

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING #123
VOLUME III

CHAIRMAN

Stephen P. Crosby

COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Cameron

Bruce W. Stebbins

Enrique Zuniga

James F. McHugh

June 13, 2014 10:00 a.m.
MASSMUTUAL CENTER
1277 Main Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right,
4 good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am
5 going to call to order the final
6 installment of public meeting number 123, a
7 meeting that we started on Tuesday of this
8 week, continued on Wednesday and did a part
9 of yesterday and now bring to a happy and
10 exciting conclusion today.

11 Having called the meeting to order,
12 my first order and only order of business
13 is to say that the Chairman has had some
14 car trouble and he is en route but will be
15 delayed. We are going to, therefore,
16 postpone the formal part of the meeting and
17 the business and the meat part of the
18 meeting until he arrives. I anticipate
19 that will be within 15 or 20 minutes. But
20 we will be in recess and reconvene as soon
21 as he arrives.

22 So, thank you for attending. We
23 look forward to the portions of the meeting
24 that we all have been waiting for quite a

1 while that will happen in just a few
2 minutes.

3
4 (A recess was taken)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All right, ladies
7 and gentlemen, my apologies for delaying
8 this meeting but this is such an exciting
9 moment that I didn't want to miss it. I
10 appreciate your patience in waiting for me
11 to get here.

12 We are now reconvening the 123rd
13 meeting, I believe, where we will be making
14 the final decisions. And, I think, the
15 first item on our agenda today is to invite
16 Mayor Sarno to say a few words.

17 MAYOR SARNO: Commission,
18 Mr. Chairman, and board members and Steve,
19 I am glad that your car situation has been
20 resolved. I heard you early this morning
21 on WHYN with Counselor Stebbins also.

22 First of all, I want to thank each
23 and every one of you for your due diligence
24 and giving us the nod to move forward with

1 MGM Springfield Resort International
2 Destination here in Springfield.

3 You've really been able to mirror
4 the process that we have done in
5 Springfield, and we sort of led the way in
6 Springfield. We tried to be very
7 professional on this. We tried to be very
8 thorough on it and we also tried to be very
9 transparent, as you have been also.

10 I want to, first of all, to my
11 internal team of I put together a great
12 team, Kevin Kennedy, my chief development
13 officer and city solicitor, Ed Pacula and
14 our consultant, Attorney Sid Fralick out of
15 Chicago putting forth the plan.

16 We wanted to spur competition, and
17 we were really the only region. We're
18 getting calls not only across the state but
19 across the nation how we were able to spur
20 competition. And we felt at one time we
21 had six entities, which boiled down to
22 four. We felt that the more competition
23 would generate an outstanding deal not only
24 for Springfield but for Western

1 Massachusetts and the Commonwealth of
2 Massachusetts, so your due diligence has
3 been deeply appreciative. And I very much
4 appreciate, Mr. Chairman, and the board,
5 you coming out to Springfield many, many
6 times.

7 Now, to MGM Springfield, to Jim
8 Murren and Bill Hornbuckle, Mike Mathis and
9 the whole team, I thank you for your belief
10 and investment in the City of Springfield.
11 MGM is a world-renowned company and they
12 have really reached out not only to the
13 pillars of the community but grassroots and
14 they have kept it going. It has not been
15 plastic. It's been very genuine and very
16 humble moving forward and they have really
17 integrated their project into the fabric,
18 the mosaic, the history of the City of
19 Springfield.

20 Never been done in urban America.
21 It's out of the box, not in the box
22 connecting to all of our amenities. One
23 happening to be the state's facility here,
24 the beautiful MassMutual Center, the

1 historic and Majestic, Symphony Hall, the
2 intimate settings of City Stage.

3 As we move forward, if you're going
4 to continue to knock down poverty and
5 public safety rates in urban America,
6 number one and numero uno as we all know is
7 education but 1A is jobs. And this brings
8 a tremendous amount of job generation to
9 Springfield and Western Mass. area.
10 Construction, 22 to 2,500 jobs to begin
11 with. And when they are up and running,
12 3,000 jobs, good paying, white-collar and
13 blue-collar jobs. And that's what
14 people -- when I walk around the City of
15 Springfield and surrounding areas, people
16 are hungry to work.

17 There has also been an excitement
18 put forward. Every mayor I spoke to across
19 the county with an MGM facility indicated
20 to me, he or she, that their Visitors and
21 Convention Bureau business goes through the
22 roof and I'm very appreciative that Jim
23 Rooney is here from the state.

24 The components they put in, which

1 you've highlighted in your hearings, market
2 rate housing, which three things for an
3 urban center in America to come back; one,
4 a major economic development project, which
5 MGM is a third of our 2.48 billion-dollars
6 in economic development projects; two, I'm
7 very appreciative to Congressman Neal a
8 major transportation HUB project, Union
9 Station and I'm hopeful that the east/west
10 connection can come to fruition; and three,
11 market rate housing.

12 So, this is a win-win for the City
13 of Springfield. It's an exciting day. It
14 is a pivotal time in the city's history.
15 People are hungry to work. People are
16 hungry with the momentum going on, many
17 developers, investors from the eastern part
18 of the state and across the country. MGM
19 has put Springfield on the map and the work
20 that my internal team has done.

21 So, your due diligence is deeply,
22 deeply appreciated and I look forward to
23 continuing to work with you and work with
24 MGM on this very special day here in the

1 City of Springfield. And we are ready to
2 go and if we are getting the nod from you
3 and thank you.

4 And I am hopeful that other
5 decisions, the wisdom of the State Supreme
6 Court based on the facts allows us to start
7 to get shovels in the grounds as early as
8 this summer and continue to build on
9 momentum in the City of Springfield, which
10 will help Springfield bring in
11 25 million-dollars a year. It helps me to
12 do positive things all across the City of
13 Springfield, helps Western Massachusetts
14 and it helps the Commonwealth, so thank
15 you.

16 And, again, to MGM, Jim Murren,
17 Billy Hornbuckle, Mike Mathis, the whole
18 team and thank you, thank you to the people
19 of the City of Springfield. Many grassroot
20 people that are here that made phone calls
21 from a -- Mrs. Napoli made phone calls,
22 hosted garden parties, coffee hours, you
23 name it, they did it. MGM was there.

24 So, they educated the public and we

1 had an outstanding very strong vote here,
2 60 percent for the City of Springfield in
3 favor of this and your comments about how
4 this process was rendered really mean a lot
5 to myself, the team and MGM.

6 So, thank you very, very much. God
7 bless.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
9 Mr. Mayor. And you I am sure did hear what
10 some of us said yesterday, Commissioner
11 Zuniga in particular, acknowledged that
12 when the city first came up with the idea
13 of doing its own competitive process, we
14 were not quite sure about that. We weren't
15 sure whether that was a good idea and we
16 had to work ourselves to it and through it
17 and indeed, I think, it has served the
18 region tremendously well. You did a really
19 good job, Kevin Kennedy, and you've done
20 really a first-rate job and we appreciate
21 it.

22 Next on our agenda is to invite Mr.
23 Murren to speak.

24 MR. MURREN: Well, Mr. Chairman,

1 fellow Commissioners, thank you very much
2 for this opportunity to speak in front of
3 you. Again, this has been a journey that
4 we have been on together, a journey that
5 MGM has been on for over three years. We
6 are a company that travels around the
7 world, operates around the world and so we
8 have a perspective that, I think, is
9 important to share for you, the Commission,
10 and for the people of the Commonwealth.

11 This process has been deliberate.
12 It's been thoughtful. It's been very
13 inclusive and it's been very, very
14 thorough. In fact, we have never been
15 through a process that has been more
16 rigorous and more carefully designed.

17 And I want to commend the state
18 first for an excellent law back in 2011 and
19 your Commission for upholding the high
20 standards that the law required, and I am
21 sure that not only our project and others
22 in the Commonwealth will benefit from that
23 type of scrutiny and that type of care.
24 So, I want to first thank you for that. It

1 has been a journey and a good one and a
2 learning. Thank you.

3 The second point I would like to
4 make is one that is more personal for
5 someone who grew up in Connecticut and went
6 to school a half an hour from here in
7 Hartford and who came to Springfield often
8 mostly for concerts. I think it was the
9 Kinks back in '81. I have watched this
10 city from afar and more recently quite
11 close.

12 Myself, my team have been here on
13 the ground for the better part of two and a
14 half, three years. We have talked to every
15 possible kind of resident. We have seen
16 the tremendous adversity that people of
17 Springfield have endured, economic
18 hardship, natural disasters. And yet
19 through it all, there has been one
20 overarching emotion, overarching feeling
21 that we have gotten and that is one of
22 resilience and pride.

23 The people of Springfield are
24 resilient, and they are fiercely proud of

1 the city. And that resonated with me and
2 my board. I felt that the heroism and
3 courage that I see here needed to be in
4 kind rewarded and partnered with. And, so,
5 it is my honor to stand side-by-side with
6 the mayor and the people of Springfield to
7 try to bring forward this project. I want
8 to, again, like the mayor, thank the people
9 of Springfield for being here today. Thank
10 you.

11 My third observation is, again, as a
12 world traveler, been around here in the
13 U.S. a lot, I never met an advocate for an
14 elective body that is more passionate, that
15 has more energy, that is more enthusiastic
16 and incredibly focused on the city's
17 improvement and that, of course, is Mayor
18 Sarno, I think the best mayor in America
19 and certainly the best I have ever met.
20 And if the mayor is the best leader I have
21 met of a city, the best ambassador of a
22 city would be our partner, Paul Picknelly.

23 Paul and his family have done so
24 much. When I first met Paul, he said,

1 "Okay, we've got to get out of here, get
2 out of the office." And he drove me around
3 this city and showed me the wonder and the
4 quality and the diversity of this city.
5 And his enthusiasm is infectious. His
6 steadfast support of a city is unparalleled
7 and he had me early on because of anyone
8 has been involved in any type of challenge
9 or project, you need strong partners.

10 And, Paul, you are that strong
11 partner. So, thank you very much for that.

12 And, finally, I want to say that on
13 behalf of the 62,000 men and women that
14 work at MGM today, we are incredibly
15 excited about the prospect of adding 3,000
16 new men and women to our family.

17 And to those men and women, I will
18 say this: We will work as hard as we can
19 here in Springfield, as we have everywhere
20 else, to create the best possible
21 environment for our employees and their
22 families, the best possible work
23 environment, the best possible benefits and
24 careers that will be limited only by the

1 employees' imagination and ideas
2 themselves. And as one of those employees
3 that's honored to work for MGM, I say to
4 our future family members: We can't wait
5 for you to join us.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
8 Mr. Murren. We have one big item of
9 business, which is to have a vote.

10 Does any Commissioner have anything
11 they want to say, anything further you want
12 to say before we take our vote?

13 I just will say one thing. Oddly
14 enough we are not -- we on this Commission
15 are not advocates of casino-gaming. What
16 we are advocates for is the implementation
17 of this law as well it can be implemented.

18 And the legislature had some serious
19 aspirations, the legislature and the
20 governor had some serious aspirations when
21 they worked on this law and eventually
22 passed this law about the kind of
23 opportunity that a casino enterprise could
24 bring to Massachusetts.

1 The jobs and revenue are obvious and
2 compelling but, also, they wanted it done
3 in a way that it enhanced the community,
4 that it was integrated with a community
5 that somehow it created a whole that was
6 greater than the sum of the parts.

7 We know that there are issues.
8 There are potential problems. We will
9 address those. Many of them have been
10 addressed very, very well. We will
11 continue to address them and be attentive
12 to them, but I feel very strongly that the
13 collaborative effort of the city and MGM
14 and the folks here who have worked with as
15 we now have evaluated this proposal that
16 this project has implemented the spirit and
17 the aspirations and the intention of the
18 legislature and the governor when they
19 passed this law as well as it could
20 possibly have been implemented.

21 So, I concluded my evaluation with
22 tremendous enthusiasm for the job that you
23 have done to implement the intent of this
24 law.

1 With that, Commissioner McHugh, do
2 you want to --

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Surely,
4 Mr. Chairman. Could I just see that
5 document for one second?

6 So, I would move with enthusiasm
7 that the Commission agree to award the
8 Region B/Category 1 Gaming License to Blue
9 Tarp reDevelopment, LLC on the terms and
10 conditions contained in the document we all
11 will sign this morning and make a permanent
12 part of the record of this meeting provided
13 that Blue Tarp reDevelopment, LLC accepts
14 those terms and manifests that acceptance
15 by signing the same document.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I second.

18 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Any further
21 discussion? All of those in favor of
22 supporting this agreement, please signify
23 by saying aye.

24 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Ayes.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All opposed?

5 The ayes have it unanimously.

6

7 (applause)

8

9 MAYOR SARNO: Thank you,

10 Springfield, thank you, thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Mayor, if you

12 would like to designate a signatory, I

13 think we are going to sign this document

14 together.

15 MR. MURREN: I would love to invite

16 up Bill Hornbuckle, our president, and Mike

17 Mathis, president of MGM Springfield.

18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: As far as I'm

19 concerned, if other MGM folks would like to

20 gather up here for the signing, come up.

21 You are welcome to do it.

22 This will be signed by Mike Mathis

23 represented by MGM Springfield, and it will

24 be signed by all of the Commissioners as

1 well.

2 The documents are signed and
3 executed. Congratulations.

4
5 (applause)

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Do I have a motion
8 to adjourn?

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: This meeting is
11 adjourned. We will reconvene with the
12 press outside in a few minutes.

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14 (Meeting concluded at 10:52 a.m.)

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1 GUEST SPEAKERS:

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3 Domenic Sarno, Mayor of Springfield

4 James Murren, MGM

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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I, KRISTEN M. EDWARDS, COURT REPORTER, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcription of my stenographic notes,
to the best of my knowledge and ability.

WITNESS MY HAND, this 17th day of June,
2014.

Kristen M. Edwards