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## Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** November 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 958 2767

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 Gayle Cameron  
Commissioner Brad Hill  
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

#### 1. [Call to Order](#) (0:06)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 359<sup>th</sup> public meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Roll call attendance was conducted, and all four commissioners were present for the meeting.

#### 2. [Administrative Update](#) (0:57)

Executive Director Karen Wells noted that an application to conduct horse racing in Sturbridge has been withdrawn after the zoning vote in the town. Accordingly, the required public meetings were cancelled. The application for racing at Plainridge Park is still active and will be reviewed as planned.

##### a [On-Site Casino Updates](#) (2:19)

IEB Director Loretta Lillios noted that the City of Springfield lifted its citywide mask mandate on November 1 which applies to MGM Springfield though the casino is continuing to require masking of employees. Further, an additional floor of the hotel is scheduled to open on November 18.

Assistant Director of Investigations & Enforcement Bureau/Gaming Agents Division Chief Bruce Band reported that poker at MGM Springfield reopening was a smashing success and long waits to get into the area. There is no plan now to add poker tables. The reopening brought back approximately 40 jobs. The other two properties seemed to be operating normally as they were prior to the pandemic related closing.

b. [Internal Re-Opening Plan Update](#) (4:55)

Executive Director Wells reported that the reopening of the Boston office has commenced and has been successful. She thanked everyone for their understanding and cooperation, specifically the IT team. The hybrid meeting plan is continually being planned and refined.

3. [Racing Division- Plainridge Park Casino Rescheduled Racing Dates](#) (6:31)

Director of Racing Dr. Alexandra Lightbown reported that PPC in conjunction with the HHANE has proposed two makeup racing days due to cancellations from August 12 and 13 with November 7 and 14 which would bring them back up to the 110 days required.

Commissioner Cameron moved approve PPC's request to reschedule the racing days from August 12 and 13 to November 7 and 14. 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.*

4. [Community Affairs](#) (8:30)

a. [Encore Boston Harbor Quarterly Report](#) (8:37)

Chief of Community Affairs Joe Delaney introduced the Encore Boston Harbor's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report. The report was presented by General Counsel Jacqui Krum and Executive Director- Legal Juliana Catanzariti. Ms. Krum began by introducing EBH's new president Jenny Holaday. Ms. Holaday offered some brief remarks including an update as to EBH's poker operation. Live poker will be resuming around February 1, 2022, opening with 12 tables and a reservation system, Monday through Friday. Approximately 40-50 employees will return.

Ms. Krum and Ms. Catanzariti then presented the quarterly report as contained in the Commissioners' Packet. There were follow-up questions and comments from the Commissioners.

b. [Community Mitigation Fund Reserve Applications](#) (41:39)

- i. Agawam. Mr. Delaney presented a request from the Town of Agawam to make use of \$100,000 of its allocated reserve funds for the redesign of the intersection at Suffield Street, Cooper Street, and Rowley Street including the study of alternatives and associated project costs.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the use of \$100,000 of reserve funds by the Town of Agawam for the redesign of the intersection at Suffield Street, Cooper Street, and Rowley Street including the study of alternatives and associated project costs as discussed at the meeting and described in the materials in the Commissioners' Packet. And, further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

- ii. [Foxboro and Wrentham](#) (46:43)

Mr. Delaney presented a request from the Towns of Foxboro and Wrentham to make use of their respective remaining reserve funds to complete Phase 3 of the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Towns of Foxboro and Wrentham be authorized to combine the remainder of their reserve funding in the amounts of \$10,000 and \$23,820, respectively, to hire a marketing consultant to complete Phase 3 of the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative as discussed at the meeting and described in the materials in the Commissioners' Packet. And, further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## 5. [Research and Responsible Gaming- Gambling Harms and the Prevention Paradox in Massachusetts](#) (50:00)

Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden introduced the Prevention Paradox in Massachusetts report. He also discussed the MGC research snapshot that was included in the Commissioners' Packet.

Marie-Claire Flores-Pajot, MGC Research Manager, offered introductory remarks relative to the report and then introduced Dr. Rachel Volberg, SEIGMA Principal Investigator and Professor at UMass-Amherst. Dr. Volberg presented a PowerPoint outlining the findings contained in the report (a copy of the PowerPoint and the Report are both included in the Commissioners' Packet).

**6. [Recognition of Former Commissioner Enrique Zuniga](#) (1:46:37)**

The Commissioners and members of the MGC staff offered words of congratulations and thanks, and expressed their gratitude for the extensive efforts and contributions of former Commissioner Enrique Zuniga who joined the meeting and shared his own warm sentiments.

**7. [Finance- MGC First Quarter Budget](#) (2:21:19)**

Derek Lennon, MGC Chief Financial and Accounting Officer, joined by Agnes Beaulieu, MGC Finance and Budget Office Manager, and Doug O'Donnell, MGC Revenue Manager, presented the first fiscal year 2022 budget update as described in the accompanying memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet. There was also discussion relative to the hiring of a full-time communications director versus keeping it a contract position.

Commissioner Cameron moved that the Commission increase the Gaming Control Fund spending projections by a total of \$403,000 and increase the FY22 Community Mitigation Fund budget by \$100,000 for the reasons discussed at the meeting and described in the materials in the Commissioners' Packet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**8. [Other Business](#) (2:38:58) - none**

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*  
*Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.*  
*The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned.

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

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated November 2, 2021
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the November 4, 2021, meeting (posted on massgaming.com)