



For Immediate Release
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Massachusetts Gaming Commission to Visit Region B Community Mitigation Fund Grant Programs

Commission to Discuss City of Holyoke Tourism Initiative and Holyoke Community College Work Ready Program

WHO: Members of the *Massachusetts Gaming Commission* including **Chair Jordan Maynard** and **Commissioners Paul Brodeur, Brad Hill, Eileen O'Brien, and Nakisha Skinner**

State and local government officials, Work Ready program representatives other invited guests

WHAT: The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) will meet with state and local officials from the City of Holyoke and Holyoke Community College to receive a briefing and overview of programs funded with grants awarded from the Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) administered by the entities.

The CMF, administered by the MGC, was developed to support eligible Massachusetts communities to mitigate the impact of the construction and operation of casinos in the Commonwealth. Since its inception in 2015, the CMF has awarded nearly \$57 million in grants, including over \$18 million this past funding cycle.

The City of Holyoke has been awarded nearly \$605,000 in grants from the CMF to support the city's local tourism initiative, including nearly \$205,000 this past funding cycle. This initiative helps the city advertise local tourism-related activities, including funding of the city's Explore Holyoke website.

WorkReady, operated by Holyoke Community College, is a training program aimed at hospitality and food service track students. The program has been awarded nearly \$2.7 million in CMF grants all time, including \$750,000 this past funding cycle.

This year, the program will put seven cohorts of 84 participants in line cook training. The participants are able to attain a line cook certificate, ServSafe Food Manager certification, and an Allergen Certificate. An additional four cohorts of 32 participants will join the Hotel Front Desk/Room Attendant training. Participants receive a certificate of completion and Guest Service Gold Customer Service, which was recommended by MGM.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Commissioners will meet with local tourism officials, Holyoke Community College Staff, and tour the Holyoke Community College Kitchen and Hotel Lab.

Photo and video B-Roll opportunities will be available during the tour and discussion. Interviews regarding the program and the CMF with MGC Commissioners can be arranged for post meeting. Please contact Thomas Mills to arrange.

WHERE: Holyoke Community College Culinary Institute
164 Race Street
Holyoke, MA

WHEN: **Thursday, November 14, 2024, 11:00am**



Massachusetts Gaming Commission