



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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The Massachusetts Gaming Commission Hires Ombudsman

Liaison Role to Assist Gaming Developers and Municipalities to Effectively Navigate the Licensing Process

Today Chairman Steve Crosby on behalf of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) is pleased to announce **John Ziemba, Esq.**, as the Commission's Ombudsman. Mr. Ziemba brings more than sixteen years of legal, managerial and policymaking experience to this crucial role of coordinating the Commission's relationships with, and providing technical assistance to, two critical constituencies of the Commission—prospective gaming developers and municipalities that may be host or surrounding communities to a gaming facility.

Mr. Ziemba's will help guide gaming developers through the application process, and facilitate all meetings between developers and the multiple state agencies involved with licensing and permitting the new facilities. In addition, Mr. Ziemba will also serve as the key contact for Massachusetts municipalities which may be considered as "host" or "surrounding" communities by a gaming facility developer and/or the Commission. His responsibilities include proactively facilitating working relationships with all such communities, and responding to all inquiries from such communities. Mr. Ziemba will also provide guidance regarding resources for technical assistance that will help municipalities negotiate host and surrounding community agreements with prospective developers. Mr. Ziemba's overriding role will be to assure that all developers and concerned municipalities have a responsive contact at the Commission, and prompt, clear access to the necessary resources to meet their needs, and to move the licensing process forward as expeditiously as possible.

Chairman Crosby stated, "Mr. Ziemba's extensive experience with state government agencies, real estate development, and municipal government, is a major asset to this critical position which will assist developers and communities navigate what is inevitably a complex process. The Commission is dedicated to exceeding everyone's expectations regarding responsiveness and accessibility. It is our intent that the Ombudsman position will streamline the licensing process through facilitated coordination and immediate response."

Prior to joining MGC, Ziemba held positions in both the public and private sector acquiring experience which is uniquely suited to the position of Ombudsman. Prior experience includes serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Acting Secretary/Undersecretary for the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, and Director of Policy in the Housing and Economic Development secretariats, and senior manager in other state positions. As Deputy Director of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation and Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, he had oversight responsibility for the State Racing Commission. Mr. Ziemba also served as the Director of Labor for the Massachusetts Department of Labor.

Most recently, Mr. Ziembra held the position of Contract Partner at Bowditch & Dewey, LLP in Framingham, MA, where he was a Co-Chair of Government Practice and helped found the Renewable Energy Practice.

Ziembra graduated with a law degree from Boston College Law School in 1998. In 1990, he graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a concentration in Economics.

About MGC

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in November, 2011. In creating that process, the Commission will strive to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, and that they provide the greatest possible economic development benefits and revenues to the people of the Commonwealth, reduce to the maximum extent possible the potentially negative or unintended consequences of the new legislation, and allow an appropriate return on investment for gaming providers that assures the operation of casino-resorts of the highest quality. For more information on MGC, please visit www.mass.gov/gaming or connect and share on Twitter (@MassGamingComm) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm).

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