



REVISED NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25), and St. 2025, c. 2, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the **Massachusetts Gaming Commission**. The meeting will take place:

Tuesday | July 15, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

VIA REMOTE ACCESS: 1-646-741-5292

MEETING ID/ PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 534 0493

All meetings are streamed live at www.massgaming.com.

Please note that the Commission will conduct this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology is intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public. If there is any technical problem with the Commission's remote connection, an alternative conference line will be noticed immediately on www.massgaming.com.

All documents and presentations related to this agenda will be available for your review on the morning of the meeting date by visiting our website and clicking on the News header, under the Meeting Archives drop-down.

PUBLIC MEETING - #558

1. Call to Order – Jordan Maynard, Chair

2. Meeting Minutes

a. May 22, 2023

b. June 17, 2025

VOTE

VOTE

3. Administrative Update – Dean Serpa, Executive Director

4. Research and Responsible Gaming – Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming

a. GameSense Quarterly Report – Long Banh, Program Manager; Marlene Warner, CEO – MACGH; Michael Tuplin, COO – MACGH; Amy Gabrila, Director of Player Health – MACGH; Shekinah Hoffman, Director of Programs & DEIB – MACGH



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

5. Sports Wagering Division – Carrie Torrisi, Division Chief, Sports Wagering
- a. Encore Boston Harbor Request for Permanent Waiver from Letter of Credit Required by 205 CMR 238.12 – Carrie Torrisi, Chief of Sports Wagering Division; Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel; Derek Lennon, Chief Finance and Accounting Officer
- VOTE**
6. Investigations and Enforcement Bureau – Caitlin Monahan, Director of Investigations and Enforcement Bureau
- a. Review of the IEB’s Recommendation of Assessment of a Civil Administrative Penalty Pursuant to 205 CMR 232.02(2) regarding noncompliance with permissible sports wagering offerings by BetFair Interactive LLC d/b/a FanDuel. – Diandra Franks, Enforcement Counsel; Kathleen Kramer, Chief Enforcement Counsel/Assistant Director, IEB; Caitlin Monahan, Director, IEB
 - b. Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee FBG Enterprises Opco, LLC, d/b/a Fanatics Betting and Gaming and discussion regarding next steps. Alleged noncompliance relates to offering wagering on an unapproved event in violation of 205 CMR 247.01(1), 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i), and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog. – Diandra Franks, Enforcement Counsel.
 - c. Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee American Wagering, Inc. d/b/a Caesars Sportsbook and discussion regarding next steps. Alleged noncompliance relates to offering wagering on unauthorized event in violation of 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i) – Nathaniel Kennedy, Enforcement Counsel
 - d. Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Category 1 Sports Wagering Licensee Wynn MA, LLC d/b/a Encore Boston Harbor and discussion regarding next steps. Alleged noncompliance relates to offering wagering on unauthorized event in violation of 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i) – Nathaniel Kennedy, Enforcement Counsel
7. Community Affairs Division – Joe Delaney, Division Chief of Community Affairs
- a. FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application Review – Joe Delaney, Division Chief, Community Affairs; Mary Thurlow, Senior Program Manager; Jaden O’Rourke-Nelson, Co-Op
 - I. Municipal Block Grant Applications
 - Boston
- VOTE**



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

8. Legal – Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel

- a. 205 CMR 115.04: *Phase 1 and New Qualifier Investigation and Recommendations by the Bureau* – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendment and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process by Commission - Autumn Birarelli, Staff Attorney
VOTE
- b. Litigation Update
 - I. Executive Session
VOTE
The Commission anticipates that it will convene in an Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) in conjunction with its review of litigation strategy with respect to Public Health Advocacy Institute v. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Commission.

9. Meeting Minutes

- a. Executive Session
VOTE
The Commission anticipates that it will meet in an executive session to review minutes from previous executive sessions as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the intended purpose for which the executive session was convened, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 23N, § 6(i): **December 6, 2022**; G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7); c. 23N, § 6(i); and c. 4, § 7(26)(c) and (n): **December 13, 2022 at 12:56PM and 3:15PM**; G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(n): **May 22, 2025 at 1:34PM**; and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3), (4), (6) and (7); c. 4, § 7(26)(f) and (n); c. 23K, § 21(a)(7); and c. 23N, § 6(i): **May 22, 2025 at 1:50 PM**.
 - I. December 6, 2022
VOTE
 - II. December 13, 2022 at 12:56PM
VOTE
 - III. December 13, 2022 at 3:15PM
VOTE
 - IV. May 22, 2025 at 1:34PM
VOTE
 - V. May 22 2025 at 1:50PM
VOTE

10. Commissioner Updates

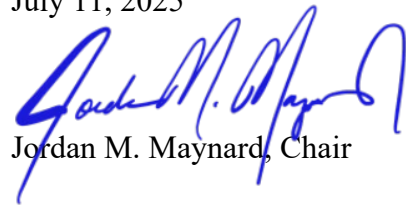
11. Other Business - Reserved for matters the Chair did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

I certify that this Notice was posted as “Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting” at www.massgaming.com and emailed to regs@sec.state.ma.us. Posted to Website: July 11, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. EST | **Revised 7/11/25 @ 2PM**

July 11, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jordan M. Maynard", is written over the printed name.

Jordan M. Maynard, Chair

*If there are any questions pertaining to accessibility and/or further assistance is needed,
please email Grace.Robinson@massgaming.gov.*



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 516 5146

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Jordan Maynard

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 454th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Community Affairs Division](#) (00:47)

a. [MGM Quarterly Report](#) (00:51)

MGM Springfield's ("MGM") Vice President and Legal Counsel Gus Kim, MGM's President and COO Chris Kelley, MGM's Vice President of Finance Arlen Carballo, MGM's Director of Community Affairs Beth Ward, and MGM's Compliance Director Daniel Miller presented MGM's Quarterly Report with topics including: revenue, taxes, lottery collaboration, compliance, workforce diversity, vendor diversity, and community outreach. *MGM's quarterly report presentation was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 3 through 29.*

Commissioner Skinner noted that MGM had previously used its own corporate standard regarding diversity spend and asked how that reconciled with MGM's diversity and affirmative marketing plan filed with the Commission. Mr. Kim explained that MGM previously did not account for exclusions permitted by the American Gaming Association ("AGA") when submitting its diversity vendor spend. He stated that MGM was now including those exclusions in its reports, resulting in a large increase in diversity spend.

Commissioner Skinner stated that she did not see a reference to the AGA standard in MGM's operation spending. Mr. Kim stated that the AGA was referenced in the diversity plan. Commissioner Skinner asked where the AGA standard was applied. Mr. Kim stated that MGM would provide a supplemental filing to the Commission.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about the incident where a 19-year-old was on MGM's gaming floor for 90 minutes. Mr. Kim explained that the underage individual entered the gaming floor with her parents at a non-checkpoint open area. He stated that the 19-year-old stood behind her parents while they gamed but did not game herself. He noted that the underage individual cashed out the ticket at the end.

Commissioner O'Brien asked how the underage individual was able to enter the gaming floor without being asked for identification. Mr. Kim explained that MGM had an open floor plan, and that the individuals walked through a point of entry without a barrier. Commissioner O'Brien asked how much of the gaming floor's perimeter had unsecured access. Mr. Miller stated that the area in this instance was by the South End Market and had since been blocked by a handrail. He stated that MGM was continuing to install additional handrails.

Commissioner Hill stated that the number of underage individuals accessing the gaming floor was disturbingly high. He asked if MGM was implementing efforts to lower access other than handrails. Mr. Kim stated that MGM had ordered more staffed security podiums. Commissioner Hill expressed concern about the number of individuals below the age of 18 that accessed the gaming floor. Mr. Miller clarified that some parents try to cut through the gaming floor with their children to move through the property more expeditiously. He stated that there was no evidence that individuals below the age of 18 were trying to game.

Commissioner Skinner asked if the upcoming changes would close off all non-staffed access points. Mr. Kim explained that the perimeter would not be completely sealed off as MGM had to consider safety, fire exits, and occupancy. Chair Judd-Stein stated that MGM could potentially use more personnel to redirect patrons as they are exiting the convention center and install more signage.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about what steps MGM was taking to increase the hiring of women. Mr. Kim stated that MGM used targeted marketing and hiring events, but that women were less likely to attend hiring events. He stated that MGM was looking into other solutions and

that MGM would provide the Commission with updates. Chair Judd-Stein commended MGM's veteran employee numbers and asked if there was a reason behind that success. Mr. Kim stated that there was not an initiative to attract veterans to apply, but that many veterans lived in close proximity to MGM.

Commissioner Hill asked if MGM planned to maintain 15 employees on its sports wagering team. Mr. Kim stated that MGM was expanding the hours of operation at its sportsbook, and that the sportsbook would be staffed accordingly.

Commissioner Hill expressed an interest in discussing how MGM attracts entertainment to the casino. He noted that this topic might be appropriate for an executive session. Chair Judd-Stein stated that the topic of entertainment could be added to a future executive session.

b. Community Mitigation Fund Application Review (Community Planning, Projects of Regional Significance, Specific Impact, and Gambling Harm Reduction) (58:28)

Chief of the Community Affairs Division Joe Delaney presented applications for funds from the Community Mitigation Fund for community planning projects, projects of regional significance, specific impact projects, and gambling harm related projects. *Summaries of such 2023 Community Mitigation Fund applications were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 30 through 42.*

Chair Judd-Stein asked how much funding was set aside for projects of regional significance. Chief Delaney explained that there was \$3 million in funding for western Massachusetts and \$5 million in funding for eastern Massachusetts.

Chief Delaney explained that there were two portions of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's application, the preliminary work on design followed by implementation of the design. Commissioner O'Brien requested that the Commission approve the \$125,600 for planning purposes and requested that the Community Affairs Division come back to the Commission before releasing the second round of funding.

Commissioner Maynard asked why the funds were kept separate by region. Chief Delaney explained that funds from MGM stayed in Region B while funds from Encore Boston Harbor stayed in Region A. He noted that the casinos both supported keeping the funds separate.

Chair Judd-Stein noted that while the guidelines suggest that only one regional project be funded, the Commission could grant a waiver to fund more than one project in western Massachusetts. Chief Delaney noted that there may not be enough money remaining in Region B to fund the Springfield Parking Garage application. He stated that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's application was more regionally significant than the Springfield parking garage project.

Commissioner Skinner asked if there were any issues identified with the Springfield parking garage application by the subcommittee on community mitigation. Chief Delaney stated that the primary concern discussed by the subcommittee was that the Springfield garage was not regionally significant.

The Commission reached a consensus that the Commission would defer a vote on the Springfield garage application until a later meeting once it was determined how much remained in Region B funds after all other applications were reviewed.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the Hampden District Attorney's Office requested funds to support funding staff. She expressed an interest in tracking the nexus of casino related crimes being prosecuted by the Hampden District Attorney's Office because funds were requested to support the hiring of employees.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center requested \$400,000 annually. She stated that at a certain point, the Commission would need to discuss whether there was a continuing nexus of impact related to the casino as almost a decade has passed since the Center was required to move out of the casino's footprint.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve applications from the following applicants for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and discussed here today, and further that the Commission staff be authorized to execute a grant instrument commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04: the City of Everett for \$199,100 for a feasibility study to restore the seawall, Charlestown pumping station, and the extension of the Mystic River Harbor Walk; to the City of Malden for \$100,000 for the funding of a transit oriented development opportunity study for the Malden Center MBTA station; to the City of Holyoke for \$200,000 for continued support for Holyoke's tourism efforts including website updates, art program shuttles between MGM and Holyoke, and events tied to the tourism plan; to the Town of Saugus for \$100,000 for funding native shade tree plantings along bus routes to provide shade and improve air quality for patrons and employees; to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for \$485,600 for funding for the development of the regional business ecosystem network implementation, a new capacity building network of regional business coalitions, and resources to grow successful small and micro businesses; to the Hampden District Attorney for \$75,000 of continued funding for D.A. personnel to handle casino-related prosecutions; to the Hampden County Sheriff's Department for \$400,000 for continued lease assistance for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center; to the City of Springfield for \$19,600 for a study to engage youth 18 to 24 in identifying problem gambling issues that need further investigation.

Commissioner O'Brien offered an amendment that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's grant be limited to an initial distribution of \$125,600 for planning purposes, and that the Community Affairs Division return to the Commission prior to the release of the remainder of

the funds. Commissioner Hill accepted the amendment. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Foxborough's joint application with the Town of Plainville and the Town of Wrentham for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the following amounts and purposes, for the reasons described in the memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further that the Commission staff be authorized to execute a grant instrument commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04, namely \$105,000 for graphic design animation and commercial production and \$167,000 for a media buy, for a total grant award of \$272,000. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Boston's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for funding for one year of cultural and arts programming through the Pao Arts Center in the amount of \$283,000 for the reasons described in the memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further that the Commission staff be authorized to execute a grant instrument commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission deny the application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for funding for a master plan planning process for Squire Road to promote economic development and mobility for residents, small businesses, and workforce development partners submitted by the City of Revere for the reasons described in the

memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Maynard: Aye.
Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission deny the application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for a peer gambling support group by the SAFE Coalition for the reasons described in the memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Maynard seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Maynard: Aye.
Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. [Finance](#) (3:01:23)

a. [3rd Quarter Budget Update](#) (03:02:14)

CFAO Derek Lennon presented the Fiscal Year 2023 third quarter budget update with topics including the gaming control fund and sports wagering control fund's spending and revenue updates. *The Fiscal Year 2023 Third Quarter Budget Update was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 43 through 49.*

4. [Administrative Update](#) (3:06:03)

Executive Director Karen Wells explained that the Commission was in the process of conducting an independent audit of casino diversity. She stated that due to the amount of work involved, the Commission would be putting out a Request for Proposal ("RFP"). Commissioner Skinner asked if the RFP was available for Commission review. Executive Director Wells stated that the RFP was available.

Commissioner Skinner inquired about when the diversity audit was initiated. Executive Director Wells stated that there was litigation regarding MGM that prompted the discussion of audits. She stated that the Commission staff would be conducting audits of all licensees for regulatory compliance.

Commissioner Skinner stated that the Commission should be notified of these projects in advance of their execution. Commissioner O'Brien noted that there had been discussion regarding audits in the past. Commissioner Skinner stated that while discussions were had regarding audits, the Commission was not made aware that a determination was made on how to proceed. She expressed an interest in ensuring that all commissioners receive information at the same time.

a. [MGC COVID-19 Policy Review](#) (3:16:50)

Human Resources Manager Trupti Banda presented on the Commission's COVID-19 policy. *The Commission's COVID-19 policy and an associated memorandum were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 50 through 53.*

Ms. Banda explained that the Executive Office had revoked the requirement that state employees be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Commission discussed the merits of changing the Commission's COVID-19 policy to align with the decision of the Executive Office. The Commission reached a consensus that there would be a more holistic review of the Commission's COVID-19 policy at a later date.

5. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (3:38:32)

a. [Report on IEB's Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalty on MGM Springfield](#) (3:39:04)

Senior Enforcement Counsel Kathleen Kramer explained that MGM had agreed to a fine of \$45,000 for permitting underage individuals on the gaming floor. She noted that there were 22 incidents between June 2022 and December 2022. She stated that MGM had received similar civil penalties in 2019 and 2021, and that MGM had taken steps to address underage access to the gaming floor.

Commissioner O'Brien asked for a review of the 2019 and 2021 fines received by MGM. Counsel Kramer stated that in 2019, MGM was fined \$400,000 for 52 instances of underage individuals on the gaming floor over a period of eight months. She explained that in 2021, MGM was fined \$18,000 for three incidents of underage individuals accessing the gaming floor over a one-month period. Commissioner O'Brien inquired about mitigation efforts put into place by MGM. Counsel Kramer stated that MGM had installed walls, railings, and security kiosks along the perimeter of the gaming floor.

b. [DraftKing's Non-Compliance Issue Regarding Events Catalog](#) (3:43:55)

Enforcement Counsel Zac Mercer presented a noncompliance matter involving DraftKings and the Massachusetts Events Catalog. He explained that DraftKings offered wagers on the UTR Pro

Series, an unapproved tennis league, from March 10, 2023 until March 22, 2023. He stated that there were 864 total wagers in the amount of \$7,867 on the UTR league during that period.

Counsel Mercer explained that there was a miscommunication between DraftKings' trading team and trading compliance team. He stated that DraftKings' trading team copied tennis offerings from a different jurisdiction without first verifying Massachusetts approval. He noted that DraftKings self-reported this matter, cooperated with the IEB's review, and voided all wagers on unapproved bets. He stated that DraftKings had since reviewed offerings for compliance.

The Commission reached a consensus to hold an adjudicatory hearing regarding this matter.

6. [Other Business](#) (3:56:40)

Hearing no other business, Chair Judd-Stein requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maynard.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated May 18, 2023](#)
2. [Commissioners' Packet from the May 22, 2023 meeting \(posted on massgaming.com\)](#)



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 968 9040

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Jordan Maynard

Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

Commissioner Bradford Hill

Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

Commissioner Paul Brodeur

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:03)

Chair Maynard called to order the 556th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:41)

- a. August 21, 2023
- b. December 7, 2023
- c. February 7, 2024

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023, December 7, 2023, and February 7, 2024 public meetings that are included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Abstain.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 4-0, with 1 abstention.

d. [May 5, 2025](#) (01:31)

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2025 public meeting that are included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. [Legislative Update](#) (02:06)

Commissioner Hill noted that a number of bills relevant to horse racing, simulcasting, and other gaming issues have been filed recently. He stated that a hearing on most of said bills will be held on June 23, 2025 before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and he will report back to the Commission should there be any further information regarding the budget.

4. [Administrative Update](#) (03:16)

a. Update on General Counsel Position

Executive Director Dean Serpa noted the recent departure of General Counsel Todd Grossman and that Justin Stempeck will take on that role in an acting capacity.

Executive Director Serpa further highlighted the Diverse and Small Business Opportunity Fair that the Commission co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office. He stated that close to one hundred small businesses attended as well as the Commission's operators. He noted the attendance of Commissioner Hill who represented on behalf of the commissioners as well as the participation of Commission staff from the Licensing, Procurement and Diversity teams. He expressed thanks to Bonsiwa Sundai, Senior DEI Program Manager, for organizing the event as well as Kara O'Brien, Chief of the Licensing Division, and her staff, and Chief of Financial and Administrative Officer Derek Lennon and John Scully, Finance and Budget Office

Manager, for answering many of the attendees' questions. Chair Maynard and Commissioner Hill both expressed their thanks to the team at the event.

5. [Racing Division](#) (08:01)

- a. Plainridge Park Casino Request for Promotional Fund Consideration (handicapping contests)

Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing, presented Plainridge Park Casino's ("PPC") request for an expenditure of funds from the Harness Horse Promotional Trust Fund, noting that Steve O'Toole, Director of Racing at PPC, was on the meeting.

Chad Bourque, Financial Analyst, explained PPC's request for consideration, which will be followed by a request for reimbursement. He stated that PPC is requesting \$45,000 for five (5) summer handicapping contests. He said that the Racing Division has reviewed the request and recommends its approval.

Director O'Toole noted that these summer handicapping contests have been offered by PPC over the past few years and are very popular with their customers.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the request for an expenditure of \$45,000 from the Harness Horse Promotional Trust Fund in accordance with G.L. c. 128A, § 5(g) for the purpose described in the materials included in the Commissioners' packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. [Legal](#) (11:39)

- a. 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing – Discussion and Review of Regulations and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for approval to send to the Clerks of the Senate and House and Final Review and Adoption

Interim General Counsel Justin Stempeck introduced Associate General Counsel Melanie Foxx to present the amendments to 205 CMR 3.00 for final review by the Commission. Associate General Counsel Foxx reviewed the amendments to six (6) provisions within 205 CMR 3.00 which the Commission previously voted to enact by emergency on April 10, 2025. The regulations are now before the Commission as part of the normal promulgation process. She noted that a public hearing was held on May 27, 2025 during which comments were received.

She stated that after reviewing the comments received, no additional changes were recommended.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the comments received were primarily in regard to the use of tape vs. elastic bands to secure equipment. Commissioner Skinner asked for a substantive response to these comments. Director O'Toole indicated that he did submit written comments on the use of tape which he stated is carried by all trainers and is required by United States Trotting Association ("USTA") rules on other equipment worn by the horse. He noted that during his twenty-five (25) years in the profession, tape has always been used to secure equipment, further noting the concern that an elastic band would not work properly. Interim General Counsel Stempeck added that tape is considered to be the USTA standard while elastic or rubber bands, which are not USTA approved, can cause unforeseen problems if they snap off and spook horses. He stated that should the USTA approve the use of elastic bands, the matter can be revisited.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the Amended Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 3.00 as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further that staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. [Finance](#) (25:59)

a. FY26 Budget Review

CFAO Lennon presented staff's recommendations on the Commission's FY26 operating budget. *Relevant materials are included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 73 through 158.* Along with Finance and Budget Office Manager John Scully and Revenue Manager Douglas O'Donnell, CFAO Lennon presented the Finance Division's recommendation of a \$63.96 million budget for consideration by the Commission to fund approximately 144 full-time employees and 8 contract employees to provide oversight of gaming, sports wagering, racing, player health and community mitigation fund grants. He briefly reviewed the process for compiling the yearly budget before reviewing the proposed recommendation, which is a 5.98% increase over FY25 and is comprised of both statutory and regulatory costs, both of which are growing. CFAO Lennon noted some areas in which costs are going up, including the office lease, which budgeted for the full year at closer to a market rate as compared to FY25, CBA contractual requirements for the GEU, research costs and the Attorney General's Office ("AGO"). He noted that increased costs for the AGO required a statutory change which may not come to fruition in the current state budget proposal.

CFAO Lennon continued to review spending requests and recommendations. He stated that the Finance Division is requesting a \$40.8 million budget for the Gaming Control Fund, noting that though this is an overall increase over FY25 due to the anticipated AGO cost increases, the regulatory portion of this amount is actually decreasing due to a realignment of regulatory efforts. The request for the Racing Division is \$2.8 million, a decrease over FY25 mostly due to the decrease in the fringe benefit rate. CFAO Lennon stated that the CMF budget was increasing by \$50,000 due to the budgeting of indirect costs, a recommendation by Executive Director Serpa and Treasurer O'Brien. The Sports Wagering Control Fund's recommended budget is increasing to \$13.91 million, an amount that includes the transfer of \$911,000 in costs related to GEU as well as more of a share of costs related to administrative matters such as travel, training, audits and IT services. He noted that the Public Health Trust Fund budget was increasing to \$6.6 million due to the addition of a deputy director position, rebranding efforts connected to GameSense, and additional research.

Lastly, CFAO Lennon reviewed projected assessments on licensees in connection with the Gaming Control Fund and the Sports Wagering Control Fund. He explained that the Finance Division proposed an assessment on gaming operators of \$36.97 million, to be divided by said operators depending on their actual share of gaming positions on July 1, 2025, and \$12.87 million on sports wagering operators, to be divided between said operators based on their percentage share of FY26 adjusted gross sports wagering revenue. CFAO Lennon noted that revised assessments will be provided to the Commission once information regarding share of gaming positions and adjusted gross sports wagering revenue is known.

CFAO Lennon stated that the recommended FY26 budget would be put out for public comment, and the Finance Division will provide an update on any comments received during the July 1, 2025 public meeting as well as request the Commission's approval.

Commissioner O'Brien, the Commission's current Treasurer, noted the amazing work done by the Finance Team in putting this budget together.

8. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (42:05)

- a. Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee BetMGM, LLC and discussion regarding next steps

Chief Enforcement Counsel Kathleen Kramer noted that the IEB had two (2) initial briefings on noncompliance to be presented by Enforcement Counsel Diandra Franks.

Enforcement Counsel Franks reviewed the alleged noncompliance matter involving Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee BetMGM, LLC and which implicates 205 CMR 247.04(8). She explained that BetMGM offered wagering on a prohibited Russian athlete participating in an event on December 31, 2025 from July 5, 2024 through March 7, 2025. She noted that a similar matter was reviewed by the Commission in February 2025 at which time the Commission referred the matter back to the IEB and asked, if the Commission would do the same here, whether the matters should be joined or treated separately.

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her desire that the matter be referred back to the IEB and be joined with the previous case while Commissioner Hill preferred that it be kept separate. In response to Chair Maynard's inquiry on why they may join or separate the matters, Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer stated that if they joined the matters, a single civil administrative penalty would be recommended, taking into account that there were two (2) separate incidents involved. Commissioner Hill agreed to join the matters upon clarification from Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer that the second incident would be considered as a second offense and the penalty would reflect that.

Commissioner Skinner asked when the previous matter was referred back to the IEB and whether it was appropriate to join the matters without disrupting the ongoing investigation. Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer noted that the second incident was discovered when reviewing the first matter so they would be in good shape to combine them.

The Commission came to a consensus to refer this matter back to the IEB.

- b. [Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Category 1 Sports Wagering Operator Blue Tarp redevelopment, LLC d/b/a MGM Springfield and discussion regarding next steps](#) (48:25)

Enforcement Counsel Franks reviewed the alleged noncompliance matter involving Category 1 Sports Wagering Licensee Blue Tarp redevelopment, LLC d/b/a MGM Springfield ("MGMS") and which implicates G.L. c. 23N, § 3, 205 CMR 247.01(2)(a)(2) and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog. She explained that MGMS offered wagering on a Northeastern Men's Baseball NCAA game beginning at 11:21 A.M. on April 5, 2025, the date of the game, and was shut down at 1:29 P.M. the same day when a Gaming Agent discovered the offering when auditing a kiosk at MGMS. She noted that MGMS has been assessed three (3) prior civil administrative penalties for allowing wagering on non-tournament NCAA games. She clarified, upon a request from Commissioner Skinner, that MGMS was assessed a \$20,000 fine in July 2023 after a hearing on the first matter and was further assessed two (2) civil administrative penalties on August 1, 2024: \$22,500 in connection with a Northeastern game and \$25,000 in connection with a UMass game.

Commissioner Skinner said she wanted to have a hearing on this matter as she would like to hear directly from the operator given that this appears to be a repeat offense while Commissioner Hill stated he would refer the matter back to the IEB as they have been doing a good job in recognizing what the penalty should be in a given matter. Chair Maynard, Commissioner Brodeur, and Commissioner O'Brien all expressed a desire to refer the matter back to the IEB in light of the fact that the incident was self-disclosed by MGMS. Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer noted that it was the Commission's Gaming Agent that discovered the offering during a kiosk audit, but that zero wagers were accepted.

The Commission remained in consensus to refer the matter back to the IEB.

9. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (1:05:03)

a. FY26 Research Agenda

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, reviewed the FY26 Gaming Research Agenda, noting that it was previously reviewed by the Commission on April 10, 2025 at which time the commissioners noted the importance of youth research and underage access or participation, continued collaboration with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and inclusion of the grey market in regard to research on illegal markets.

Director Vander Linden reviewed the proposed research agenda, which is broken down into several categories, and projects falling within each category: social and economic impact research, public safety research, community-engaged research, data sharing, evaluation of responsible gaming programs, and sports wagering, in addition to support for the Commission's research review committee and knowledge translation and exchange with GREO. He noted that with regard to social and economic impact research projects, proposals were currently under review and that the team will bring back specific deliverables before the Commission once the successful bidder is identified.

Director Vander Linden then reviewed the advice received from the Gaming Research Advisory Committee, a non-statutory committee which informally provides advice and guidance, and the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee, which is established by statute. The Gaming Research Advisory Committee met on May 5, 2025 and made a number of recommendations, including a study on the state of gambling, including national and international policies on preventing and mitigating harm with regard to sports wagering; funding for research using mode data sets; research on illegal markets; cross-state research in light of the reduction in federal funding; a study on the impact of problem gambling in the LGBTQ community; and a study on the lower risk guidelines, such as those used by GameSense, and how they can be used in different populations. He then stated that the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee met on May 29, 2025 and recommended follow-up on a study on potential economic impacts of iGaming that is currently nearing its end, as the current study is focused on social impacts.

Commissioner Hill reflected on the robust year ahead for research. Chair Maynard said that he and Director Vander Linden had just attended the G7 Summit at which Massachusetts was continuously positively called out in regard to the Commission's research.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the proposed FY26 Gaming Research Agenda as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

<i>Commissioner O'Brien:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Hill:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Skinner:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Brodeur:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Chair Maynard:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. [Community Affairs Division](#) (1:30:03)

a. FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application Review

Joseph Delaney, Chief of the Community Affairs Division, presented additional community mitigation fund grant applications to be reviewed by the Commission, including applications from regional public safety entities, Region B communities and Region A communities. He noted that the application from the City of Boston will be brought forward for review at a meeting in July.

I. [Regional Agency Grant Applications](#) (1:31:07)

a. Regional Public Safety Grant Applications

Chief Delaney presented the four (4) regional public safety grant applications from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He noted that these applications were reviewed during the May 27, 2025 meeting though the votes were deferred. *A summary of the four (4) regional public safety grant applications were included in the Commissioners' packet on pages 172 through 175.*

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following Regional Public Safety Grant Applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04: the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in the amount of \$259,800; the Hampden County District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$75,000; and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$100,000. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

In regard to the application from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Commissioner O'Brien noted her hesitation to approve their application. She noted that the office does incredible work, but her hesitation stemmed from the availability of funds, particularly here where the office was asked to move out of the footprint of MGMS ten (10) years ago. Chief Delaney noted that there were enough funds in the Community Mitigation Fund to fund all projects as recommended, but

that there may be very difficult decisions that will have to be made next year due to the expected lack of funding in the state's budget.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the application from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$400,000 for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. [Municipal Block Grant Applications](#) (1:36:41)

a. Region B Communities

i. [Holyoke](#) (1:37:04)

Chief Delaney began by reviewing the applications from the remaining Region B communities. Starting with the City of Holyoke, he stated that the City requested the full amount of their allocated funding of \$294,000, including funding for maintenance on their ExploreHolyoke.com website, development of promotional materials for MGM patrons, increased service on the MGM shuttle bus between Holyoke and MGM, public art installations, development of the Puerto Rican Cultural District, Race and Main Street Placemaking at a major tourism sector, developing an action plan in connection with a gambling harm reduction project, traffic software fees to manage radar speed and message signs, and a bike share program. *A summary of the City of Holyoke's Application was included on pages 176 through 181 of the Commissioners' packet.* He noted that the City withdrew their proposed Sister City Project and requested that funding be transferred to their ExploreHolyoke.com project. He further noted that some projects were recommended with conditions as outlined in the Commissioners' Packet.

ii. [Longmeadow](#) (1:40:26)

Chief Delaney, noting that the application was reviewed on May 27, 2025, briefly reviewed the Town of Longmeadow's proposed projects, which include increased rescue capability for their fire department and funding for traffic cameras. He explained that the Town withdrew their request for a sidewalk project on Lynwood Drive and requested that the funding be repurposed towards public safety equipment and training, bringing their final grant request to \$292,800. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Longmeadow was included on pages 182 through*

183 of the Commissioners' packet.

iii. [Springfield](#) (1:41:30)

Chief Delaney reviewed the application from the City of Springfield, noting that their application included a waiver request as they were requesting \$2.9 million as compared to their allocated funding of about \$1.4 million. *A summary of the Application from the City of Springfield was included on pages 184 through 189 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the City's proposed projects, which included a local and regional traffic study to be done in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission ("PVPC") with any approved funding to be transferred to PVPC; repurposing of a building into a regional visitors and event center; a gambling awareness initiative, continuing work that has already been done in Springfield; improvements to Symphony Hall; construction improvements to the Downtown Public Realm area; and construction costs related to a proposed parking garage, which the Commission has previously funded in two (2) previous grant rounds, noting their request to extend all grants related to this project to September 30, 2026. He explained that the Review Committee was not recommending funding for the purchase of an Axon My-90 platform, as a nexus to the casino could not be identified, or overtime for the fire department to staff a tactical emergency response vehicle unit, as such should be funded via their host community agreement. Chief Delaney also noted that their proposed construction improvements to the Downtown Public Realm area would both necessitate a waiver as well as conditions as the project is not fully developed.

Commissioner Hill stated that he would be in favor of granting the waiver for the Downtown Public Realm project. Chair Maynard agreed.

Rather than continuing with his review of the Region A applications, Chair Maynard requested that votes be taken with regard to these three (3) applications to close out the Region B review.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Springfield's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$2,903,700 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request and of which \$120,000 is to be transferred to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Commissioner Skinner noted for the record her previous comments during the May 27, 2025 public meeting regarding her concern in granting waivers as a matter of routine and beyond the current guidelines.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04: the City of Holyoke in the amount of \$294,000 with conditions as discussed and the Town of Longmeadow in the amount of \$292,800. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Region A Communities](#) (1:52:19)

i. Cambridge

Chief Delaney continued with his review of applications from Region A starting with the City of Cambridge, which requested a small waiver in addition to their allocated funding amount of \$700,000. He noted that the City provided a list of extra projects should the Review Team not recommend a particular project so some projects may not be recommended as not being on the City's priority list. *A summary of the Application from the City of Cambridge was included on pages 190 through 196 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the projects that were recommended: special events support for commercial districts; a training program for safe biking to the casino; a gambling harm reduction project with the Cambridge Public Health and Arts Department, with a condition to ensure they are reaching people experiencing gambling related harm; de-escalation training; public safety electric vehicle fire blankets; tactical training; traffic education and enforcement during peak operational hours of the casino; and bike lane improvements on Prospect and Cambridge Street. Chief Delaney noted that they were not recommending a community planning commercial district wayfinding plan project and an active shooter training project as these were not on the City's priority list. Furthermore, the City withdrew two (2) additional projects.

ii. [Chelsea](#) (1:56:55)

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Chelsea's application and its proposed projects, including: funding for training and education at the Bunker Hill Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and Training so that they may compete for business with the casino and other businesses; the Discovery Chelsea campaign; traffic patrols and related equipment; and funding for two (2) (out

of four (4)) new firefighter positions, full funding for one year and half funding for the second year. He noted that there would be a stipulation that the City hire their two (2) positions first.

Commissioner Hill asked if the City of Chelsea was aware that funds may not be available in the future and that they would be on the hook for the funding of the requested new fire department personnel. Chief Delaney confirmed that they are aware. *A summary of the Application from the City of Chelsea was included on pages 197 through 199 of the Commissioners' packet.*

iii. [Everett](#) (2:00:47)

Chief Delaney next reviewed the application from the City of Everett, noting that they requested a waiver in addition to their total allocation of \$2.86 million, bringing their actual request to \$2,913,500. *A summary of the Application from the City of Everett was included on pages 200 through 206 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed their proposed projects: high-rise fire training to provide the police and fire department specialized training; video cameras and police radios as long as they provide documentation that they have received permission for placement on Encore, MBTA and DCR property; land and water police patrols during peak periods; fireboat training; analysis and design of mobility networks and infrastructure in the lower Broadway area which will be used in addition to a \$1.5 million MassWorks grant; funding to continue the reconfiguration of the Everett Square sidewalk project which was previously funded; the lower Broadway bus priority to perform survey work in connection with a RAISE grant they received; design of the MBTA Assembly Station headhouse connector, with such funds to be transferred to the Department of Transportation to continue with design; and the reuniting neighborhoods and communities project to look at improvements in Sweetser Circle, providing matching funds to a federal grant the City received.

iv. [Lynn](#) (2:09:01)

Next, Chief Delaney outlined projects proposed in the City of Lynn's application. He stated that the Review Team is recommending their allocated funding amount of \$200,000 though they proposed repurposing funding from a project that is not recommended, keeping the total the same. *A summary of the Application from the City of Lynn was included on pages 207 through 209 of the Commissioners' packet.* He stated that the Team recommended funding their wayfinding project, including repurposing funds from the non-recommended project, which was requested by the City of Lynn. Additional projects include funding for six (6) citation printers for police cruisers and the installation of fifteen (15) city cameras. He stated that the Team was not recommending funding for two (2) drones, including training and technical support, noting that though drones are a useful tool for the police, there was a lack of nexus due to the distance from the casino and the possible lack of casino-related traffic that may be found along the Northern Strand in Lynn.

Commissioner Hill noted that he disagreed with the review team's recommendation to not fund the City of Lynn's drone project and that he felt strongly that if the Lynn Police felt that the drones would assist in the fight against human trafficking, despite Lynn's distance from Encore Boston Harbor, he would be inclined to support funding for this project. Commissioner Skinner stated that there was more of a nexus to the casino than some of the other projects they have

chosen to fund, and further that she was happy to be part of the City obtaining this equipment to continue moving in the right direction. Commissioner O'Brien expressed her agreement, particularly due to the uptick in human trafficking cases in surrounding communities.

Commissioner Skinnner moved that the Commission approve the following application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted application and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04: the City of Lynn in the amount of \$200,000 for the projects discussed here today, including item number 4: the public safety: drone unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which has a requested funding amount of \$33,800. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

v. [Malden](#) (2:22:00)

Chief Delaney continued with his review of the City of Malden's application for community mitigation funding, indicating that the City requested \$881,400, which is slightly less than their \$882,800 allocation. *A summary of the Application from the City of Malden was included on pages 210 through 213 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the recommended proposed projects for the City: funding for casino-related impacts in a comprehensive plan for Malden; the Gaming and Gourmet tourism initiative; speed alert signs; traffic enforcement equipment and training, particularly on driver impairment; and safety improvements on Main Street. Chief Delaney noted that the Review Team did not recommend their snowplow for the Northern Strand Bike Path as the City already has a contractor which performs that task and instead is recommending funding of the speed alert signs, as noted.

Commissioner Hill asked for support from his fellow commissioners that the Commission fund the City's snowplow for the bike path project instead of repurposing that funding for their wayfinding project. Chair Maynard stated that he would be in favor of allowing the City to use the funding for either project as they are both worthy of funding. Commissioner O'Brien disagreed with funding the project based on the "supplementing, not supplanting" rule, to which Commissioner Skinner agreed.

vi. [Medford](#) (2:32:18)

Chief Delaney reviewed the application from the City of Medford, which requested basically their entire allocated funding amount and which also provided a priority list of projects, similar to the City of Cambridge, in case of projects not being recommended. He reviewed the City's

proposed projects which the Review Team recommended: continuation of work began last year on gambling harm reduction strategies; an emergency vehicle operator course to improve driving skills; public safety tactical communication and leadership training; administrative costs; and Salem Street pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements, both design and construction, noting that he would want to see the final cost estimates on construction before signing off. He explained that two (2) projects were not recommended: an emergency services unit as they could not connect this to a casino-related impact, and the repainting of the Chevalier Theater as it was viewed as more of a maintenance project than a capital project and the City could not make a strong argument that it would make them more competitive with Encore. *A summary of the Application from the City of Medford was included on pages 214 through 218 of the Commissioners' packet.*

Commissioner Brodeur expressed his support for the Chevalier Theater project, which the review team had not recommended funding, noting the Legislature's desire, in regard to the Community Mitigation Fund, that we continue to ensure that our existing arts and culture remained viable. He noted that he struggled with seeing any distinction between this project and the previously approved improvements to Springfield's Symphony Hall, which included curtain restoration. Commissioner Skinner agreed that she did not see a discernable difference between the two projects and, without further understanding, would be in favor of the project. Chair Maynard stated that he would compare this project to the funding of new lighting at the Chevalier Theater last year and so would be inclined to agree here as well.

Chief Delaney explained the Review Team's thought process in regard to the recommendation to approve the Springfield project and not this Medford project. He explained that they looked at whether the improvements would make the facility more competitive for entertainment dollars in the area. He noted that Springfield's proposal did include updates to lighting and sound and further, that the curtains would allow them to hold more daytime performances, making them more competitive, whereas they did not see that in the Medford project's proposed interior repainting. He also noted that the City of Medford does receive funding from its Surrounding Community Agreement for the theater.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the decision was not as clear cut to her as her fellow commissioners but that she was swayed by seeing similar improvements during a site visit in Foxboro which showed the impact that can be had from the painting of such a facility. She believed that they should approve the project based on their original request and suggested removing the supplemental project which was added. Chief Delaney suggested that the Commission could recommend a smaller funding amount in connection with the construction project for the Salem Street pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements. Reducing that by \$325,600 would allow the funding to remain level.

vii. [Melrose](#) (2:46:35)

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Melrose's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund. He stated that the City was allocated \$200,000 in funding and the Review Team recommended \$166,800 in funding for the following projects: a pop-up shopping experience, which was funded last year; the next phase of a gambling harm reduction project;

funding for public safety equipment; and funding for activities at their senior center. He noted that purchase of a hybrid police vehicle was not recommended but that the City requested that funding be repurposed to fund the public safety equipment and senior activities. *A summary of the Application from the City of Melrose was included on pages 219 through 221 of the Commissioners' packet.*

viii. [Revere](#) (2:48:11)

Chief Delaney presented the City of Revere's application. He stated that the City's allocation was \$662,100, but that they requested \$862,000 and would require an approximate \$200,000 waiver. He indicated that the City believes that they should be granted this waiver based upon their contention that the City should be a designated surrounding community. Despite their argument, the granting of a waiver is left to the Commission's discretion, and he noted that each of their proposed projects is eligible for funding. Such projects include: a zoning analysis on Broadway; a master plan for the Squire Road area; a wayfinding project on Broadway; a gambling harm reduction project to continue work started last year; purchase of automatic external defibrillators; funding for the design of the Revere Beach Connector to bring it to 25% design; a Revere bypass traffic study around Copeland Circle; and administration funding. *A summary of the Application from the City of Revere was included on pages 222 through 226 of the Commissioners' packet.*

ix. [Somerville](#) (2:51:26)

The last application for review by the Commission was presented by Chief Delaney: the City of Somerville. *A summary of the Application from the City of Somerville was included on pages 227 through 228 of the Commissioners' packet.* Chief Delaney stated that the City requested the full amount of their allocation of approximately \$1.1 million. He reviewed their proposed projects: a small business commercial district ad campaign to promote small businesses in East Somerville, which will include bus advertising; traffic enforcement patrols targeting main routes to the casino and peak hours of operation; and the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape design to advance the project from 25% design.

The commissioners moved forward with motions on the remaining applications which were reviewed.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the following applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04: the City of Chelsea in the amount of \$1,027,000 with conditions as discussed; the City of Melrose in the amount of \$166,800; and the City of Somerville in the amount of \$1,110,000. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the application for the City of Malden for the amount of \$882,800 for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted application, that includes the requested numbers 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of said application, and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

In voting nay on the above motion, Commissioner Skinner referenced language in the FY26 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines which stated that the CMF will not fund the mitigation of impacts already being addressed and that funds will supplement and not supplant historical operations funding.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Nay.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Nay.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 3-2.

Transcriber's note: The numbers noted in the motion above correspond with the numbered projects proposed by the City of Malden as outlined in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 210 through 213.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Cambridge's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$704,800 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Everett's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$2,913,500 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request and of which \$460,000 is to be transferred to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the City of Revere's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$862,000, including the amount of their waiver request, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the City of Medford's application in part for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$1,046,800 with conditions for the reasons set forth in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04; provided that the recommended funding for the City's transportation project be reduced to \$274,400 and that this approval include \$325,600 for the Chevalier Theater project. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Modifications to FY 2025 CMF Grants](#) (3:05:55)

I. Revere

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Revere's request to transfer \$89,557 granted in FY25 towards the International Sand Sculpting Festival. *Information regarding this request is contained in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 229 through 236.* Chief Delaney stated that the request was reviewed to ensure compliance with the guidelines governing funding from the CMF. He explained the casino-related impact as attracting casino patrons to the Festival. He noted, in light of the concern of supplementing vs. supplanting, that the City has not historically provided funds towards this event. The requested funds would cover the cost of public safety details, particularly the state police as the event is held on DCR property. He explained that providing this funding would not run afoul of the Anti-Aid Amendment as the funding would reimburse the City of Revere rather than pay any non-profit entity directly. Lastly, Chief Delaney noted that the funding was being repurposed from a project approved last year by the Commission which the City was unable to proceed with as well as from surpluses in other projects.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2025 Community Mitigation Fund grant to the City of Revere by authorizing a reallocation of \$89,557 towards funding for public safety costs associated with the International Sand Sculpting Festival as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. [Springfield Technical Community College](#) (3:10:49)

Chief Delaney reviewed Springfield Technical Community College's ("STCC") request to reallocate funding from their FY25 CMF grant from personnel to the purchase of equipment, specifically, computers, iPads, tablets and licenses for students of the program that they run with CMF funds. He noted that we have funded such technology requests in the past and that STCC will be unable to spend the personnel funds by the end of the fiscal year. *Information related to STCC's request is found in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 237 and 238.*

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her support for this requested reallocation in funding, noting that it is a great program.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2025 Community Mitigation Fund grant to Springfield Technical Community College by authorizing a reallocation of \$47,625 towards funding for equipment and curriculum licenses for digital educational programs as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

11. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (3:38:20)

a. House Rules Update – FanDuel

Compliance Manager Andrew Steffen reviewed updates to FanDuel's House Rules, specifically revisions to eight (8) sports specific sections, including football, Australian rules, baseball, basketball, golf, motorsports, softball, and tennis. *A memorandum and additional information regarding the requested house rules updates for FanDuel are found in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 239 through 246.*

Commissioner Hill asked how many professional softball leagues there are. Manager Steffen noted that only collegiate events and the Athletes Unlimited league are approved in the Commission's catalog and that no operators have asked that other leagues be added. Commissioner Brodeur asked whether the idea of a violation counting as a strike is connected to the MLB's use of the pitch clock. Manager Steffen confirmed that it does and further, that the Commission is likely to see that update in other operators' house rules.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the updates to FanDuel's House Rules as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson Overview and Considerations for Combat Sport Policy](#)
(3:45:10)

Manager Steffen provided a review of the Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson fight which was sanctioned by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (“TDLR”) despite notable deviations from standard professional boxing rules which are established by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (“ABC”). He noted that the ABC is an approved boxing governing body in Massachusetts. *A memorandum regarding this discussion item can be found in the Commissioners’ Packet on pages 247 through 250.*

Compliance Officer Griffin Miniutti reviewed the specific rule changes which were made for this particular fight, based on medical guidance, and were adopted upon request from Tyson: the weight of the gloves was increased; the round lengths were reduced to 2 minutes; and the fight was set at eight (8) rounds. He explained that these rules changes led some states to not allow wagering on the event, mainly citing the noncompliance with the ABC rules or an integrity concern stemming from the significant age gap between the competitors. Compliance Officer Miniutti highlighted that the total handle from operators in Massachusetts was over \$8 million.

Manager Steffen noted the policy concerns that were raised as a result of this fight. He explained that from an integrity perspective, this situation falls within the process already in place but that there is an opportunity to make the process more efficient and predictable. He outlined several options for the Commission’s review, including maintaining the current process, a regulation amendment, a requirement that operators include language in their house rules to address this type of situation, or have the Division draft a guidance document to require operators to notify the Division before offering wagering in such a situation.

Commissioner Hill stated that he has no problem leaving the current process to stand, but that he would agree with the requirement for pre-event notification. Commissioner O’Brien said that she views a requirement for operators to notify the Division as the least invasion option, which would allow for their review and possible Commission review. She noted that she did not like that this fight’s rules changes were brought to the Commission’s attention by happenstance. Commissioner Brodeur agreed, noting that it was important to keep in mind what we mean by a deviation from the rules as it will be a challenge to determine when exactly the Commission would want notice. Commissioner Skinner concurred. Chair Maynard also agreed, stating that it would not be an undue burden to require this notification and that he also did not like how the Commission became aware of this fight’s changes.

The Commission came to a consensus to have the Sports Wagering Division draft guidance that will mandate that operators notify the Division in advance when they intend to offer markets on combat sports events that involve known or likely deviations from standard rules.

c. [Penn Sports Interactive request to use alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04\(4\)](#) (4:01:20)

Chief of the Sports Wagering Division Carrie Torrisi introduced Nathan Saylor, Technical Compliance Coordinator, to review Penn Sports Interactive’s (“PSI”) request for approval of an alternate method of KYC pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04(4). Coordinator Saylor briefly reviewed PSI’s request to replace their current KYC method with a waterfall approach. He noted the need to meet in an executive session to conduct further discussion, but that following review, the Sports Wagering Division recommended that the Commission approve PSI’s alternate method of KYC.

I. [Executive Session](#) (4:05:08)

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will convene in an executive session in conjunction with its review of Penn Sports Interactive’s methods of KYC in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) to review certain materials in connection with the sports wagering operator’s processes and parameters during account creation related to customer verification and authentication, as these matters relate to cyber security within the Commonwealth, and the public discussion or disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize public safety or cyber security.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber’s note: The Commission entered executive session at 2:07 P.M. After the conclusion of the executive session, the public session resumed at [2:15 P.M.](#)

Commissioner Brodeur moved that, pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04(4), the Commission approve the alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment currently utilized by Penn Sports Interactive, as included in the Commissioners’ Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

12. [Executive Session Minutes](#) (4:18:59)

Transcriber's note: Prior to entering this executive session, the Commission discussed agenda items 13 and 14.

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will meet in an executive session to review minutes from previous executive sessions as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the intended purpose for which the executive session was convened pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3): February 24, 2025 at 11:52 A.M. and March 11, 2025 at 10:21 A.M.; and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(n): March 11, 2025 at 11:41 A.M. and 11:56 A.M.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session upon their vote at [2:21 P.M.](#) and did not reconvene the public meeting.

13. [Commission Updates](#) (4:16:03)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that several members of the Commission attended the North American Gaming Regulators Association's ("NAGRA") recent conference in Nashville, TN. She touched on some of the information that was discussed, including the work being done in Massachusetts with regard to wager limitations and responsible gaming.

Chair Maynard noted his attendance at the G7 Summit where an international framework on responsible gaming was discussed. He thanked Director Vander Linden for his work in this space and noted he was particularly amazed at how many jurisdictions recognize the work of the Commission.

Chair Maynard noted that other Commission members attended the International Association of Gaming Advisors conference.

14. [Other Business](#) (4:18:52)

No other business was noted by the commissioners.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated June 13, 2025
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the June 17, 2025 meeting (posted on massgaming.com)
3. Additional Finance Budget spreadsheet.



TO: Chair Maynard, Commissioners O'Brien, Hill, Skinner, and Brodeur

FROM: Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming;
Long Banh, Responsible Gaming Program Manager

DATE: July 15, 2025

RE: GameSense Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Fourth Quarter Report

The Expanded Gaming Act includes a number of key mandates to ensure the successful implementation of expanded gaming, including the prevention of and mitigation of social impacts and costs. Chapter 23k section 21(16) requires casino operators to provide an on-site space for an independent substance abuse, compulsive gambling and mental health counseling service and establish a program to train gaming employees in the identification of and intervention with customers exhibiting problem gaming behavior.

To fulfill this mandate, the Commission adopted GameSense, an innovative responsible gaming program that equips casino patrons who chose to gamble with information and tools to adopt positive play behaviors and offers resources to individuals in distress from gambling-related harm. The Commission has a contract with the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health (MCGH) to operate the GameSense Information Centers, located on-site at all Massachusetts casinos and staffed 16-24 hours daily by trained GameSense Advisors.

Today, Marlene Warner, Chief Executive Officer; Michael Tuplin, Chief Operating Officer; Amy Gabrila, Director of Player Health and Shekinah Hoffman, Director of Programs & DEIB of Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health will share with you the GameSense activities and highlights from the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-2025.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com

Q4 FY 2025

GameSense Report

July 15, 2025



GameSense™



Agenda

- Staff
 - Funders
 - Q4 Data Highlights
 - Champion Awards
 - Selected Magic Moments
 - Quarterly Training Focus
 - Upcoming FY26 Q1: RGEM
-

PRESENTING STAFF



Marlene Warner, *Chief Executive Officer*

Michael Tuplin, *Chief Operating Officer*

Shekinah Hoffman, *Director of Programs & DEIB*

Amy Gabrila, *Director of Player Health*

Funders/Present Contracts

- Michigan Association on Problem Gambling
 - National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS)
 - National Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program (NVSEP)/for idPair/Spectrum
 - North American Association State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL)
 - Playtech for the Gambling Recovery Information Network (GRIN)
 - SharpRank: subcontract for the Arizona Department of Gaming
 - Spectrum Gaming Group: subcontract on MGC Kiosk Feasibility Study and New Hampshire Lottery Study
 - Springfield Health and Human Services (MA); subcontract for MGC Community Mitigation Fund
 - Texas Tech University: subcontract for MGC for community-based research
 - Vermont Department of Mental Health
-

Q4 DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Interactions
- GamLine & Live Chat Statistics
- VSE

Interaction Analysis

Total Intensive Interactions: There were **16,947 intensive interactions** (exchanges and demonstrations) during this period, with April having the highest number (6,560) and May the lowest (5,154).

GameSense Discussion: The top occurring points of discussion during interactions were: GameSense (31%), PlayMyWay (13%), Odds/Myths (12%), and Budgeting (11%)

Interaction Time of Day: Most interactions took place between 5 PM and 10 PM (38%), followed by noon to 5 PM (34%).

VSE & Follow-Up Information

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Total VSEs serviced: **218**—Second highest enrollment this year
- Highest quarter of VSE Follow-up Requests from Patrons at **53** – a 26% increase from the other 3 quarters
- Total Reinstatements: 81
- Total Completed Follow-Ups: 32



LiveChat & GamLine Analysis

GamLine:

GamLine Calls: There were 235 GamLine calls, with the highest number in April (89) and the lowest in May (69).

LiveChat Key Insights (Total chats – 360):

~	Tag	▼ No. of chats with this tag	% of tagged chats
<input type="checkbox"/>	VSE	198	57.56%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsbook	66	19.19%
<input type="checkbox"/>	PFR	36	10.47%
<input type="checkbox"/>	General	30	8.72%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casino	13	3.78%
<input type="checkbox"/>	GameSense/MACGH	11	3.20%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources	6	1.74%





Selected **Magic** Moments



Our GameSense Advisers:

Chris

Ronnie

Aisha

GameSense



Champion Award Winners | MGM

Heidy Abreu, Slots

Tory Whitfield, Food & Beverage

Ana Vaga, Table Games

GameSense.



Champion Award Winners I PPC

Karl Moor, Security

Kyre Cahoon, IT

Shalem Cabezudo, Receiving



Champion Award Winners | EBH

Shadrac Toussaint, Security

Javier Fonseca, Slots

Vinny Mazzaferro, Slots

Outreach & Engagement

- Robert A. Georgine Towers
4/9/25 – RG Presentation
- South Boston Elderly Apts
4/15/25 – RG Presentation
- Meeting with AACAA on
5/19/25 – VSE Program
- Meeting with CMAA &
VietAid 6/10/25 – VSE
Program



Peer Support

Magic Moment from TRS interaction

Telephone Recovery Services

Total Participants in TRS for Q4 (new and returning)	11
Total TRS Sessions n Q4	56
Total Attempted contacts for Q4	132
Total Participants for FY25	26
Total TRS Sessions for FY25	159

Help seeker reported that he had been “super depressed” and that talking to a peer helped him feel better.

The TRS contact was on his way to gamble and texted me. I called him back and was able to talk to him and he chose not to gamble. He said how thankful he was that he had support in that difficult moment and that he didn't gamble.

Spoke with the enrollee during the follow up and he agreed to TRS. He explained to me his gambling history and his challenges and struggles. He expressed feeling more hopeful now that he has support and encouragement from this program.

The enrollee was very honest about the seriousness of his situation during the follow up. He is extremely grateful for assistance and immediately agreed to TRS and thank me several times.

The enrollee joined a young man's recovery support meeting and is going every week and thanked me for helping him access this support.



Quarterly National Observances

- Neurodiversity Awareness Month - April
- Mental Health Awareness Month - May
- Pride Month/Juneteenth - June

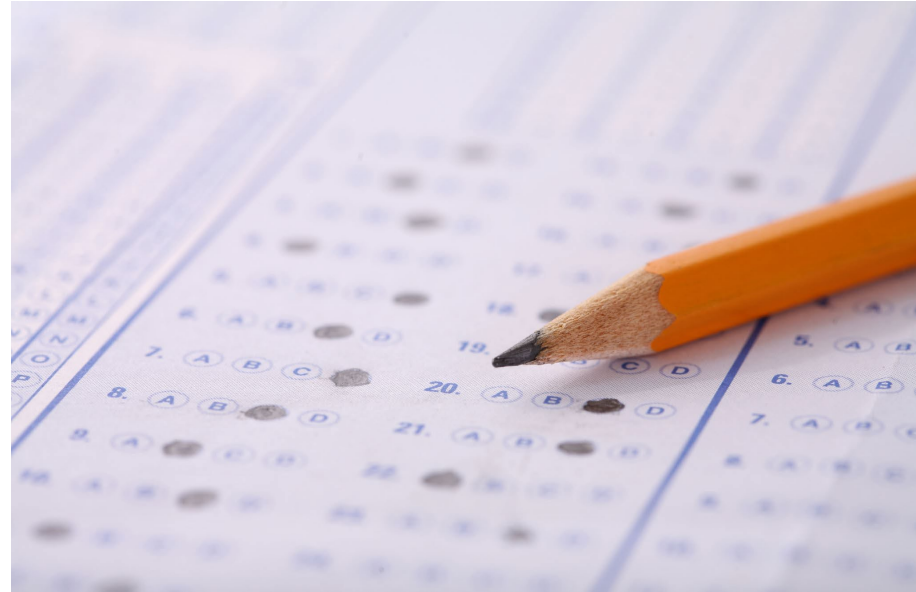
DEIB & Inclusive Language Training

- National Observance: Pride Month
- When: 2-hour training occurred during All Staff Day in June
- Presenters
 - Director of Player Health, Amy Gabrila
 - Director of Programs & DEIB, Shekinah Hoffman
 - OneDigital Human Resources Rep, Elisa Perel
- Goal: introduction to DEIB, inclusive language, and anti-bias practices, supporting our continued commitment to fostering a welcoming and respectful environment for all.



Culturally Resonating Quizzes

- Updated Juneteenth Quiz
 - Focused on helping patrons understand the unique impacts of problem gambling on within the African American community
- Development of a new quiz for the Dragon Boat Festival
 - Translated to increase accessibility and cultural resonance



Mental Health First Aid Training

- **National observance:** Mental Health Awareness Month
- **When:** 8-hour training occurred twice in May
- **Presenters:**
 - Director of Player Health, Amy Gabrila
 - GameSense Manager, Aisha Shamley
- **Goal:** Equip team members with the tools to recognize and respond to signs of mental health challenges among patrons and colleagues

10 Years of GameSense

Where GameSense Started

- Humble beginnings on June 24th, 2015 at Plainridge Park Casino
- Primary goals were to raise awareness of responsible gambling
- Focus on work done within the operator properties
- Paper VSE enrollment



10 Years of GameSense

Where GameSense Stands

- Operating in all 3 casino locations
- Focus additions to increasing RG understanding
 - Interactive quizzes, presentations, and games
 - Evidence-based models: Positive Play and Lower-Risk Gambling Guidelines
 - Mass specific data from SEIGMA
- GameSense is expanding to the digital landscape
 - Increased support for online betting and preparation for iLottery
- VSEs now completed via online application and remotely through video chat



Looking Ahead: FY26 Q1

Ahead to FY26 Q1

- Minority Mental Health Awareness in July
- Wellness quiz in August
- RGEM





Thank you!



The Massachusetts Council on
GAMING AND HEALTH



To: Jordan Maynard, Chair
Eileen O'Brien, Commissioner
Brad Hill, Commissioner
Nakisha Skinner, Commissioner
Paul Brodeur, Commissioner

From: Carrie Torrissi, Chief of Sports Wagering Division
Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel
Derek Lennon, Chief Finance and Accounting Officer

Date: July 15, 2025

Re: Encore Boston Harbor Request for Permanent Waiver from 205 CMR 238.12

The Commission's regulation 205 CMR 238.12 requires sports wagering operators to obtain a letter of credit to cover sports wagering liabilities, which are defined as "the amounts accepted by the Sport Wagering Operator on Sports Wagers whose outcomes have not been determined and amounts owed but unpaid on winning Sports Wagering tickets or vouchers." 205 CMR 238.01.

Encore Boston Harbor ("EBH") is seeking a permanent waiver from the requirement to obtain a letter of credit under 205 CMR 238.12. The Sports Wagering, Finance, and Legal Divisions recommend denying this waiver request.

EBH argues that as a Category 1 operator, their sports wagering liabilities are fully accounted for by the gaming establishment's minimum cash on hand requirements and that the letter of credit is therefore unnecessary. For further details on this argument, please see the attached submission.

The Commission has been reviewing 205 CMR 238.12 for over a year and discussing possible changes to this regulation and to the letter of credit requirement generally. During this time, the Commission heard arguments from operators that sufficient cash on hand to cover liabilities should eliminate the need for a letter of credit. This argument was rejected by the Commission, and the Commission ultimately decided to maintain the letter of credit requirement for all operators to cover liabilities. Additionally, the intent of the letter of credit requirement was to provide greater protection than cash in the event of bankruptcy.

Finally, it is worth noting that both MGM Springfield and Plainridge Park Casino, the two other Category 1 operators, are currently in compliance with 205 CMR 238.12.



Sports Wagering Division

For these reasons, we recommend that the Commission deny EBH's waiver request.



MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION WAIVER/VARIANCE REQUEST FORM

In accordance with 205 CMR 202.03; 205 CMR 102.03(4)

Please fill out and address all areas of the form with blue section headers. If a specific line does not apply to the request, please place 'NA' in the response field. Each section will extend to accommodate large answers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DATE: 5/29/2025

NAME OF LICENSEE / OPERATOR (REQUESTING ENTITY): Wynn MA, LLC/Encore Boston Harbor

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL COMPILING REQUEST: JULIANA CATANZARITI

TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPILING REQUEST: VP & General Counsel

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: juliana.catanzariti@encorebostonharbor.com

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: (857) 770-7524

EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER FOR PROVIDING DECISION (IF DIFFERENT FROM CONTACT):

REGULATION INFORMATION

SPECIFIC REGULATION (#) FOR WHICH WAIVER IS REQUESTED: 205 CMR 238.12(1)

REGULATION SECTION TITLE: Reserve Requirements

REGULATION LANGUAGE/TEXT:

A system of Internal Controls submitted by a Sports Wagering Operator in accordance with 205 CMR 238.02 shall include a plan to maintain and protect sufficient cash and other supplies to conduct Sports Wagering at all times through a reserve in the amount necessary to ensure the security of funds held in Sports Wagering Accounts and the ability to cover the outstanding Sports Wagering liability, including the amounts accepted by the Sports Wagering Operator on Sports Wagers whose outcomes have not been determined and amounts owed but unpaid on winning Sports Wagering tickets or vouchers. The reserve may be in the form of Cash, Cash Equivalents, payment processor reserves, payment processor receivables, an irrevocable letter of credit, a bond, or a combination thereof; *provided that the amount of the reserve intended to cover the Sports Wagering liability must be in the form of, or backed up by, an irrevocable letter of credit approved by the Commission and which may be drawn by the Commission in the event of cessation of Sports Wagering Operations in accordance with 205 CMR 258.00.* (Emphasis Supplied)



REASON FOR REQUEST OF WAIVER

DATE(S)/ TIMEFRAME WAIVER IS REQUESTED THROUGH: Permanent

Per 205 CMR 102.03(4)(b)

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR THE PROPOSED WAIVER/VARIANCE SOUGHT:

See attached

Per 205 CMR 102.03 (4)(a)(4)

PLEASE INDICATE THE SUBSTANTIAL HARDSHIP/IMPACT YOUR ENTITY WOULD INCUR IF WAIVER/VARIANCE IS NOT APPROVED BY COMMISSION:

See attached

ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION/EXPLANATION FOR REQUEST:

See Attached

DETERMINATION

Pursuant to 205 CMR 102.03(4)(a), and 205 CMR 202.03(2), the Commission may waive or grant a variance if the Commission finds that:

1. Granting the waiver or variance is consistent with the purposes of M.G.L. c. 23K and c. 23N;
2. Granting the waiver or variance will not interfere with the ability of the commission or the bureau to fulfill its duties;
3. Granting the waiver or variance will not adversely affect the public interest; and
4. Not granting the waiver or variance would cause a substantial hardship to the person requesting the waiver or variance.

Pursuant to 205 CMR 102.03 (4)(c), any waiver request not acted on by the Commission within 60 days of filing shall be deemed denied.



May 31, 2025

Via Email

Dean Serpa, Executive Director
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Waiver of Internal Control Requirement

Dear Executive Director Serpa:

Pursuant to 205 CMR 238.02(9), Wynn MA, LLC (“EBH”) in its capacity as a retail sports wagering operator seeks a permanent waiver from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”) internal control requirement to maintain an irrevocable letter of credit (“LOC”) to cover EBH’s sports wagering liability which may be drawn by the Commission in the event of cessation of sports wagering operations as required under 205 CMR 238.12. As further set forth below, as a retail only sports wagering operator owned and controlled by a licensed gaming establishment, EBH’s sports wagering liability is fully accounted for by the gaming establishment’s minimum cash on hand requirements which represent approximately 4665% greater than the minimum amount that EBH would be required to secure through a LOC based on its highest retail sports wagering quarter. As such, the LOC requirement set forth in 205 CMR 238.12 is unnecessary and granting the waiver is consistent with chapter 23N, will not interfere with the ability of the Commission to fulfill its duty and will not adversely impact the public interest including but not limited to protecting EBH’s sports wagering liability while avoiding the hardship of an unnecessary regulatory expense and additional administrative burden.¹

As you are aware, the LOC requirement has been the source of industry comments, staff memorandum and guidance as well as significant deliberation by the Commission. The Commission granted a waiver for the bulk of the sports wagering operators, including EBH, through June 1, 2025 to consider revisions to the reserve requirements. No changes were made to the regulation and with the expiration of the industry-wide waiver, EBH seeks a permanent waiver from the LOC requirement in 205 CMR 238.12 based on its unique status as a licensed gaming establishment controlled, retail only, sports book.

Section 238.12 provides:

A system of Internal Controls submitted by a Sports Wagering Operator in accordance with 205 CMR 238.02 shall include a plan to maintain and protect sufficient cash and other supplies to conduct Sports Wagering at all times through a reserve in the amount necessary to ensure the security of funds held in Sports

¹ As EBH seeks a waiver from a requirement of the Commission’s Internal Control Regulations, this waiver is submitted to the Executive Director in the first instance as provided in 205 CMR 238.02(9). General waivers from the sports wager regulations may also be field and granted by the Commission pursuant to 205 CMR 202.03.

Wagering Accounts and the ability to cover the outstanding Sports Wagering liability, including the amounts accepted by the Sports Wagering Operator on Sports Wagers whose outcomes have not been determined and amounts owed but unpaid on winning Sports Wagering tickets or vouchers. The reserve may be in the form of Cash, Cash Equivalents, payment processor reserves, payment processor receivables, an irrevocable letter of credit, a bond, or a combination thereof; *provided that the amount of the reserve intended to cover the Sports Wagering liability must be in the form of, or backed up by, an irrevocable letter of credit approved by the Commission and which may be drawn by the Commission in the event of cessation of Sports Wagering Operations in accordance with 205 CMR 258.00.* (Emphasis Supplied)

Based on the Commission's deliberations, the irrevocable LOC that may be drawn by the Commission is intended to ensure that wagers placed on future events are protected from a sports wagering operator's exit from the market due to insolvency or otherwise. The Commission can draw on the line of credit to pay out any future winnings ensuring that sports wagers placed in Massachusetts will always be honored. The Commission has applied this requirement to all sports wagering operators regardless of platform (retail versus mobile), volume of bets, number of accounts, assets in Massachusetts, other reserve requirements, and regulatory protections. According to guidance put forth by the Sports Wagering Division, "operators are encouraged to set their LOC at 110% of their highest quarter." See May 1, 2025 Letter of Credit FAQs.

EBH is both a licensed gaming establishment subject to the Massachusetts Gaming Act and holds a category 1 retail sports wagering license. Under the Gaming Act, EBH is required to have sufficient cash on hand to meet its gaming operation liability, an amount that is approximately 4665% greater than the minimum amount that EBH would be required to secure through a LOC based on its highest retail sports wagering quarter. In practice, EBH does not have a separate account earmarked for unpaid sports wagering tickets. These are treated the same as unpaid gaming vouchers or gaming chips that have not been redeemed. They are all tracked as a liability. EBH always has multiples more in cash than all of its outstanding unsettled futures/unpaid winning ticket/voucher liability. An irrevocable LOC is unnecessary to ensure future sports liabilities are paid and is otherwise an unnecessary cost and administrative burden for an offering at EBH that represents a very small fraction of gaming and when factoring in compliance costs, assessments and licensing fees, operates at a loss.

Unlike category 2 or 3 sports wager operators, a category 1 retail sports book is inextricably linked to a category 1 gaming establishment subject to significantly greater regulatory oversight including significantly higher cash reserve requirements to cover gaming liabilities. Sports wagering liability is a small fraction of EBH's total gaming liabilities. Significantly, the Commission has been satisfied with EBH's reserves to meet its more significant gaming liabilities without imposing a LOC requirement as part of the gaming establishment's internal controls. In addition, EBH has less sports wagering liability compared to other sports wagering operators as it maintains no sports wagering accounts and retail sports wagering only makes up a small fraction of sports wagering in Massachusetts (approximately 1.3% of current and future sports wagers settled).

Applying the standards for waiver in section 202 and section 238, a waiver from 205 CMR 238.12's LOC requirement is justified. First, granting the LOC waiver does not conflict with chapter 23N or its purposes including ensuring the integrity of sports wagering through protection of consumer funds. EBH's reserves as a licensed gaming establishment more than ensure that all future sports wagering liability can and will be met. Nothing in granting the waiver will interfere with the ability of the commission or the bureau to fulfill its duties. Indeed, by recognizing the backstop of the gaming establishment for sports wagering liabilities, the Commission provides greater protection of consumer funds. Such enhanced protection for these liabilities and the additional protections and oversight under chapter 23K make EBH's request for a waiver in the public interest. Granting the waiver will also avoid a hardship for EBH in creating additional, unnecessary financial and administrative costs to an already expensive licensed activity to operate. Finally, EBH's alternative form of compliance through the licensed gaming establishment required reserves is equivalent to the exemption sought from the LOC requirement.

For these reasons, EBH respectfully requests that its waiver from the LOC requirements of 205 CMR 238.12 be granted.²

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliana Catanzariti', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juliana Catanzariti
Vice President & General Counsel

² Simultaneous to this requested waiver, EBH has started the process of obtaining a LOC for an appropriate amount pursuant to the current regulation and guidance provided by the Sports Wagering Division. EBH will finalize its LOC if needed after a determination is made on its waiver request.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

FROM: Diandra Franks, Enforcement Counsel, IEB

CC: Caitlin Monahan, Director, IEB
Kathleen Kramer, Chief Enforcement Counsel/Asst. Director, IEB
Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel

DATE: July 2, 2025

RE: Sports Wagering Noncompliance Matter

At the July 15, 2025, Public Meeting, the IEB will be presenting the following Sports Wagering Noncompliance matter to the Commission:

1. FBG Enterprises Opco, LLC d/b/a Fanatics Betting and Gaming ("FBG"), Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Operator, 2025-SWN-061: This matter relates to FBG offering wagering on the Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League, which is an unapproved event in contravention of 205 CMR 247.01(1), 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i) and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog. FBG accepted wagers on the Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League from July 1, 2024, through April 25, 2025. During this timeframe, FBG accepted 13,045 wagers for total stakes of \$712,957.19.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

FROM: Nathaniel Kennedy, Enforcement Counsel, IEB

CC: Caitlin Monahan, Director, IEB
Kathleen Kramer, Chief Enforcement Counsel/ Asst. Director, IEB
Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel

DATE: July 7, 2025

RE: Sports Wagering Noncompliance Matter

At the July 15, 2025 Public Meeting, the IEB will be presenting the following Sports Wagering Noncompliance matter to the Commission:

1. American Wagering, Inc. d/b/a Caesars Sportsbook, Category 3 Sports Wagering Operator: This matter relates to Caesars offering wagers on the college basketball "Crown" tournament in contravention of 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i). Caesars accepted 1,039 wagers between March 23, 2025 through March 31, 2025 for a total stake of \$56,665.39.
2. Wynn MA, LLC d/b/a Encore Boston Harbor, Category 1 Sports Wagering Operator: This matter relates to Encore Boston Harbor offering wagers on the college basketball "Crown" tournament in contravention of 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i). EBH accepted 77 wagers between March 30, 2025 and March 31, 2025 for a total stake of \$5,199.00.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission



TO: Chair Jordan Maynard and Commissioners Eileen O'Brien, Bradford Hill, Nakisha Skinner and Paul Brodeur

FROM Community Affairs Division

CC: Dean Serpa, Executive Director, Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel

DATE July 9, 2025

RE: Community Mitigation Fund Evaluation Memo for 7/15/25 Commission Meeting

The FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) grant round continues the implementation of the revisions made to the CMF program that were established for FY 2025. The Municipal Block Grant Program established a formula for the distribution of funds to eligible municipalities and the Regional Agency Grant Program modified and expanded eligibility for regional entities to obtain funds from the CMF. These changes have resulted in record demand for funds, with grant requests totaling nearly \$24.8 million.

The Community Affairs Division utilized a Review Team consisting of seven staff members and two Commissioners covering four different MGC Divisions. Each application was submitted timely to the Commission, received an in-depth review by the Review Team and each applicant was afforded an opportunity to meet with the Review Team to provide any further clarification needed.

The following application is presented in this memo for the Commission's review and action.

Municipal Block Grant Applications

- Region A Communities
 - Boston



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

MUNICIPAL BLOCK GRANTS

Region A Communities

City of Boston

Applicant Name: Boston	Region: A
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$2,607,000	Requested Amount: \$2,607,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$2,607,000	
<p>Waiver: Boston is requesting that this grant be awarded for a three-year term rather than the standard two-year term. This waiver would be applicable to the Public Safety Program Coordinator and the requested overtime. If the waiver is granted, the grant would expire on 6/30/2028.</p> <p>Waiver Discussion - When the CMF was first established, grants were written for a four-year term to account for potential delays in implementing grants. When the program shifted to a block grant, the term was reduced to two years to encourage more rapid spending of the grants. Given the uncertainty of CMF funds moving forward, granting this waiver would provide the City with some certainty regarding the availability of funds for the next three years.</p>	
1. Public Safety: Public Safety Training and Strategy - \$622,900	
Recommendation: Full Funding in the amount of \$622,900 with Conditions	
<p>Description: This project is for personnel costs, overtime, training, equipment and administration costs associated with the Boston Police Department's (BPD) public safety strategy to address casino related impacts.</p> <p>1. Public Safety Program Coordinator - \$175,300 - BPD is proposing to spend these funds in FY 2027 and FY 2028.</p> <p>2. Overtime - \$227,000 - These funds are for the Human Trafficking Unit (\$30,000), Drug Control Unit (\$6,000), Fugitive Apprehension Unit (\$6,000), Youth Violence Strike Force (\$6,000) and Areas A1 and A15 traffic patrols (\$179,000). These funds are proposed to be spent in equal amounts for fiscal years 2026, 2027 and 2028.</p> <p>3. Training - \$172,700 - These funds are for various training programs in the Human Trafficking Unit (\$10,000), Boston Regional Intelligence Unit (\$84,000), Bureau of Investigative Services (\$11,700) and Bureau of Field Services (\$67,000)</p> <p>4. Equipment - \$4,400 - These funds are to equip two HTU vehicles with laptops for Detectives to utilize within their vehicles while conducting surveillance activities, to do background checks and other investigative tasks.</p> <p>5. Administration - \$43,500 - This amount totals 7.5% of the requested public safety grant amount, which is allowed under the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines.</p>	



Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the project will address the following impacts: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; it is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that certain types of crime may be attracted to casinos and other hospitality-related businesses which may include human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking; the presence of casinos has been demonstrated to cause an increase in cases of operating under the influence; increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts; and the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like police, fire departments and EMS.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project has the potential to address the identified impacts.

Rationale:

1. Public Safety Program Coordinator - \$175,300 - BPD requested funds for this position in FY 2025. Due to some delays in the hiring process, this position was not filled by the end of FY 2025. Therefore, none of the funds were expended for this position. The City is proposing to use the FY 2025 funds during FY 2026 with this current request being used in FY 2027 and 2028. The primary role of this staff member will be to create an Encore Casino Public Safety Task Force and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BPD and other law enforcement agencies involved in casino operations. This role will also provide crime data to the Commission to analyze the impact of gaming on Boston crime. The Review Team agrees that this is a worthwhile staff addition to build capacity within the department and help coordinate the proposed intercity MOU aimed at addressing casino related crimes.

Grant contracts are currently written with a two-year term. This request would require a waiver to allow for the expenditures to happen over a three-year period. Extending this grant to three years would provide the City with some certainty as to the funding of this position. As always, there is no guarantee that funding for this position would be available beyond the three-year period. The Review Team recommends full funding for this portion of the application in the amount of \$175,300.

2. Overtime - \$227,000

Human Trafficking Unit (\$30,000) - The BPD application identified several instances where the Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) has worked with the State Police High-Risk Victims Unit, the Gaming Enforcement Unit and Encore Security on investigations associated with Encore. Based on this work, the Review Team agrees that the overtime funding is appropriate.

Drug Control Unit (\$6,000), Fugitive Apprehension Unit (\$6,000), Youth Violence Strike Force (\$6,000) - Each of these units is proposing to work with the Public Safety Program Coordinator to develop a memorandum of understanding between Boston and other law enforcement agencies that may be involved with activities at the Encore casino. Each unit is proposing to spend \$2,000 in FY 2026, 2027 and 2028. The Review Team understands that there may be a need for overtime to assist the Program Coordinator in developing this MOU. However, the Review Team recommends that the expenditure of funds in FY 2027 and 2028 be contingent upon hiring the Program Coordinator and making progress towards an executed MOU.

Areas A1 and A15 traffic patrols (\$179,000) - This area is impacted by the presence of the casino and Boston has targeted their overtime to high traffic weekend days and evening. The Review Team recommends full funding for this portion of the application.

All overtime funds are proposed to be spent in equal amounts for fiscal years 2026, 2027 and 2028.



3. Training - \$172,700

Human Trafficking Unit (\$10,000) - These funds are for attendance at the Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) conference.

Boston Regional Intelligence Unit (\$84,000) - These funds are for several training courses involving Crime Analysis Training, Open Source Intelligence, Intelligence Analysis Training and Criminal Investigations using Cellular Technologies.

Bureau of Investigative Services (\$11,700) - Funds for the Crimes Against Children Conference.

Bureau of Field Services (\$67,000) - Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) training is a new way of thinking about use-of-force training. ICAT takes the essential building blocks of critical thinking, crisis intervention, communications, and tactics, and puts them together in an integrated approach to training.

The Review Team recommends funding of these trainings with conditions. Several of these trainings only had ballpark estimates of costs associated with them and not all of them had detailed course outlines or agendas. The Review Team recommends that additional cost information and training details be provided before each training is approved.

4. Equipment - \$4,400 - These funds are to equip two HTU vehicles with laptops for detectives to utilize within their vehicles while conducting surveillance activities, to do background checks and other investigative tasks. The Review Team agrees that this modest investment will improve the detectives' investigative abilities and therefore recommends funding for this portion of the grant.

5. Administration - \$43,500 - This amount totals 7.5% of the requested public safety grant amount, which is allowed under the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines.

2. Transportation: Bikeshare Expansion in Charlestown - \$200,000

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$200,000

Description: This project is for the purchase and installation of four additional bikeshare stations in Charlestown to improve alternative transportation modes to the casino.

Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, this project will address the following impacts: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project has the potential to address the identified impacts.

Rationale: Installing additional bikeshare locations will provide the neighborhood with alternative means of transportation, thereby reducing the number of single occupancy vehicles in the neighborhood. A significant number of vehicles use Rutherford Avenue as well as local Charlestown streets to access the casino. Any reduction in automobile traffic associated with bicycle use will positively impact the capacity of the roadway network.

The Review Team agrees that the provision of alternative modes of transportation has the potential to decrease the amount of vehicular traffic on the road, thereby helping reduce congestion. The Commission has consistently provided funding for this type of project in several communities. For these reasons, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project.



3. Transportation: Boston Harborwalk Extension Construction - \$900,000
Recommendation: Funding in the amount of \$1,030,400
Description: This project is for the construction of a missing section of the Boston Harborwalk which will help improve bicycle and pedestrian access in Charlestown and to the Encore casino.
Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the Project will address the following identified transportation-related impacts: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project has the potential to address the identified impacts.
<p>Rationale: This project will fill in a missing piece of the very successful Boston Harborwalk system. While this project is fairly distant from the casino, it is part of the overall master plan for pedestrian and bicycle improvements to Charlestown that once completed, will provide direct access from the Charlestown waterfront to the Alford Street bridge and to the casino beyond. Providing dedicated pedestrian and bicycle paths will encourage use of alternative modes of transportation, thereby helping to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles in the area.</p> <p>The total cost for this project is about \$5.7 million. Under the CMF Guidelines, this project could be eligible for up to \$1,745,000. The original application asked for \$900,000 for the project. In our discussions with the City during the review process, several modifications were made to the overall application resulting in some spending reductions in the Public Safety category. As this project is eligible for more funding than was requested, the Review Team recommends that the spending on this project be increased to \$1,030,400 so that the City is able to take full advantage of the funds available to them.</p>
4. Transportation: Cambridge Street Bridge Design - \$753,700
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$753,700
Description: This project is for the design of improvements to the Cambridge Street bridge in Sullivan Square, which carries a significant amount of traffic to/from Encore Boston Harbor.
Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, this Project will address the following identified transportation-related impacts: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project has the potential to address the identified impacts.
<p>Rationale: The Cambridge Street Bridge carries traffic over the Orange Line and Commuter Rail tracks adjacent to the Sullivan Square T Station. This bridge carries a significant percentage of casino related traffic and has noted deficiencies including deterioration of the bridge deck, sidewalks, expansion joints and structural steel.</p> <p>The Review Team agrees that completing this design will allow the City to move ahead with much needed improvements to this bridge which will ensure continued safe roadway travel. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding for this project.</p>





Memorandum

To: Jordan Maynard, Chair
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

From: Autumn Birarelli, Staff Attorney
Cc: Justin Stempeck, Interim General Counsel
Re: Proposed Amendment to 205 CMR 115.04
Date: July 8, 2025

205 CMR 115 regulates new qualifier suitability determination standards and procedures. As the regulation is currently written new qualifier suitability may be reviewed in either an adjudicatory proceeding or a public hearing. The proposed changes would make the regulation consistent with 205 CMR 101.01(2)(a) and align with the Commission's current practices.

Currently there is a conflict between the language of 205 CMR 115.04 and 205 CMR 101.01(2)(a). 205 CMR 101.01(2)(a) requires that suitability for new qualifiers be reviewed in adjudicatory hearings before the Commission. 205 CMR 115.04 contradicts that by allowing suitability of qualifiers to be determined in a public hearing before the Commission.

Procedurally adjudicatory hearings are preferable for these matters as the standard to enter closed session in accordance with 205 CMR 101.01(7) is lower than the standard to enter an executive session in a public hearing. 205 CMR 101.01(7) allows the Commission to enter a closed session to protect privacy interests or to protect proprietary or sensitive technical information. There is copious personal information presented at qualifier hearings, and it is preferable to be able to enter closed session at an adjudicatory hearing.

Under M.G.L. 30A rights attach to a license and the license cannot be taken away without proper process. If a qualifier is found to be unsuitable, it may put the parent company's license at risk. As a decision regarding qualifier suitability can affect the parent company's license, it should be addressed in an adjudicatory hearing to preserve the due process rights regarding the license.

In sum, we are seeking a vote of authorization to begin the promulgation process for this regulation, and approval of the included small business impact statement.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

205 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

205 CMR 115.00: PHASE 1 AND NEW QUALIFIER SUITABILITY DETERMINATION, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES

Section

- 115.01: Phase 1 and New Qualifier Determination Standards
- 115.02: Phase 1 and New Qualifier Procedures
- 115.03: Phase 1 and New Qualifier Investigation and Recommendations by the Bureau
- 115.04: Phase 1 and New Qualifier Proceedings by the Commission
- 115.05: Phase 1 and New Qualifier Determination by the Commission

115.01 : Phase 1 and New Qualifier Determination Standards

- (1) Phase 1 Determination Standards. The Commission shall not issue an affirmative determination of suitability for any Category 1 or Category 2 applicants unless:
 - (a) The applicant meets the standards in M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 12, 16, 46 and 47.
 - (b) The applicant complies with the provisions of 205 CMR 111.00: *Phase 1 Application Requirements* and 205 CMR 115.00.
 - (c) The Commission has determined that the applicant has demonstrated financial stability pursuant to 205 CMR 117.00: *Phase I Determination of Financial Stability*.
 - (d) All qualifiers under 205 CMR 116.02: *Persons Required to be Qualified* have been determined to be suitable by the Commission or received a waiver under 205 CMR 116.03: *Waivers*.
- (2) Burden of Proof. All applicants for a Phase 1 suitability determination must establish their qualifications by clear and convincing evidence.
- (3) New Qualifiers. Subsequent to the issuance of a positive determination of suitability in accordance with 205 CMR 115.05(3) relative to a gaming licensee or applicant for a gaming license, if a new person is designated by the bureau as a person required to be qualified in accordance with 205 CMR 116.02: *Persons Required to be Qualified*, they shall submit a completed application to the bureau. An entity qualifier shall submit to the bureau a *Business Entity Disclosure Form - Category 1 and Category 2 Entity Applicants and Holding/Intermediary Companies* in accordance with 205 CMR 111.02. An individual qualifier shall submit to the bureau a *Multi-jurisdictional Personal History Disclosure Form* in accordance with 205 CMR 111.03 and a *Massachusetts Supplemental Form* in accordance with 205 CMR 111.04. A new qualifier designated in accordance with 205 CMR 116.02: *Persons Required to be Qualified* must establish their qualifications and meet the standards in M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 12 and 16 by clear and convincing evidence and shall be subject to all applicable procedures contained in 205 CMR 115.00.
- (4) Continuing Duty. Once issued a positive determination of suitability, the gaming licensee and all qualifiers shall have a continuing duty to maintain suitability in accordance with 205 CMR 115.01(1) and (2). The gaming licensee and each qualifier shall have a continuing duty to notify and update the IEB, in writing, within ten days of the occurrence, unless an alternative filing time is authorized by the executive director, or where applicable, gaining knowledge of the following:
 - (a) Any denial, suspension or revocation by a government agency in any jurisdiction of a gaming related license, registration, certification, permit or approval held by or applied for by the gaming licensee or qualifier;
 - (b) Any discipline, including a fine or warning, related to gaming operations imposed upon the gaming licensee or qualifier by any government agency in any jurisdiction;
 - (c) Any fine related to gaming operations assessed on any gaming entity owned or operated by the parent to the gaming licensee by any government agency in any jurisdiction.
 - (d) Any arrest, indictment, charge or criminal conviction of any qualifier in any jurisdiction;
 - (e) Any complaints, allegations, or notice of investigation thereof made or known to be contemplated by a gaming regulator or other governmental agency against the gaming licensee, qualifier, or any gaming entity owned or operated by the parent to the gaming licensee, of which the gaming licensee or qualifier is or should reasonably be aware, involving conduct that if substantiated could reasonably lead to potential revocation or suspension of the license or approval held by the gaming licensee, qualifier, or gaming entity owned or operated by the parent to the gaming licensee, in that jurisdiction and/or imposition of a fine of \$50,000 or greater;

115.01 : continued

- (f) Any reports, complaints, allegations, or material legal proceedings made, commenced, or known to be contemplated by a governmental agency against the gaming licensee or qualifier, of which the gaming licensee or qualifier is or should reasonably be aware, involving conduct that if substantiated could reasonably lead to potential criminal charges including, but not limited to, allegations of theft or embezzlement;
- (g) Any information known or that should reasonably be known to the gaming licensee or qualifier, including by way of receipt of a subpoena, that the gaming licensee or qualifier is or may be the subject of a criminal investigation by a law enforcement or regulatory agency;
- (h) Any exclusion or barring of a qualifier from any casino, gaming establishment or gambling/gaming related entity in any jurisdiction;
- (i) The termination, suspension from employment, or other discipline of any key gaming employee licensed in accordance with 205 CMR 134.00: *Licensing and Registration of Employees, Vendors, Junket Enterprises and Representatives, and Labor Organizations* or qualifier;
- (j) Any material pending legal proceedings required to be reported in accordance with 17 CFR 229.103 - (Item 103) Legal proceedings. For purposes of 205 CMR 115.01(4)(j) the registrant referred to in 17 CFR 229.103 - (Item 103) shall be both the gaming licensee and the parent company of the gaming licensee as determined by the IEB. Additionally, the gaming licensee and each qualifier shall provide notice of any pending legal proceeding which includes any allegation of fraudulent conduct by the gaming licensee or a qualifier, that may reasonably threaten the economic viability of the gaming licensee or a qualifier, or that alleges a pattern of improper conduct by the gaming licensee or a qualifier over a sustained period of time;
- (k) Any significant financial event related to a gaming licensee or entity qualifier. For purposes of 205 CMR 115.01(4)(k), a significant financial event means a merger, acquisition, consolidation, debt restructuring, material change in debt rating by major credit rating agencies (US/International), legal entity change, material ownership change, the assessment of a fine or penalty of \$250,000 or greater by the SEC or international equivalent, restatement of previously issued financial statement(s), late filing of financial statement(s) with the SEC or international equivalent, US or international equivalent bankruptcy petition, default of financial debt covenants and receivership, disposal of a material business segment or asset, or adverse action(s) taken by the IRS;
- (l) Issuance of an "Adverse" or "Qualified" audit opinion, or the international equivalent, by an independent accountant to the gaming licensee or qualifier;
- (m) A change in accounting firm engaged to perform attestation and/or assurance services for the gaming licensee or qualifier; and
- (n) Issuance of a delisting notice from a United States or international stock exchange relative to the gaming licensee or qualifier.

115.02 : Phase 1 and New Qualifier Procedures

- (1) When a completed RFA-1 application, *Multi-jurisdictional Personal History Disclosure Form, Massachusetts Supplemental Form, or Business Entity Disclosure Form - Category 1 and Category 2 Entity Applicants and Holding/Intermediary Companies* is filed, the application shall be referred by the Commission to the bureau for a determination of completeness and investigation.
- (2) Determination of Administrative Completeness. After receiving the application containing the information required by 205 CMR 111.02: *Business Entity Disclosure Form - Category 1 and Category 2 Entity Applicants and Holding/Intermediary Companies* or 205 CMR 111.03: *Multi-jurisdictional Personal History Disclosure Form* and 205 CMR 111.04: *Massachusetts Supplemental Form*, the bureau will either determine that the application is sufficiently complete for purposes of initiating substantive review or request additional information from the applicant.
- (3) Notice. After the bureau has determined that an application is administratively complete, in accordance with 205 CMR 115.02(2), it shall notify the applicant or new qualifier of such determination.

115.03 : Phase 1 and New Qualifier Investigation and Recommendations by the Bureau

- (1) The bureau shall conduct an investigation into the qualifications and suitability of all applicants and qualifiers, as provided for in M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 12 and 16. The bureau may conduct the investigation, in whole or in part, with the assistance of one or more contractor investigators pursuant to 205 CMR 105.10: *Authority to Retain and Utilize Contractor Investigators*. Additionally, such an investigation may be conducted at any time after a qualifier is granted a positive determination of suitability to ensure that they continue to meet the suitability standards.
- (2) At the completion of the bureau's investigation, it shall submit a written report to the Commission. At a minimum, this report will include: recommendations pursuant to M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 12, 14(i) and 16 and findings of fact pursuant to M.G.L. c. 23K, § 17(f), as required, relative to the suitability of the applicant for a gaming license and/or of any new qualifiers or existing qualifiers.

115.04 : Phase 1 and New Qualifier Proceedings by the Commission

- (1) After the Commission has received the bureau's report under 205 CMR 115.03(2), it shall provide a copy to the applicant or qualifier and the Commission shall ~~determine whether to~~ initiate a process for an ~~public hearing or~~ adjudicatory proceeding. ~~However, the Commission may only utilize the public hearing process with the qualifier's consent.~~
- (2) Adjudicatory Proceeding. ~~If~~**When** the Commission determines that an adjudicatory proceeding shall be held, the Commission shall conduct an adjudicatory proceeding pursuant to 205 CMR 101.00: *M.G.L. c. 23K Adjudicatory Proceedings* on the report by the bureau concerning the applicant or qualifier pursuant to 205 CMR 115.03(2).

~~(3) Public Hearing. If the Commission determines that a public hearing should be held, the Commission shall review the bureau's suitability report in a public hearing, subject to redaction in accordance with M.G.L. c. 4, § 7(26). The Commission will issue a notice in advance of the public hearing stating the date, time and place of the hearing and the form (oral or written) and conditions pursuant to which the Commission will receive public comments.~~

115.05 : Phase 1 and New Qualifier Determination by the Commission

- (1) After the proceedings under 205 CMR 115.04, the Commission shall issue a written determination of suitability pursuant to M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 4(15), 12 and 17.
- (2) Negative Determination. If the Commission finds that an applicant or new qualifier or existing qualifier failed to meet its burden of demonstrating compliance with the suitability standards in M.G.L. c. 23K and 205 CMR 115.00, the Commission shall issue a negative determination of suitability.
- (3) Positive Determination. If the Commission finds that an applicant or new qualifier or existing qualifier has met its burden of demonstrating compliance with the suitability in M.G.L. c. 23K and 205 CMR 115.00, the Commission shall issue a positive determination of suitability which may include conditions and restrictions.
- (4) The Commission shall not entertain a Phase 2 application for any applicant unless and until the Commission has issued a positive suitability determination on that applicant.
- (5) No Appeal from Commission's Determination of Suitability. Pursuant to M.L.G. c. 23K, § 17(g), the applicant or qualifier shall not be entitled to any further review.
- (6) A host community may not hold an election in accordance with M.G.L. c. 23, § 15(13) until the Commission has issued a positive determination of suitability to the applicant, in accordance with 205 CMR 115.05(3), unless the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (a) Prior to the request by the applicant for an election, in accordance with 205 CMR 124.02(1): *Request for an Election*, the governing body of the community formally approves of holding the election prior to a positive determination of suitability having been issued to the applicant by the Commission; and

115.05: continued

(b) At the expense of the applicant, prior to the election the community has conducted a process for informing the community about the Commission's determination of suitability standards and procedures, which shall include, but not be limited to, the provision of a notice designed to be received by voting households within the community informing such households that an election is to be held for which the applicant has yet to be issued a positive determination of suitability, that the Commission will make its determination of suitability after completing a thorough background investigation of the applicant, its principal operating officers and investors, and that the Commission will not permit the applicant or its principal operating officers or investors to proceed with the application unless it determines that they are suitable to operate a gaming facility in Massachusetts. The content of the notice shall be forwarded to the Commission for approval prior to dissemination. A description of other methods to so inform the community about the Commission's determination of suitability standards and procedures shall also be forwarded to the Commission prior to holding of the election. Any failure to issue the notice to one or more voting households shall not be deemed by the Commission to be a failure to meet the requirements of 205 CMR 115.05(6), provided that a community demonstrates reasonable efforts to comply with the requirements of 205 CMR 115.05(6).

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

205 CMR 115.00: M.G.L. c. 23K, §§ 4(37), 5, 12, 13, 14(i), 16, 17, 46 and 47.



SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”) hereby files this Small Business Impact Statement in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §2, relative to the proposed adoption of **205 CMR 115.04, Phase 1 and new qualifier suitability determination, standards, and procedures.**

This regulation is being promulgated as part of the process of updating regulations governing adjudicatory hearings before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. It sets forth the requirements for adjudicatory proceedings for new qualifiers.

The proposed 205 CMR 115.04 applies to qualifiers of business entities licensed by the Commission under G.L. c. 23K. Accordingly, this regulation is unlikely to have an impact on small businesses. Under G.L. c.30A, §2, the Commission offers the following responses to the statutory questions:

1. Estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation:

Small businesses are unlikely to be subject to this regulation.

2. State the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation:

There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with this regulation.

3. State the appropriateness of performance standards versus design standards:

The standards set forth are design standards.

4. Identify regulations of the promulgating agency, or of another agency or department of the Commonwealth, which may duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation:

There are no conflicting regulations in 205 CMR, and the Commission is unaware of any conflicting or duplicating regulations of any other agency or department of the Commonwealth.

5. State whether the proposed regulation is likely to deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the Commonwealth:



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

This amendment is unlikely to have any impact on the formation of new businesses in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
By:

/s/ Autumn Birarelli
Autumn Birarelli, Staff Attorney

Dated: July 8, 2025



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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