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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING #206

CHAIRMAN

Stephen P. Crosby

COMMISSIONERS

Lloyd Macdonald

Gayle Cameron

Bruce W. Stebbins

Enrique Zuniga

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December 15, 2016 10:00 a.m.

MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION  
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

1                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. We are  
2                   calling to order the public meeting No. 206 on  
3                   Thursday, December 15, 2016 at the Mass Gaming  
4                   offices. First item on the agenda,  
5                   Commissioner Macdonald, is the approval of  
6                   minutes.

7                   COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Yes. We  
8                   have two minutes that are subject to our  
9                   approval --

10                  MR. SANGALANG: Microphone, please,  
11                  Commissioner.

12                  COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: We have two  
13                  minutes that are subject to our approval of  
14                  November 22, 2016 and December 1, 2016. And I  
15                  move first with respect to the minutes of  
16                  November 22nd, that we approve them subject to  
17                  corrections for typographical areas -- errors  
18                  and other nonmaterial matters.

19                  COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Second.

20                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any discussion?  
21                  All in favor? Aye.

22                  MR. MACDONALD: Aye.

23                  COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

24                  COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

1                   COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

2                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Opposed? The ayes  
3 have it unanimously.

4                   COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: And  
5 secondly, with regard to the minutes of the  
6 December 1, 2016 meeting, I move that they  
7 approve subject to corrections for  
8 typographical errors and other nonmaterial  
9 matters.

10                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Second?

11                  COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Second.

12                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any discussion?  
13 All in favor? Aye.

14                  MR. MACDONALD: Aye.

15                  COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

16                  COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

17                  COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

18                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Opposed? The ayes  
19 have it unanimously. Next up is  
20 administrative update, Executive Director  
21 Bedrosian.

22                  MR. BEDROSIAN: Good morning,  
23 Commissioners.

24

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good morning.

2 MR. MACDONALD: Good morning.

3 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.

4 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good morning.

5 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good  
6 morning.

7 MR. BEDROSIAN: I don't have an  
8 update, other than to comment that this may be  
9 our last public meeting of the year. We may  
10 have our second agenda-setting public meeting,  
11 but I anticipate, absent an extraordinary  
12 need, this will be our last public meeting of  
13 the year. So that's all I have. I know --

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You might want to  
15 reiterate your warnings about the weather.

16 MR. BEDROSIAN: Well, it may have  
17 struck. What they can't see online is we have  
18 one or two guests, if any today, so maybe the  
19 people are hunkering down so... obviously, we  
20 have some cold coming up in the next couple of  
21 days. But there are another couple of agenda  
22 items under my update that will be addressed  
23 by HR Director Banda and our other folks from  
24 our administration office.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. So  
2 HR Director Banda.

3 MS. BANDA: Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good morning.

5 MR. MACDONALD: Good morning.

6 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.

7 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good morning.

8 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good  
9 morning.

10 MS. BANDA: Good morning. Can you  
11 hear me okay?

12 THE COURT REPORTER: No.

13 MS. BANDA: Oh, no? Okay. Can you  
14 hear me okay?

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Yes.

16 MS. BANDA: Good morning,  
17 Commissioners. How are you today?

18 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great, thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good, thank you.

21 MS. BANDA: Great. Today, I'm here  
22 to provide you with eh diversity update. I  
23 came before you last year, in November so it's  
24 been a full year. We have a total of 85

1 employees in the Commission, and 65 in the  
2 gaming full-time area, and we have 20 seasonal  
3 employees within racing.

4 In 2016, we hired eight full-time  
5 hires and about 19 rehires for the season  
6 racing meet for 2016. We had two new budgeted  
7 positions that we added in project oversight  
8 manager and a project manager. We've  
9 converted one contractor within the racing  
10 side, and we had six replacements due to  
11 turnover and various changes in staff.

12 Our goal is to align our diversity  
13 with -- between the Commonwealth, as well as  
14 the Greater Boston diversity statistics. So  
15 the Commonwealth is 19-percent diverse, and  
16 the greater Boston area is 34-percent diverse.  
17 And as you recall, our goal to be 25-percent  
18 diverse as an agency, as we do have staff  
19 across the Commonwealth and the Plainville  
20 area as well.

21 I'm pleased to report, since we --  
22 since 2014 we have increased our diversity by  
23 8 percent. Including our seasonal racing  
24 employees, we are 22-percent diverse. Without

1 the seasonal employees, we're 26-percent  
2 diverse. So we're somewhere in between, and  
3 we're continuing to work on outreach and  
4 working with the director of workforce  
5 supplier and diversity for additional  
6 resources, networking opportunities. But, at  
7 this point, our budget forecast projects  
8 limited hires so we'll be strategic about our  
9 outreach as we have additional hires come up,  
10 maybe due to turnover, or due to the couple of  
11 positions that we do have open for later this  
12 year -- or later this fiscal year, excuse me.  
13 And that's, essentially, where we are today.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What is the --  
15 what is the women to men, just out of  
16 curiosity?

17 MS. BANDA: Oh, my apologies. We  
18 are 49 percent female. It's about 50/50  
19 across the Commonwealth and 51 percent in the  
20 Greater Boston area.

21 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: And for the  
22 record, there is 65 gaming employees, which  
23 includes gaming agents stationed in  
24 Plainridge?

1 MS. BANDA: That is correct.

2 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: And remind me,  
3 it includes state police --

4 MS. BANDA: It does not include  
5 state police.

6 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: It does not?  
7 Okay.

8 MS. BANDA: No.

9 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Neither in the  
10 central office nor at the casino?

11 MS. BANDA: That's correct.

12 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Okay.

13 MS. BANDA: Employees hired by the  
14 gaming commission. And one other point that  
15 Commissioner Stebbins asked me to note is we  
16 are 4.7 percent with military service. So  
17 we're looking to, you know, manage that, track  
18 that, continue to work with our veterans'  
19 groups, which is challenging, but we're  
20 continuing to put the outreach out there and  
21 note where we are so that we can see where we  
22 can go from here.

23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. Good.

24 That's a pretty good job. Thank you.



1 MS. BANDA: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good  
3 improvement. Thank you.

4 MS. BEAULIEU: Good morning,  
5 Commissioners.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good morning.

7 MR. MACDONALD: Good morning.

8 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.

9 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good morning.

10 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good  
11 morning.

12 MS. BEAULIEU: I'm here today to  
13 update you on our FY '16 supplier diversity  
14 benchmarks. You have in your packets a copy  
15 of the supplier diversity program benchmarks  
16 and the MGC total spend for FY '16. While the  
17 numbers for the small business and women-owned  
18 business have not changed, there is a change  
19 to the minority-owned and veteran-owned  
20 business benchmarks.

21 Last week, we met with staff from  
22 both the governor's office and operational  
23 services division supplier diversity. As a  
24 result of that meeting, we were informed by

1           OSD that we were entitled to receive credit  
2           for an additional \$37,000 for minority-owned  
3           businesses and \$2,100 for veteran-owned  
4           businesses. The additional credit is from  
5           indirect spending from statewide contracted  
6           vendors that we use, like WB Mason. As a  
7           result of the additional \$37,000, we reached  
8           and slightly surpassed our benchmark for the  
9           minority-owned businesses for FY '16.

10           CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Which was?

11           MS. BEAULIEU: The benchmark was  
12           \$610,000, and it brought us to \$622,000.

13           MR. LENNON: And that was 7 percent  
14           of our discretionary budget.

15           MS. BEAULIEU: 7 percent.

16           CHAIRMAN CROSBY: 7 percent, right.

17           MR. LENNON: So this is an update.  
18           Earlier, I think a month ago, we came before  
19           you and told you we didn't meet that  
20           benchmark. Well, upon further review by OSD,  
21           we actually did meet it. They're doing their  
22           final report right now.

23           COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: So in our --  
24           which I think is a great update. The number

1 in our packets here, the 585,000, or  
2 96 percent, was the old number?

3 MS. BEAULIEU: Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: That is now  
5 updated to 622,000, the figure that you just  
6 mentioned?

7 MS. BEAULIEU: Correct.

8 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Which now  
9 exceeds it by 2 percent.

10 MS. BEAULIEU: Mm-hmm.

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: That's a great  
12 update.

13 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you for  
14 working hard at this.

15 MS. BEAULIEU: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Agnes, did  
17 they have any conversations, as they're moving  
18 into full-on veteran business certification,  
19 kind of, beyond just the service disabled  
20 veteran certification?

21 MS. BEAULIEU: They did mention  
22 they're working hard to get -- to recruit  
23 more. As a result of our conversation, we had  
24 a vendor who used a veteran-owned business for

1 trucking to deliver materials to us, so we'll  
2 get credit for that. And I forwarded that had  
3 information on to OSD to add them to their  
4 list.

5 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Okay.  
6 Great.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What is the IE  
8 amount?

9 MR. LENNON: Charge backs. So state  
10 agencies charging us back costs for things  
11 they do on our behalf.

12 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Which is also  
13 exempted from discretionary.

14 MR. LENNON: Correct. That gets  
15 pulled out of the discretionary. And just to  
16 follow-up on Commissioner Stebbins' question.  
17 There was actually an e-mail that came out --  
18 a bulletin that came out for OSD, yesterday or  
19 today, regarding the supplier diversity office  
20 and the efforts that OSD's putting forward in  
21 this, which was part of our meeting with them  
22 last week. So they're asking agencies to do  
23 exactly what you've been mandating we do.  
24 Take these benchmarks seriously, push vendors

1 to sign up. We got X back to actually sign up  
2 as a minority-owned business. We're going to  
3 help the state as a whole meet targets because  
4 they're on a statewide contract. We work hard  
5 on the veterans' side, which they have said  
6 have been one of their struggles as well,  
7 which is my they're reaching out to Jill and  
8 licensing team. And they said that what you  
9 are requiring us to do is a -- they haven't  
10 seen it in a lot of -- in many other agencies  
11 across the executive branch, which they're  
12 actually mandated to do.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: That is just the  
14 reporting, or the setting of the standards, or  
15 what?

16 MR. LENNON: The setting of the  
17 standards, the reporting, the attention to it  
18 from the top, the follow-up, the holding our  
19 fee to it. They said that's -- it's usually  
20 you do it at the beginning of the year and  
21 then no one reporting on it until they do  
22 their final report at the end of the year.

23 So the fact that we do this on a  
24 quarterly basis, the fact that we have a

1 strong tie to Jill's group and we're actually  
2 working during all of our procurements to try  
3 and meet these benchmarks, is a model that  
4 they'd like to replicate.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great.

6 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Agnes, just  
7 a question of detail. With regard to the  
8 worksheet that's part of our package, under  
9 the service disabled veteran-owned business  
10 benchmark, over on the right-hand side there's  
11 a figure of 2,100. What does that mean? And  
12 then, I don't see a percentage there.

13 MS. BEAULIEU: That was the  
14 additional 2,100 that OSD gave us as a result  
15 of our meeting with the indirect spending from  
16 the statewide contracts. Previously, we had  
17 no veteran -- we had no veteran numbers at  
18 all, so this was a slight increase, at least.

19 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Okay. So  
20 the percent -- there's no percentage there.  
21 Am I safe in assuming that it's a very small  
22 percentage?

23 MS. BEAULIEU: Yes, yes. My mistake  
24 yeah.

1                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Is it always  
2 clear that we're capturing that data?

3                   MS. BEAULIEU: It's not. It's hard  
4 to do.

5                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Okay. So we  
6 could be dealing with veterans and not know  
7 we're dealing with veterans?

8                   MS. BEAULIEU: Right.

9                   MR. LENNON: Yes.

10                  COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Okay.

11                  MR. LENNON: And that's one of the  
12 things OSD is doing. They're reaching out to  
13 all of their vendors asking them, do you meet  
14 any of these criteria; and if you do, will you  
15 sign up?

16                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Does veterans  
17 includes, like, Vietnam veterans? I mean --

18                  MS. BEAULIEU: Any veterans.

19                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any veterans,  
20 right?

21                  MS. BEAULIEU: Any veteran.

22                  COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Anybody  
23 who's going to either discharge information.

24                  MR. LENNON: 51-percent ownership, I

1 think, is the requirement. At least have to  
2 have 51 percent ownership in the business.

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: With active duty,  
4 because you would think it would be lots --  
5 you know, from the Vietnam war, the early Iraq  
6 wars.

7 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: It's a --  
8 you know, Paul and Jill will talk about this.  
9 It's hard to get the veterans just to kind of  
10 self-identify.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Yeah, interesting.  
12 Okay. This is great. Thank you. Good job.

13 MS. BANDA: Thank you.

14 MR. BEDROSIAN: Mr. Chairman,  
15 Dr. Lightbown is out this morning so  
16 Doug O'Donnell, very capably, as she pointed  
17 out, this is really Doug's stuff anyways, Doug  
18 is going to present this morning.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay.

20 MR. O'DONNELL: Good morning.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Doug O'Donnell.

22 MR. MACDONALD: Good morning.

23 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.

24 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good morning,



1 Doug.

2 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good  
3 morning.

4 MR. O'DONNELL: Okay. So this  
5 morning, I have two items to present to you,  
6 which will both need the Commission's  
7 approval. First one being the request for  
8 reimbursement Suffolk Downs Capital  
9 Improvement Trust Fund.

10 There are nine projects on this  
11 specific reimbursement request totaling  
12 \$210,908.42. This is from the RFCs that --  
13 that have been submitted prior to this year,  
14 and I met with the architect out at Suffolk,  
15 oh, about a month ago, and we had gone over a  
16 number of considerations. And this is the  
17 first batch that he is submitting for the  
18 reimbursement so we need your approval on  
19 this.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any questions,  
21 anybody? Commissioner Cameron?

22 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: No. I  
23 believe this is -- for us, now, after a couple  
24 of years, this is standard operating

1 procedure. All the required documents are  
2 here demonstrating that the money was spent  
3 appropriately. I recommend that we that we  
4 approve this request dated December 15, at the  
5 request for reimbursement by Suffolk Downs  
6 Capital Improvement Trust Fund.

7 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any discussion?

9 All in favor? Aye.

10 MR. MACDONALD: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Opposed? The ayes  
15 have it unanimously.

16 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: I have a  
17 question, Doug. Just --

18 MR. O'DONNELL: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: -- for  
20 background. Roughly, how many projects do we  
21 know of after these for 2015; do you have an  
22 order of magnitude or...

23 MR. O'DONNELL: Yes. We -- well,  
24 for dollar amount they have submitted, to

1 date, this \$881,000 of -- they have a little  
2 over a million dollars in the cap trust right  
3 now. So this is the first reimbursement that  
4 they will receive from that 880,000 that have  
5 been RFC, and then this little balance of  
6 200,000 over that. But, again, this  
7 building -- this continuously builds.

8 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Continually  
9 builds, right. But there's quite a bit of  
10 projects after this --

11 MR. O'DONNELL: Oh, yes. Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: -- 2014  
13 projects.

14 MR. O'DONNELL: Yeah, as I had  
15 mentioned before, they had spent most of the  
16 money on the waste water -- on the waste water  
17 management project that they had. All of that  
18 money went to that so they are now starting to  
19 get caught up, because you can see this goes  
20 back to 2012. So we're getting caught up from  
21 projects dated back to 2012.

22 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Fair enough.  
23 Thank you.

24 MR. O'DONNELL: The second item is

1 for the quarterly local aid distribution.  
2 This is monies that is collected and based on  
3 the handles at .35 percent six month in  
4 arrears. So we are distributing the local aid  
5 monies for handles April, May and June of this  
6 year. Total amount for this quarterly payment  
7 would be \$229,146.98. And on the -- the  
8 second page you can see the computation, and  
9 it's broken down, down in the box below the  
10 distributions, which will show where the  
11 actual -- what cities and towns the actual  
12 monies are being disbursed to.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Questions?

14 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Mr. Chair, I  
15 move that the Commission approve the local aid  
16 quarterly payment, \$229,146.98, with the  
17 allocation as outlined in the packet.

18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Second?

19 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any further  
21 discussion? All in favor? Aye.

22 MR. MACDONALD: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Opposed? The ayes  
3 have it unanimously.

4 MR. O'DONNELL: Great. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good job.

6 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Next up is  
8 research responsibility gaming,

9 Director Vander Linden, back from Iowa.

10 MR. VANDER LINDEN: Good morning,  
11 Commissioners.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good morning.

13 MR. MACDONALD: Good morning.

14 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.

15 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good morning.

16 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good  
17 morning.

18 MR. VANDER LINDEN: I am joined here  
19 with Christopher Bruce, a crime analyst that  
20 the Commission is using to evaluate crime  
21 impacts of expanded gaming in Massachusetts.  
22 Within the Expanded Gaming Act, Section 71,  
23 the research agenda, we are specifically  
24 directed to assess the relationship between

1 gambling and levels of crime. It sounds like  
2 an easy task, but it's actually quite  
3 difficult.

4 To be able to take a look at any  
5 specific area and draw a causation to say that  
6 by opening up this casino, or the presence of  
7 a casino is directly related to any specific  
8 type of crime is actually quite difficult.  
9 It's been tried a number of times in a number  
10 of different jurisdictions, and we've  
11 certainly taken a look at all of relevant  
12 studies in this area.

13 And as we were doing that, and as we  
14 were taking a look at those -- the existing  
15 body of evidence, we paid close attention to  
16 those limitations. And in the study that we  
17 are doing to meet the requirement within  
18 Section 71, we want to take a deeper dive. We  
19 want to clearly take a look at what does the  
20 data say, but we also want to ask the deeper  
21 questions about whether or not this is the --  
22 that there's causation with the opening of a  
23 casino.

24 While, certainly, not a perfect

1 process, our efforts to do this are, I  
2 believe, impressive. And with that, I'm going  
3 to turn it over to Christopher Bruce to walk  
4 you through the 12-month crime report, so one  
5 year after the opening of the Plainridge Park  
6 Casino.

7 And Christopher, before I turn it  
8 over to you, I just also wanted to point out  
9 we have Sergeant Tim Babbin and Burke Cain,  
10 who are kind of our feet on the ground at  
11 Plainridge Park Casino. If there are any  
12 questions specifically about -- from  
13 Christopher's study that we want their  
14 perspective on, they're here to join us as  
15 well.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: For the record,  
17 you said this project is impressive. I think  
18 it's actually totally unprecedented. Right?  
19 From your introduction, Mr. Bruce, it looks to  
20 me like nothing has ever been done before like  
21 this, with this degree of rigor, to try to  
22 understand what the impacts on crime actually  
23 are from a casino.

24 MR. BRUCE: That's probably true, at

1 least not in published form. I'm sure I have  
2 colleagues around the country, and agencies  
3 who have had casinos open that have done this  
4 kind of work for their own agencies, but not  
5 in any way that's it's been published or  
6 recoverable for our purposes. So to that end,  
7 yes, we're pioneering some new territory here.

8 And the -- I guess, the sort of  
9 ironic thing about this is that we actually  
10 haven't been able to do some of the  
11 quantitative stuff that you typically find in  
12 articles and studies that have been done on  
13 casinos in the past because the data just  
14 hasn't been available yet. We don't have good  
15 statewide comparative data, for instance, on  
16 crime, for even a full year period just yet.  
17 So that type of quantitative study will have  
18 to wait a little bit. But what we're able to  
19 do here is go really in depth into the  
20 individual case reports that have been  
21 collected from the different agencies, and  
22 that's something that past studies, typically,  
23 haven't done.

24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.



1                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON:  If I could  
2                   add to that.  I think, also what makes it  
3                   unique is the baseline upfront.  I'm not aware  
4                   of any other community that was able to have  
5                   that baseline information before the casino  
6                   was built.

7                   And, secondly, the level of  
8                   cooperation.  And I've heard this from police  
9                   executives in many other jurisdictions,  
10                  getting chiefs to work together, along with  
11                  the state police in a collaborative manner  
12                  like this, willing to share their data, and  
13                  share it with you, and share it with us, and  
14                  knowing that it will be used for research  
15                  purposes, I do think that is something we  
16                  should all be proud of.

17                  Christopher, that's certainly a  
18                  credit to your ability to convince folks that  
19                  the data will be used wisely.  And that piece  
20                  of it, I think -- you know, there have been  
21                  studies with the one community in which there  
22                  is a casino, but this is the surrounding  
23                  communities' comparative study so it's much  
24                  deeper research, and I think will really give

1 us a much better picture.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: And while we're on  
3 this, we also had a former New Jersey state  
4 police executive as one of the commissioners,  
5 who has played a real, major role as somebody  
6 who's on our commission, who really  
7 understands the language and the mentality.  
8 Commissioner Cameron's been a really crucial  
9 part of this too.

10 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great team.

11 MR. BRUCE: So I don't normally like  
12 to --

13 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Could I  
14 just ask a question beforehand of Mark? That  
15 this has to do with a catchment areas. In  
16 looking at Chris' report that -- and then,  
17 also, the map near the beginning of the slide  
18 depth, is there a reason that Foxborough is  
19 not included in this?

20 MR. BRUCE: Unfortunately, they  
21 simply declined to cooperate with the study.  
22 They -- I think that they got some ideas early  
23 on as to the -- what we would be doing with  
24 the data, or the privacy concerns, security

1 concerns with the data that I was unable to  
2 allay. For the years following the time that  
3 we initially made contact, both I and  
4 Commissioner Cameron reached out to them  
5 repeatedly, through a couple of chiefs now,  
6 and have asked them to participate, and have  
7 assured them that we're not collecting any  
8 personally-identifying information, and that  
9 they'd be part of the process and that they'd  
10 be allowed to comment on the report, and they  
11 simply have declined to be involved.

12 We are able to assess some of what  
13 happened in Foxborough because of the data  
14 they're reporting to the state as part of the  
15 NIBRS process. But, unfortunately, no, we  
16 weren't able to collect the detailed  
17 incident-level data that we got from the other  
18 five agencies.

19 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: But we're  
20 hopeful. There is a brand-new chief that was  
21 just appointed in Foxborough. So we do have a  
22 call in and waiting for a meeting to be set up  
23 to explain the project. And, hopefully, the  
24 new chief will be receptive. So we're --

1           that's a work-in-progress.

2                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY:   That would be  
3           great.

4                         I would also mention that Franklin  
5           was willing to participate and actually  
6           provided me data, but it wasn't -- the data  
7           wasn't any good.  They -- it hadn't been  
8           updated quickly enough to make it as part of  
9           this study.  So, hopefully, we'll be able to  
10          include them in the future as well.

11                        COMMISSIONER MACDONALD:  Thank you.

12                        MR. BRUCE:  The remote here, the  
13          battery seems to be dead so I'll have to ask  
14          you to do the advancing.

15                        I don't normally like to put this  
16          much text on a presentation slide, but I think  
17          there was some misinterpretation of my summary  
18          after I gave the six-month report so I wanted  
19          to get it all right up there in the front.

20                        So, you know, Plainridge Park as a  
21          casino, as an entertainment venue, obviously,  
22          attracts a lot of people, and it has a certain  
23          amount of activity at the location itself, and  
24          we'll get into depth about what that activity

1 is, but it's commensurate, roughly, with any  
2 similarly-sized facility, retail, movie,  
3 theater, anything, you know, that might we  
4 built at that location. We don't see any  
5 unusually high numbers at the casino itself.

6 As for the surrounding community,  
7 we're not seeing much of an impact on crime  
8 and calls for service. Overall crime is down  
9 in the surrounding area. Violent crime is up  
10 slightly, but not for casino-related reasons.  
11 Property crime is down considerably, and calls  
12 for service, you know, vary depending on the  
13 call type.

14 Where we are seeing a potential  
15 increase is in traffic-related issues  
16 surrounding the area. Obviously, when  
17 there's -- you know, thousands more cars come  
18 to an area, you're probably going to see an  
19 increase in traffic collisions, traffic  
20 complaints, things like disabled vehicles.  
21 Get a lot of extra people in the area so  
22 they're reporting more lost property.  
23 Citizens are reporting more suspicious  
24 activity. Things like that. So things that

1 are caused by just the influx of additional  
2 people in the community are part of the  
3 increase that we're seeing.

4 When it comes to crime, there's a  
5 couple of things I flagged as potentially  
6 related and one thing I flagged as likely  
7 related, and that has to do with credit-card  
8 fraud, which we're going to get into in detail  
9 in the coming report. Now --

10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Could I just  
11 interrupt you?

12 MR. BRUCE: Yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Your summary says  
14 the casino may have influenced an increase in  
15 credit-card fraud, ID theft and con games, but  
16 the text says it's only credit-card fraud that  
17 there might have been an impact.

18 MR. BRUCE: Well, I put a possible  
19 relationship to the other ones. So I tried  
20 to -- in the summary, I tried to combine that  
21 all into one word "may," but I divided it in  
22 the actual text of the report into things that  
23 might have a relationship and ones that I  
24 think probably do have a relationship.

1                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. The main  
2 focus of the text was the credit-card fraud.

3                   MR. BRUCE: Was the credit-card  
4 fraud. Yeah, because that's the one that  
5 seemed more likely so I went in as much detail  
6 as I could about that particular issue. Still  
7 not --

8                   MR. SANGALANG: Still not going?

9                   MR. BRUCE: No. The laser pointer's  
10 not working either so I think it's the  
11 battery.

12                   So this is the area, obviously, that  
13 we're talking about. For some purposes, we  
14 were able to get some of the Foxborough data,  
15 but for the most part, it was just Wrentham,  
16 Plainville, North Attleboro, Attleboro and  
17 Mansfield. So we can move on from that  
18 because we already discussed the Foxborough  
19 issue.

20                   So we collected data directly from  
21 the records management systems and the  
22 computer-aided dispatch systems of these five  
23 agencies. You can bring them all up. And  
24 merged them into a common database that those

1 two bullet points are masking an awful lot of  
2 work behind the scenes in translating  
3 everything into a common -- a format.

4 For the purposes of this report, I  
5 looked at the period of July 2015 to  
6 June 2016, so a full year after the opening of  
7 Plainridge Park. We looked at it against  
8 past -- I'm sorry, I don't know why I said  
9 June periods in the bullet point. The same  
10 periods from the previous five years and  
11 looked at any unusual changes.

12 Now, as you can imagine, any police  
13 department, any communities can have some  
14 major changes in any time period so,  
15 obviously, that doesn't, by itself, indicate a  
16 casino relationship. So any time I saw an  
17 unusual change, a crime that was uniquely  
18 higher than they had been in the past, we took  
19 a really close look at it, tried to identify  
20 what we could find about the people, the  
21 places, the properties that were involved, the  
22 MO. I collected actual police reports, when  
23 possible, and went into detail about those and  
24 did a full analysis of anything that had



1           increased. I sent a memo back to each  
2           individual agency about the increases that I  
3           saw, asked them for their opinions, their  
4           explanations and additional data that they  
5           could provide. So, you know, again, we tried  
6           to identify all increases as fully as  
7           possible. You can move on. Yeah, perfect.

8                         So in analyzing those increases, I  
9           looked -- in order to determine the  
10          probability of a casino relationship, I looked  
11          at a number of different factors, and this is  
12          sort of the rubric that I used so to speak, to  
13          determine if the casino relationship was  
14          likely. And, again, as we all pointed out,  
15          this is kind of new -- a new area of analysis,  
16          so I essentially had to make this up, this  
17          rubric. And I'm hoping -- I'd like to be able  
18          to put my name on it and have it, you know,  
19          used by other people in the future as a way to  
20          do the analysis, but it's, again, pioneering  
21          new territory here.

22                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: If you read  
23          this -- if you read this and you don't see  
24          hypothetical right away, it could be alarming,

1 but this is totally hypothetical so...

2 MR. BRUCE: Yes. Those examples are  
3 all hypothetical. They weren't actual  
4 increases that we saw, but I was trying to  
5 explain, you know, what was be an example of  
6 each of those signs, and would be the opposite  
7 example of each of those signs.

8 So we're looking at is there a  
9 logical relationship between the increase and  
10 a casino. Right? There is some types of  
11 crime -- a good example is a vandalism  
12 increase to Plainville during this period, but  
13 there's no even logical relationship between a  
14 casino and vandalism. And so, unless some  
15 other sign -- there was some other sign --  
16 there was some other side that probably wasn't  
17 a close relationship.

18 If more offenders and victims that  
19 are involved in these crimes are coming from  
20 outside the local area, that's a potential  
21 sign. If multiple agencies are reporting the  
22 same increase, that's a sign of a likely  
23 relationship. If we're seeing complementary  
24 different crimes going up at the same time.

1           A good example in this report is  
2 assault. We saw a major increase in simple  
3 assault during this period, but we saw a huge  
4 decrease in aggravated assault. So it doesn't  
5 really make sense that -- in fact, that's a  
6 really good sign that there's some coding  
7 changes going on among the agencies and those  
8 simple assaults are being trading for  
9 aggravated assaults. Because, normally, we  
10 would expect those two crimes to increase and  
11 decrease in concert, if there was, in fact,  
12 the reel increase or decrease. No, I'm sorry,  
13 I'm not quite done there.

14           If the victims or offenders  
15 specifically said, I'm here to use the casino,  
16 I did this to get money for the casino, that  
17 would be a sign of an increase. We did not  
18 see that in any report. But, then again, we  
19 don't have a lot of postarrest interview of  
20 offenders to look at anyway so... and,  
21 finally, if there's a spatial relationship.  
22 So, for instance, if the traffic collisions  
23 are increasing directly around the casino,  
24 that would be a better sign than if they're

1 increasing in residential neighborhoods  
2 farther away.

3 So, basically, this is the rubric I  
4 used to determine if the increase that we saw  
5 was likely related to the casino or not. If  
6 there were -- if it was one of them I would  
7 know it probably wasn't. If four of them were  
8 present, I considered it a likely  
9 relationship. If two or three, then, it's a  
10 possible relationship.

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Mr. Bruce,  
12 before you leave that, is there -- I suspect  
13 there's a level of qualitative analysis or  
14 judgment call that goes --

15 MR. BRUCE: Absolutely.

16 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: -- when  
17 combining any one of these factors?

18 MR. BRUCE: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Intuitively,  
20 you know, one to me looks like -- you know,  
21 like a slam dunk, and others, you know, less  
22 -- less the case.

23 MR. BRUCE: No question. There's a  
24 level of qualitative analysis and analytical

1 judgment that had to go into this. This is  
2 not the type of activity, unfortunately, that  
3 you can use purely quantitative measures, you  
4 know, to say there's a definite relationship  
5 or there isn't, because so much else is  
6 happening in these communities the same time  
7 as the casino.

8 Even in comparison communities,  
9 which we identified, tried to do a  
10 quantitative analysis as well. But even in  
11 the comparison communities things are  
12 happening that you don't always know about  
13 that cause crime to increase or decrease. You  
14 can never be absolutely sure, you know, at a  
15 particular probability level. But, yeah, so  
16 it is very qualitative to some degree. Moving  
17 on.

18 Now, so limitations, we only had a  
19 six months of good crime data available for  
20 comparison communities. So I would like, in  
21 2017, to do a much better job at the  
22 quantitative side looking at what happened in  
23 some comparison communities, as well as the  
24 state as a whole, versus the Plainridge Park

1 area. But the good crime data for any -- all  
2 of those communities really isn't available  
3 yet for a full year period. That's going to  
4 happen about mid 2017 before that's available.  
5 And I'm getting this directly from the EOPs,  
6 Cliff Goodman, who manages that data. We also  
7 don't have a full dataset on traffic  
8 collisions statewide, or even for the region.  
9 Some of these communities aren't storing their  
10 own traffic collision data in their own local  
11 systems. They're only submitting them to the  
12 state on paper. The state puts them in a  
13 database, but they don't close that database  
14 until 18 months or so after the year ends, so  
15 we're not going to have good traffic data for  
16 awhile. I'm working with some contacts there  
17 to, hopefully get it in advance of when they  
18 would normally provide it to the public.

19 But, anyway, a good traffic study,  
20 including question about whether there's any  
21 alcohol-related crash increase is going to  
22 have to wait until about mid 2017. So because  
23 of that, future reports will be able to better  
24 demonstrate the more quantitative aspects of

1 the relationship between the casino and crime  
2 and collisions.

3 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Have you made  
4 a determination or a hypotheses as to what  
5 those comparison communities might be?

6 MR. BRUCE: Yes, I do. And I have  
7 them in the presentation later on, yep.

8 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Chris, when  
9 I read this portion of the report, it struck  
10 me that these limitations are quite  
11 significant.

12 MR. BRUCE: They're significant for  
13 the quantitative side of the analysis. So in  
14 anything that I could publish in the Journal  
15 of Quantitative Criminology, or that would  
16 satisfy, you know, a traditional researcher,  
17 yes, that not having those complete datasets  
18 yet limits what we're able to prove under  
19 traditional research methods.

20 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: It's  
21 unfortunate that this is an area in which  
22 police departments could be much better.  
23 Right?

24 MR. BRUCE: Yes.

1                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And at the  
2 state level collecting data, getting it in in  
3 a timely fashion. But it's one of those  
4 things where, if you have limited resources,  
5 having a dedicated person sit there and enter  
6 statistics to submit isn't always the use of a  
7 resource that's chosen to happen. So, yeah,  
8 this is an area that folks could get much  
9 better, and then realtime information is  
10 usable information but --

11                   MR. BRUCE: And the reliability of  
12 that data, of course, varies a lot too. As we  
13 saw in three of the communities that were  
14 involved in this study, they -- in the middle  
15 of this study they made changes in how they  
16 were reporting crime. They assigned new  
17 personnel, basically, to the process of  
18 designating what crime had been committed in a  
19 variety of incidents, and that changed their  
20 statistics significantly in the case of  
21 North Attleboro.

22                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And I think  
23 kind of a good-news story from this. Two of  
24 the communities in which -- that are part of



1           this study, have now -- they have hired crime  
2           analysts. I really believe they saw what  
3           Christopher was able to do and saw a great  
4           value in it, and were able to come up with the  
5           resources to hire someone. And that's good  
6           news, bad news here because the data was not  
7           in great shape, which -- and changing it from  
8           year to year after you hire a crime analyst.  
9           That was particularly true with the assaults.

10                       The officers were not trained,  
11           necessarily, in how to enter properly, or it  
12           wasn't being recorded the same way. So once a  
13           crime analyst came on board and really used  
14           the standards appropriately, made it much  
15           easier, but it did look like there was a big  
16           jump in one area when there really wasn't. So  
17           I think that's a good story, though, that two  
18           of them now have crime analysts.

19                       MR. BRUCE: Absolutely, yes.

20                       CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Isn't gaming  
21           revenue paying for some of these crime  
22           analysts?

23                       COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: We did for  
24           Mansfield, as part of the community

1 mitigation, just on a one request.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Plainville too,  
3 probably got some of that.

4 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: I don't know  
5 about Plainville.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay.

7 MR. BRUCE: So there's a few  
8 important things that previous research has  
9 told us about the casinos that became  
10 important as part of this study. And, of  
11 course, as we've talked about, most of it is  
12 just used part one crime statistics submitted  
13 to the FBI so they hadn't been able to go into  
14 this detail, and different studies have had  
15 different results.

16 Some have shown an increase in  
17 activity after the casino, some of shown a  
18 decrease, a lot of them have said that crime  
19 didn't go anywhere whatsoever. You can bring  
20 up all the bullet points, if you don't mind.  
21 But it's important to keep studying what's  
22 happening in multiple time periods after the  
23 casino opens.

24 So this is my one-year analysis,

1 but, obviously, we'd like to repeat this, you  
2 know, a year from now, when we have two years  
3 of data and we can see if things changed, if  
4 things took time to increase or decrease after  
5 the introduction of the casino, because that  
6 has been shown to happen in the past.

7 On the last bullet point there, you  
8 know, there are a lot of factors that cause  
9 crime to increase or decrease with any  
10 facility, including a casino. Geographic  
11 factors, the nature of the facility, the size  
12 of the facility and so forth.

13 So it's important to understand that  
14 what's happening in Plainville isn't  
15 necessarily a good template for what's likely  
16 to happen in, say, Springfield or Everett,  
17 when the geography is very different and the  
18 nature of the casino's going to be very  
19 different, and the services offered and the  
20 availability of public transportation.  
21 There's a lot of different factors that might  
22 produce different results in these other  
23 areas. One of the interesting things about  
24 this series of studies is we're going to get a

1 chance to look at a variety of different  
2 facility types in different geographic areas.

3 And, you know, the third point there  
4 is important. Even if activity does increase,  
5 it's hard to determine a causal relationship  
6 between gambling, specifically, and that  
7 increase in activity, versus anything else  
8 that might have gone into that location. You  
9 know, a movie theater, another retail  
10 establishment and so forth. And this is  
11 something that a lot of previous studies  
12 haven't even attempted to do, in terms of  
13 establishing a causal relationship between the  
14 gambling nature of casinos specifically and  
15 the increase in the area. And I'm not  
16 necessarily trying to do that either. I'm  
17 talking to a number of researchers and  
18 analysts about how you'd even do that sort of  
19 thing.

20 But so, for now, I would just say  
21 that, even if we do see an increase in crime,  
22 it isn't necessarily tied to the gambling --  
23 to gambling specifically. It could just be  
24 tied to the overall increase in activity in

1 the area, when you introduce any type of  
2 facility that way. Moving on.

3 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Christopher,  
4 before you move ahead, you know, the  
5 limitations, your notes from previous  
6 research, one of the things that struck me, as  
7 I went through your report, was changes in  
8 coding information or coding crime. How often  
9 does that type of recordkeeping regulation  
10 change; and then, how do you go back, unless  
11 you're going to talk about it later on, how do  
12 you go back and kind of make those  
13 adjustments?

14 MR. BRUCE: I mean, ideally, it  
15 doesn't change that often. But, in reality,  
16 it changes every time a new person gets  
17 assigned to -- you know, to doing that sort of  
18 work by a police agency, unfortunately.

19 We had a couple of extremes in this  
20 case, where the agencies were clearly applying  
21 the wrong crime code to certain types of  
22 incidents for years, and then suddenly started  
23 doing it right in the middle of the study.  
24 That type of extreme doesn't happen that often

1 with police agencies. And I'm actually quite  
2 confident that, when we get into, say, the  
3 Everett and Springfield areas, where they've  
4 had analytic personnel at those agencies for a  
5 long time, in fact, in many cases the same  
6 people have been there for a decade or more,  
7 we're not going to see this type of major  
8 shifts in crime coding. We're not going to  
9 see the same reliability problems in crime  
10 coding in those areas that we saw in  
11 Plainville. It didn't apply to every crime.  
12 But, you know, we're talking about a subset of  
13 incidents that -- especially, in  
14 North Attleboro, they had been coded as, you  
15 know, all other offenses or something  
16 previously, and now they're suddenly applying  
17 the right code.

18 But for the major part one crimes,  
19 you know, robbery, burglary, theft, different  
20 types of theft, those have been fairly  
21 consistent. It's mostly in those hard -- some  
22 of the harder-to-quantify categories. That's  
23 not the right way to say it, but the iffier  
24 categories, ones that are harder to apply

1 definitions to that we saw the major changes.  
2 And if I didn't see that same change in other  
3 geographic areas, or there was just nothing  
4 else in the data to indicate a casino  
5 relationship, frankly, we chocked it up  
6 largely to coding changes and didn't assign it  
7 to Plainridge Park.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. BRUCE: So first question I hear  
10 is, what's happening at Plainridge Park  
11 itself? And so, these are the statistics,  
12 some of the statistics. There's more in the  
13 full report supplied by the Gaming Enforcement  
14 Unit. And among those statistics, having  
15 looked at the -- some of the qualitative data,  
16 a number of trends have been identified. And  
17 I want to emphasize before -- and you can put  
18 theming all up to the screen, if you don't  
19 mind, the bullet points, these different  
20 trends, we're not talking about huge numbers  
21 in these trends. This is, roughly, in  
22 descending order of how many incidents  
23 occurred in each of those subtrends. And the  
24 thefts of gaming credits, we're looking at a

1 couple of dozen down to small children left  
2 alone in cars. There were three, I think,  
3 during this period. So, again, we're not  
4 talking about huge volumes, but there are  
5 patterns that we saw within the data. And we  
6 are seeing a number of thefts of the TITO  
7 tickets, people snatching them out of the  
8 machine, or surreptitiously ejecting them from  
9 the machine while the player isn't noticing  
10 and then turning them in for cash. We have  
11 some thefts of personal property, purses and  
12 wallets and so forth.

13 And I would mention, on those two  
14 incidents particularly, detection and  
15 identification of the offender is near 100  
16 percent. They seem to be doing a fantastic  
17 job there of using their surveillance systems  
18 to identify who is involved in almost every  
19 incident that happens on the casino floor.

20 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Yeah. I  
21 would just like to emphasize that. That,  
22 actually, is an amazing number. I have never  
23 seen a number that high. It's more than just  
24 surveillance. It really is the level of



1 cooperation. And I've heard this.

2 Mr. Cain, in particular, I think can  
3 attest to the fact that between the Plainridge  
4 PD, we have the state police working very well  
5 together with the gaming agents, with security  
6 at the casino, and with surveillance at the  
7 casino. I've never seen that level of  
8 dedication and cooperation. And it's a  
9 tribute to -- we have several of the folks  
10 here today, and it's really refreshing to see.  
11 And that -- do not commit a crime at this  
12 casino because 100 percent of the time we're  
13 going to get you. So I just think that's an  
14 amazing number, frankly.

15 So you pointed it out. And I know  
16 cameras are a big assist, but you need some  
17 motivation, and you need to be able to talk to  
18 one another and really care about keeping this  
19 place safe and secure, and that's really  
20 evident with that number.

21 MR. BRUCE: Absolutely.

22 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Can I add  
23 something to that? I think that's very  
24 eloquent. There's also a really good business

1 case for someone like me and others who, you  
2 know, at times question the -- you know, the  
3 cost that comes with these resources. You  
4 know, the double-shifting and -- for 24 hours,  
5 et cetera, you know, is really good for -- you  
6 know, to put in context.

7 MR. BRUCE: A few other trends that  
8 we picked up on. There were 10 -- around 10  
9 incidents of drug use and distribution in the  
10 parking lots, a handful of obnoxious or  
11 intoxicated patrons on the casino floor,  
12 people drunk in the parking areas. In a  
13 couple of cases, that led to drunk driving  
14 when they decided to drive off and not pay  
15 attention to the police officers telling them  
16 to stay put, so they ended up getting arrested  
17 in those cases. And then we had those three  
18 incidents, with small children being left  
19 alone in cars while their parents were in  
20 casino.

21 So nothing really unexpected, I  
22 think, from that size and type of facility.  
23 These are just things that the Gaming  
24 Enforcement Unit should be aware of, and I

1 know that they are, and come up with  
2 strategies to enforce.

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Chris, before you  
4 leave that one, is -- obviously, the voucher,  
5 them gambling -- the receipts, you know, the  
6 TITO ticket, the voucher is something that's  
7 unique to the casino, but are these other  
8 things -- if the same number of people, same  
9 number of patrons were going into a small mall  
10 or -- that had alcohol and multiple things  
11 going on in parking lots, are these numbers  
12 comparable?

13 MR. BRUCE: They are, yeah. And  
14 that's why I say, throughout the report, the  
15 commensurate to what we would expect from --

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Even from site.

17 MR. BRUCE: -- from the area.

18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I knew that  
19 externally, like traffic and so forth, it was  
20 comparable. But --

21 MR. BRUCE: Yeah. I worked for, you  
22 know, cities that have malls and, you know,  
23 movie theaters, other entertainment  
24 facilities, and these are very typical of the

1 types of crimes that you would see there.  
2 Absolutely.

3 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: I want to  
4 just -- and it may have involve Burke or Tim  
5 coming up, the last one, the small children  
6 left along cars is one we're, I think,  
7 particularly sensitive to, I'm just curious as  
8 to how we're detecting those incidents. You  
9 know, camera surveillance in the parking lot,  
10 you know, security going through the parking  
11 lot; how are we picking up on this, because  
12 those are, obviously, utmost concern, as every  
13 other is, but we get most concerns about  
14 those.

15 MR. CAIN: Oftentimes, we have a  
16 patrol vehicle -- Burke Cain, senior  
17 supervising agent. Oftentimes we have --

18 MR. BEDROSIAN: You have to speak  
19 up, Burke.

20 MR. CAIN: Security vehicle  
21 controlling the lot. They'll go through the  
22 garage, they'll be going around the perimeter  
23 of the building. I think Tim's guys, our  
24 guys, were out on the floor walking around

1 with security guards, of course, walking out.  
2 A lot of times, on the casino floor the  
3 patrons will know some of the employees there,  
4 and they'll talk about that also.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You also have  
6 cameras in the parking lot?

7 MR. CAIN: Of course, yeah. And the  
8 surveillance is routinely doing --

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You're doing  
10 scans?

11 MR. CAIN: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: And the  
13 casino, as part of their internal controls,  
14 BPC also has --

15 MR. CAIN: Security submission  
16 requires those things. Right.

17 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Do you have  
18 anything to add, Sergeant?

19 MR. BABBIN: Sergeant Tim Babb  
20 from the GEU. Surveillance, obviously being  
21 the biggest part of it, including reports from  
22 other casino patrons. I was there for two of  
23 the four unattended children and answered it.  
24 Mass has an interesting set of laws that

1 surround this. That is, reckless endangerment  
2 of a child is not arrestable, it's  
3 summonsable. You could arrest someone for  
4 leaving their dog in the car, but not their  
5 child. An interesting sidenote of that whole  
6 thing but... the response, surveillance will  
7 pick up on it, or a patron will pick up on it,  
8 the report comes to us, we answer it directly.

9 The attendants will be in there  
10 right away to address the problem, track the  
11 adult, get the adult out of the casino.  
12 They're usually given a eviction notice, as  
13 well as the summons for criminal activity, if  
14 it's shown to be blatantly deliberate, which  
15 it hasn't come to that.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good work.

18 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Yeah, great  
19 work. Great teamwork and a hundred percent, I  
20 just -- that's an astronomical number.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Could I just  
22 clarify one thing? It says, "detection 100  
23 percent," how do you know you've detected  
24 100 percent?

1 MR. BRUCE: I'm sorry, maybe I  
2 should have used a different term like --

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Doesn't mean --

4 MR. BRUCE: Apprehension -- or  
5 identification of the offender is what I'm  
6 going with there.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right. Okay. So  
8 when the crime is -- occurs, there's the  
9 identification, detection of the crime. I  
10 didn't want the public to --

11 MR. BRUCE: That's true, yes.

12 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Detection of  
13 the offender.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Of the offender.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Correct.  
16 Apprehension.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.

18 MR. BRUCE: Well, I'd like to  
19 imagine not many victims left -- you know, let  
20 their tickets get stolen and not report it so  
21 it's got to be close. Right?

22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.

23 MR. BRUCE: Now, in terms of the  
24 effect on Plainville and the surrounding area,

1 obviously, the casino itself, the activity at  
2 the casino itself and what the Plainville  
3 Police Department has had to respond to there  
4 has had a significant -- not a -- has an  
5 increase in their statistics. So nothing in  
6 violent crime. Virtually, nothing is  
7 happening at the casino, in terms of violent  
8 crime. But the casino directly, and the  
9 report goes through this, it's subtracting  
10 what had happened before when it was just a  
11 racetrack. The facility itself has been  
12 responsible for a 10 percent increase in  
13 property crime, a 14 percent increase in total  
14 crime, and a 3 percent increase in calls for  
15 service for the Plainville Police Department.

16 Now, ahead of opening the casino  
17 they got a 36 percent increase in the number  
18 of sworn officers so their capability to  
19 respond to that is obviously, you know, quite  
20 good.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: As part of their  
22 host community agreement, they got five new  
23 officers, or a 36-percent increase?

24 MR. BRUCE: Right. Yeah, 14 to 19.



1           So the percentages that they're having to deal  
2           with just because of, literally, that address,  
3           has not increased to the level of the new  
4           people they received. And this table shows  
5           the top hotspots of the various contributing  
6           community, including Plainville's No. 2  
7           hotspot, the Plainville Commons, which is a  
8           shopping center on the other side of the  
9           street from the -- from Plainridge Park. But  
10          as you can see, the numbers vary, depending on  
11          the type of location. But Plainridge Park's  
12          overall percentage of property, violent and  
13          total crimes, as well as calls for service,  
14          and its effect on Plainville is about the same  
15          or lower in some cases than the top hotspots  
16          of the surrounding communities. Again, this  
17          is why I say repeatedly, the activity that  
18          we're seeing at Plainridge Park is  
19          commensurate to what you'd expect with a  
20          similarly-sized facility.

21                        COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Mr. Bruce, can  
22                        you just, order of magnitude, looks clear that  
23                        the Wrentham Outlets has the highest  
24                        percentage --

1                   MR. BRUCE: That's pretty much all  
2                   there is in Wrentham.

3                   COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Right. Well,  
4                   I guess, maybe you're answering the question  
5                   already. What are, you know, whole numbers, I  
6                   suppose, compared to the other communities?

7                   MR. BRUCE: Yeah, I'd have to go  
8                   back to my data for that. But in the case of  
9                   property crimes, the Wrentham village is not  
10                  insignificant, in terms of the number of  
11                  shopliftings and different types of property  
12                  crimes they see, we're talking about less than  
13                  a hundred per year, in terms of property  
14                  crimes, I think, and probably less than 10 per  
15                  year in violent crimes.

16                  COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Okay. So all  
17                  of their percentages for each community's  
18                  relative to their own property?

19                  MR. BRUCE: Yes. To their own -- to  
20                  their own crime totals. Yes, exactly. And  
21                  Wrentham, obviously, having the village  
22                  outlets and then mostly just residences beyond  
23                  that, most of their activity is concentrated  
24                  at that top hotspot.

1                   Okay. So throughout the area we saw  
2                   some changes in crime up and down. And,  
3                   again, as we looked at them quite extensively,  
4                   there were quite a few that obviously just had  
5                   nothing do with Plainridge Park. What seemed  
6                   like an alarming increase, it wasn't high in  
7                   terms of numbers, but in terms of percentages  
8                   of kidnapping, turned out to be all  
9                   boyfriend-, girlfriend-, spousal-related.  
10                  Nothing to do with the relationship of the  
11                  casino. We had a couple of prostitution  
12                  incidents in an area that normally had no  
13                  prostitutions, but looking at those incidents,  
14                  they were local people staying at a Wrentham  
15                  hotel. They weren't in an area to use the  
16                  casino, it was just a fluke.

17                  North Attleboro had a big increase  
18                  in burglaries during -- especially, the second  
19                  half of 2016. That was some -- a cause  
20                  for concern initially because there could be a  
21                  logical relationship between burglaries and a  
22                  casino. But when it came down to it,  
23                  analyzing those series, it turned out the  
24                  burglars were from the local area, they were

1 heroin-addicted, and they didn't have any  
2 casino motive in their -- in their crimes. We  
3 were able to remove that.

4 And there are a couple of  
5 complications. That heroin thing is one of  
6 the complications that we see with these  
7 statistics. Agencies throughout, well, the  
8 country, really, are reporting some  
9 significant activity when it comes do opioid  
10 use, and, therefore, effects on crime. And a  
11 lot of the police chiefs keep telling us that  
12 they think that opioid use is increasing in  
13 their communities and is more likely to be  
14 related to some of the increases that we're  
15 seeing than Plainridge Park.

16 On traffic issues specifically, we  
17 saw lower gas prices throughout this period,  
18 which typically increases miles driven. And  
19 in the first half of 2016, particularly  
20 compared to the previous year, we had really  
21 good weather, and so we didn't see some of the  
22 spikes and traffic collisions that we saw in  
23 previous years during the winter. So all of  
24 these things create circumstances that tend to

1 -- that can overwhelm the contributions of  
2 Plainridge Park specifically on the  
3 statistics.

4 From the area, what I believe is  
5 likely related to the presence of the  
6 casino -- again, there's more specifics on  
7 these coming up, and you can say -- I suppose  
8 you can interpret my term likely as meaning  
9 more than 50 percent likely, or explains more  
10 than 50 percent of certain patterns that we're  
11 seeing there. If it was -- you know, if I was  
12 less sure than that, then, I called it  
13 possible. An increase in credit-card fraud in  
14 the area, I think, is likely related. And an  
15 increase in traffic-related calls for service,  
16 primarily in Plainville, somewhat in  
17 North Attleboro --

18 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Can I stop  
19 you there, Mr. Bruce?

20 MR. BRUCE: Yeah, sure.

21 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: We have a  
22 slight disagreement on this one. And it's  
23 probably semantics, but I have trouble with  
24 the word likely with credit-card fraud because

1 the only reason -- let me say this, there is  
2 an increase, which causes -- you have to think  
3 about why there's an increase. But when we  
4 sat with all the chiefs and really went  
5 through this, not one of the chiefs had any  
6 information that it was related to a casino.

7 But I think Mr. Bruce -- and I  
8 understand this is a research technique, when  
9 you don't have another reason you can say it's  
10 likely. But there is no evidence, which I was  
11 looking for, that the credit-card fraud, it's  
12 10 miles away in somebody's house and they're  
13 buying over the Internet, whatever the case  
14 may be, but because you can't identify another  
15 reason and there is a casino, the word likely  
16 is used.

17 But I did bring this to Mr. Bruce,  
18 the idea of using the word likely, and I  
19 understand it's a research technique that,  
20 when you don't have another cause, but I think  
21 it's important to point out that the chiefs  
22 all sat in a room and talked about this  
23 extensively, and could not say, in any way,  
24 say that this was related to the casinos, the

1           increase in credit-card fraud. But there is  
2           no other cause identified, and there is a  
3           casino.

4                       MR. BRUCE: And I have some more  
5           material on the credit-card fraud, the  
6           increase specifically, coming up in a second.  
7           You're absolutely right, though. The chiefs  
8           themselves didn't think that there had been --  
9           that the casino was related to that increase.  
10          But my only response to that is, as an analyst  
11          it's my job to tell police chiefs things they  
12          don't necessarily know about the patterns that  
13          are happening within their data. And we're  
14          only talking about a few dozen incidents  
15          spread among five communities, so it wouldn't  
16          surprise me that, individually, they wouldn't  
17          have identified any particular patterns going  
18          on. But if you let me get --

19                      CHAIRMAN CROSBY: No, I just --  
20          before you go on, I just want do make a --  
21          sort of a point for the record. This goes to  
22          the heart of our research project here. One  
23          of our commissioner's, a very experienced  
24          person in the area of law enforcement, has a

1 disagreement with interpreting the data, but  
2 you're telling us what you think. You didn't  
3 change it because, you know. So we are asking  
4 our researchers to tell us what they think.  
5 If we have issues, we'll say so. But we want  
6 our researchers to tell us what they think the  
7 facts are as best you can, and you are, and I  
8 think that's a credit to you. And, by the  
9 way, a credit to us.

10 MR. BRUCE: And, obviously, I  
11 welcome, you know, challenges like that. I'm  
12 surprised there actually aren't more in the  
13 totality of this report. So I'll cover some  
14 more specifics in just a bit. But, anyway,  
15 the traffic and related call increased. And  
16 as I said, a lot more traffic in the  
17 communities, at least in that particular  
18 section of Plainville so it makes sense that  
19 we'd see some increases in traffic-related  
20 issues up and down Route 1 there.

21 Traffic collisions overall, they  
22 were up significantly in the second half of  
23 2015. They declined in the first half of  
24 2016, at least from the call-for-service data



1 that we got from these communities. But right  
2 around Plainridge Park, there's just a minor  
3 increase in collisions up and down Route 1  
4 there that I think is probably related to the  
5 fact that we have a new facility there.

6 Fraud, con games I'll talk about in  
7 a bit. This is one of those ones that was  
8 subjected to recategorization from some of the  
9 agencies, and so it's hard to tell whether the  
10 increase is real or not. There are a couple  
11 of subtrends happening within that category.  
12 I don't see a very obvious relationship to the  
13 casino but -- especially, since some of them  
14 are happening out of state, but the community  
15 should, at least, be aware of the trends even  
16 if they're not casino-related so I covered  
17 those in the report.

18 And three of the communities did  
19 report a drunk driving increase. I didn't  
20 spend a lot of time focusing on that, though,  
21 because police reports of drunk driving are a  
22 really bad way to determine how much drunk  
23 driving is actually happening. They're highly  
24 dependent upon how much enforcement they're

1           doing. And if they're aware that there might  
2           be a possible increase of drunk driving  
3           because of, say, the introduction of the  
4           casino, they're likely to do more enforcement,  
5           and therefore that causes their numbers to go  
6           up. The only way we'll be able to determine  
7           conclusively whether drunk driving actually  
8           increased is through the analysis of collision  
9           data, and they use alcohol as a causal factor  
10          for those collisions. And, again, that won't  
11          be able available til about mid 2017 that  
12          we'll have good collision data for the state  
13          and the area. So I don't want anybody to draw  
14          any conclusions about the drunk driving just  
15          based on the police statistics.

16                    COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And when we  
17                    asked the chiefs about this they confirmed  
18                    that they had additional -- additional  
19                    staffing out there looking for drunk drivers  
20                    so -- which will cause the numbers to go up  
21                    when you are concentrating on that effort.

22                    MR. BRUCE: So they are making more  
23                    arrests for drunk driving, more stops for it,  
24                    but that doesn't mean the drunk driving itself

1 has increased in the communities.

2 A lot of stuff the report covers is  
3 probably not related, and the report tells you  
4 why. I won't cover all of these in detail,  
5 we've already been going on for a little bit  
6 of a while here. But the assault one was a  
7 pretty -- what I wanted to make sure  
8 particularly. But looking at the data, it's  
9 almost all domestic assault, and we're seeing  
10 a decrease in aggravated assault the same time  
11 we're seeing an increase in simple assault.  
12 It's almost certainly because agencies are  
13 just coding things more accurately and not  
14 because there's actually an increase in  
15 assaults.

16 And it's important to note that  
17 certain things that people worry about that  
18 might happen. Robbery increases in the  
19 surrounding area because people want cash,  
20 thefts from vehicles, burglary. All of these  
21 things, we just didn't see at all so that's  
22 really good news. In fact, most of those  
23 crimes were down quite significantly. I had  
24 colleagues around the country that said watch

1 out for auto theft. You're going to get  
2 people that steal cars from other places to  
3 drive to the casino, and then they'll steal  
4 cars from around the casino to drive home. We  
5 didn't see anything like that in this data.  
6 Auto theft plummeted in these surrounding  
7 communities, quite opposite of what we might  
8 have expected.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Chris, this is a  
10 detail, but, you know, you said, did not  
11 happen at all, a significant decrease.

12 MR. BRUCE: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Actually, that did  
14 not happen.

15 MR. BRUCE: Well, the significant  
16 decrease happened. Right.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What did not  
18 happen was an increase.

19 MR. BRUCE: Right. The increase  
20 didn't happen, yes. We didn't see any of  
21 these trends that we might have expected to  
22 increase.

23 Now, on the statistics I'm about to  
24 show you, I just threw this together for --

1 because some people expressed confusion in the  
2 past. But imagine you have these numbers, and  
3 they could be any numbers but for the previous  
4 years, and then you identify the average of  
5 those previous numbers. What we do is  
6 identify, among the past data, what the normal  
7 deviation is from that average. Right? So  
8 how far do we expect -- you know not -- very  
9 rarely is a crime reported exactly on its  
10 average. Usually, there's some deviation from  
11 it, and so we calculate what's a typical  
12 deviation on either side of that average. And  
13 if it's within that deviation, typically, we  
14 would say, all right, that crime is normal.  
15 You know, we don't -- it's not significantly  
16 up or significantly down, and that's the  
17 normal range.

18 On two standard deviations from that  
19 average is where we'd start to say, all right,  
20 things are a little bit unusual, you know,  
21 between one or two. You know, things are a  
22 little bit -- they're warm or cool, depending  
23 on which side that it's on. And then, if it's  
24 greater than two, when you get into the --

1           between two and three, you start to say, all  
2           right, something really is going on with this  
3           data, something's really hot or cold here.

4                       Now, to determine whether or not --  
5           I took a really in-depth look at it. I used  
6           1.75 standard deviations above the mean as my  
7           cutoff, which is a bit lower than the norm.  
8           Most analysts would go at -- would do it at  
9           two, but I wanted to make sure we took a hard  
10          look at anything that even might be related to  
11          casino relationships, so that's what --

12                      So the Z score that you're going to  
13          see on the upcoming slides is basically where  
14          the crime stands for 2015 to '16, a year after  
15          the casino opened compared to the average.  
16          How many standard deviations above the average  
17          or below the average is the period that we  
18          actually care about? And if it was 1.75 or  
19          more is when I did some further analysis.  
20          Some crimes are like this, they're very, very  
21          predictable from year to year, and so even  
22          small changes in numbers can lead to big  
23          changes in the Z score and less be  
24          significant, and so they're worth studying.

1 Other crimes are like this, where the plus  
2 three and the minus three are off the slide  
3 because they fluctuate so much from year to  
4 year. And so, you need major changes, numeric  
5 changes to that crime for anything significant  
6 to happen.

7 The Z score accounts for the normal  
8 amount of fluctuation that you have in the  
9 crime, and, therefore, is a better measure of  
10 analysis than, say, percentage change, which I  
11 don't typically offer in this type of report  
12 because it's fairly meaningless. What's a  
13 high percentage change, 50 percent,  
14 25 percent? I mean, there's no way to  
15 establish a statistical significance with a  
16 percentage change. I do offer percentages in  
17 comparison to each other, but not as a  
18 mechanism for determining if something was  
19 unusually high or low.

20 So the report has table after table  
21 of all the communities. Each community, I  
22 didn't try to offer them all in the PowerPoint  
23 slide here, but you can see, as I talked  
24 about, that increase in simple assault, the

1 decrease in aggravated assault, overall  
2 decreases in a lot of different property  
3 crimes, except for credit-card fraud, which is  
4 way above the norm, at least in terms of the  
5 Z score. And, numerically, we're talking  
6 about, about 50 incidents above the average.  
7 And, of course, not all of them, as we're  
8 going to see, I think, are related to the  
9 casino.

10 Total violent crime was a bit above  
11 average, within the threshold, though, and  
12 total property crime, again, was below  
13 average, but also within the threshold. So  
14 overall, things aren't -- the overall numbers  
15 aren't changing -- in terms of the broad  
16 categories, aren't changing a lot in the  
17 surround area.

18 Now, here's my thoughts and my  
19 evidence on credit-card fraud specifically.  
20 This is a month-to-month comparison of what  
21 happened postcasino with the average  
22 precasino, the five-year average precasino.  
23 And you can see the credit-card fraud starts  
24 to take off immediately after the opening of



1 Plainridge Park, and remains high all the way  
2 through, except the final month of the study,  
3 June 2016, when we finally see it dip below  
4 the average of the previous years. So there's  
5 a temporal relationship there with the opening  
6 of the Plainridge Park.

7 When we look at comparison  
8 communities, and I have what those are in just  
9 a minute, but we identified three groups of  
10 other communities that were similar to the  
11 Plainville area. And you can see the  
12 Plainville area -- this is just for the last  
13 six month of 2015 because that's all there was  
14 statewide data for. But the Plainville area,  
15 including Foxborough, we're seeing a  
16 90-percent increase, roughly, in this category  
17 versus a decrease in the comparison  
18 communities, and only a slight increase  
19 statewide. So you've got the fact that nobody  
20 else seems to be reporting quite this dramatic  
21 an increase in credit-card fraud.

22 Now, so if credit-card fraud is  
23 increasing in the area, there's a number of  
24 ways that that could be related to the

1 presence of the casino. One possibility is  
2 cards are being stolen at the casino and being  
3 used in the surrounding community as they  
4 leave. And that's a very common thing to --  
5 for a thief, to steal a credit card somewhere  
6 and then immediately try to use it in a gas  
7 station or someplace to make sure that it's  
8 good. That's not what's happening in this  
9 situation.

10 The gaming enforcement data does not  
11 show that there's a lot of credit cards being  
12 stolen there. And, spatially, there's no  
13 relationship, really, to the presence of  
14 Plainridge Park, and where we're seeing the  
15 credit cards being used, hardly any at gas  
16 stations, for instance, despite quite a few in  
17 the surrounding area.

18 So taking a closer look at the  
19 credit-card fraud, what we find -- and I  
20 probably should have offered these in reverse  
21 order because the last two categories are the  
22 ones that are -- you just can't even plausibly  
23 identify a casino relationship with them. We  
24 have Plainville area's residents' cards used

1 on line or out of state. Well, if it had  
2 anything to do with the casino, it wouldn't be  
3 geographically located like that so that --  
4 that we can dismiss.

5 Use of ATM cards. Again, these are  
6 Plainville-area residents' ATM cards being  
7 lost or stolen in a variety of circumstances  
8 and being used out of state and not in the  
9 local area, which, again, doesn't seem likely  
10 to be related to the casino. But the top one  
11 there, we have 42 percent of these credit-card  
12 fraud incidents, so we're looking at about --  
13 again, this is about -- that would translate  
14 to about 60 of the incidents that happened  
15 postcasino, 42 percent being stolen elsewhere.

16 So these are cards that have been  
17 stolen from anywhere -- other states, other  
18 communities in Massachusetts, or lost in those  
19 communities, being brought to the Plainville  
20 area, and being used to purchase liquor, food,  
21 cigarettes, gift cards and other retail --  
22 other things at retail establishments. No  
23 single hotspots. So it's not like they're  
24 just going to one store to use these cards.

1           These are happening throughout the area.  
2           Liquor stores, drugstores, fast food  
3           restaurants, and I don't even think there was  
4           one location that had more than two.

5                       The reason I think it's -- there's a  
6           likely Plainridge Park relationship in this  
7           particular category, there's two possibilities  
8           here. One is that people coming to the area  
9           are using their money at Plainridge Park, and  
10          then wanting things like liquor and food and  
11          cigarettes, after having spent their money at  
12          the casino, they're using stolen credit cards  
13          to buy it because they don't have the cash  
14          for, they don't want to use their cash on that  
15          particular thing.

16                      The other possibility is that, in  
17          order to fund -- and this is only a  
18          possibility, you understand, I'm saying the  
19          overall relationship between the casino and  
20          credit-card theft is likely, but this  
21          particular pattern, we don't have enough  
22          evidence on. But it is possible, because  
23          there are a number of gift card thefts going  
24          on here, and gift cards are, pretty much, as

1           useful as cash, if you can sell them. Right?  
2           Typically, we see gift cards being sold on  
3           line.

4                        So if you go on eBay or craigslist,  
5           you'll find all kinds of offers to buy gift  
6           cards at 50 percent of the face value of the  
7           gift card. If that's what was happening, we  
8           wouldn't expect it to be geographically  
9           located around Plainridge Park. You'd expect  
10          it to happen near the offender's houses. But  
11          the other way you could sell gift cards is,  
12          literally, on the street. Driving up to  
13          people in parking lots, driving up and so  
14          forth saying, hey, you want to buy this  
15          hundred-dollar Kohl's card for 50 bucks?

16                       And we don't have any particular  
17          evidence of this happening in the area yet,  
18          but I would -- what I would ask is that local  
19          communities be aware of this possibility and  
20          see if they can collect intelligence on that  
21          issue. If we can get any intel on gift cards  
22          being sold locally on the street, then, that  
23          strengthens the plausibility of a Plainridge  
24          Park relationship. That's the only specific

1 pattern that I could identify within the data  
2 that has a plausible Plainridge Park  
3 relationship.

4 But the overall statistical  
5 evidence, in terms of the increase in the  
6 area, the fact that we're not seeing the same  
7 increase in other areas, the fact that we're  
8 seeing an increase in out-of-town people being  
9 the offenders in these cases, leads -- led me  
10 to the conclusion that the increase in  
11 credit-card fraud, not the totality of the  
12 increase, but at least part of it had a likely  
13 relationship with Plainridge Park. I  
14 understand if you don't like that particular  
15 term but --

16 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Well, I love  
17 evidence. And there is no -- other than the  
18 numbers themselves, there is no -- not even  
19 one case in which someone relates it to the  
20 casino.

21 MR. BRUCE: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And I also  
23 think chiefs have a good idea of what's going  
24 on in their town. And several of them thought

1           it was even more likely that it could be  
2           related to the opioid addiction.  So --

3                       MR. BRUCE:  But we would expect that  
4           to see complementary increases in other  
5           places, in that case.

6                       COMMISSIONER CAMERON:  I understand.  
7           But I think we could set up another -- I think  
8           this is important enough we could set up  
9           another meeting with the chiefs and maybe talk  
10          to them about being very well-aware of  
11          capturing data around this issue.

12                      MR. BRUCE:  Yes, no question.

13                      COMMISSIONER CAMERON:  And maybe  
14          some education for residents around this  
15          issue.  So I agree that it's concerning.  I'm  
16          just -- I'm hesitant to use the word likely  
17          without -- without some information that is  
18          casino-related.

19                      MR. BRUCE:  If we'd had, say,  
20          offender postarrest interviews saying, oh,  
21          yeah, you know, I stole that -- I used that  
22          credit card to get cash to use at the casino,  
23          I would have called it definite.  You know, I  
24          wouldn't have called it likely.

1                   The problem with that -- and I'd  
2                   love to see that evidence, obviously. But a  
3                   small minority of these cases were was the  
4                   offender even identified? And then, typic --  
5                   it's not terribly common for an agency then  
6                   having made the arrest or summoning the  
7                   offender to conduct a postarrest interview to  
8                   ask them about their motivations. I think  
9                   that, maybe in this case and in the  
10                  surrounding areas, and this goes for all the  
11                  casino communities, they ought to be more  
12                  aware of that and maybe take those extra  
13                  steps, and perhaps they are.

14                  So while I agree that it would be --  
15                  it would be nice to have that smoking gun, to  
16                  have, you know, a couple of these offenders  
17                  say, oh, this is why I did it, I planned to  
18                  spend the money at Plainridge Park. The fact  
19                  that they're not saying it, it doesn't  
20                  surprise me. It doesn't surprise me we can't  
21                  find that data just because we don't have that  
22                  many arrests. And then, it's not common  
23                  practice, even if we do have the arrests, to  
24                  necessarily ask the offenders those questions



1 so...

2 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: And, Chris,  
3 the definition that you're using of  
4 credit-card fraud, is it simply the use of a  
5 credit card without permission of the  
6 credit-card holder?

7 MR. BRUCE: Yes. The card has  
8 already been stolen or lost somewhere else, or  
9 in the same community. But that would have  
10 been recorded as a theft or, you know, lost  
11 property on its own. Credit-card fraud has to  
12 be the actual use of that card, either on line  
13 or at a physical retail establishment.

14 And we talked about last time, you  
15 know, this crime is inconsistently reported  
16 everywhere. If you live in one community and  
17 your card is used in another one, you're  
18 technically supposed to report it where it was  
19 used, but a lot of police agencies are  
20 inconsistent about how they take the reports  
21 so very often the increase -- or you'll see  
22 the biggest numbers at whatever police  
23 department tends to be the most amenable to,  
24 oh, yeah, sure we'll take the report if you

1           come in here. So there's a lot of iffiness  
2           that surrounds this particular type of crime  
3           specifically. And I -- again, I don't -- I  
4           understand why there's some hesitation to  
5           accept that particular finding. But in my  
6           judgment, with the totality of the  
7           circumstances, I think this is one crime that  
8           we ought to at least take a much -- you know,  
9           a closer look at going forward.

10                    COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I would  
11           agree, we should take a closer look.

12                    COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: On that note,  
13           what you mentioned relative to intelligence,  
14           where there was a street sale activity, and  
15           you mentioned a future meeting with the  
16           chiefs, what could possibly help us strengthen  
17           the possibility of getting that intelligence?  
18           I'm just curious for the record.

19                    COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Postarrest  
20           interviews, reporting and how we're reporting,  
21           you know, which towns are taking complaints in  
22           which manner. We know Wrentham takes them,  
23           right, because they have so many issues around  
24           this topic because of the outlets. So yeah, I

1           just making them aware -- and we did talk  
2           about this. And, again, that's another reason  
3           I'm a little bit hesitant with this word. I  
4           think it's absolutely possible, but the chiefs  
5           were no, we don't think it has anything to do  
6           with the casino so -- and I understand that  
7           they're not looking at the totality as you  
8           are, Christopher, I do understand that. And I  
9           agree with you that we should take a closer  
10          look. But I think the meeting could bring  
11          some -- a better awareness, and maybe  
12          better -- some stronger information. Some --  
13          you know, some post -- you know, when someone  
14          reports that it's missing or it's been used.  
15          Just some further investigation on behalf of  
16          those agencies that may help us.

17                       MR. BRUCE: And we identified -- I  
18                       identified the specific subpattern after the  
19                       last time we talked to them. One of the  
20                       things I would ask them to do is talk to their  
21                       dispatchers and their dispatch supervisors.  
22                       They're the ones that are going to get the  
23                       calls from the community members saying, hey,  
24                       I was just in, you know, the Kohl's parking

1 lot and some guy walked up and said, hey, do  
2 you want to buy this gift card? And that's,  
3 typically, never going to result in a full,  
4 written police report for that type of -- that  
5 type of incident. So the dispatchers would  
6 have a better handle about whether that type  
7 of thing is happening than even the police  
8 officers in the community would have.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Chris, before you  
10 go on -- do you want to finish this?

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Well, yeah,  
12 just -- I know it's taking, perhaps, more time  
13 than anticipated, but I find this fascinating.  
14 What about, you know, warning or advising the  
15 community? We have, at the casino, the  
16 Fair Tips line, you know, to report to our  
17 gaming agents all kinds of suspicious or  
18 concerning activity, anything that we should  
19 think about for the community at large. And  
20 this is not, necessarily, a question for  
21 Mr. Bruce, but I pose to the rest of us as  
22 well.

23 MR. BRUCE: I mean, absolutely. The  
24 chief's can use this information to turn it

1           into strategies. Right? To community  
2           outreach strategies, different tactics. I  
3           would point out, though, we're talking about  
4           fairly minor dollar values with these  
5           credit-card incidents. Right? So, you know,  
6           20, 30 bucks at a time, and maybe a couple of  
7           dozen incidents.

8                         So while it's an interesting pattern  
9           to note and, you know, one thing that we might  
10          potentially tie to the casino, it's not  
11          exactly ravaging the community. I think that  
12          you could easily overreact to this sort of  
13          pattern as well.

14                        COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Are we also  
15          -- you know, you get to the bullet about the  
16          PPC relationship. Are we also tracking  
17          information, I guess, to our team, catching  
18          somebody on site, if they're trying to use a  
19          stolen credit card in a restaurant, or reports  
20          of, I was at the casino, somebody took my...

21                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.

22                        MR. CAIN: If anything comes to us,  
23          we're tracking it with our new iTrack system.  
24          If there's a criminal activity to -- from a

1 IEB standpoint and deferring over to Tim's  
2 group for criminal aspect of that.

3 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: So it's not  
4 happening; it's not being reported, it's --  
5 yes.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Before you go on,  
7 let's take a quick break before you go to your  
8 next slide.

9  
10 (A recess was taken)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. We're ready  
13 to reconvene public meeting No. 206 at about  
14 11:30, and we are back to crime analyst,  
15 Christopher Bruce.

16 MR. BRUCE: I'll try to wrap up.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: No problem. This  
18 is fascinating.

19 MR. BRUCE: A number of the  
20 communities from the study saw an increase in  
21 regular fraud, in addition to credit-card  
22 fraud. This category is typically reserved  
23 for what we call con games, or a variety of  
24 different schemes that trick people out of

1 their money, really. There usually is some  
2 sort of connection between the offender and  
3 the victim.

4 Now, in analyzing these reports, I  
5 typically -- I didn't see anything  
6 specifically relating to the casino here. And  
7 the types of scams that are happening in the  
8 area are the same ones that we're seeing  
9 nationwide and statewide. And as we're going  
10 to see, the numbers -- although they're  
11 increased in the Plainville area, they're also  
12 increased everywhere else for this particular  
13 category.

14 So this is an example of where the  
15 comparative data really helped us say, all  
16 right, even though we saw an increase since  
17 there's this -- everybody else is seeing the  
18 increase too, probably, Plainridge Park isn't  
19 responsible for this. The communities  
20 themselves ought to still be aware of these  
21 trends, and I'll be giving them a report about  
22 this so that they can notify their residents,  
23 because we're seeing a lot of elderly people  
24 being scammed. For instance, through

1 different telephone scams. People call  
2 impersonating an IRS agent, or there's a very  
3 common one where they impersonate a family  
4 member in trouble and they say, you know, we  
5 need you to send money and they end up sending  
6 a couple of thousand dollars.

7           Again, no Plainridge Park  
8 relationship. Even if there was, even if  
9 offenders were committing this scam to get  
10 cash to use for gambling, we wouldn't expect  
11 it -- to see it geographically located like  
12 that. It would be diffused everywhere that  
13 the offenders are. So I don't think that -- I  
14 left it as possible, but I don't see a  
15 specific trend that is logically connected to  
16 Plainridge Park. Especially, since we're  
17 seeing a comparable statewide increase.

18           When it comes to calls for services  
19 that are not criminal, as I said before, most  
20 of the increases coming in things like  
21 traffic-related calls for service, we see  
22 traffic complaints and traffic collisions  
23 increased in the area, and it varies depending  
24 on the community. That traffic collision



1           increase, for instance, is fairly significant.  
2           And I would say that almost certainly it's  
3           related to Plainridge Park, except Plainville  
4           itself had a decrease over the first half of  
5           2016, but there's a lot of -- a lot of  
6           variables that go into traffic collisions.  
7           Sometimes, more traffic causes fewer  
8           collisions, for instance. Sometimes, bad  
9           weather causes fewer collisions, rather than  
10          more collisions. It's a really tough thing to  
11          analyze. Most of what I do, other than this  
12          job, is analyzing traffic collisions these  
13          days. And it's definitely something that  
14          you've actually got to have the actual traffic  
15          collision dataset to do a good job with. So  
16          that's why that analysis has to wait a little  
17          bit. Maybe --

18                        COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Excuse me,  
19                        Chris.

20                        MR. BRUCE: Sure.

21                        COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Can I ask  
22                        you something, just in terms of what it means?  
23                        Says, "category of psychological."

24                        MR. BRUCE: Yeah.

1                   COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Is that  
2                   mental-illness-related issue?

3                   MR. BRUCE: It is. Yeah, it's a  
4                   variety of calls that could be related to  
5                   people having delusions, hallucinations,  
6                   suicidal, psychotic episodes. You know,  
7                   things like that.

8                   COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Okay.

9                   MR. BRUCE: And we did take a close  
10                  look at each of those incidents. Attleboro  
11                  had the biggest increase. It's responsible  
12                  for most of the areawide increase that we see  
13                  there. And, again, we couldn't find anything  
14                  casino-specific within that tentative  
15                  connection logically. I mean, you could see  
16                  that, you know, gambling might cause  
17                  psychological issues. But even if it did, we  
18                  wouldn't expect to see it located in one  
19                  community like that. It would be diffused  
20                  among where all the customers are coming from  
21                  so...

22                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You mean, if you  
23                  took Attleboro out of psychological --

24                  MR. BRUCE: It would -- yeah, I

1           can't -- I'd have to look at the stats in the  
2           report to see, but I don't think it would be a  
3           significant increase if you took Attleboro  
4           out, yeah.

5                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON:   And the chief  
6           pointed out that it could be the same  
7           individual.

8                        MR. BRUCE:   That does happen, yeah.

9                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON:   There's no  
10          place -- there's not a hospital --

11                       MR. BRUCE:   Right.

12                       COMMISSIONER CAMERON:   -- that they  
13          can put this person in that should be in a  
14          hospital.

15                       MR. BRUCE:   Since I didn't collect  
16          personal-identifying information, I couldn't  
17          determine that specifically.  But, yeah,  
18          definitely, you could get the same person  
19          responsible for multiple calls.

20                       CHAIRMAN CROSBY:   It's interesting  
21          that even in the traffic issues, you said most  
22          analysts would use a Z score of two before you  
23          started to note a change, and this was under  
24          two.  So even in the traffic area --

1                   MR. BRUCE: It's not that high,  
2                   yeah. And I think that this is one of those  
3                   cases where the Plainridge Park could be  
4                   having a slight increase, but what we're  
5                   seeing societally in terms of economics and  
6                   weather is probably having a bigger effect.

7                   Now we'll -- I did take a -- I'll  
8                   skip that slide quickly. I did map what was  
9                   happening, in terms of traffic collisions,  
10                  significant increases to significant decreases  
11                  is by bridge cell. And this is one -- we can  
12                  see places on Route -- I can't use the laser  
13                  pointer, but we can see places on Route 1,  
14                  right around the casino and up and down  
15                  Route 1 through North Attleboro, where there's  
16                  been an increase in traffic collisions. If  
17                  there's more traffic on Route 1, more  
18                  congestion, then, it would make sense to see  
19                  an increase in collisions at those locations.  
20                  But I don't think -- that's responsible for a  
21                  minor part of the overall increase that we  
22                  see.

23                  So I would ask you to just to give  
24                  me until, you know, mid 2017 to be able to do

1 a full report on collisions with a better  
2 dataset. I think there's going to be some  
3 influence, but it might not even be above the  
4 typical threshold that we've established for  
5 significance on this particular category.

6 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Chris, on  
7 that, is there any suggestion that  
8 Gillette Stadium and the volume of traffic  
9 coming and going from Patriots' games might be  
10 responsible for part of this?

11 MR. BRUCE: It's responsible for the  
12 total amount of collisions in the area.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: A change.

14 MR. BRUCE: Exactly. Did anything  
15 happen at Gillette Stadium in the last year  
16 that would have caused it to particularly  
17 increase or decrease, and I'm not aware of  
18 anything. I did a scan for this sort of thing  
19 in the area but... so as long as the volume  
20 has been consistent at Gillette Stadium, then,  
21 probably, it's not responsible for the  
22 increase.

23 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: They've been  
24 selling out for years. Right?

1                   MR. BRUCE: Yeah, right, they have.  
2                   Now, in the traffic-related calls -- and this  
3                   is people calling and complaining about  
4                   erratic drivers and parking situations, and  
5                   any number of other things related to traffic,  
6                   we're seeing an increase in a lot of  
7                   communities as well, and Plainville saw an  
8                   increase in disabled vehicle calls. We see a  
9                   lot of suspicious vehicle calls for service in  
10                  the area. These are all things that,  
11                  unfortunately, nobody ever take a report on.  
12                  So all you get is the call for service that  
13                  this happened and you don't really get much  
14                  more information about what caused it, but  
15                  these are all things that -- more traffic  
16                  tends to cause more numbers in these areas.

17                  So it makes sense that it's not --  
18                  if it had been an actual crime in these cases,  
19                  like suspicious activity, then, that would  
20                  have been reported as a crime. So these  
21                  aren't crimes happening, necessarily. These  
22                  are just things that the police departments  
23                  happen to deal with, basically, and it does  
24                  make logical sense. And Route 1 is involved

1 in an awful lot of them. But, as I say, other  
2 factors like weather might be involved. This  
3 is a good category where a two-year study will  
4 be give us -- be able to shed better light on  
5 what's happening in the long run.

6 From the state police data, which  
7 typically covers the highways in the  
8 surrounding area, we saw no -- now, state  
9 police data, there wasn't enough data to  
10 establish a good baseline. But even from the  
11 few years that I was able to get from them,  
12 there wasn't really any increase at all in  
13 crime, or what we call reactive calls for  
14 service. Meaning, things that people call  
15 about.

16 There was a big increase in  
17 proactive calls for service. The state police  
18 doing extra building checks and checks in rest  
19 areas. Thing like that in the surrounding  
20 area, but nothing that was  
21 nonpolice-generated. And so, there was really  
22 no detectable influence from Plainridge Park  
23 on the state highways. The highways seem to  
24 be absorbing anything that might have

1 increased based on Plainridge Park.

2 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Chris,  
3 excuse me, but when I read the report, I  
4 attached some particular significance to this,  
5 and I'm not sure if it's justified. But it  
6 occurred to me that the state police are  
7 likely to have been quite consistent over the  
8 years in the -- in their manner of reporting  
9 incidents that they've been involved in, as  
10 opposed to the -- what you've described as  
11 some changes in the -- in the -- you know,  
12 other communities and the local police  
13 departments, and that with there being as I  
14 understand it from your data, you know, no  
15 significant change from any of the enforcement  
16 calls for service from the state police before  
17 and after, that strikes me as being highly  
18 significant.

19 MR. BRUCE: It is, but you have to  
20 keep in mind that the state police are dealing  
21 with a fairly limited jurisdictional  
22 territory, and they don't typically respond to  
23 the types of community crimes. They'll  
24 respond but -- to help sometimes, but they



1 don't take the report on the types of street  
2 crimes like robberies and burglaries, and  
3 thefts that the local police departments take.  
4 So what you're seeing reflected in the state  
5 police data is stuff that generally grows out  
6 of traffic stops, or activity that's happening  
7 on state property, of which there isn't a lot  
8 in the Plainville area.

9 So I don't -- you have a point about  
10 the reliability of the reporting, but we  
11 wouldn't have expected them to take many of  
12 the crime reports that you'd expect to be  
13 influenced by something like Plainridge Park  
14 in the first place. Does that makes sense?

15 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Yep.

16 MR. BRUCE: But in particular, with  
17 traffic collisions, though, it's notable that  
18 we're not seeing a big increase. And there is  
19 some consistency there. There was in the  
20 second half of 2015, but it evaporated in  
21 2016, in terms of traffic collisions on  
22 Route 95 and 495 and so forth.

23 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: And DUIs.

24 MR. BRUCE: And DUIs as well, yeah.

1 Again, very highly dependent upon the police  
2 themselves so -- we need the crash dataset to  
3 look at that.

4 Now, what I'm going to cover here,  
5 briefly, is just a taste of what we'll be able  
6 to do with more data. So I don't want to  
7 suggest this is a comprehensive analysis, but  
8 in order to determine, you know, how the -- so  
9 everything up to this point has been, how is  
10 Plainville area doing compared to its own  
11 past? This section is about how is the  
12 Plainville area doing compared to other  
13 communities, to other comparison communities?

14 It's not impossible that crime -- a  
15 crime like burglary could not increase at all  
16 in the Plainville area and, yet, still have a  
17 Plainridge Park relationship, if, everywhere  
18 else the crime is decreasing. Right? So we  
19 have to study that as well.

20 So what I did was identify three  
21 comparable communities of about the same size  
22 and square mileage with the similar economic  
23 and geographic structures. State highways  
24 running through them, retail establishments,

1 et cetera, in eastern Massachusetts. And you  
2 can see them listed there, and they're overall  
3 populations and their size. And so, looking  
4 at those comp communities versus -- and then I  
5 looked at all of Massachusetts as well.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What is the IBR?

7 MR. BRUCE: Oh, I'm sorry. IBR is  
8 incident-based reporting. It's a crime total.  
9 So it's the total of the number of crimes they  
10 reported during that period. So we looked at  
11 a number of crimes across those communities,  
12 and what we see is that -- and now, remember,  
13 this is only the second half of 2015 because  
14 the communities are very slow to report their  
15 statistics, unfortunately, many of them are.  
16 And it very often takes til after the close of  
17 a year before you even have any data from that  
18 year. And so, it'll be after the close of  
19 2016 before some of the communities have  
20 reported any of their months of 2016, so I can  
21 only do 2015 here.

22 So we see violent crime, the  
23 decrease in the Plainville areas commensurate  
24 with what we saw in the comparison

1 communities, at least as an average, and in  
2 Massachusetts. Property crime declined in the  
3 Plainville area, but not as much as it  
4 declined everywhere else. And the primary  
5 reason for that is, the burglary -- it's down  
6 to two burglary patterns that North Attleboro  
7 had that just killed them in the second half  
8 of 2015. I mentioned that earlier. There  
9 were a couple of heroin-addicted offenders  
10 that -- they were arrested, ultimately, and  
11 didn't have any Plainridge Park relationship.  
12 If you remove those statistics from  
13 consideration, the property crime decrease is  
14 actually about the same as Massachusetts and  
15 the comparison communities.

16 We see a few areas in which the  
17 Plainridge Park -- Plainville area decreased  
18 more than the -- like in robbery, for  
19 instance, than the surrounding area.  
20 Credit-card fraud you can see, as I already  
21 talked about, just a big increase in the  
22 Plainville area and not anything we're seeing  
23 anywhere else in the comparison communities.

24 At this point, what these statistics

1           helped me do was temper some of my analysis of  
2           what we saw going on in Plainville, in terms  
3           of the increases. Later on, when we have a  
4           full year's dataset or more, we'll be able to  
5           do more with these comparison statistics that  
6           would help legitimize this research to a level  
7           that quantitative researchers that would find  
8           it more compelling. Purely quantitative  
9           researchers don't -- they're not impressed by  
10          my ability to delve down into the specifics of  
11          crime reports and look at, you know, the  
12          individual incidents. They just want to see  
13          what the numbers are, and I want to be able to  
14          ultimately satisfy everybody's concerns here.  
15          So if we want to get this research published  
16          in certain academic journals, the quantitative  
17          side's going to have to be strengthened, and  
18          these numbers would be able to help us do  
19          that.

20                    COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I just think  
21                    it's so important, the work you're doing with  
22                    digging in and identifying, and that's tedious  
23                    work. I know that it is.

24                    MR. BRUCE: Oh, yeah, it's

1           comparatively easy, as long as you have the  
2           data.

3                       COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Right. Just  
4           using the numbers. But to find out that  
5           Attleboro had that ring of heroin-addicted,  
6           which just skewed the whole thing and you were  
7           able to say no, there was no relationship to  
8           the casino so that's really good work.

9                       COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: I think that  
10          gets to -- this comparison community piece is  
11          interesting, but I have a feeling that there's  
12          more value to it over an extended period of  
13          time, because these short, little spikes  
14          aren't going to probably tell the complete  
15          story.

16                      MR. BRUCE: Absolutely. And then,  
17          over the more extended period of time, things  
18          like series of crime, like those burglaries in  
19          Attleboro, they kind of even out, you know.  
20          But every community has a series, from time to  
21          time, that just throws the numbers completely  
22          out of whack. And so, over a longer period of  
23          time, you can smooth that out and calculate an  
24          average. So yes, these statistics, this type

1 of analysis will become much more valuable,  
2 and we'll be able to do much more in-depth  
3 analysis as we start to get one year, two  
4 years worth of data from the comparison  
5 communities.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: And we're using  
7 the comparison communities for all of our  
8 social and economic indicators. The whole  
9 study is using comparison communities as well  
10 as the longitudinal study. Very good.

11 MR. BRUCE: And so, that's pretty  
12 much it. So my summary there, which, for some  
13 reason I don't understand, has the words type  
14 equation here in the middle of it. But for  
15 the first 12 months of activity we saw  
16 activity at Plainridge Park that was about  
17 what we'd expect, given the size of the  
18 facility and the amount of traffic that it  
19 draws.

20 We didn't see very many significant  
21 crime increases in the surrounding area  
22 related to Plainridge Park or otherwise. Most  
23 of the significant increases that we saw that  
24 we could tie to Plainridge Park are related to

1 traffic activity -- calls for service not  
2 crime, and, you know, accepting some doubts  
3 about this, my conclusion is there's a likely  
4 relationship to the -- to credit-card fraud,  
5 and a possible relationship to some of those  
6 other types of fraud that we identified, but  
7 some definitely we could -- we need to do more  
8 analysis of those categories going forward.  
9 And on comparison crime and traffic collisions  
10 specifically, which I'm very interested in  
11 getting to the bottom of, that's going to have  
12 to wait until later 2017, when we have full,  
13 statewide datasets. So, probably, the next  
14 things that I'll be presenting to you will be  
15 those reports.

16 The activity that's happening around  
17 Plainville, I don't think -- although Mark and  
18 I will talk about this, I guess, I don't think  
19 is significant enough to warrant further  
20 quarterly reports, or even a six-month report.  
21 I mean, they have analysts operating on the  
22 ground down there that can keep the police  
23 departments comprised as to trends that are  
24 happening on a month-to-month basis. So



1           probably the next thing we'll have to do will  
2           be a second-year report for the Plainville  
3           area. I think, maybe when we get into Everett  
4           and Somerville we're going to need to look at  
5           more frequent reports to keep up on what's  
6           going on there.

7                         COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Christopher,  
8           will you be looking at the data more  
9           frequently than yearly, though; I mean, will  
10          you be pulling that data from those agencies?

11                        MR. BRUCE: Yeah, I think so. I'd  
12          like to do just a six-month scan anyway.

13                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Right.

14                        MR. BRUCE: And I've already got the  
15          infrastructure -- the technological  
16          infrastructure in place to pull that data  
17          without much fuss.

18                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: So if you see  
19          something there's the ability to notify the  
20          chiefs of something that might need a  
21          strategy, an immediate strategy?

22                        MR. BRUCE: Absolutely, yes. If  
23          they need the ability to jump on something and  
24          we can -- yeah, we'll have the ability to

1           notify them. I just can't -- I don't think  
2           that it would be anybody's good use of time,  
3           if I prepared a full report. You know, you'd  
4           be wasting your money on it. You'd just  
5           get -- you'd get the same thing over and over  
6           again. But we will look at the comparison  
7           communities more, and the full traffic dataset  
8           next year, and I should be able to give you  
9           better answers on that.

10                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. Thank  
11           you.

12                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Anybody else?  
13           Questions? Comments?

14                        COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Yeah I have  
15           a -- I have a general question, Chris. Beyond  
16           the data, Commissioner Cameron has referenced  
17           meetings with chiefs of police, and I would  
18           gather you interacted with law enforcement  
19           officers in all these communities, just on an  
20           anecdotal level, are any of them saying an  
21           opening or operation of the Plainridge casino  
22           has caused any kind of significant increase in  
23           law enforcement issues?

24                        MR. BRUCE: Absolutely. No. We've

1       asked the question several times in those  
2       meetings, and I was actually surprised by that  
3       because, I mean, they have an incentive to say  
4       that, you know, yes, we saw an increase in  
5       activity because of the casino. But every  
6       time they've said, no, we're noted saying  
7       anything at all. I literally haven't heard a  
8       single anecdote of any type of increase that  
9       could be traced to Plainridge Park.

10               COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Chris, just  
11       a final quick question on the -- on the  
12       summary you talk about drunk driving  
13       increases, and you talked earlier about how  
14       some of that just might be different levels of  
15       enforcement, that topic. I mean, does law  
16       enforcement ever ask somebody who they pick up  
17       for DUIs, say, where'd you have your last  
18       drink?

19               MR. BRUCE: They do ask that, and  
20       yeah it's -- it can be useful data. But it --  
21       in this case, I think in -- for  
22       North Attleboro we had two incidents where  
23       they said Plainridge Park. But without a more  
24       complete dataset of how much drunk driving is

1           happening, I tend to hesitate to offer any  
2           specific analysis of drunk driving arrests.  
3           It just -- it creates a skewed picture.

4                       The unfortunate fact is -- and I  
5           guess most of the public probably would prefer  
6           not to hear this, but any police officer  
7           working anything but the early morning, you  
8           know, like an 8 a.m. to noon shift, who really  
9           wants to make a drunk driving arrest, can go  
10          out there and do one. There's almost always a  
11          car on the road that they can stop and arrest  
12          somebody for drunk driving.

13                      COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Plus, I  
14          guess if you ask somebody that question, the  
15          validity of their response can be called into  
16          question, one, because of their --

17                      MR. BRUCE: Absolutely true.

18                      COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: -- state,  
19          but they may not want to get their buddy's bar  
20          in trouble also.

21                      MR. BRUCE: The unfortunate thing  
22          about that question is there's no -- although  
23          they ask it very often, there's no place in  
24          the record system that structures or

1           quantifies the answer to the question so it's  
2           not easy to get the data out to then  
3           therefore, map the last drink locations. You  
4           have to look at one case report at a time.  
5           And, you know, again, where we don't have a  
6           complete picture of drunk driving, I didn't  
7           think it was a good exercise for this  
8           particular report, but it's something we  
9           should -- we should definitely look at in the  
10          future.

11                           COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Okay. Thank  
12          you.

13                           COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And  
14          Plainridge early on, the first -- the very  
15          first meeting with the chiefs, it was  
16          identified that, look, they could stay open  
17          til two, and that all the other bars in the  
18          area could stay until one. So there was real  
19          concern by the chiefs that, oh, boy they're  
20          going to be rushing for last call at the  
21          casino, which is going to create a problem.  
22          And upon hearing that, Plainridge immediately  
23          said, we hear you and we will close at one as  
24          well. So that was a good cooperative effort

1           there too.

2                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY:   That's amazing.  
3           Anybody else?

4                         COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA:   Well, there's  
5           a lot of takeaways, I think.   But one that I  
6           wants to mention, you know, at this point, is  
7           the collaboration of the chiefs that you've  
8           alluded now a number of times.   I'm hopeful  
9           that's also the case in Everett and  
10          Springfield.   And, perhaps, this could also be  
11          an incentive for Foxborough and others to  
12          continue thinking about this.

13                        Also, the notion of the ongoing,  
14          that I look forward to the comparison  
15          community, the traffic piece that comes a  
16          little later, given, you know, the rest of the  
17          state, but also, importantly, having the  
18          intelligence collectively to think about  
19          strategies for mitigation, either at the local  
20          level or at the state level.   I think it's  
21          really useful.

22                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY:   Anybody else?

23                        MR. VANDER LINDEN:   I was just going  
24          to say we're -- you know, this has been going

1 quite well, I believe. We've begun our  
2 efforts to organize around the Springfield  
3 community. And that's -- we're kicking that  
4 off in earnest, likely, January, but  
5 definitely that first quarter of 2017.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: That's what I was  
7 going to ask. First of all, I was going to  
8 say this is just -- I think this is just --  
9 it's just really well done, Christopher. You  
10 know, it's -- it reads well. It's logically  
11 prepared. The analysis that you use, even to  
12 a laymen's reading, is rigorous. It's really  
13 an impressive piece of work and I appreciate  
14 that.

15 MR. BRUCE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: It seems like it's  
17 quite labor intensive and I'm wondering, will  
18 you have the bandwidth to take on much larger  
19 host and surrounding communities; are you  
20 ramping up your own operation, or can you do  
21 it -- how will you be able to bring this level  
22 of detail and hands-on contact to those much  
23 larger regions?

24 MR. BRUCE: Definitely, when we get

1           into 2018 or so, the project -- we haven't  
2           talked about specifics, in terms of time and  
3           what funding's available so I don't want to  
4           speak out of turn, but the project will --  
5           yes, will require more of my time, but I can  
6           anticipate that. I don't have any single,  
7           full-time job. I take bits and pieces of  
8           contracts here and there so I can obviously  
9           just reject more things -- other types of work  
10          while this is going on.

11                         But the particularly good news about  
12          the Springfield and the Everett areas is, they  
13          have, at those police departments, full-time  
14          analysts, who are pretty experienced. They're  
15          not just hiring them for the first time for  
16          this project, who really know what they're  
17          doing. And so, I'm going to have a pool of  
18          people, that I can work much more closely  
19          with, who will be able to do some of the more  
20          in-depth analysis off -- at their own agencies  
21          and give me the results, instead of me having  
22          to do most of it myself so...

23                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY: That's a good  
24          point. And you're starting to -- have you



1           made contact with the --

2                         COMMISSIONER CAMERON: We had a  
3 strategy meeting last Friday to talk about who  
4 we needed at the meeting in Springfield, and a  
5 decision was made to include two other  
6 communities that are not -- that were not  
7 designated surrounding communities because we  
8 thought it would be -- bring value to the  
9 community, so we had -- we just had that  
10 meeting last Friday and we're about to -- and  
11 there's -- the state police has done a lot of  
12 work already up there, with Springfield PD, as  
13 well as MGM.

14                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Our state police?

15                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Our state  
16 police.

17                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Our people.

18                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON: They've been  
19 hard at it, frankly, understanding how  
20 important this is. Two reasons. First of  
21 all, the main reason is they're really engaged  
22 in keeping it safe and secure once it opens,  
23 but they also see the value of this project.  
24 So the work has started up there. We're about

1 to make the calls, Mark, right? We -- after  
2 our meeting Friday, and really get the dates  
3 to start those introductory meetings. If you  
4 want to bring Christopher and this body of  
5 work, obviously, because that -- they'll be  
6 able to see, firsthand, the good work that's  
7 been done and understand the value of the  
8 project. So we really -- we did put a good  
9 strategy together and it's just a question now  
10 of finding three dates that we can put out to  
11 the chiefs and set up a meeting.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great. Great.  
13 That's really -- really well done.

14 MR. BRUCE: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: This goes to EOPs,  
16 obviously. Their assistant secretary of  
17 policy who serves on Public Health Trust Fund  
18 would probably get this because it's  
19 interesting. But, also, I think the Public  
20 Health Trust Fund executive committee would be  
21 interested in this report also.

22 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And the  
23 public safety committee will be briefed at the  
24 next meeting, I believe, in January on this

1 one-year project as well.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right. Is this on  
3 the agenda on the Gaming Policy Advisory  
4 Committee?

5 MR. VANDER LINDEN: The research  
6 agenda, in general, is on the agenda for that  
7 meeting. This is identified as a deliverable  
8 that's complete. I could certainly highlight  
9 this -- this report, especially, it's very  
10 timely, considering we have meetings on  
11 Monday.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Yeah, I think you  
13 should. At least, you know, certainly the  
14 summary that Chris has prepared, and a few  
15 highlights. Maybe a brief elaboration on the  
16 credit card, in order that Colonel Cameron's  
17 hair doesn't stand on end, but I think that --  
18 that really would be really a good thing to  
19 do, Mark.

20 MR. BRUCE: If I could just say one  
21 final word about the material that I've  
22 presented. Anybody who has received a copy of  
23 the PowerPoint presentation and is relying  
24 exclusively on that for the information about

1           this report is doing a disservice to  
2           themselves and anybody else they might  
3           transmit information to. So I would ask  
4           anybody who, you know, is going to be use the  
5           this for anything to read the actual, full  
6           written report, actually, rather than just  
7           rely on the PowerPoint for their material.

8                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We totally get  
9           that and totally understand that. There's a  
10          press issue, however. You know, it's very  
11          hard to get the members of the press to read  
12          the whole reports. So trying to architect,  
13          you know, the coverage -- you know, the  
14          highlight points in a way that is consistent  
15          with what's in there, I know it's a challenge,  
16          but it's important. It's important. Nothing  
17          personal. You've probably read the whole  
18          report. You've been here the whole day.  
19          Thank you.

20                        COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: But the  
21          report -- the report also does a very good job  
22          at summarizing --

23                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY: It does.

24                        COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: -- you know

1           some of the intricacies that are simply a lot  
2           harder to put in a PowerPoint presentation.

3                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.

4                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: And my  
5           concerns are really -- it was the PowerPoint.  
6           Just reading that, and really know thing whole  
7           report I understand. How much work went into  
8           it, and the quality of the work is really --  
9           very high-level.

10                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: It's interesting,  
11           you know -- this is an aside, you know, that  
12           the mindset and methodology of a academic  
13           researcher, versus the mindset and methodology  
14           of a police officer, you know, you can't get  
15           nothing out of because there's no other cause,  
16           you're going to jail, you know. You need to  
17           have evidence, you know. Whereas, the  
18           researcher can get away with that kind of  
19           deductive reasoning. But it's a very  
20           legitimate, important point in both  
21           perspectives and really interesting. It was a  
22           conversation well worth having. Thank you all  
23           very much. We'll have another quick break and  
24           we'll be back in five minutes.

1                   COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

2                   (A recess was taken)

3

4                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We are reconvening  
5 public meeting 206 at noon, and we are back to  
6 Director Vander Linden.

7                   MR. VANDER LINDEN: Thank you. I am  
8 joined with Theresa Fiore, who is a program  
9 manager working with me on research and  
10 responsible gaming initiatives.

11                   So, Commissioners, four years ago  
12 the Commission set out to build a responsible  
13 gaming program that would meet and even exceed  
14 the stringent mandates set forth by the  
15 Expanded Gaming Act. The goals of the program  
16 aimed to mitigate the negative and unintended  
17 consequences of introducing casino gambling to  
18 the state.

19                   The process incorporated the advice  
20 and consultation of numerous experts, a review  
21 of international jurisdictional policy, and  
22 consideration of the relevant body of  
23 research, and, at times, lack thereof. The  
24 summation of this work was drafted into a

1 Massachusetts Responsible Gaming Framework,  
2 which the Commission formally adopted in 2014.

3 The Responsible Gaming Framework is  
4 intended to inform gaming regulation in  
5 Massachusetts and provide an overall  
6 orientation to responsible gaming practice and  
7 policy adopted by the Commission and gaming  
8 licensees.

9 Several important policies and  
10 innovative programs have been launched based  
11 on the strategies outlined in the Responsible  
12 Gaming Framework. Those programs you're very  
13 familiar with. It's the responsible -- or the  
14 GameSense program, the PlayMyWay budgeting and  
15 spend tracking tool, and the voluntary  
16 self-exclusion program. And to note, while  
17 voluntarily, self-exclusion in general is  
18 relatively common across the country, the  
19 Commission adopted a unique design to this  
20 program that really is patron-centered.

21 The responsible gaming strategies  
22 and tactics are intended to retain flexibility  
23 to respond to emerging evidence, evolving  
24 technology, and shifting social, cultural

1 factors. In the past few years, we've learned  
2 a lot. We've learned a great deal from  
3 experience in Massachusetts and have paid  
4 close attention to new and compelling  
5 information and evidence. Probably, the most  
6 important thing to consider is the fact that  
7 we drafted this framework before we had even  
8 one casino open in Massachusetts. And, at  
9 this point, we're sitting with 18 months'  
10 experience in that area.

11 We regularly engage in numerous  
12 organizations with a shared commitment to  
13 advancing responsible gaming practice. The  
14 Mass Council on Compulsive Gambling is -- has  
15 been by our side for the entire four years and  
16 continues to do so as we continue to engage  
17 them on a number of different levels.

18 The National Center for Responsible  
19 Gaming, and the National Council on Problem  
20 Gaming are two important organizations that we  
21 work very closely with, holding various  
22 positions, including I sit on their board of  
23 directors.

24 We've worked very closely with the



1 British Columbia Lottery Corp. They started  
2 the GameSense program. We continue to work  
3 with them, and with other Canadian  
4 jurisdictions that have adopted -- adopted  
5 their GameSense strategy and program. In  
6 fact, Chairman Crosby and Theresa are  
7 tentatively planning on going out there in  
8 February to attend the GameSense summit as we  
9 continue to look for ways to advance this  
10 program.

11 We also pay specific attention to  
12 emerging practices, new research and current  
13 information. This is -- this is a significant  
14 piece of what we do. What's happening in  
15 other jurisdictions? What new research is out  
16 there? As our last presentation highlighted,  
17 it's very important to pay attention to  
18 research, and pay attention to the findings of  
19 that research. Current information is  
20 continuously coming out as well.

21 For example, there was an article in  
22 the Atlantic Monthly about casino gambling  
23 that, I think, is information that we need to  
24 pay close attention to as well. It's drawn

1 quite a lot of attention. I know you all are  
2 aware of that article as well.

3 For this reason I think, you know,  
4 it's time to take a second look at our  
5 Responsible Gaming Framework. There are --  
6 it's time to take a look at and identify gaps,  
7 expand the scope, and consider the role that  
8 it plays with key partners. I would like to  
9 see a revised framework that works in concert  
10 with the broader public health -- a broader  
11 public health approach to promote safe gaming,  
12 prevent problem gambling and create greater  
13 opportunities for intervention.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Comments?

15 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Well, I  
16 read this, you know, memorandum and then I  
17 asked myself, well, what are you proposing?  
18 And then I thought I may have missed  
19 something. But are you, basically, just  
20 putting us on notice that it's time for a  
21 critical review, or do you have some  
22 particular areas that you're -- you want us to  
23 begin thinking about?

24 MR. VANDER LINDEN: Yeah. I would

1 love to engage each of you to talk about  
2 what's important to you in the area of  
3 responsible gaming. What, from your  
4 perception, do we continue to forge ahead, and  
5 what needs to have a second look.

6 The department of public health has  
7 become an increasingly important player in all  
8 of this, and do we need to -- I would like to  
9 engage a process that pays attention to that  
10 important -- that important relationship and  
11 further engage a public health approach to  
12 this.

13 Understanding that we have a  
14 specific role as gaming regulators in the  
15 commission, and the department of public  
16 health has a specific role, but I think we  
17 need -- we need to continuously evaluate what  
18 that relationship is. It's not -- it's not  
19 one that typically happens in any other state,  
20 and I think it's one that creates an enormous  
21 amount of opportunity to go back to what our  
22 original goal is, to mitigate to the maximum  
23 and extend possible negative and unintended  
24 consequences of expanded gaming.

1                   So to answer your question,  
2                   Commissioner Macdonald, I look forward to a  
3                   discussion now, and a discussion over the  
4                   coming months, to talk about ways in which we  
5                   can continue to make this a better framework.  
6                   Especially, in light of the fact that we have  
7                   two very large casinos opening in a relatively  
8                   short period of time, and this seems like an  
9                   important document, an important guiding  
10                  document.

11                  MR. BEDROSIAN: And, Commissioner,  
12                  if I could just add, I think, to  
13                  Director Vander Linden's last point, as I  
14                  looked at this, in terms of preparing for the  
15                  opening of the new facilities with the  
16                  Commission's guidance, are we just taking  
17                  what's happening at Plainridge and saying,  
18                  okay, here you go, this is the same model we  
19                  want, or are we going to look at if we have  
20                  enough useful data to make qualitative  
21                  decisions about how the programs, different  
22                  programs have run at Plainridge and make  
23                  modifications or not?

24                  And, as you know, you've seen plans.

1           They're doing a lot of planning. They're  
2           physically doing things and planning things so  
3           if there's a -- even minor changes, it's  
4           better to, hopefully, get them out in the open  
5           and talk about them now so when those  
6           facilities open they're opening with the type  
7           of responsible gaming programs that you all  
8           think, with the best advice we can get, are  
9           the most appropriate at the time. So it does  
10          feel like now is the right time to do this.

11                        COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: I would  
12          suggest -- and I think Mark made it pretty  
13          clear, when we approved the original  
14          framework, that this is meant to be a living,  
15          breathing document that would change over  
16          time. And you're suggesting it should be  
17          changing over time, and a lot of that based on  
18          our experience based on opening in Plainridge.  
19          But, obviously, the framework has driven us  
20          the programs that we've already enacted.

21                        So I look forward to that having  
22          that conversation with you. You know, kind of  
23          almost expanding the scope that I think we  
24          have a better understanding of all the

1 ancillary resources that are out there to  
2 address these issues that maybe we didn't have  
3 full familiarity with at the time we approved  
4 the framework.

5 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: You know, I've  
6 said -- I've made this point in the context of  
7 revising and promulgating regulations, and I  
8 think it still applies. So if we could take  
9 discrete pieces of this and talk about  
10 principals, reaffirm principals that we hold  
11 to, you know, still believing, and I'm sure  
12 there's many, rather than, let's say, coming  
13 back next time with a red line that changes a  
14 number of things, may be easier for us to  
15 manage and address, and talk specifics.

16 I suspect that a lot of the  
17 strategies are going to remain the same, those  
18 principals, the six or seven strategies that  
19 we have in the framework. But there's  
20 clearly, now, a lot of, you know, examples  
21 that we can draw on, PlayMyWay, GameSense,  
22 that fit in any one of those strategies and  
23 tactics and affirm or beliefs, or cause it to  
24 be rethought in whatever shape or form.

1                   So all I'm saying, I suppose, is, if  
2                   we could take discrete pieces as we do this --  
3                   I'm just remembering, the last time around we  
4                   spent quite a bit of time, numerous times  
5                   looking at the precise wording of a lot of  
6                   that document with a lot of interpretations  
7                   from licensees, a lot of feedback from the key  
8                   stakeholders like you, and just summarized.  
9                   And I envision something similar with, again,  
10                  the knowledge of what we've done and what  
11                  we've learned so far.

12                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Anybody else? I  
13                  do think -- I agree with that. I think it's  
14                  worth it. This is -- you're question,  
15                  Commissioner Macdonald, is a manifestation of  
16                  the weirdness that we can't talk to one  
17                  another, because Commissioner Zuniga and I  
18                  have talked with Theresa and Mark about this  
19                  and have thought that it's -- this is -- we've  
20                  all felt this is a good time to kind of  
21                  rethink.

22                  And this was, basically, just, you  
23                  know, giving everybody a heads-up and  
24                  beginning the conversation process. But I do

1 think putting some kind of a methodical  
2 process, you know, how we're going to do this?  
3 We had a pretty systematic way of building the  
4 framework, brought in a bunch of people, and  
5 over the next whatever 90 days from the  
6 beginning of the year, maybe, thinking about  
7 what the process for doing this, and  
8 Commissioner Zuniga's had a couple of thoughts  
9 on that. There's also the CHA evaluation of  
10 all -- the whole GameSense program that's  
11 underway. That will be informing what we do  
12 as well.

13 Just a couple of particular  
14 thoughts, tactical thoughts. There are a  
15 number of recovering gambling addicts who --  
16 some work for the Mass council, others around  
17 consulting and helpful work. You know, one  
18 thing we've never really done that I can  
19 remember, at least, is have people come in who  
20 have had this frightening experience and talk  
21 to us about what they think of our systems  
22 from their standpoint. You know, it's a real  
23 grassroots view of our system. That's one  
24 thought.



1                   The Atlantic Monthly article you  
2 talked about, there's a lot, I think of --  
3 there's a lot of methodology in the article,  
4 but there's a lot of, also, really, really  
5 interesting discussion about the way the slot  
6 machines operate. And that, again, is  
7 something that we've looked into a little bit  
8 over time, but we haven't really looked in in  
9 great depth. And I think that's a dimension  
10 -- that ought to be an element of the review.

11                   There's a new -- there's a paradigm  
12 approach. You know, we've switched from  
13 problem gaming to responsible gaming. The  
14 GameSense program developed in Canada  
15 completely went away from, you know, fix your  
16 behavior to trying to budget your play.  
17 There's this safety paradigm talking about  
18 like airbags went from being a way to improve  
19 the car and went to enhancing safety. Volvo  
20 led the way with talking about making the  
21 vehicles more safety, rather than the negative  
22 regulatory environment. The same kind of --  
23 kind of a paradigmatic approach we talked  
24 about responsible gaming. Excuse me. I think

1           that safety paradigm is kind of an interesting  
2           thing to look into as well. And that's it.  
3           So -- but I'm very much looking forward to the  
4           ongoing conversation and process here.  
5           Anybody else? Thank you.

6                         MR. VANDER LINDEN: Thank you.

7                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. The last  
8           item on the agenda is commissioner updates.  
9           Does anybody have anything? I had two quick  
10          ones.

11                        The Gaming Policy Advisory Committee  
12          meeting, which is the legislatively-mandated,  
13          overall policy advisory committee that has  
14          representations of many, many constituent  
15          groups is being held on Monday up at the  
16          statehouse, I think, at 10 o'clock. And we  
17          now have enough members finally employed that  
18          we could almost, for sure, have a quorum. So  
19          that committee, we've had a hard time getting  
20          into its legitimate role. Operationally, I  
21          think we can probably begin to do now so  
22          that's going to be important.

23                        The last thing that I know everybody  
24          here knows about, but I think is important to

1       reinforce publicly is, the Mass Council on  
2       Compulsive Gambling, which we have a very,  
3       very close working relationship, and on which  
4       we have relied tremendously, going all the way  
5       back to identifying our director of research  
6       and responsible gambling and helping us  
7       recruit him, has had a very serious budget  
8       cut, about a third of their legislative  
9       appropriation, \$500,000 has been posed -- I  
10      mean, has been cut by Governor Patrick -- by  
11      Governor --

12                   COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Baker.

13                   CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Baker. That money  
14      actually comes, not from a general fund  
15      appropriation, but from unclaimed lottery  
16      ticket winnings. And that's the only money  
17      that was put forward in the past for -- for  
18      problem gambling. It puts a -- we are  
19      enhancing that, but the lottery needs to  
20      continue to contribute to this as well. And  
21      as I say, it comes from unclaimed winnings.

22                   We are certainly supportive of  
23      trying to get that budget cut reinstated.  
24      They do incredibly good work. They've done it

1 on very limited resources, and we'll be as  
2 supportive as we can. And anything else that  
3 anybody else can do to encourage the  
4 legislature to reinstate that budget cut would  
5 be much appreciated.

6 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Yeah. And --  
7 which they've done in the past, by the way.  
8 This is not the first time that they've had a  
9 cut like this presented to them and the  
10 legislature has reinstated those fundings.  
11 But I think, I agree with everything you say,  
12 Mr. Chairman. They do great work and, you  
13 know, I hope the legislature does what they've  
14 done in the past.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great.

16 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Mr.  
17 Chairman, on the Gaming Policy Advisory  
18 Committee, and maybe others know this, but  
19 what's the -- who controls the agenda, you  
20 know, of that; is that something, is it  
21 basically like a staff relationship?

22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: John Ziemba has --  
23 our ombudsman, has worked very closely. There  
24 is a dead -- there's a gubernatorial

1 appointment now a man named Dennis DiZoglio,  
2 who is retiring, he's been a leader of one of  
3 the planning agencies, I think  
4 Merrimack Valley. Dennis is retired from  
5 Merrimack valley and is leaving this after one  
6 more meeting, but Dennis is the chair. The  
7 gubernatorial-appointed chair is responsible  
8 for setting up the agenda. But I sit at most  
9 meetings and, sort of, semi-cochair it with  
10 him, and John plays a tremendously important  
11 role.

12 They have -- you can check it in the  
13 legislation. They have a broad advisory  
14 mandate and they've two subcommittees. One on  
15 public safety that works closely with  
16 Commissioner Cameron, and one of a series of  
17 community mitigations that have --

18 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Which I  
19 served on.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right. Which you  
21 served on. Right. This is a public meeting  
22 so any commissioners can come. I will  
23 definitely be there. I think -- are either of  
24 you planning on being there?

1                   COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Well, the  
2                   operating assumption was that if there was --  
3                   it's easy for another one to come, but if  
4                   there's more three or more we would also have  
5                   to post it as a meeting of the Commission; is  
6                   that correct or...

7                   MS. BLUE: If you choose to all  
8                   attend the meeting, you can attend. You can't  
9                   discuss Commission business at that meeting.  
10                  So it's what we often say, you can go, but you  
11                  can't really talk to each other, but you can  
12                  talk to the body that you're interacting with  
13                  yes. So that's the distinction.

14                  CHAIRMAN CROSBY: So other folks can  
15                  come, if you can.

16                  COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: I've been to  
17                  some before. And maybe -- if I can just add  
18                  to your comment, Commissioner. Given the  
19                  prior meetings, the challenges not meeting --  
20                  not in meeting quorum, those -- my impression  
21                  of those early meetings were a lot of  
22                  reporting, a lot of what the Commission was up  
23                  to, the research agenda, et cetera. But my  
24                  hope and prediction is that now that will be

1 quorum they will be more regular, and there's  
2 real activity at the local community  
3 mitigation level, that there will be, perhaps,  
4 a lot more substance, into the policy  
5 discussions as were always intended relative  
6 to recommendations to this Commission and to  
7 the legislature.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right. There have  
9 been two problems. One is, we haven't even  
10 gotten a quorum. But, also, the Commission,  
11 in the early days, was moving so fast that a  
12 quarterly advisory committee, we had the same  
13 problem in research advisory committee. It's  
14 hard to get ahead of the Commission and often  
15 proactive, forward-looking advice and  
16 suggestions. Now we're beginning to move into  
17 steady state operations and have a quorum, so  
18 we'll be able to play a more proactive role  
19 with that group, which has always been our  
20 wish. Anything else?

21 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Just a very  
22 brief update. The annual report hard copies  
23 now were mailed. You know, people welcomed to  
24 -- we have a number of copies available, and

1           they're also on our Web site.

2                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY:  Yeah, great.

3           Great job.  Motion to adjourn?

4                         COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA:  So moved.

5                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY:  Second?

6                         COMMISSIONER CAMERON:  Second.

7                         CHAIRMAN CROSBY:  All in favor?

8           Aye.

9                         MR. MACDONALD:  Aye.

10                        COMMISSIONER STEBBINS:  Aye.

11                        COMMISSIONER CAMERON:  Aye.

12                        COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA:  Aye.

13                        CHAIRMAN CROSBY:  We are adjourned.

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15                        (Proceeding concluded at 12:20 p.m.)

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1 GUEST SPEAKERS:

2 Christopher Bruce, Crime Analyst

3 Sergeant Tim Babbin, Gaming Enforcement Unit

4 Burke Cain, Senior Supervising Gaming Agent,  
5 Gaming Enforcement Unit

6

7 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION STAFF:

8 Edward Bedrosian, Executive Director

9 Trupti Banda, Human Resources Manager

10 Agnes Beaulieu, Financial Analyst

11 Derek Lennon, CFO

12 Doug O'Donnell, Sr. Financial Analyst

13 Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and  
14 Responsible Gaming

15 Catherine Blue, General Counsel

16 Mark Sangalang, Digital Communications Coordinator

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Brenda M. Ginisi, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript from the record of the proceedings.

I, Brenda M. Ginisi, further certify that the foregoing is in compliance with the Administrative Office of the Trial Court Directive of Transcript Format.

I, Brenda M. Ginisi, further certify that I neither am counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Proceedings recorded by verbatim means, and transcript produced from computer.

WITNESS MY HAND THIS 19th of December 2016.

*Brenda M. Ginisi*



BRENDA M. GINISI

My Commission expires:

Notary Public

June 18, 2021