**A statement from Steve Crosby, Chairman of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission**

On Friday, January 26th, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission was made aware of allegations of sexual misconduct involving Steve Wynn. These allegations are deeply troubling and have triggered an aggressive and immediate response from the Commission. As you know, the Gaming Commission operates under the strict constraints of an open public meeting law. Accordingly today’s forum provides the first opportunity for the 5 Commissioners to discuss this troubling matter and to discuss a path forward.

The purpose of today’s meeting is two-fold:

First, to undertake a process to determine the significance of these appalling accusations on the suitability status of Mr. Wynn, other principals in the Wynn organization, or the Wynn licensee itself.  
  
Second, to assure the people of Massachusetts of our absolute commitment to the first words of the Massachusetts Casino Gambling Law “ensuring public confidence in the integrity of the gaming licensing process and in the strict oversight of gaming establishments through a rigorous regulatory scheme is the paramount objective of this statute.” That has been our guiding principle from the outset and remains so today.

The Wall Street Journal is a highly reputable news organization with a respected commitment to journalistic integrity. Their news report was the catalyst for our regulatory review. However, the Commission’s ultimate assessment of this matter and any resulting decisions of consequence cannot be based on anonymous allegations in a news article but must be firmly grounded in facts established by our investigators, combined with the relevant legal guidance from the gaming statute. As we do this work we will try to balance two critical principles:

1. We will not be party to impugning the character of a person or an organization without appropriate process and clear evidence.
2. We will not tolerate behavior by our qualifier companies or individuals that we believe puts the confidence in the casino operations in our state at risk.

My fellow Commissioners and I look forward to hearing more from the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau about the status of their efforts thus far and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their intended approach. The Commission will also hear from our General Counsel who will speak more generally to our responsibility and authority under the statute.

Before we begin, I’d like to reiterate that we have a shared sense of urgency about this serious matter, but careful diligence must be a top priority. The stakes are enormous and many lives are involved— from the lives of the women allegedly abused, to the lives of men and women in Everett now building the project, to the senior executives and board members of Wynn Resorts. We will get this right and we will get it right as quickly as we can.

I understand that we are at the beginning of this process and there will be limitations to what we can discuss publicly today. It would also obviously be irresponsible for us to speculate or to engage in hypothetical discussions before we have the facts. With those limitations in place, I believe we are ready to begin.