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## Massachusetts Gaming Commission

### Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** May 27, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 234 9794

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 Jordan Maynard

Commissioner Bradford Hill

Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

Commissioner Paul Brodeur

#### 1. [Call to Order](#) (00:06)

Interim Chair Maynard called to order the 555<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and Commissioners Maynard, Hill, Skinner and Brodeur were present for the meeting.

#### 2. [Community Mitigation Fund](#) (00:54)

##### a. Community Mitigation Fund Applications

Chair Maynard expressed that this was his favorite meeting of the year, as it fulfilled the statutory obligation of the Commission to expend monies in the Community Mitigation Fund to assist host and surrounding communities. Commissioner Hill echoed this sentiment, noting the seriousness with which communities and staff approach these requests, and added that the Fund was a lifeline for some important work.

Chair Maynard introduced Chief of the Community Affairs Division, Joe Delaney. Chief Delaney stated that today's meeting would be the first day of Community Mitigation Fund application reviews before the Commission. He stated that the applications were submitted for Fiscal Year 2026, and that the Community Affairs Division received 35 applications for a total of

nearly 25 million dollars. He stated that the Community Affairs Division assembled a staff review team to review the applications. He thanked the Review Team's members: Bonnie Andrews, Zac Mercer, Jaden O' Rourke-Nelson, Lily Wallace, Mary Thurlow, Jenna Hentoff and Judi Young for their hard work and thoughtful consideration of the applications. The team met with applicants, and some applications were modified during the review process. Chief Delaney also thanked Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Brodeur for their input during the application process.

Chief Delaney stated that today's meeting would focus on 23 applications, covering all regional agency grants (regional planning, public safety, workforce development) and a portion of the municipal block grants for Category 2 communities (around Plainridge Park Casino) and Region B communities (around MGM Springfield). The remaining applications will be presented at the June 17, 2025 meeting. Chief Delaney stated that many applications included waiver requests for funding that exceeded the established grant allotments. He explained that the Review Team assessed the eligibility of projects under these waiver requests, and had provided context, but the ultimate decision on granting waivers would rest with the Commission.

Chief Delaney stated that he would provide a brief overview of each application, and include any pertinent factors raised by the Review Team, as well as the details regarding a waiver request, if applicable. He would then yield for Commissioner discussion.

#### i. Regional Agency Grant Applications

##### I. [Regional Planning Grant Applications](#) (06:42)

Chief Delaney then introduced the first category of Regional Planning Grant Applications from specific agencies.

##### a. Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Starting first with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Chief Delaney stated that the MAPC was seeking \$300,000 for the Chelsea Everett Greenway Connector Preliminary Design project, which exceeded their FY2026 allocation of \$250,000 from the Fund. Chief Delaney noted that the Review Team recommended full funding of \$300,000 if the waiver was approved by the Commissioners. *A summary of the MAPC Application was included on page 5 of the Commissioners' packet.* Chief Delaney explained that MAPC's request for an additional \$50,000 was to provide flexibility in planning and ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement in Chelsea and Everett.

Commissioner Skinner expressed concern about granting waivers for more than funding allocations; noting that it circumvented the intent of the block grant structure and may set a bad precedent going forward. She reflected that the total amount of potential waivers, approximately 5 million dollars, may go beyond what the Commission intended when considering the waiver program.

Chair Maynard noted that the statute, G.L. c. 23K, § 61B, gave the Commission a great deal of discretion to expend monies in the Fund. The Chair emphasized the need to get money from the Fund “out the door” and to communities. Commissioner Brodeur echoed this sentiment and stated that as a new Commissioner, he supported waivers if a good value was present, noting that the statute does not contemplate block grants or caps. He stated they should fund anything that presented a reasonable connection and nexus to casino gaming. Commissioner Hill also voiced his support for the project.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Regional Planning Grant Application from the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$300,000, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners’ Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill:*                   *Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner:*           *Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur:*           *Aye.*

*Chair Maynard:*                   *Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

b. [Pioneer Valley Planning Commission](#) (16:24)

Chief Delaney then introduced the application from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). *A summary of the PVPC Application was included on page 6 of the Commissioners’ packet.* He stated that PVPC requested \$200,000 for a traffic study, which was less than their FY2026 allocation of \$250,000, so no waiver was needed for this grant request. The project aimed to provide comprehensive, updated traffic data and analysis related to the impacts of MGM Springfield on the city and surrounding communities. Chief Delaney explained that PVPC proposed partnering with the City of Springfield, which intended to contribute an additional \$120,000 towards the project. He stated that the Review Team recommended full funding of the requested amount.

c. [Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District](#) (17:20)

Chief Delaney then introduced the application from the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SERPEDD). *A summary of the SERPEDD Application was included on page 7 of the Commissioners’ packet.* He stated that SERPEDD had requested \$235,000 for a traffic study, which was less than their FY2026 allocation of \$250,000, so no waiver was needed. Chief Delaney explained that the project involves a mobility and transportation analysis around the Plainridge Park Casino to understand regional commuting patterns and localized impacts on Category 2 communities (Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield,

North Attleboro, Plainville, Wrentham). He concluded by stating that the Review Team recommended full funding of the requested amount.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following Regional Planning Grant Applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04:

- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in the amount of \$200,000; and
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District in the amount of \$235,000.

Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill:* Aye.

*Commissioner Skinner:* Aye.

*Commissioner Brodeur:* Aye.

*Chair Maynard:* Aye.

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

## II. [Regional Public Safety Grant Applications](#) (19:08)

Prior to the discussion of the Regional Public Safety applications, Chief Delaney noted that Commissioner O'Brien had asked to be able to participate in the discussion and review of these applications, given her connection to the Attorney General's Office. He asked the Chair if he would like to review the applications now or wait until the June 17, 2025 public meeting. The Chair noted that Commissioner O'Brien had stated that she was comfortable if discussions proceeded in her absence but that she preferred that the Commission wait to vote upon the applications until she was present.

### a. [Attorney General's Office](#) (19:47)

Chief Delaney then introduced the application from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO). He stated that the AGO had requested \$259,800 as continuation of a grant from the previous year, aiming to address domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. He explained that funds would extend the employment of a specialized Assistant Attorney General, partially fund a Victim Witness Advocate, cover State Police overtime for AGO criminal investigations, and support a conference on the above impacts. *A summary of the AGO's Application was included on page 8 of the Commissioners' packet.* He concluded by stating that the Review Team recommended full funding of the requested amount.

### b. [Hampden County District Attorney](#) (20:28)

Chief Delaney summarized the request from the Hampden County District Attorney's Office (HCDAO). The HCDAO requested \$75,000, which was less than their FY2026 allocation of \$100,000, so no waiver was required. Chief Delaney explained that the grant would partially fund the salaries of personnel who review, administratively manage, and work with victims on casino-related cases. He added that the project addresses the increase in criminal cases handled by the District Attorney due to the introduction of casinos and was recommended by the review team for full funding. *A summary of the HCDAO Application was included on page 9 of the Commissioners' packet.*

c. [Hampden County Sheriff's Department](#) (21:18)

Chief Delaney provided an overview of the application received from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department (HCSD). The HCSD was requesting \$400,000 for ongoing lease payments for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center (WMRWC). The funds addressed the impact of increased lease payments resulting from the WMRWC's relocation due to the MGM Springfield's development at its previous location. Chief Delaney explained that the Commission had consistently funded this project at \$400,000 per year since 2016. Commissioner Hill noted that the Commission attended a tour of the facility and recalled its unanimous funding in the previous year. Chief Delaney concluded by stating that the Review Team recommended full funding of the requested amount. *A summary of the HCSD Application was included on page 10 of the Commissioners' packet.*

d. [Suffolk County District Attorney](#) (22:31)

Chief Delaney provided an overview of the application submitted by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO). *A summary of the SCDAO Application was included on page 11 of the Commissioners' packet.* SCDAO requested \$100,000 to establish a Safe Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) prosecutor in Chelsea District Court to focus on priority prosecutions like narcotics trafficking, drug-related overdoses, illegal firearms, violent crimes, and gang-related activity, which have been exacerbated by the casino's presence. Chief Delaney stated that the Review Team recommended funding the project in the full amount requested.

The Chair noted to the public that these four applications would be held for a vote until the June 17, 2025 meeting when Commissioner O'Brien will be present given her appointment by the Attorney General.

III. [Regional Workforce Development Grant Applications](#) (23:59)

Chief Delaney then presented the two regional workforce development grant applications to the Commissioners.

a. Holyoke Community College/Springfield Technical  
Community College/Springfield Public Schools

Starting first with the joint application from Holyoke Community College/Springfield Technical Community College/Springfield Public Schools (HCC/STCC/SPS) for their "WorkReady" program, Chief Delaney stated that the request from HCC/STCC/SPS was for \$807,600. Chief

Delaney explained that the project was a continuation of the "WorkReady" program that provided various services, including high school equivalency programs, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, occupational training (e.g., Line Cook, Hotel Front Desk/Room Attendant), and digital literacy courses. The programs also include tours and interview workshops with MGM Springfield to facilitate employment at the property. Chief Delaney noted that their allotment was \$750,000, so the application also included a waiver request of \$57,600. This additional funding was sought by STCC Workforce Development to improve bilingual support by hiring bilingual instructors, developing multi-language materials and Spanish language high school equivalency test prep courses. He concluded by stating that the Review Team supported granting the request and the waiver in the full amount. *A summary of the Application from HCC/STCC/SPS was included on pages 12-13 of the Commissioners' packet.*

The Commissioners shared their perspectives on the waiver request from HCC/STCC/SPS. Commissioner Hill supported the waiver, emphasizing the critical need for bilingual education in the area. Commissioner Skinner shared her broader concerns about granting waivers but acknowledged that these specific requests by the applicant aligned with the Fund's purpose, stating her intention to vote with the majority. Commissioner Brodeur thanked Commissioner Skinner for noting her concerns and stated that he also supported the waiver, highlighting the necessity of cultural competence and bilingual support for the program's effectiveness, noting that workforce development is a core objective of the Fund. Chair Maynard echoed the sentiment of getting the funds to communities, highlighting the Commission's broad discretion under the relevant statute.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Regional Workforce Development Grant Application from Holyoke Community College for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$807,600, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill:*                      *Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner:*                *Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur:*                *Aye.*

*Chair Maynard:*                         *Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

b. [MassHire Metro North](#) (30:18)

Chief Delaney then presented the application submitted by MassHire Metro North. He stated that the request for \$750,000 would allow the Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium (MBRHC) to continue to provide workforce development programs in the greater Boston area. With nine partner organizations, the MBRHC aimed to serve at least 1,700 residents through offering services like ESOL training, job readiness, occupational skills training, digital literacy,



career counseling, and support services, utilizing a "funnel of services" approach. Partners include Action for Equity, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, BEST Corporation, La Colaborativa, Community Work Services, International Institute of New England, Somerville Community Corporation, New England Culinary Arts Training, and YMCA of Greater Boston. *A summary of the Application from MassHire Metro North was included on page 14 of the Commissioners' packet.* Chief Delaney concluded by stating that the Review Team recommended full funding for the project.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the Regional Workforce Development Grant Application from MassHire Metro North for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$750,000 for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.*

*Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

b. [Municipal Block Grant Applications](#) (31:57)

i. Category 2 Communities

Chief Delaney stated that the Commission would review municipal block grants from the Category 2 communities that were located near the Plainridge Park Casino (PPC).

I. [Attleboro](#) (31:59)

Chief Delaney stated that the City of Attleboro requested \$49,900 out of their \$60,700 allocation to purchase two Speed Radar Traffic Trailers to help control speeds on Routes 1 and 1A, major routes leading to PPC. He stated that the Review Team agreed this directly mitigated the identified impacts of the casino, noting that this type of equipment purchase was consistent with previous CMF grants. *A summary of the Application from the City of Attleboro was included on page 15 of the Commissioners' packet.*

II. [Foxborough](#) (32:53)

Chief Delaney reported that the Town of Foxborough had requested \$399,300 with an original allocation of \$64,500 from the Fund. He stated that the request included a waiver for \$334,800, representing a 67% increase over the entire Category 2 region's \$500,000 allocation. The project would be a continuation of the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative, aiming to boost tourism and economic activity in Foxborough, Plainville, and Wrentham through a comprehensive marketing strategy, especially ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. He noted that

while the project could proceed without the waiver at a reduced scope, the request aimed to expand the audience reach to additional markets, which the applicant felt was critical given the upcoming FIFA World Cup. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Foxborough was included on pages 16 -17 of the Commissioners' packet.*

### III. [Mansfield](#) (35:36)

Chief Delaney stated that the Town of Mansfield had requested \$147,700, including a waiver for \$84,700 beyond their \$63,000 allocation. The request covered three public safety projects: a continuation of a Hotel Call Reduction project for supplemental police patrols, officer training initiatives, including de-escalation, human trafficking, money laundering, and the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for police cruisers. The town cited a \$2 million budget deficit as the reason for the waiver request, stating all proposed projects relied entirely on CMF support. Chief Delaney stated that the Review Team did determine that each individual project was eligible under CMF guidelines, and ultimately did recommend the projects. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Mansfield was included on pages 18-20 of the Commissioners' packet.*

### IV. [North Attleboro](#) (37:20)

Chief Delaney stated that the Town of North Attleboro requested \$1,572,350, including a very large waiver of \$1,490,650 beyond their \$81,700 allocation. He stated that the request detailed two projects: Police Traffic Mitigation (purchase of license plate recognition cameras, radar speed signs, and police training) and a major transportation project for the reconstruction of the Route 152/Route 106 intersection in North Attleboro and Plainville. He stated that the latter project was a \$7.5 million project with \$3.9 million stemming from a MassWorks grant. Chief Delaney acknowledged that the waiver request was deemed "very significant" as it was nearly three times the entire \$500,000 earmarked for the Category 2 region and over 18 times North Attleboro's base grant. *A summary of North Attleboro's Application was included on pages 21-22 of the Commissioners' packet.*

Commissioner Brodeur voiced his support of the large transportation project, emphasizing that transportation was a major impact of gaming development and that this project would have a regional effect with significant local contribution. Chair Maynard thanked Commissioner Brodeur for sharing his sentiments.

### V. [Plainville](#) (40:48)

Chief Delaney stated that Plainville was requesting \$153,300 with no waiver needed. He noted that \$21,400 of this request would be transferred to Foxborough for the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative. He summarized that Plainville's identified projects included contributions to the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative, Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR/ALERT) Training and Equipment for police, fire, and EMS, a Distracted and Impaired Driving Safety Education Initiative, and the installation of License Plate Readers (LPRs). He noted that the Review Team agreed all projects were eligible and would help mitigate identified



impacts, noting consistency with previous CMF funding. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Plainville was included on pages 23-24 of the Commissioners' packet.*

VI. [Wrentham](#) (42:15)

Chief Delaney stated that the Town of Wrentham had requested \$155,200, including a waiver for \$78,400 beyond their \$76,800 allocation. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Wrentham was included on pages 25-26 of the Commissioners' packet.* He noted that the application included funding for the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative and a public safety request for two mobile license plate readers, two mini message boards, and police traffic enforcement on routes to PPC. He added that if the full waiver was granted, \$76,800 would be transferred to Foxborough for the Regional Destination Marketing Initiative.

ii. [Region B Communities](#) (43:28)

I. Agawam

Chief Delaney then presented the Region B Community Block Grant Applications to the Commission. Starting first with the town of Agawam, Chief Delaney reported that the Town was requesting a total \$785,465, including a waiver request for \$428,065 beyond their \$357,400 allocation. He explained that their request covered multiple public safety and transportation projects, including Aerial Truck Response Training (\$44,300), Elevator Rescue Operations Training (\$19,500), purchase of Flock Falcon license plate recognition (LPR) cameras (\$57,900), and Advanced Vehicle Extrication Equipment (\$118,200). He noted that a request for an EMS vehicle was also requested but that the Review Team was only recommending 25% of that funding due to quantifying a direct casino impact. The transportation project involved an additional \$55,800 for the reconstruction of the Suffield-Cooper-Rowley intersection. This was a continuation of a project previously funded by the CMF. Chief Delaney stated that the Review Team found all proposed projects eligible as directly mitigating identified impacts, noting that equipment purchases were consistent with previous CMF funding initiatives. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Agawam was included on pages 27-30 of the Commissioners' packet.*

II. [Chicopee](#) (47:04)

Chief Delaney reported that the City of Chicopee had requested \$341,100, which matched their allocation. He noted that no waiver was needed for this request. The projects identified by the city included the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras and LPRs for public safety (\$75,000), Phase 2 of the Chicopee Center Streetscapes project (\$183,700), and the operation and administration of their participation in the regional ValleyBike Bikeshare Program (\$82,400). *A summary of the Application from the City of Chicopee was included on pages 31-32 of the Commissioners' packet.* Chief Delaney noted that the Review Team agreed that these projects address the identified impacts of the gaming establishment and recommended full funding for this request.

### III. [East Longmeadow](#) (48:30)

Moving onto the Town of East Longmeadow, Chief Delaney stated that the Town had requested \$350,300 against their allocation of \$352,000. Accordingly, no waiver was requested. He reported that projects within the request included a conceptual design of the Center Town District for Economic Development (\$22,000), Ambulance Equipment Improvement (hydraulic rescue tools) (\$74,600), Lifepak35 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators (\$129,300), a Lighted Mobile Sign Trailer (\$19,000), Traffic Cameras (\$22,200), and a Rotary Redesign Feasibility Study for the East Longmeadow Rotary (\$60,000). Chief Delaney explained that the Town also requested seven Radar Units; however, the Review Team recommended partial funding for six units (\$20,100), including replacement of outdated units for consistency purposes as there were only six vehicles to equip. *A summary of the Application from the Town of East Longmeadow was included on pages 33-36 of the Commissioners' packet.*

### IV. [Hampden](#) (51:37)

Chief Delaney reported that the Town of Hampden was requesting \$75,000, matching their yearly allocation from the fund. Accordingly, no waiver was requested for this project. The requested funds would be utilized for creation of an Outdoor Marketing Plan to promote Hampden's outdoor spaces and amenities to attract visitors and support local businesses. Chief Delaney explained that the Town's project aimed to capitalize on Hampden's proximity to MGM Springfield by attracting visitors to local commerce to address both the positive and negative economic impacts of the casino. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Hampden was included on page 37 of the Commissioners' packet.*

### V. [Longmeadow](#) (52:15)

Chief Delaney stated that the Town of Longmeadow had requested \$324,000 against an allocation of \$324,800. The Review Team initially recommended partial funding of \$216,000 because one project was deemed ineligible. Chief Delaney noted that the Review Team reached out to representatives from Longmeadow to see if they could replace the ineligible sidewalk project (\$108,000) with another eligible one before the Commission's vote. He stated that the Team anticipated receiving an update from the Town tomorrow (May 28, 2025) and proposed deferring the vote on this application to the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting if possible. He stated that he would walk the commissioners through the proposed projects. Projects that were recommended by the Review team included Increased Rescue Capability initiatives (new emergency medical equipment for \$108,000) and a Traffic Camera Project (\$108,000). *A summary of the Application from the Town of Longmeadow was included on pages 38-39 of the Commissioners' packet.*

Commissioners offered their perspectives on allowing an applicant to submit new projects or correct an application after the posted deadline and the implications of whether it was in contradiction of the intended Guidelines for the fiscal year grant cycle. Commissioner Skinner expressed reservations about accepting new projects after the application deadline. She stated that she viewed it as a new application, rather than a modification, and that the Town should wait for a future funding cycle. She stated that acceptance of a new project after the official deadline could potentially establish a bad precedent or an unwieldy expectation for future funding cycles.

Chair Maynard stated that he supported deferring the vote on this request. He stated that he was interpreting the situation as a modification of an application that came in a timely fashion, which he believed was consistent with past practices.

Commissioner Hill stated that he agreed with deferring the vote to prevent Longmeadow from being zeroed out and voiced his support to allow the Town to have another opportunity to receive funds.

Ultimately the Commissioners reached consensus to defer a vote on this application until the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

VI. [Northampton](#) (59:51)

Chief Delaney stated that the City of Northampton requested \$75,000, matching their fiscal year allocation. He stated that the funds would be used for a Digital Marketing Campaign to expand the city's reach and strengthen the local economy. Chief Delaney explained that the project aimed to help Northampton compete with MGM Springfield in the hospitality and entertainment industries by attracting visitors and countering reallocated spending and marketing disadvantages. He noted that the Review Team agreed this effort would help Northampton compete effectively and recommended the project. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Longmeadow was included on page 40 of the Commissioners' packet.*

VII. [West Springfield](#) (1:00:29)

Chief Delaney reported that the Town of West Springfield requested full funding of \$518,300, matching their fiscal year allocation. He stated that their projects included Wayfinding signage in Downtown West Springfield (\$99,600), Fire Training (\$15,000), Police, Fire/EMS, and Dispatch Support (\$250,000), Traffic Enforcement (\$33,000), and Bike Share Program Expansion (\$100,400). Chief Delaney offered an explanation that the funding for Police, Fire/EMS, and Dispatch Support was a continuation of funding based on a prior "one-year look back study," with the Review Team noting a 47% increase in calls at local hotels/motels as continuing evidence of impact.

Chief Delaney noted that an initial request from the Town for EMS Response Bicycles (\$6,500) was withdrawn, with funds reallocated to the Bike Share Expansion project. A Prisoner Transport Vehicle was also requested, but the Review Team recommended only 25% funding (up to \$20,300) due to limited direct casino impact data. Chief Delaney stated that the Town accepted that feedback and reallocated the remaining funds to the Bike Share program. *A summary of the Application from the Town of West Springfield was included on pages 41-44 of the Commissioners' packet.*

VIII. [Wilbraham](#) (1:07:13)

Chief Delaney stated that the final application to review at today's meeting would be from the Town of Wilbraham. He stated that the town was requesting \$517,000, including a waiver for \$203,200 beyond their fiscal year allocation of \$313,800. He stated that their project detailed reconstruction of Springfield Street/Stony Hill Road intersection. He explained that this project addressed increased traffic congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts on a major route (Springfield Street/Route 20) leading to the casino. The Review Team determined the project was eligible and met the minimum traffic requirements.

Chief Delaney stated that the waiver the Town was requesting was deemed to meet the intent of funding significant projects that could not otherwise be fully funded under the town's annual CMF allocation, as the project was eligible for a \$517,000 subsidy under CMF guidelines, but the town's base allocation was only \$313,800. *A summary of the Application from the Town of West Springfield was included on pages 41-44 of the Commissioners' packet.*

c. [Commissioner Discussion](#) (1:08:56)

After Chief Delaney concluded his presentation of all the Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) applications, the Commissioners engaged in a broader discussion about the overall process, particularly concerning waivers, replacing ineligible projects, and the interpretation of grant guidelines.

Commissioner Hill began by commending the review team for their excellent work and comprehensive presentation. He stated that he agreed with the recommendations and the proposed waivers, indicating his readiness to proceed with the motions for approval of the Category 2 and Region B applications.

Commissioner Skinner also expressed her deep appreciation for the review team's diligent work in reviewing all applications but reiterated her concern regarding the practice of allowing communities to submit new projects or replace ineligible ones after the initial application deadline, and after the review committee had already made its recommendations. She additionally raised concerns regarding the requirement in the guidelines that funds are to supplement, not supplant, existing funding initiatives. She expressed concern that some waivers, especially those requested due to budget deficits, could be seen as supplanting rather than supplementing. She noted it may also be setting aside the intention of the Guidelines. Commissioner Skinner emphasized the importance of explicit discussion and consistent application of guidelines, suggesting that if a "liberal interpretation" was intended, it should be formally stated, and discussed comprehensively by the Commission, rather than being an incidental outcome of application reviews. She worried that the failure to do so could threaten the credibility of the Commission. She concluded by affirming her support for funding communities and worthy projects but stressed the Commission's responsibility for diligence and consistency.

Chair Maynard thanked Commissioner Skinner for her statements. He reiterated the Commission's broad statutory discretion to expend monies in the fund to assist the host community and surrounding communities. He emphasized the need to get the money to communities, especially given the current financial climate, and expressed a desire to re-evaluate

how grants are structured in the future if the funding was restored to the Community Mitigation Fund. He stated that he interpreted today's discussion as a public conversation about how commissioners interpret the guidelines.

Commissioner Hill reiterated that, in his view, the Commission was not "setting aside guidelines" but rather operating within the rules they had already voted on, including the waiver process. He also confirmed that allowing towns to substitute projects during the review process has been consistent with past practices during his tenure on the Review Committee.

Commissioner Brodeur stated that as a newer member of the Commission, without prior experience in structuring the Guidelines, he focused on identifying a value proposition for each request. He asserted that the block grant structure, caps, and waivers were Commission-created and thus offered flexibility. He voiced his support for granting waivers if the value was present for the investment. Commissioner Brodeur also distinguished between simply filling budget gaps and addressing legitimate casino impacts that might require new funding due to changed financial circumstances.

Chief Delaney offered clarification surrounding the process for replacing or modifying projects. He explained that in previous years, the Review Team would inform communities if a project was unlikely to be recommended, and those communities would then proactively suggest replacements. This year, the team made a more concerted effort to actively work with communities to cure those problems to ensure more money was disbursed, given the current financial climate.

Commissioner Skinner differentiated the current approach in procedure by noting that this year, the Review Committee had explicitly told a community a project was not going to be recommended and to submit an alternative project after the Committee had already finalized its comprehensive recommendations for the Commission. She stated that she welcomed further discussion with Chief Delaney to understand the process, but from her viewpoint, there was a different approach being taken here than in years prior.

After concluding discussions, Commissioner Hill stated that this had been a very fruitful conversation and looked forward to continuing discussions in the future. He then stated he was ready to make a motion regarding the requests discussed previously in the meeting. The Chair stated he was ready to accept a motion.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following Municipal Block Grant Applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04:

- City of Attleboro in the amount of \$49,900;
- Town of Plainville in the amount of \$153,300, of which \$21,400 will be transferred to the Town of Foxborough;

- City of Chicopee in the amount of \$341,100;
- Town of Hampden in the amount \$75,000;
- City of Northampton in the amount of \$75,000; and
- Town of West Springfield in the amount of \$518,300.

Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.*

*Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Municipal Block Grant Application from the Town of Foxborough for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$399,300, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04.

Commissioner Hill further moved that the Commission approve the Municipal Block Grant Application from the Town of Mansfield for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$147,700, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04.

Commissioner Hill further moved that the Commission approve the Municipal Block Grant Application from the Town of North Attleboro for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$1,572,350, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04.

Commissioner Hill further moved that the Commission approve the Municipal Block Grant Application from the Town of Wrentham for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$155,200, including the amount of their waiver request and of which \$76,800 will be transferred to the Town of Foxborough, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04.



Commissioner Hill further moved that the Commission approve the Municipal Block Grant Application from the Town of Wilbraham for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$517,000, including the amount of their waiver request, for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motions.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill:*                   *Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner:*           *Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur:*           *Aye.*

*Chair Maynard:*                   *Aye.*

*The motions passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve in part the following Municipal Block Grant Applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the purposes described in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and for the reasons described therein and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating these awards in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04:

- Town of Agawam in the amount of \$321,500; and
- Town of East Longmeadow in the amount of \$347,200.

Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill:*                   *Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner:*           *Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur:*           *Aye.*

*Chair Maynard:*                   *Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Chief Delaney offered his thanks to Mary Thurlow and Lily Wallace who were instrumental in preparing and evaluating the applications received this year. The Commissioners thanked staff, and each expressed their firm support for supporting the communities within the Commonwealth. The Chair thanked the commissioners for their contributions and praised them for their engagement on this very important issue.

### 3. Commissioner Updates

No Commissioner Updates were noted.

### 4. [Other Business](#) (1:54:08)

No other business was brought forward at this meeting.

Commissioner Brodeur moved to adjourn. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.*

*Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Meeting Adjourned.*

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

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#), dated May 22, 2025
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the May 27, 2025 meeting (posted on massgaming.com)