24 Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering will conduct
25 fact-finding. A recommendation will be

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1 you are bound by certain precedent and how that
2 can be accomplished.

3 And as Director Trombetta has already
4 mentioned, if the commission is taking final
5 agency action, then the commission is the one
6 that has to take that step. But there are
7 other certain functions that have already, by
8 law, been made part of the executive director's
9 ambit and purview. That is the administrative
10 function I think that Director Trombetta had
11 mentioned earlier. That's laid out in Chapter
12 16.

13 For certain actions that the commission
14 will take, I endorse Director Trombetta's plan
15 to do all of the fact-finding that is
16 necessary, including making a recommendation
17 for the commission, and asking the commission
18 what its input is after the director and his
19 staff have done all of the necessary work for
20 the commission to have its best information and
21 best recommendation to take final agency
22 action.

23 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Commissioner Brown?
24 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chairman.

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1 provided. Legal will look at it. Then it will
2 be presented to the commission for signature.

3 Any questions on either of those two?
4 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Yes. I just want to
5 ask, and maybe I'm getting a little bit ahead
6 of you here. But with that procedure in
7 place -- and this is more of a question for the
8 overall subject of delegation, is that -- well,
9 even that procedure is going to cause some
10 delay of waiting for a meeting for us to
11 actually sign the order.

12 Can you or can the general counsel give us
13 just a brief synopsis of what the boundary is
14 for us being able to just directly delegate
15 that to the executive director, those things
16 which are ministerial, rather than
17 discretionary, in nature?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Sure. I'm
19 going to refer -- I'm going to ask Ross to come
20 up and provide an answer on that.

21 MR. MARSHMAN: Good morning. Thank you,
22 Chair.

23 On the question of delegation from the
24 commission to an executive director and his
25 staff, as the chair has already pointed out,

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1 Mr. Marshman, do you foresee -- or
2 Mr. Trombetta -- an exorbitant delay as a
3 result of the fact-finding component and then
4 the presentation to the commission for final
5 action, or what's the timeframe typically on
6 some of these processes and procedures?

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Thank you,
8 Commissioner. I'm trying to get it to stop
9 hissing. I'm sorry.

10 It's something that I think we'll be able
11 to deal with operationally. So a lot of items
12 that are on this list have deadlines, whether
13 they're in 120 or in some other statute, 550 or
14 551.

15 I think, from an operational side, we
16 should be able to prepare them ahead of time,
17 so that we can arrange them around a
18 regularly-scheduled commission meeting.
19 However, there may be some exceptions, where
20 we might have to call a special meeting.

21 For operational licenses that we were just
22 talking about, they all operate on a schedule
23 that's laid out in statute.

24 There's a window where the permit holders
25 have to apply for an operating license.

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1 There's a fixed date that the agency has to
2 issue or make a decision on the license. So
3 that one, we can arrange a meeting on that
4 date. We'll get everything to you, so that we
5 can do that easily.
6 Slot licenses, we may have to schedule
7 meetings around the reissuance or renewal of
8 slot licenses. So they are on a calendar,
9 based on the initial issuance of the license.
10 It's separate from the cardrooms and
11 Pari-Mutuel operation licenses.
12 Again, I think it's an operational
13 question that we're going to be able to work
14 around.
15 The next item was individual occupational
16 licenses. So these are license applications
17 from people that either work in the facilities,
18 work around, and will have access to the
19 facilities, or the businesses that are vendors
20 or provide services for the facilities.
21 So they are on a different schedule.
22 We have essentially 90 days to issue a license
23 from the date that the application is
24 completed.
25 So I think, again, for the most part,

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1 to make sure that there wasn't going to be a
2 hiccup.
3 Just one additional question. Is there
4 going to necessarily be rule-making that needs
5 to be conducted to implement some of these
6 procedures and policies?
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: There may.
8 Right now, it doesn't look like there's going
9 to be any rule-making required to effectuate
10 the changes that these items are trying to
11 incorporate and trying to get ahead of.
12 If that is needed -- you know, the
13 rule-making procedures in 120, I think 54, will
14 apply to the commission, just like they do
15 everybody else. You know, we have a
16 rule-making sort of -- the Division of PMW has
17 our -- we'll continue to do rule-making as
18 needed.
19 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thanks for your time
20 on this.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Yes.
22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I ask one quick
23 question?
24 Can you walk through the process as it is
25 today?

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1 we'll be able to kind of fill them in. The
2 plan on these is that you'll be provided
3 licenses for denial.
4 So there's a subset. Of all the
5 applications we get, the denials will come to
6 you for final agency action. I think, again,
7 on the operational side, we'll be able to
8 manage it, so that we can get things to you in
9 a timely manner.
10 I'd also ask for flexibility because,
11 you know, this will kind of work itself out in
12 the coming months. I appreciate the
13 consideration of these items today, ahead of
14 July, because that's really -- on July 1st, the
15 agency changes for the Division of PMW.
16 In the past, the DBPR, through PMW, was
17 the agency that was taking agency action on
18 these items. On July 1st, it's the commission.
19 So I think that transfer will happen smoothly.
20 I think, again, from the operational side, I'll
21 be able to try to make everything happen.
22 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I have some
23 follow-up, if I may.
24 This makes sense. The recommendation is
25 pretty cohesive and very thorough. I just want

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1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Sure.
2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: And how it works, so
3 I can kind of compare what it is today and...
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Okay. So
5 again, I'm just using an example, going back to
6 the permitting issue.
7 A change in ownership of more than
8 10 percent needs to be approved by the
9 Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering.
10 The recommendation, going back to the
11 first item, permitting, it will then be changed
12 to the commission. Right now, the Division of
13 Pari-Mutuel Wagering will receive the
14 application. The application process is laid
15 out in both statute and rule. Those are
16 staying the same. So the forms will be the
17 same. You know, we're working on changing,
18 where it says "DBPR" to the Florida Gaming
19 Control Commission, but the process itself will
20 all stay the same.
21 The Division of PMW currently does a
22 little bit of vetting on the new owners. So
23 the purchaser -- we need to make sure that the
24 correct people have licenses, that if there's
25 any fees or any outstanding legal issues that

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1 we kind of deal with them, but we -- the
2 Division of PMW kind of goes through that whole
3 process, and then we'll provide a -- in case of
4 ownership transfers, there's two documents.
5 There's a conditional final order to allow the
6 companies to kind of conduct closing. So it
7 says, so long as you guys close the way you say
8 you're going to, the permit ownership will
9 change within this amount of time.

10 So the conditional final order of approval
11 goes out. That will be signed by the
12 commission, where right now it's signed by the
13 division. Then the companies can close their
14 deal. They submit the closing documentation
15 back to the division, and the division then
16 issues the actual final order.

17 So that process will still involve those
18 two items, the conditional final order of
19 approval and the final order. It's just that
20 instead of the division being the one that
21 signs it, it's going to be elevated to the
22 commission for signature.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So the process is
24 basically going to be the same?

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Yes, sir.

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1 meet. And I saw not a significant delay, but
2 some delay. And any delay when someone is
3 asking the government to let them do what they
4 are otherwise entitled to do, I see as just a
5 little bit too long.

6 So where those things -- again, I keep
7 making the distinction between a ministerial
8 versus a discretionary. So for instance, if
9 someone meets the immutable factual
10 qualifications for a license, and it's a shall
11 approve, then that's something I really want to
12 see an executive director be able to sign off
13 on, so you're not waiting a week or two weeks
14 or a month for us to have our regularly
15 scheduled business meeting.

16 And certainly, there will be cases where
17 we can have a special meeting to address a
18 license here or a license there or a
19 disciplinary issue here or there. But in the
20 general course of business, I really just want
21 to see how we could streamline those as much as
22 possible.

23 And the general counsel, you had suggested
24 there was a case out of the 2nd Circuit that
25 kind of tied our hands on that.

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1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: It's just going to be
2 a different body, agency head that's going to
3 approve and sign off on it.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Correct.

5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Will the people in
6 the industry feel a difference, do you think?

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: If I do my
8 job correctly, they should. The goal here is
9 to make it as smooth as possible for both the
10 industry and operations. I think a lot of
11 these items we have time to set on agendas.
12 They shouldn't be happening like this at the
13 last minute. So we can plan for it.

14 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: One difference that I
15 was foreseeing was, as it happens right now,
16 let's say there is a licensing application.
17 You know, the line analyst and the attorney
18 have done their fact-finding. They recommend
19 an approval. It goes to their next level
20 supervisor. Then it goes into a folder and
21 basically goes to a secretary, who is there in
22 the office every day and can make an
23 individualized decision, because they're one
24 person.

25 We, as a collegial body, actually have to

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1 What would be necessary for us to get from
2 where we are today to being able to do kind of
3 what I'm discussing, where at least the things
4 which are clear could be done in a more
5 streamlined fashion?

6 MR. MARSHMAN: Taking that case's holding
7 into account and looking at other examples of
8 other commissions and other executive
9 directors, the solution, I believe, is an
10 expressed grant of statutory authority of
11 delegation powers from the Florida Gaming
12 Control Commission to the executive director
13 and his team.

14 I believe that would be the strongest case
15 for Director Trombetta and his team to make
16 those decisions, streamline the process, and as
17 the chair said, give people the permission to
18 do the jobs they are trying to do.

19 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: And just to be clear
20 for the general public and what I am asking,
21 what I am suggesting, where a statute says "may
22 deny" or where the factual finding that has to
23 be done for a license is more of a judgment
24 call, I absolutely believe that is stuff that
25 does have to come before the commission because

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1 it is our responsibility, and we have to be
2 accountable for that.

3 I'm talking about the things where
4 something should clearly be issued or something
5 should clearly be denied.

6 Those are the types of things that I'd
7 like to see the public be able to get a quicker
8 answer on. But if that's something that's
9 going to take some legislative change, then
10 that's, I think, open for future discussion
11 amongst this commission, if we're ever talking
12 about any sort of a cleanup bill on our
13 statute.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. MARSHMAN: Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Mr. Trombetta,
17 real quick. I think the chair's points are
18 well taken.

19 But I'm wondering -- when you said that
20 the experience should be the same roughly for
21 our regulated entities, I wonder if you could
22 just expound a little bit on some of the -- I
23 know we're early in this process, but some of
24 the ideas that have been expressed internally
25 among staff on some -- over time improvements

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1 That's what I'm trying to achieve here.

2 So whether it's an individual applying
3 through our website that needs a license, so he
4 can raise his animal at Gulf Stream, or it's
5 one of the Pari-Mutuel facilities applying for
6 their operational cardroom licenses. The
7 experience should be the same from their end.

8 From the back end, it might -- it's going
9 to change just in that there's different people
10 making that final decision, conducting the
11 final agency action, and because of the
12 commission, there's going to be the opportunity
13 for public input.

14 So that too is something -- you know, the
15 Sunshine Law applies a little bit differently
16 to the commission than it did to PMW. So there
17 are opportunities for little differences. But
18 for the most part, from application to
19 issuance, from the experience of the applicant,
20 it should remain the same.

21 Does that answer your question? Sort of?
22 It looks like it doesn't.

23 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: No. I think that
24 one of the things as I understand that we are
25 hoping to do over time would be to improve that

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1 to technological infrastructure and
2 streamlining processes from a truly
3 administrative standpoint of how we're going to
4 fulfill our statutory obligations.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Yes. So
6 one of the advantages that we're going to find
7 in hiring personnel that we've hired already is
8 that we're going to be able to improve a lot of
9 the administrative, kind of, processes that
10 have existed.

11 I'm sorry. Maybe that's better.

12 You know, right now -- and it's not a shot
13 at DBPR. DBPR has been super helpful. They've
14 helped the division succeed in my time there.
15 But the DBPR serves a wide range of professions
16 and businesses.

17 Being able to focus just on the gaming
18 business, I think, is going to help our
19 administrative team respond to industry needs
20 in a much, kind of, quicker and more efficient
21 way.

22 And just to circle back on, kind of, what
23 I said. I think from the industry perspective,
24 from the applicants that are applying for the
25 license, their experience should be the same.

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1 experience for the licensee or the regulated
2 entity, to kind of cut down on any barriers and
3 improve the licensing process wherever we can.
4 I'm not suggesting that it's a process that's
5 in disrepair or anything of that nature.

6 But I think that as we're going through
7 this new process and as has been discussed,
8 there may be ways that this fresh opportunity
9 in the creation of this entity exists to
10 broaden that out to include a better experience
11 for the user as they're inputting information
12 or providing data or whatever it might be to
13 get a license or permit, that we can streamline
14 and make that a more efficient process.

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: And to
16 hopefully build some confidence,
17 Mr. Vice-Chair, both Lisa and Suzie -- there's
18 so many things I want to improve. How do we
19 get a better licensing system? How do we
20 improve this process? It's going to happen.
21 It might just take some time.

22 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Take some time.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yes. Director,
24 might that include -- does your computing
25 operation calculate on a weekly basis the age

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1 of application, when it came in, and then
2 organized by those that are perhaps simpler
3 than others, might that be a part of the weekly
4 meeting to automate that efficiency, as the
5 volume of applications and renewals and changes
6 goes up over the next several months?
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: So the
8 reference, I think, is more to the individual
9 occupational licenses, the employees working at
10 the tracks. So they -- our individual
11 occupational licenses right now have a
12 three-year life cycle. So we've instituted
13 that change within the last maybe five years,
14 to make it a three-year life cycle, so we don't
15 have to get renewals as often.
16 Licenses generally kind of follow a
17 pattern throughout the year. There's times
18 when racing -- during the winter, racing
19 season, there's more people at the tracks
20 needing licenses. So there's more of a demand
21 for licenses at that time.
22 Around the end of the fiscal year, the
23 start of the new fiscal year, when licenses are
24 expiring and needing to be renewed, there's
25 another kind of uptick.

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1 final agency action.
2 Permitting, operating licenses, individual
3 occupational licenses, disciplinary issues, and
4 I have a category called "special items."
5 These are items that aren't typically listed in
6 the controlling statutes. So items like
7 petitions for declaratory statements. So these
8 would be items outside sort of the gaming that
9 are just tools available to people to use under
10 some other avenue of the law. You know,
11 waivers under 120 that may come up every once
12 in a while, but they will need final agency
13 action from the commission.
14 So the recommendation is that you
15 essentially authorize me, the executive
16 director, to do fact-finding on issues that
17 involve or will need final agency action to be
18 presented to the commission at a meeting for
19 signature.
20 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: And just to be clear,
21 again for the public, that fact-finding, when
22 it is brought before the commission, is still
23 subject to inquiry by the commission before
24 those facts are actually, quote, unquote, found
25 as part of the final agency action.

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1 So we do track data regarding number of
2 licenses applied for, issued, denied, and we
3 can get timeframes. We do have that, and we
4 can incorporate that into the process, yes.
5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.
6 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Just a note for you,
7 Mr. Trombetta. As we move forward through
8 these meetings, my general preference is to
9 kind of conduct any individual item, like --
10 almost like a district court of appeal, where
11 we're going to let you start your presentation,
12 and I believe in a hot bench, we'll probably
13 end up taking you off your presentation as we
14 hit you with questions.
15 But to kind of bring it back to where you
16 were, can you kind of give us the summary
17 overview of what the recommendation is for us
18 to adopt today?
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Sure. So I
20 provided recommendations on each of the items
21 in the meeting materials. They're all
22 essentially the same.
23 The recommendation is that you essentially
24 accept or allow the division to conduct
25 fact-finding on these issues that will need

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1 So it's not like we blindly receive a
2 package that says, this is what those facts
3 are. We still do probe into the fact-finding
4 before we make a final decision.
5 With that, is there a motion to adopt the
6 staff recommendation?
7 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I would
8 move to adopt the recommendation on five items
9 presented under item -- Section 4 in our
10 package of materials as presented to us.
11 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Is there a second?
12 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.
13 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Do I hear any
14 objections? Hearing none, show the motion
15 adopted.
16 Commissioners, I would also at this time
17 like to also ask for a motion -- because we're
18 talking somewhat about delegation issues, I
19 would like for a motion to ratify any actions
20 that have been taken on behalf of or affecting
21 this commission that would otherwise be within
22 the purview of the commission, by way of
23 example any actions that have been taken by the
24 executive director subsequent to our last
25 meeting.

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1 Do I hear such a motion?
2 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: I move.
3 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Do I hear a second?
4 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.
5 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: And if I could, I'd
6 like to ask for a roll-call vote on this.
7 So Vice-Chairman Yaworsky?
8 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Aye.
9 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Commissioner Brown?
10 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Aye.
11 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Commissioner D'Aquila?
12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Aye.
13 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Commissioner Drago?
14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Aye.
15 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: And the chair
16 votes aye. So that motion is unanously
17 (phonetic) adopted -- unanimously adopted. I
18 told you I was going to forget how to use the
19 English language this morning.
20 Moving on to Item Number 5, the process
21 for hiring our director of law enforcement.
22 I think, as you all know, setting up
23 the -- I would say the other half of, but
24 certainly other segment of our agency that's
25 going to deal with criminal law and prosecution

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1 if you -- each of the commissioners will be
2 provided with all of the applicants. You'd get
3 a copy of all of the resumes. Then if you'd
4 want anybody to be interviewed, you can add
5 them to that pool.
6 Then essentially, we would then meet again
7 to go through the interview pool and either
8 finalize your interviews or do interviews that
9 day, if you want to kind of save time. I was
10 going to just leave that up to you-all, if you
11 want it that way. Then you can either kind of
12 narrow the interview pool in that first
13 meeting, and then have a second one, where you
14 kind of do the interviews and select a
15 candidate.
16 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Just for
17 clarification. So that first pool would be --
18 that would be a live meeting with the
19 interviewees and the commission body, or would
20 it be individually with each commissioner and
21 the interviewees?
22 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: So the way I had
23 envisioned it, and I had -- my recommendation
24 would be -- again, we will have access to all
25 of the applicants as commissioners, and we

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1 is going to be one of our -- well, one, one of
2 our most exciting functions; but two, one
3 that's going to take a lot of heavy lifting.
4 And the first step of that is, of course, our
5 statutory duty to hire a director of gaming
6 enforcement.
7 Director Trombetta, can you kind of walk
8 us through what the proposal is for us to take
9 steps in that direction?
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Yes. Thank
11 you, Chairman.
12 So the enacting legislation requires the
13 commission to select a director of our
14 law enforcement agency -- or division within
15 the commission.
16 It's recommended that you kind of break
17 this up over a period of time here. So I'm
18 going to ask -- and I recommend that you allow
19 me to get the advertisement posted by
20 June 15th, and that we can then kind of gather
21 an applicant pool that is then narrowed down.
22 Ideally, I would essentially come up with
23 an order that I would recommend for interviews,
24 and I would have kind of a pool of the top part
25 of that order. However, leave it open, so that

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1 would conduct a special meeting prior to our
2 next regularly scheduled meeting, where we as a
3 commission would be able to review those
4 applicants, and that would not be live. That
5 would be a Zoom meeting for us in the Sunshine,
6 but we wouldn't be inviting applicants to that
7 meeting.
8 We would narrow down who we wanted to
9 interview, and we would invite them to our next
10 regular scheduled meeting for public interviews
11 and a vote on the record.
12 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I think that makes
13 sense.
14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Director, I know that
15 you're putting together the job description and
16 so forth. I think it's somewhat of a unique
17 position, in terms of law enforcement, and the
18 kind of people that we're going to seek out are
19 going to be kind of unique in certain ways.
20 But I would like to give some input in
21 terms of what properties I think they should
22 possess, what attributes, their experience and
23 so forth. Hopefully the commission will have
24 some suggestions as well, as to what this
25 person should look like in terms of experience.

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1 And just to throw some things out there, I
2 think some of them are obvious. Some of them
3 may not be so obvious. I think the person
4 needs to have management experience and above,
5 first line manager, mid-level manager
6 experience, which will include experience in
7 developing police policies, accreditation,
8 those types of things that are going to be
9 necessary for a law enforcement director to
10 face in any law enforcement job. But here,
11 that person is going to be establishing a whole
12 new police department, basically, and they're
13 going to need all of these things from A to Z.
14 In addition to that, that person is going
15 to need to have at least, in my opinion,
16 10 years of experience as a law enforcement
17 officer, with, say, seven years as a
18 supervisor, with criminal investigative
19 experience as well. I don't know that we're
20 going to find necessarily gambling criminal
21 experience, but that would be a plus, of
22 course.
23 I think these are kind of preferred
24 attributes I'd like to see in our law
25 enforcement candidates that are going to be

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1 description include a strong preference for
2 complex criminal investigations, RICO
3 investigations, interagency cooperation, and
4 experience with criminal and civil forfeiture.
5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I agree 100 percent,
6 yes.
7 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Is there a motion to
8 authorize the executive director to put out the
9 advertisement, based upon our direction, and to
10 begin the application collection process?
11 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Could I just ask
12 a clarification question?
13 To clarify the motion, a lot of very good
14 ideas have been put forward on -- or directives
15 have been put forward on what the
16 qualifications are.
17 I just want to -- I've heard preferred and
18 necessary at different points, and I don't know
19 if it would be helpful to delineate out what
20 those -- which are preferred and which are
21 necessary, or if they're all necessary to be in
22 the ad or how that should look, so that we have
23 good direction to the executive director on
24 what we're looking for.
25 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: So I think the

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1 necessary for this position. It's going to
2 take an experienced person to deal with all the
3 nuances of starting a law enforcement branch, a
4 law enforcement division for the state.
5 So I would think those things are going to
6 be necessary, at the very least. So if we
7 could consider that, if the commission could
8 consider that, those and whatever else anybody
9 would want to add to this position.
10 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: I like to second what
11 Commissioner said. I think at least 10 years
12 of progressive law enforcement supervisory
13 experience is going to be necessary.
14 I think you'll probably be able to model
15 the job description somewhat after possibly an
16 FDLE special agent in charge.
17 Additionally, Commission Members, I'd like
18 to ask that included in the job application,
19 because we want the division to have the most
20 flexibility going forward in completing
21 whatever the ultimate role from the enforcement
22 side is going to be, we want them to have the
23 experience and knowledge to be able to run the
24 full gamut of what might be done.
25 I think that it's important that the job

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1 necessary is going to be at least 10 years of
2 progressive law enforcement experience. But
3 again, I think those prerequisite requirements
4 that are necessary requirements can probably be
5 somewhat modeled off of using an FDLE special
6 agent in charge application to kind of model
7 after that.
8 The things I'm talking about having a
9 strong preference for, the more we make a
10 qualification mandatory, the more we tie our
11 own hands. We may have someone who has
12 nine and a half, rather than ten years, of
13 experience in an area that we think isn't
14 qualified, but is an absolute rock star in
15 every other qualified area.
16 So my general preference would be to not
17 tie our hands, but to allow us the discretion
18 to meet whatever the statutory obligations are
19 for this position, and to meet those baseline
20 qualifications as a threshold. But otherwise,
21 to give ourselves the maximum amount of
22 flexibility to decide, as a body, what totality
23 of qualifications meets our needs.
24 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I have a question for
25 Mr. Trombetta.

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1 Is there any necessary qualification that
2 you feel would be appropriate in the job
3 advertisement that you would recommend to us?
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: So I think
5 there's -- in terms of the requirements -- and
6 I'll give you my thoughts too. I think two are
7 delineated in the statute. I forget what they
8 are off the top of my head, and it has to do
9 with being sworn and being able to be
10 certified.
11 So I think I would model whatever is in
12 the statute. Whatever is required in the
13 statute, I'd include in the advertisement as a
14 requirement.
15 And typically in job advertisements, to
16 address some of the concerns here, there's
17 usually a sentence, like the minimum
18 requirements, like similar experience can be,
19 you know, accepted to meet an otherwise lacking
20 area. So we can include a sentence like that,
21 if you prefer.
22 But to your actual question, I think --
23 you know, again, I'm relying on the knowledge
24 of the commissioners. I think they're more
25 experienced in, you know, acting law

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1 looking for. Even though it might eliminate
2 them, they know what we're looking for.
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Correct.
4 Yes, sir.
5 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: So with that
6 clarification, I would motion for -- the
7 original motion to essentially do what
8 Mr. Drago did, which was to create the minimum
9 qualifications that have been discussed as
10 required, and then have preferential notices
11 issued in the ad, so that there's some context
12 of what we're looking for. So then we have
13 both flexibility and some framework in place to
14 make sure that we have a great pool.
15 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Is there a second?
16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.
17 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Do I hear any
18 objection? Hearing none, show the motion
19 adopted.
20 Now, this may actually be the most
21 difficult part for all of us, Agenda Item
22 Number 6, discussion of our regular meeting
23 schedule.
24 In discussions with the director, my
25 recommendation is that we settle on -- and of

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1 enforcement.
2 So I think everything that Commissioner
3 Drago and Commissioner MacIver, I think
4 requirements regarding experience, the type of
5 experience, that being RICO or advanced
6 investigations.
7 In my own research, talking with people in
8 other states that has this type of role, they
9 kind of echo those desires. You want someone
10 that's able to not just one -- a lot of what
11 they're going to be looking at is a little bit
12 complex by nature, or could be. And two, you
13 want somebody that has -- that's going to be
14 able to go up the chain and have some
15 experience doing white collar crime.
16 So I think I can incorporate the items
17 identified today and get a candidate pool that
18 reflects what you guys want.
19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So the job
20 announcement could give those minimum
21 requirements, and then preferred --
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Yes, sir.
23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: -- attributes or --
24 not requirements, but attributes that you could
25 add to that, so that applicants know what we're

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1 course it can fluctuate in advance of any
2 scheduled meeting, but that we schedule a
3 regular monthly business meeting. My
4 recommendation was going to be the first
5 Thursday or first Wednesday, or whatever is
6 most convenient for the commissioners, of every
7 month. I know that July is going to become a
8 little bit complicated because of some
9 schedules, and we may have to call an audible
10 on that. But ultimately to have a regular
11 general business meeting that will happen once
12 a month that would then be interspersed with
13 any special meetings that we have to have. If
14 there's a case that has significant facts that
15 we have to discuss that we have to do a
16 separate meeting from our regular business
17 meeting, we might call a Zoom meeting, or -- or
18 even if we have to have just a special meeting
19 on any of those cases, we can notice those as
20 appropriate, but intersperse them throughout
21 our regular monthly.
22 For the general business of the
23 commission, I think we can get things done on a
24 monthly meeting schedule. But the devil is in
25 the details, and trying to work around

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1 everybody's schedule, I think, is where it
2 started getting complicated.

3 So I am open to recommendations of the
4 commissioners and the director, as to how you
5 all want to see that work out.

6 If nobody else talks, it automatically
7 falls to you.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Let me try
9 to break the ice here.

10 And this kind of goes in step with the
11 procedures.

12 Having a regularly scheduled monthly
13 meeting is going to help operationally get
14 stuff prepared. We'll know ahead of time,
15 okay, we have a meeting on this date. We can
16 get our licenses and all of the materials
17 together for you on that date.

18 So I'd recommend that you guys kind of
19 agree to the first Wednesday or Thursday of
20 each month, that type thing, with the, kind of,
21 exception that there may be some special
22 meetings mixed in between as needed. But if
23 you can kind of work on that, I think that
24 would be great.

25 There were calendars, I believe -- yes,

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1 work for everybody.

2 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: As what would, I think,
3 colloquially be known as "pencil in," is
4 everybody comfortable if we go ahead and set as
5 a baseline the first Thursday of every month
6 for our regularly scheduled meeting, with an
7 exception for July, which is going to take some
8 further discussion?

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes.

10 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: What about the time?
12 10:00 or 9:30?

13 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: I am open to the
14 pleasure of the commission. I think we can --
15 I want to be accommodating to those of you who
16 are traveling into town, who may be eager to
17 get business started, so you're not here all
18 day. But at the same time, folks don't want to
19 be here first thing in the morning, and I can
20 understand that too.

21 So I'd be open to any suggestions and the
22 will of the body.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: So Thursday night is
24 football night for our family. So I'm a big
25 fan of getting in here earlier than the

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1 there's calendars included in this packet, so
2 that we can look at it. I know that July is a
3 little bit tough because the first week in July
4 is July 4th, but I'd still recommend that we
5 try to have a meeting in early July at some
6 point, whether it's part of the regularly
7 scheduled business meeting or not.

8 So I'd recommend that you guys do
9 two things at this moment: Come up with a plan
10 for a regularly scheduled meeting, and then
11 address the July issue of when you're going to
12 meet in early July.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I agree with
14 recurring date, day of the month, or however we
15 want to do it, so that we can plan out far
16 enough so that we can eliminate as many
17 conflicts for all of us as we possibly can.

18 Picking a day, like the first Thursday of
19 the month, is the way to go, in my opinion, and
20 the first Thursday of the month works for me.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So I agree with the
23 concept, and I also agree with the date that's
24 been recommended, but I know that we're going
25 to have to talk about that, that it may not

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1 10:00 a.m. So I'm game for 9:00, 9:30.

2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: That's fine with me.

3 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: 9:30 seems like a
4 good way to split the difference.

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Director Trombetta, I
7 think you're hearing first Thursday of every
8 month at 9:30. We'll have to work on logistics
9 of where we're going to regularly meet, whether
10 that's here in the cabinet room or how we'll
11 approach that moving forward, but we have a
12 timeframe.

13 Now working towards July, I'm going to
14 hand the reins back over to you. Keep in mind
15 the two things that we're going to have to do
16 for July are, one, a special meeting, which I
17 think we can conduct by Zoom to discuss
18 applications for the director of enforcement,
19 and then what would be our regular business
20 meeting on the agenda would be the public
21 interviews and a vote.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: So hearing
23 that, I'd recommend that you maybe do the Zoom
24 meeting first in early July. So I know the
25 July 4th week, there may be conflicts, but

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1 if -- I think that it would be best to do a
2 Zoom meeting in either that first or second
3 week of July, and then follow, like a week
4 later, with the regularly scheduled business
5 meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Our big consideration
7 there is length of advertisement for the
8 director of enforcement position.

9 That would leave us -- if the
10 advertisement goes out by the 15th, that would
11 leave us -- is that three weeks, someone who
12 can count without using their fingers?

13 Okay. Is everybody in agreement that
14 would be enough time to accept the applications
15 and for us to be able to review them? Okay.

16 I think that sounds good. If you wanted
17 to set up an appropriate Zoom meeting for that
18 first week for us to be able to discuss
19 applications.

20 And then what's a recommendation on our
21 general business meeting for July? I think
22 this is where we start running into conflicts.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: I'd
24 recommend you do it shortly thereafter. I
25 mean, I think a week is enough time, that if

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1 maybe even two weeks or three weeks after that,
2 maybe the second to last week on a Thursday or
3 second to last week on -- if that works for --
4 it's open for me. I'm just throwing that out
5 there, on the 21st or the 28th.

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just so I'm clear on
7 where we are right now. So we're talking about
8 reviewing the candidates on the 1st in a Zoom
9 meeting?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: On
11 potentially the --

12 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: The first week?

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: First week,
14 probably the 6th.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Okay. So the 6th
16 would be a Zoom meeting to review the
17 candidates, and then have a regular meeting
18 where the candidates would come in.

19 So yeah, I would say we're going to need
20 at least two weeks after that. Give them
21 two weeks to come in from wherever they may be
22 coming from.

23 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Do we have conflicts
24 for either the 21st or the 28th?

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Could we do the

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1 you guys narrowed down the pool, let's just say
2 on the 6th of July, then we could kind of
3 arrange, you know, people. We could say, all
4 right, everybody show up for the interviews on
5 the 13th, a week later. But I realize, again,
6 it's over the holiday here, so...

7 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: The one thing that
8 gives me a little bit of pause about doing it
9 too quickly is, we're going to be accepting
10 applicants potentially nationally from some
11 pretty busy, pretty powerful, high-level
12 law enforcement officials.

13 I would presume -- and it might be
14 difficult to address their schedules on short
15 notice.

16 Now, if they want the job, they're going
17 to have to show up for the interview. But
18 giving them a little bit more flextime to be
19 able to adjust their schedule might be wise on
20 our part, to make sure we're not closing the
21 door on some potentially good applicants.

22 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I would
23 completely agree. I think we also need some
24 time to digest the applications and spend a
25 little bit more vetting time, and I would --

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1 20th?

2 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: I can.

3 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: Is that enough
4 time on the 20th, given the considerations that
5 we just spoke about, or the 27th?

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: The 27th works.

7 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: The 27th can work.

8 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: The 27th works for me.

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: I think we're all in
11 agreement. Director Trombetta, if you can get
12 all of those schedules out and arrange for
13 everybody.

14 At some point in time, Commissioners, I
15 expect that we will have a regular assistant
16 process. But as we're moving, I think I'm
17 asking the director to do a lot of things that
18 might otherwise not be directly within his
19 duties in the future.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: It's part
21 of this job right now. It's not a problem. We
22 will get it done.

23 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Item Number 7, other
24 matters. I had envisioned this being a short
25 question of, does anybody else have anything

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1 good for the order?

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I do just have a

3 quick question. If there's anything that needs

4 to be done before July 1st on the part of any

5 type of action by the commission for direction

6 before that deadline.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROMBETTA: I guess --

8 I mean, it's appropriate, I guess, but it's

9 sort of like an executive director type of

10 update.

11 So ahead of July 1st, the Division of PMW

12 is doing our best to kind of do two things:

13 We're working with DBPR to kind of get

14 everything that's going to be needed for that

15 July 1st separation, to try to get in place, so

16 that operations can continue, and again, it's

17 been going very well on both. The DBPR has

18 been very helpful. They're going to continue

19 to support us as needed, but we're also trying

20 to pull away, so that we can kind of stand up

21 on our own as best we can on July 1st.

22 The second side of it is on the PMW side.

23 PMW internally is doing a lot. So we're

24 changing our letterhead, getting our email

25 signatures ready, changing some signage. We

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1 excited about your hires, Ross, Suzie, Lisa.

2 They've got great ideas. Especially from a

3 technology and HR standpoint, I know that

4 they're going to do a lot of great things for

5 this agency and assure the existing PMW staff

6 that it's only -- the trajectory is only going

7 upward and onward. So congratulations on

8 hiring such great candidates.

9 VICE-CHAIRMAN YAWORSKY: And I just wanted

10 to echo some words that have already been said

11 here. I want to thank Lou and the rest of your

12 team, both existing PMW staff and new staff

13 that have come onboard. I know that this an

14 awkward growing pains type of moment we're all

15 in, but everyone has been exceptional. I see

16 Dixie in the back. Everyone has been

17 exceptional in the work that you're doing to

18 keep this on track and to keep us on pace to

19 what's going on, and I appreciate it. Thank

20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: Likewise, let me thank

23 all of the staff and, importantly, all of the

24 commissioners, thank you. This first meeting

25 of mine ran very smoothly, and I appreciate the

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1 are trying to do everything we can to make --

2 on July 1st, make it clear that we are part of

3 the gaming -- the Division of PMW is part of

4 the gaming commission, and separate from DBPR.

5 So that's happening sort of behind the scenes.

6 It's a lot of work, but I think it overall

7 is going to be a pretty smooth transition for,

8 again, operations for the administrative side.

9 That's all going to happen pretty well.

10 We are working with the architecture firm

11 that we've engaged to come up with a design for

12 the building. We have another meeting

13 tomorrow, I do, to try to work forward on those

14 plans. The new staff is coming along to help.

15 Having them along is very helpful.

16 We are working on finalizing a lease for

17 that space as well. So we have a space in

18 mind. We're working with DMS to make sure the

19 lease captures exactly what we're trying to

20 achieve. Then on the secondhand, we're working

21 with the architect to make sure to kind of get

22 us in a good spot, so that we can get

23 construction going as needed to modify the

24 space.

25 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you. I'm super

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1 shoulders that I am able to stand on,

2 especially Commissioner Brown, and putting this

3 commission in the good shape that it's in for

4 me to be able to walk into this role very

5 easily. Thank you.

6 With that, if there's nothing else, we are

7 adjourned.

8 (Proceedings adjourned)

9 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: We are unadjourned.

10 I will take a moment for public comment,

11 yes.

12 MR. DUNBAR: Sorry, Chair. My name is

13 Mark Dunbar, for the record. I think I know

14 most of you.

15 The reason why I wanted to come here is,

16 one, to compliment you and praise you,

17 obviously, for standing this commission up.

18 There's a newspaper article out of

19 Jacksonville this morning. It's particularly

20 germane, and I wanted to make sure it was on

21 the record and brought it to your attention.

22 You commissioners now preside over what is

23 either the second or third largest gambling

24 industry in the country. The reason why I say

25 second or third depends on whether or not you

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1 are capturing the illegal and gray market
2 gambling that's going on in the state. To
3 capture that, we go from third to second.
4 There's an article in Jacksonville about a
5 commissioner over there that's considering an
6 ordinance to protect gray market slot machine
7 parlors over there, and to essentially create
8 an oligopoly of 20 of them operating.
9 The reason why I wanted to come and appear
10 before you right now is, I think it's important
11 that you communicate your existence. I don't
12 know that every chief of police, every sheriff,
13 and every local elected official even knows
14 that this body exists. But more importantly, I
15 don't think they know what the authority is
16 that's been given to you by the legislature.
17 And your plenary authority certainly reaches to
18 what is being discussed over in Jacksonville
19 right now.
20 I think it's important, as you move
21 forward, and particularly at any great ideas
22 from Commissioner Drago as it relates to the
23 director of law enforcement, that you take that
24 part of this industry extremely seriously,
25 because we have known organized crime. We've

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1 and your comments are very well taken,
2 Mr. Dunbar. Thank you.
3 With that, any other comments from the
4 commission?
5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I just want to follow
6 up on what Mr. Dunbar said. I think it's a
7 great point that that is going to be a big
8 challenge for us and for the law enforcement
9 director to get out in the state as quickly as
10 possible, and let these other law enforcement
11 agencies know that they've got this expertise
12 now. They've also got the support.
13 Many law enforcement agencies are not
14 familiar enough with the gray market machines
15 and so forth to really understand it to make
16 the cases they need to make, but this is going
17 to be a great resource for everybody in this
18 state, all law enforcement across the state.
19 So that's a great point. It's
20 something -- we have a real challenge ahead of
21 ourselves in trying to achieve.
22 COMMISSIONER BROWN: If I may, too, just
23 to follow up on Commissioner Drago.
24 I think those were great pointed points to
25 point out to all of us here. It's not just

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1 had shootings. We've had actual murders
2 involved in the gray market industry in
3 Florida. And one of the things that's tied
4 local government's hands, local law
5 enforcement's hands, and the Division of
6 Pari-Mutuel Wagering, and the state agency's
7 hands is an entity that didn't have the plenary
8 authority.
9 I've been working for 18 years to try and
10 help the legislature see the wisdom in standing
11 up a body like yours. I thought it was kind of
12 coincidental and, I guess, somewhat ironic to
13 the gray market industry, that that would
14 actually appear today on the first day the
15 commission has been impaneled.
16 So I only wanted to jump up here and say
17 please communicate your existence to local
18 elected officials and local law enforcement,
19 because I think that it's going to be important
20 as they move forward in looking at these kind
21 of operations to know that that really is your
22 authority.
23 So apologize for delaying the chairman and
24 the meeting.
25 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: No apology necessary,

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1 partnerships with local governments. It's also
2 external affairs of the existing agency
3 throughout the state of Florida through
4 campaign, through advertising, through
5 partnerships. Not just on the public side, but
6 also on the private side, that we really need
7 to think broad of how to get brand new agency
8 awareness out there to the public who are going
9 to be also really critical to help us thrive
10 and identify the gray market activities, but
11 also to the local governments as well.
12 CHAIRMAN MACIVER: All right. With that,
13 unless there is any pressing need,
14 Commissioners, we are adjourned.
15 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:32 a.m.)
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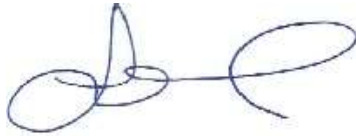
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF BAY)

I, LISA D. WILKERSON, Stenographic
Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and
did stenographically report the foregoing
proceedings telephonically, and that the
transcript is a true and complete record of my
stenographic notes.

DATED this 12th day of July, 2022.



LISA D. WILKERSON
Stenographic Reporter

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