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## Section 68: Gaming Policy Advisory Committee Region A Meeting

**Date/Time:** November 16, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.  
**Place:** VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1 646 741 5293  
**PARTICIPANT CODE:** 111 740 5195

**Present:** David Bancroft- Regional Economic Development Organization  
Richard Caraviello, Chair- Medford  
John DePriest- Chelsea  
Ron Hogan- Malden  
Mayra Negron-Roche- Human Service Provider  
Paul Sheehan- Cambridge  
Keith Slattery- Everett

Joseph Delaney, MGC Community Affairs Division Chief  
Teresa Fiore, MGC Program Manager of Research and Responsible Gaming  
Jacqui Krum, Encore Boston Harbor Vice President/General Counsel  
Tania Perez, MGC Administrative/Project Assistant  
Mary Thurlow, MGC Program Manager  
Mark Vander Linden, MGC Director of Research and Responsible Gaming

*Given the unprecedented circumstances resulting from the global Coronavirus pandemic, Governor Charles Baker issued an order to provide limited relief from certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to protect the health and safety of individuals interested in attending public meetings. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee will conduct a public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.*

### Call to Order

1:30 p.m. Chair Caraviello called the Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee (“Committee”) meeting to order.

## Approval of Minutes

[1:31 p.m.](#) Mr. Hogan moved to approve the minutes from the Committee meeting of October 24, 2020 subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Mr. DePriest seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Mr. Slattery: Aye.*

*Mr. Sheehan: Aye.*

*Mr. DePriest: Aye.*

*Mr. Hogan: Aye.*

*Mr. Caraviello: Aye.*

*Mr. Bancroft: Aye.*

*Ms. Negron-Roche: Aye.*

*The motion passed 7:0.*

## Discussion of 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines

[1:32 p.m.](#) Mr. Delaney informed the Committee of the Governor's new pandemic regulations surrounding businesses including gaming facilities. He explained that the Commonwealth's casinos must currently operate at reduced hours and that Encore's hotel was closed for the time being.

Mr. Delaney then began updating the Committee on the latest draft of the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund ("CMF") Guidelines. He shared a public comment from a member of MAPC with the Committee. The comment requested small business assistance, workforce training for newly unemployed former casino staff, English language and digital literacy training, and food and housing insecurity support for families. Mr. Delaney commented that most of those recommendations are for things the CMF funds or has funded already. Mr. Delaney mentioned that the January workforce grant workshop will present some of these items as discussion points.

He stated that at the next meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("MGC"), the commissioners would vote on whether to approve the latest draft of the CMF guidelines, after which, if approved, the request for proposals for the 2021 CMF grant year will be posted on the official state procurement platform.

## Discussion of the MGC Research Agenda and Responsible Gaming

[1:39 p.m.](#) Mr. Vander Linden began his presentation about how MGC-sponsored research on the social and economic impacts of gaming facilities on the Commonwealth is used to inform policy decisions about gaming. He touched upon the responsible gaming framework developed by MGC that gaming facilities operate within. He

also explained Massachusetts Open Data Exchange where gaming data is kept for researchers to use.

Mr. Delaney asked if the reduced casino hours and operations have halted the research work. Mr. Vander Linden answered that he wasn't sure, but mentioned that there was potentially a study of the pandemic's impacts on the gaming industry.

Ms. Fiore presented on the GameSense program for the Committee. She informed members that the MGC is required to provide on-site services to help mitigate possible negative effects of gambling. GameSense service centers at casinos are there for patrons for this reason, in addition to providing problem gambling training to casino employees. Ms. Fiore also explained the Play My Way program for casino patrons to set a budget for themselves and be notified when they are approaching or exceeding that limit, and the voluntary self-exclusion program for people to pledge not to visit any gaming floors for a predetermined amount of time.

Ms. Negron-Roche inquired about any pre- and post- program evaluations. Ms. Fiore stated that these programs have been very well-received by patrons and casino staff. Mr. Vander Linden commented that participants reported improvement in gambling behaviors and health after the self-exclusion program. Ms. Negron-Roche then asked how long the average participant stays in the voluntary exclusion program. Mr. Vander Linden pointed out that since the casinos reopened, the most common duration is one year.

## **Discussion of Next Steps**

[2:20 p.m.](#)

Mr. Delaney mentioned that the following Thursday, the Commission would look at the 2021 CMF guidelines and most likely approve them, after which the request for proposals for the upcoming grant season would be posted. He then reminded the Committee that he would hold three workshops between December and January to help community representatives create better applications, spend their unused reserves, and understand the workforce grant applications better. Ms. Thurlow reminded members to spread the word throughout their communities about the upcoming grant season and that there is a public safety report coming out around March or April after which the Committee should meet to discuss. Mr. Caraviello suggested everyone plan on meeting sometime in April.

[2:24 p.m.](#)

With no further business, Chair Caraviello asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. DePriest made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bancroft seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Mr. Slattery: Aye.*

*Mr. Sheehan: Aye.*

*Mr. DePriest: Aye.*

*Mr. Hogan: Aye.*

*Mr. Caraviello: Aye.*

*Mr. Bancroft: Aye.*

*Ms. Negron-Roche: Aye.*

*The motion passed 7:0.*

2:25 p.m. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. 11/16/2020 Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee region A meeting public notice and agenda
2. 10/14/2020 Local Community Mitigation Advisory Committee region A meeting minutes
3. “Understanding the Impact of Casinos on Massachusetts Communities”, Mark Vander Linden
4. GameSense brochure

/s/ Tania J. Perez  
Secretary