



Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

TO: Bruce Stebbins, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC)

FROM: Tim Brennan, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)

SUBJECT: Suggested Regional Strategies to Consider for Funding With Financial Support Provided From the New Gaming Economic Development Fund

DATE: September 14, 2017

This is intended to respond to your letter of July 26, 2017 seeking feedback and suggestions on how to usefully and beneficially apply funds from a new Gaming Economic Development Fund to strategies and initiatives that would positively impact the region surrounding the new MGM Springfield Casino Facility that is scheduled to be opened to the public next fall. We have reviewed all of the background information that you've provided, and participated in a conference call which you convened back on August 9, 2017, and based on our understanding of the subject fund as well as the comprehensive list the MGC's of use priorities, we have identified and would like to submit the following list of recommended strategies and initiatives which we're convinced are of substantial merit. Accordingly, we would urge that you and your colleagues on the MGC give serious and ideally favorable consideration to them going forward. Our agency's recommended use strategies and initiative can be briefly described as follows:

<u>Use Category Estimate</u>	<u>Summary Description</u>	<u>Lead Coordinator/ Implementer</u>	<u>Target Start-up</u>	<u>Preliminary Cost Estimate</u>
Public Transportation	Provide funding to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) to support supplemental evening and weekend public bus service to address the mobility needs of MGM Springfield employees and patrons.	PVTA	Summer/Fall of 2018	TBD based on agreed level of expanded bus service
Small Business Support	Provide training and one-on-one small business technical assistance to qualified firms seeking non-conventional business loans in Springfield and the surrounding Hampden County portion of the Pioneer Valley. Provide targeted training and technical assistance to both current and prospective borrowers seeking loans of up to \$50,000. Key areas of training and/or business assistance would include: financial planning, business assessment, general management and marketing	Common Capital Incorporated	Fall/Winter 2018-19	\$220,000/yr

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Public Safety	Conduct detailed feasibility analysis and follow-on action plan/ budget to establish a regional, lockup facility to serve cities and towns comprising the lower Pioneer Valley. Feasibility analysis, as well as the development of an implementation plan and budget, will require consultant expertise in multiple disciplines and an extensive public outreach, participation and engagement process over a 12 to 18 month time period.	Hampden County Sheriff's Department in collaboration with PVPC and municipal police departments in the Greater Springfield target area.	Spring 2018	\$275,000 to \$300,000

We hope that our agency's list of potential use strategic for the Commonwealth's new Gaming Economic Development Fund will prove to be relevant and useful. In addition, we will be happy to try and answer any questions you may have about one or all of the suggested uses described in this memorandum or to provide supplemental information that may help you to complete the MGC's vetting process.

We are grateful for the invitation you conveyed to provide this feedback and for its potential inclusion in a forthcoming MGC-generated "White Paper" that is to be submitted to the state legislature for its review, consideration and action later this year.



Timothy W. Brennan
Executive Director

TWB/mm

cc: S. Sheehan, PVTA
C. Sikes, Common Capitol

Bruce Stebbins New Gaming Economic Dev. Fund/Admin/Staff/Brennan/Memo