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## Subcommittee on Community Mitigation Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** October 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1 646 741 5292  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 134 7285

**Present:** Eric Demas, Everett  
Haskell Kennedy Jr., Springfield  
Sean Cronin, Department of Revenue  
Jackie Lavender Bird, Mass Municipal Association  
Ron Hogan, LCMAC Region A representative  
Marc Strange, LCMAC Region B representative  
Brad Hill, MGC Commissioner  
Joseph Delaney, MGC  
Nicholas Napolitan, MGM  
Juliana Catanzariti, Encore Boston Harbor  
Mary Thurlow, MGC

### Call to Order

Joe Delaney called the Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") meeting to order. Mary Thurlow read the public disclosure.

Mr. Delaney introduced and welcomed Commissioner Hill. Commissioner Hill provide some background information on his career.

### Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of quorum based on current membership, the minutes from the November 2020 minutes will remain in draft form when posted on the website.

### Vote for Chair of the Subcommittee

Mr. Delaney opened the floor for nomination for the Chair of this Subcommittee. Commissioner Hill noted his interest. Motion to nominate Commissioner Hill provided by Mr. Demas and seconded by Ms. Lavendar. By rollcall vote Commissioner Hill was unanimously elected. Mr. Delaney turned the meeting over to Commissioner Hill.

### Budget Presentation by Derek Lennon, CFO

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Lennon who summarized the budget for the Community Mitigation Fund FY21. He reminded members that up to 10% may be used for the program administration and that most of the funding was for salaries and the database. He mentioned that the current budget was nowhere near the 10% allowed by the regulations. Mr. Lennon noted that the unspent money previously allocated last year to pay for the database would be carried forward as the database is now undergoing development.

## **Discussion of 2022 Community Mitigation Fund Draft Guidelines**

Mr. Delaney thanked those members who had put comment in writing for this Subcommittee. He reminded members of the review of policy items from the last meeting and mentioned how those conversations assisted in the development of the new Guidelines. Mr. Bourassa supported Mr. Hogan's comments provided to the Subcommittee.

A review of the various types of grants available was presented noting changes in amounts from the previous year and the removal of caps in spending. The reserves grants are no longer available after this year. For the Specific Impact Grants several applications are allowed but the limit is \$500,000 per community.

The first major change in the Guidelines was the addition of the Public Safety Grants as a new grant category. The description of Public Safety Grants highlighted Implicit Bias Training and De-escalation training as a few types of available training that would support the Police Reform law. Other training opportunities would also be available, but Commission wanted to highlight these types of training to encourage communities to submit those types of applications.

Mr. Delaney then discussed the Community Planning Grants which are now structured to reduce the level of effort communities need to perform to quantify the casino impact. He explained how the SEIGMA research agenda carried out by UMass attempted to quantify the amount of reallocated spending that a casino could cause. Mr. Delaney explained that reallocated spending is spending that would have occurred but did not occur because of the casino. The SEIGMA study determined that there is a reallocation of funds, therefore it is reasonable to conclude that this is an impact associated with a casino. Gaming establishments also provide significant benefits and communities can take advantage of casino related benefits. There are lost opportunity costs that communities may not have available municipal funds to remedy, but may be able to leverage Community Mitigation Funds to take advantage of those benefits.

Under Transportation Planning Grants, the dollar cap on the category was removed while the maximum grant amount remained the same.

The Transportation Construction Grant remains a maximum of 33% of total project cost but the cap on the category has been eliminated. The maximum grant award had been increased to \$1.5M.

Mr. Delaney then discussed the Workforce Development Grants. He noted that there was an increase in the maximum grant value to \$500,000 per region. He also noted the removal of bonus funds as they only complicated and confused applicants and was already in the basic Guidelines as a requirement.

The Tribal Assistance Grant has been carried over to assist the communities surrounding Taunton should the Tribal casino move ahead. He also noted that the Emergency Mitigation Grants were carried forward for impacts of an emergency nature that occur outside of the normal grant cycle.

Mr. Delaney then discussed the proposed new category of Projects of Regional Significance. MGC would like to receive input regarding large regional projects that are coming up in the near future. Mr. Delaney proposed that this category be removed from the Guidelines and

have a separate solicitation so as not to confuse the basic Community Mitigation Fund process. The Committee agreed with this approach. MGC staff will report back to this committee and make a recommendation about a new category for next year after a review of the solicitations received.

Mr. Delaney asked for comments. None being heard he moved forward.

Mr. Delaney noted that in a review of the Comm-Buys requirements, certain projects require a commitment to using minority, women and veteran firms. While not directly applicable to the CMF, he would like to add a new evaluation criterion that would allow the CMF Review Team to consider diversity in its' decision process. This evaluation criteria would have no set goals but would enable MGC to find out what communities are doing with respect to diversity.

**Discussion of Next Steps:**

Mr. Delaney noted that the Guidelines will be for public comment for a couple of weeks.

The Commission is anticipated to vote on the Guidelines November 18<sup>th</sup> with the project solicitation posted before Thanksgiving. He also noted the workshop currently scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-3.

Other business: At the November 1 Gaming Policy Advisory Committee meeting Mr. Delaney and Commissioner Hill will be presenting on the activity of the Subcommittee.

Ms. Thurlow reminded member of the next meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:30.

Chair Hill asked if there was any member who wanted to discuss something that was not on the agenda

With no further business, Commissioner Hill asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mr. Hogan and seconded by Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. It was unanimously voted to adjourn.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

**List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Agenda and Notice of Meeting
2. 2022 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines

/s/ Mary Thurlow  
Secretary