



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 3, 2020 –10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID: 111 767 0774

Present: Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga
Commissioner Bruce Stebbins
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

Given the unprecedented circumstances, 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 the public and individuals interested in attending public meetings during the global Coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Commission conducted this public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.

Call to Order

10:00 a.m. Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order public meeting #296 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission").

The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting with a Roll-Call Vote.

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The Chair made opening remarks regarding the temporary closure of the three casinos, following the governor's order, until March 29, 2020. She thanked everyone for their ongoing commitment to help reduce the reach and rigor of this public health crisis. Director of Communications Elaine Driscoll and Digital Communications Coordinator Austin Bumpus are requesting that people refer to

the newsletter published regarding COVID-19 at www.massgaming.com, located at the bottom of the page.

The Chair also noted her open letter published on the Commission's [blog](#) offering the agency's heartfelt thanks to all of the front-line workers, the leadership of the licensees, and all Commission staff for ensuring the continuity of the Commission's operational and regulatory duties.

Next, she provided details on the newsletter, stating that it contains a series of announcements about helpful resources and other related initiatives for licensees, small businesses, and casino and racing workers that Ms. Driscoll and Mr. Bumpus will frequently be updating. The Commissioners each thanked everyone involved as well.

Executive Staff Update

[10:10 a.m.](#)

Operational Status of Gaming Licensees in light of the Coronavirus

Interim Executive Director Karen Wells stated that Governor Baker has extended his order, to now close non-essential businesses and prohibit gatherings of more than ten people. As a result, she recommends that the Commission extend the temporary extension of the casinos to parallel the governor's order until May 4, 2020, at noon. She also recommended that the Commission continue to review and assess the public health conditions in cooperation with appropriate authorities and gaming licensees, then reconvene before May 4 to make a determination regarding casino operations. The Commissioners all concurred with Ms. Wells' recommendations.

[10:12 a.m.](#)

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission extend the temporary suspension of operations at the three gaming establishments initially instituted on March 14, 2020, and extended on March 25 to go through May 4, 2020, at noon, consistent with Governor Baker's Order, issued on March 31, 2020, and the Commission's statutory obligations. She further moved that the Commission continue to review and assess the public health conditions in cooperation with appropriate authorities and the gaming licensees and make a determination as to the status of operations in advance of May 4, 2020.

Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

[10:13 a.m.](#) **Operational Status of Simulcasting and Advance Deposit Wagering (“ADW”)**
Dr. Lightbown stated that she has been in communication with all three simulcast licensees who have previously agreed to suspend operations. They are aware of the governor’s extension of the suspension of operations for non-essential businesses to May 4, 2020, and agree to abide by it. The account wagering conducted through Suffolk Downs and Plainridge Racecourse is not on-site, so it continues to operate. Dr. Lightbown recommends similarly for the simulcast licensees to what Ms. Wells recommended for the gaming licensees.

[10:14 a.m.](#) Acting General Counsel Todd Grossman stated that he is not seeking a formal vote from the Commission on this matter as the assent of these operators to remain closed until May 4, 2020, is sufficient.

[10:16 a.m.](#) *With no further business, Commissioner Stebbins moved to adjourn.
Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.*

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated April 1, 2020

/s/ Bruce Stebbins
Secretary