



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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The Massachusetts Gaming Commission Announces New Community Engagement Initiatives Aimed at Facilitating Opportunities for Public Participation

*Provides the Public with Opportunities to Learn More about MGC's Process
To Bring Responsible Gaming to the Commonwealth*

Today the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) announces new community engagement initiatives designed to give the public an opportunity to participate in the process of regulating expanded gaming across the Commonwealth. MGC is presenting several opportunities to encourage community involvement and to assist the Commission with valuable feedback to facilitate an all-inclusive, decision-making process. MGC will continue to announce new programs focused on community engagement as the introduction of expanded gaming progresses.

MGC Commissioner Bruce Stebbins said, "The successful implementation of expanded gaming will be based on the application of a fair, open and transparent process which is comprised of frequent input and feedback from the citizens of the Commonwealth. These options for participation have been designed in hopes that the public and public officials alike will take full advantage of these opportunities to share ideas and to learn more about the Commission and our process to bring responsible gaming to Massachusetts."

As the Commission embarks on the regulatory process, four public speaking and participation opportunities have been developed to facilitate community involvement. These initiatives also provide the ability for interested citizens to use a periodic "speak out" session to voice ideas and concerns and bring to the Commission's attention key issues which are directly relevant to MGC's work.

The following initiatives have been established:

Potential Host or Surrounding Community Organization Request

This category of meeting would include requests or invitations coming from any public body or community-based organizations. Any group in this category that wishes to meet with the Commission to discuss regulations, their activities, and/or seek direction or answers to questions related to the Expanded Gaming legislation must state their meeting interests in a detailed letter of invitation. The commission will then consider the request and determine appropriateness due to the nature of the request and the current status of the gaming license process.

The letter should be sent to: Massachusetts Gaming Commission, 84 State Street Suite 720, Boston, MA 02109.

Speakers Bureau/Community or Service Organization Request

As the Commission strives to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, the establishment of a Speakers Bureau will provide an important face-to-face opportunity to communicate directly and facilitate a dialogue with MGC's vast constituency. The MGC Speakers Bureau also provides an opportunity to reach a specific target audience of key stakeholders such as civic and business organizations. It is incumbent upon the Commission to ensure that the public is well-informed on a number of critical issues associated with expanded gaming including but not limited to the licensing process, increased economic opportunities, community mitigation issues and the overall mission of MGC. The Speakers Bureau will also provide MGC with an opportunity to communicate its roles and responsibilities as well as the Commission's dedication to reducing to the maximum extent possible the potentially unintended consequences of expanded gaming. In order to create the most efficient process, requestors will be required to have a minimum audience of **30 attendees**, make the request **30 days in advance** and fill out a request form located on MGC's website.

MGC Public Speak-Out Session

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the MGC, at the discretion of the Chair may allow an opportunity during a regular business meeting for citizens and residents to address the commission about the commission's work and activities as it seeks to implement the Expanded Gaming Act of 2011. The chair may set aside a portion of a meeting prior to the start of one of the commission's regularly scheduled business meetings. A scheduled time will be announced during the prior regular business meeting so individuals can have ample time to plan their participation.

Interested citizens would be invited to sign-up with the MGC before the meeting. Speakers are called by the chairman to speak in the order of when they registered. Each speaker would be limited to three minutes each though MGC has the discretion to limit the amount of time in order to accommodate all those interested in speaking. An individual may also submit comments at that time in written form.

Interested participants should send an email request to mgccomments@state.ma.us with 'Public Speak Out' in the subject heading.

MGC Weekly Meeting Expert Presentations

During the MGC's regular weekly business meetings, the MGC may elect to hear from officials, academics and experts in a variety of topics that could potentially impact and inform the work of the Commission. These individuals will be selected by the Commission.

About MGC

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