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## Massachusetts Gaming Commission Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** November 23, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292  
MEETING ID: 112 680 4014

### **Call to Order**

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order agenda setting meeting #112 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”).

*The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting with a Roll Call. The following Commissioners were present:*

*Commissioner Cameron  
Commissioner O’Brien  
Commissioner Hill  
Chair Judd-Stein*

### **Approval of Agenda Setting Minutes**

*Chair Judd-Stein stated that there were no minutes to approve, and then began the agenda planning portion of the meeting.*

### **Agenda Planning for Upcoming Commission Meetings**

*The Commission discussed the anticipated agenda for the upcoming Commission meeting scheduled for December 2, 2021, and subsequent meetings as described in the attached agenda planning notes, as follows:*

Item #1 – Administrative Update- Executive Director Wells stated that she had three matters to present before the Commission. (1) Casino Onsite Updates (2) Return to Work Update – Ms. Wells stated that they will try to bring forward discussion about the requirement of boosters; and then the hybrid work-environment set and how it can best be managed. Ms. Wells stated they could return to that topic for discussion after the remainder of the agenda items were discussed, if the Chair and Commissioners desired.

Item #2 – Regulations- General Counsel Grossman indicated there are one set of regulations that will be discussed by Associate General Counsel Torrisi. Ms. Torrisi stated that there are a pair of regulations that will be discussed at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: [205 CMR 134.01: Key Gaming Employees](#) and [205 CMR 134.02: Gaming Employees](#).

Item #3 – Legislative Updates- General Counsel Grossman and Ms. Howard stated that there were not any specific updates to report but could provide a general update in terms of the end of the current legislative session if desired. Chair Judd-Stein stated that this item could be useful in terms of filings, however it is not necessary for the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting at this time, unless Commissioner Hill feels otherwise.

Item #4 – Asian CARES Report- Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, Mark Vander Linden stated that they are set for discussion of the Asian CARES Report at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and that he estimates the length of the presentation of the meeting to be approximately 30 minutes. Director Vander Linden will present in person at the Gaming Commission, and he estimates three guests will assist him in presenting remotely.

Item #5 – Suitability Review Process – Director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB), Loretta Lillios requested that this agenda item be moved to the Under Review session until the following meeting on December 16.

*Before moving to the Under Review portion of the meeting Chair Judd-Stein inquired about how to best manage the upcoming 12/2 meeting in a hybrid setting. Ms. Wells provided details on the location and camera set ups of The Commission including available conference rooms; technology available; and where staff and attendees can see and participate in the meeting. Chair Judd-Stein asked about the capacity of the panoramic view of the camera being used and its ability to capture the entire group of Commissioners.*

*Ms. Wells stated that the quality is dependent on the number of squares on the screen, referring to the participants' screens whose cameras are on. If participants have their cameras off, then they are removed from view, and the number of tiles on the screen are reduced- thus improving the visibility and size of the remaining tiles. Ms. Wells stated that they will attempt to coordinate with the people speaking on agenda items. Chair Judd-Stein sought clarification as to whether the public would attend the meeting. Ms. Wells clarified and stated that public could access only remotely for the time being. Chair Judd-Stein sought clarification about the change in attendance being a permanent change. Ms. Wells confirmed that this was an interim measure relating to the ongoing pandemic, and not a permanent change in policy.*

*Commissioner Cameron asked about the status on the equipment ordered by the Commission, and its status. Ms. Wells stated that it could be longer than two weeks.*

*Commissioner Hill asked if they would be able to place another table in front of the "Horseshoe" (referring to the physical set up in the public meeting space where the Commissioners usually sit) for ease of accommodation. Ms. Wells stated that the OWL camera system is somewhat difficult to configure given the varying heights of the tables and it would be*

*easier to view the screen in the front of the table, as well as the camera in the front of the table as well so that it can properly capture the sound of all parties in the room.*

*Commissioner Judd Stein expressed concerns that those participating in the room may have less of an experience gathering in the room, than those who are gathering and attending remotely. She wished to prepare everyone for the shift in how the meeting is explained that the meeting would be different than fully remote meetings, and fully in-person meetings.*

*Ms. Wells stated that being able to view the screens head on is helpful in experiencing the meeting and gave an example of how presenters, Commissioners and Executive Staff could be seated. Ms. Wells also stated that the upcoming meeting would be a good test run as the meeting only has one agenda item. Ms. Wells asked Chief Accounting Officer Derek Lennon to provide some feedback on how certain cameras and tech have been functioning. Mr. Lennon expressed that they are attempting to see if their existing equipment can be refashioned or implemented with new technology.*

*Chair Judd Stein asked for more information about the different types of alternative equipment that they are looking. Mr. Lennon expressed that they are evaluating the following options: (1) purchasing studio quality equipment; (2) Re-use and repurpose existing equipment that the Commission currently owns, though much of the feedback they've received is that the existing cameras and hardware they have are somewhat outdated; and (3) exploring how other public meeting spaces have implemented streaming and remote work technology to see if any of it can be implemented at MGC. Ms. Wells stated that many options are still being reviewed and discussed.*

*Ms. Wells stated that this can be a test run of the newer technological configurations and if it is not preferable to the Commissioners they can return to the existing arrangement.*

Add on- Item- Chair Judd Stein clarified that the Meeting Number was 112.

Add on- Item – Item #5 Suitability Review will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Future Meetings – Under Review**

Item #1- Regulatory Review – Ms. Wells requested that this item remain under review until a later time.

Item #2 - GPAC and Subcommittees Annual Update – Ms. Howard stated that this item will be an overview of what GPAC, and the related Subcommittees have worked on over the last year. Commissioner O'Brien is the Chair of Public Safety Subcommittee, Mr. Vander Linden is the Chair of the Addiction Services Subcommittee, and Commissioner Hill is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Community Mitigation, and each would give a brief wrap up. Ms. Howard stated that the next GPAC meeting would take place in March.

Item #3 - Responsible Gaming Framework Follow-up – Mr. Vander Linden requested to keep this item under review at this time.

Item # 4 - Review of Casino Non-Compliance Penalties– Chair Judd-Stein asked Ms. Lillios if she would like to keep this item under review, and Ms. Lillios confirmed.

Item #5 - ILEV Review Process- Chair Judd Stein expressed that she is unsure if Executive Director Bobbitt can attend the December 16 meeting but that if he was available, she'd welcome him to attend and present on how the Multicultural Council has used their funding. About ILEV affairs in General Community Affairs Division Chief Joe Delaney stated that this item is still being worked on and requested that it be kept under review at this time. Chief Joe Delaney confirmed that Commissioner Hill will be a part of the discussion.

Item #6 - MA Cultural Council Report – Chair Judd Stein stated that she and Executive Director Bobbitt will discuss this item at the December 16, meeting.

Item #7 - Gambling Advertising– Director Vander Linden stated they are currently trying to organize their data and prepare a presentation. He expects that by January his team will be ready to present.

Item #8 - Executive Director Review- Commissioner O'Brien stated that she received no feedback in terms of changing the forms, so all that remains is just to send out the schedule. Ms. Wells shared her availability in December to meet and complete the process. Chair Judd- Stein provided meeting dates in January; and anticipated that either the 12<sup>th</sup> or the 27<sup>th</sup> would be the expected date of presentation.

Add-On Item – Director Vander Linden requested that the COVID impact report be added to the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Add-On Item – Director Vander Linden requested the opportunity to present information on the DUI Report being completed by Researcher Christopher Bruce done that is studying possible correlations between DUI rates and Casinos. Director Vander Linden stated that he is flexible with the order of the full report either going in front of the full Commission first or in front of the Public Safety Subcommittee that Commissioner O'Brien chairs.

*Chair Judd-Stein inquired if Ms. Thurlow had any Community Mitigation updates to give. Ms. Thurlow stated that they have not yet received applications from Community mitigation applications but expects to report on the applications received before the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and expects to present the applications to the Commission sometime early next year.*

*Chair Judd Stein expressed her gratitude to the Mangers within the organization: Information Technology (IT) to Katrina Jagroop-Gomes, the MGC's Chief Information Officer; To Dr. Lightbown in the Racing Division, to General Counsel Todd Grossman and the Legal Team. To the Finance Manager and his team for their hard work and to the HR Team. To the Community Affairs Chief Joe Delaney and his team. To the Communications Team, to Austin Bumpus for his commitment and support of the Commission and to Sarah Magazine Yount. To IEB Director Loretta Lillios and her Team. To Executive Assistant, Ms. Crystal Howard. To Research and Responsible Gaming Director Mark Vander Linden and his Team. Chair Judd-Stein expressed*

*her gratitude to Executive Director Karen Wells, and to her fellow Commissioners as well, for their hard work this past year.*

*Commissioners Cameron, O'Brien, Hill all expressed their gratitude for the staff, and wished the entire staff happy and healthy holiday.*

*Having no further business, Commissioner Cameron moved to adjourn the meeting.  
Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

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

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated November 18, 2021.