



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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

PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 968 9040

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 Eileen O'Brien

Commissioner Bradford Hill

Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

Commissioner Paul Brodeur

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:03)

Chair Maynard called to order the 556th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:41)

- a. August 21, 2023
- b. December 7, 2023
- c. February 7, 2024

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023, December 7, 2023, and February 7, 2024 public meetings that are included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Abstain.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 4-0, with 1 abstention.

d. [May 5, 2025](#) (01:31)

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2025 public meeting that are included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. [Legislative Update](#) (02:06)

Commissioner Hill noted that a number of bills relevant to horse racing, simulcasting, and other gaming issues have been filed recently. He stated that a hearing on most of said bills will be held on June 23, 2025 before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and he will report back to the Commission should there be any further information regarding the budget.

4. [Administrative Update](#) (03:16)

a. Update on General Counsel Position

Executive Director Dean Serpa noted the recent departure of General Counsel Todd Grossman and that Justin Stempeck will take on that role in an acting capacity.

Executive Director Serpa further highlighted the Diverse and Small Business Opportunity Fair that the Commission co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office. He stated that close to one hundred small businesses attended as well as the Commission's operators. He noted the attendance of Commissioner Hill who represented on behalf of the commissioners as well as the participation of Commission staff from the Licensing, Procurement and Diversity teams. He expressed thanks to Bonsiwa Sundai, Senior DEI Program Manager, for organizing the event as well as Kara O'Brien, Chief of the Licensing Division, and her staff, and Chief of Financial and Administrative Officer Derek Lennon and John Scully, Finance and Budget Office

Manager, for answering many of the attendees' questions. Chair Maynard and Commissioner Hill both expressed their thanks to the team at the event.

5. [Racing Division](#) (08:01)

- a. Plainridge Park Casino Request for Promotional Fund Consideration (handicapping contests)

Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing, presented Plainridge Park Casino's ("PPC") request for an expenditure of funds from the Harness Horse Promotional Trust Fund, noting that Steve O'Toole, Director of Racing at PPC, was on the meeting.

Chad Bourque, Financial Analyst, explained PPC's request for consideration, which will be followed by a request for reimbursement. He stated that PPC is requesting \$45,000 for five (5) summer handicapping contests. He said that the Racing Division has reviewed the request and recommends its approval.

Director O'Toole noted that these summer handicapping contests have been offered by PPC over the past few years and are very popular with their customers.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the request for an expenditure of \$45,000 from the Harness Horse Promotional Trust Fund in accordance with G.L. c. 128A, § 5(g) for the purpose described in the materials included in the Commissioners' packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. [Legal](#) (11:39)

- a. 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing – Discussion and Review of Regulations and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for approval to send to the Clerks of the Senate and House and Final Review and Adoption

Interim General Counsel Justin Stempeck introduced Associate General Counsel Melanie Foxx to present the amendments to 205 CMR 3.00 for final review by the Commission. Associate General Counsel Foxx reviewed the amendments to six (6) provisions within 205 CMR 3.00 which the Commission previously voted to enact by emergency on April 10, 2025. The regulations are now before the Commission as part of the normal promulgation process. She noted that a public hearing was held on May 27, 2025 during which comments were received.

She stated that after reviewing the comments received, no additional changes were recommended.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the comments received were primarily in regard to the use of tape vs. elastic bands to secure equipment. Commissioner Skinner asked for a substantive response to these comments. Director O'Toole indicated that he did submit written comments on the use of tape which he stated is carried by all trainers and is required by United States Trotting Association ("USTA") rules on other equipment worn by the horse. He noted that during his twenty-five (25) years in the profession, tape has always been used to secure equipment, further noting the concern that an elastic band would not work properly. Interim General Counsel Stempeck added that tape is considered to be the USTA standard while elastic or rubber bands, which are not USTA approved, can cause unforeseen problems if they snap off and spook horses. He stated that should the USTA approve the use of elastic bands, the matter can be revisited.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the Amended Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 3.00 as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further that staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. [Finance](#) (25:59)

a. FY26 Budget Review

CFAO Lennon presented staff's recommendations on the Commission's FY26 operating budget. *Relevant materials are included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 73 through 158.* Along with Finance and Budget Office Manager John Scully and Revenue Manager Douglas O'Donnell, CFAO Lennon presented the Finance Division's recommendation of a \$63.96 million budget for consideration by the Commission to fund approximately 144 full-time employees and 8 contract employees to provide oversight of gaming, sports wagering, racing, player health and community mitigation fund grants. He briefly reviewed the process for compiling the yearly budget before reviewing the proposed recommendation, which is a 5.98% increase over FY25 and is comprised of both statutory and regulatory costs, both of which are growing. CFAO Lennon noted some areas in which costs are going up, including the office lease, which budgeted for the full year at closer to a market rate as compared to FY25, CBA contractual requirements for the GEU, research costs and the Attorney General's Office ("AGO"). He noted that increased costs for the AGO required a statutory change which may not come to fruition in the current state budget proposal.

CFAO Lennon continued to review spending requests and recommendations. He stated that the Finance Division is requesting a \$40.8 million budget for the Gaming Control Fund, noting that though this is an overall increase over FY25 due to the anticipated AGO cost increases, the regulatory portion of this amount is actually decreasing due to a realignment of regulatory efforts. The request for the Racing Division is \$2.8 million, a decrease over FY25 mostly due to the decrease in the fringe benefit rate. CFAO Lennon stated that the CMF budget was increasing by \$50,000 due to the budgeting of indirect costs, a recommendation by Executive Director Serpa and Treasurer O'Brien. The Sports Wagering Control Fund's recommended budget is increasing to \$13.91 million, an amount that includes the transfer of \$911,000 in costs related to GEU as well as more of a share of costs related to administrative matters such as travel, training, audits and IT services. He noted that the Public Health Trust Fund budget was increasing to \$6.6 million due to the addition of a deputy director position, rebranding efforts connected to GameSense, and additional research.

Lastly, CFAO Lennon reviewed projected assessments on licensees in connection with the Gaming Control Fund and the Sports Wagering Control Fund. He explained that the Finance Division proposed an assessment on gaming operators of \$36.97 million, to be divided by said operators depending on their actual share of gaming positions on July 1, 2025, and \$12.87 million on sports wagering operators, to be divided between said operators based on their percentage share of FY26 adjusted gross sports wagering revenue. CFAO Lennon noted that revised assessments will be provided to the Commission once information regarding share of gaming positions and adjusted gross sports wagering revenue is known.

CFAO Lennon stated that the recommended FY26 budget would be put out for public comment, and the Finance Division will provide an update on any comments received during the July 1, 2025 public meeting as well as request the Commission's approval.

Commissioner O'Brien, the Commission's current Treasurer, noted the amazing work done by the Finance Team in putting this budget together.

8. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (42:05)

- a. Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee BetMGM, LLC and discussion regarding next steps

Chief Enforcement Counsel Kathleen Kramer noted that the IEB had two (2) initial briefings on noncompliance to be presented by Enforcement Counsel Diandra Franks.

Enforcement Counsel Franks reviewed the alleged noncompliance matter involving Temporary Category 3 Sports Wagering Licensee BetMGM, LLC and which implicates 205 CMR 247.04(8). She explained that BetMGM offered wagering on a prohibited Russian athlete participating in an event on December 31, 2025 from July 5, 2024 through March 7, 2025. She noted that a similar matter was reviewed by the Commission in February 2025 at which time the Commission referred the matter back to the IEB and asked, if the Commission would do the same here, whether the matters should be joined or treated separately.

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her desire that the matter be referred back to the IEB and be joined with the previous case while Commissioner Hill preferred that it be kept separate. In response to Chair Maynard's inquiry on why they may join or separate the matters, Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer stated that if they joined the matters, a single civil administrative penalty would be recommended, taking into account that there were two (2) separate incidents involved. Commissioner Hill agreed to join the matters upon clarification from Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer that the second incident would be considered as a second offense and the penalty would reflect that.

Commissioner Skinner asked when the previous matter was referred back to the IEB and whether it was appropriate to join the matters without disrupting the ongoing investigation. Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer noted that the second incident was discovered when reviewing the first matter so they would be in good shape to combine them.

The Commission came to a consensus to refer this matter back to the IEB.

- b. [Briefing on noncompliance matter related to Category 1 Sports Wagering Operator Blue Tarp redevelopment, LLC d/b/a MGM Springfield and discussion regarding next steps](#) (48:25)

Enforcement Counsel Franks reviewed the alleged noncompliance matter involving Category 1 Sports Wagering Licensee Blue Tarp redevelopment, LLC d/b/a MGM Springfield ("MGMS") and which implicates G.L. c. 23N, § 3, 205 CMR 247.01(2)(a)(2) and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog. She explained that MGMS offered wagering on a Northeastern Men's Baseball NCAA game beginning at 11:21 A.M. on April 5, 2025, the date of the game, and was shut down at 1:29 P.M. the same day when a Gaming Agent discovered the offering when auditing a kiosk at MGMS. She noted that MGMS has been assessed three (3) prior civil administrative penalties for allowing wagering on non-tournament NCAA games. She clarified, upon a request from Commissioner Skinner, that MGMS was assessed a \$20,000 fine in July 2023 after a hearing on the first matter and was further assessed two (2) civil administrative penalties on August 1, 2024: \$22,500 in connection with a Northeastern game and \$25,000 in connection with a UMass game.

Commissioner Skinner said she wanted to have a hearing on this matter as she would like to hear directly from the operator given that this appears to be a repeat offense while Commissioner Hill stated he would refer the matter back to the IEB as they have been doing a good job in recognizing what the penalty should be in a given matter. Chair Maynard, Commissioner Brodeur, and Commissioner O'Brien all expressed a desire to refer the matter back to the IEB in light of the fact that the incident was self-disclosed by MGMS. Chief Enforcement Counsel Kramer noted that it was the Commission's Gaming Agent that discovered the offering during a kiosk audit, but that zero wagers were accepted.

The Commission remained in consensus to refer the matter back to the IEB.

9. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (1:05:03)

a. FY26 Research Agenda

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, reviewed the FY26 Gaming Research Agenda, noting that it was previously reviewed by the Commission on April 10, 2025 at which time the commissioners noted the importance of youth research and underage access or participation, continued collaboration with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and inclusion of the grey market in regard to research on illegal markets.

Director Vander Linden reviewed the proposed research agenda, which is broken down into several categories, and projects falling within each category: social and economic impact research, public safety research, community-engaged research, data sharing, evaluation of responsible gaming programs, and sports wagering, in addition to support for the Commission's research review committee and knowledge translation and exchange with GREO. He noted that with regard to social and economic impact research projects, proposals were currently under review and that the team will bring back specific deliverables before the Commission once the successful bidder is identified.

Director Vander Linden then reviewed the advice received from the Gaming Research Advisory Committee, a non-statutory committee which informally provides advice and guidance, and the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee, which is established by statute. The Gaming Research Advisory Committee met on May 5, 2025 and made a number of recommendations, including a study on the state of gambling, including national and international policies on preventing and mitigating harm with regard to sports wagering; funding for research using mode data sets; research on illegal markets; cross-state research in light of the reduction in federal funding; a study on the impact of problem gambling in the LGBTQ community; and a study on the lower risk guidelines, such as those used by GameSense, and how they can be used in different populations. He then stated that the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee met on May 29, 2025 and recommended follow-up on a study on potential economic impacts of iGaming that is currently nearing its end, as the current study is focused on social impacts.

Commissioner Hill reflected on the robust year ahead for research. Chair Maynard said that he and Director Vander Linden had just attended the G7 Summit at which Massachusetts was continuously positively called out in regard to the Commission's research.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the proposed FY26 Gaming Research Agenda as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

<i>Commissioner O'Brien:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Hill:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Skinner:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Brodeur:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Chair Maynard:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. [Community Affairs Division](#) (1:30:03)

a. FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application Review

Joseph Delaney, Chief of the Community Affairs Division, presented additional community mitigation fund grant applications to be reviewed by the Commission, including applications from regional public safety entities, Region B communities and Region A communities. He noted that the application from the City of Boston will be brought forward for review at a meeting in July.

I. [Regional Agency Grant Applications](#) (1:31:07)

a. Regional Public Safety Grant Applications

Chief Delaney presented the four (4) regional public safety grant applications from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He noted that these applications were reviewed during the May 27, 2025 meeting though the votes were deferred. *A summary of the four (4) regional public safety grant applications were included in the Commissioners' packet on pages 172 through 175.*

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following Regional Public Safety 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 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: the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in the amount of \$259,800; the Hampden County District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$75,000; and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$100,000. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

In regard to the application from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Commissioner O'Brien noted her hesitation to approve their application. She noted that the office does incredible work, but her hesitation stemmed from the availability of funds, particularly here where the office was asked to move out of the footprint of MGMS ten (10) years ago. Chief Delaney noted that there were enough funds in the Community Mitigation Fund to fund all projects as recommended, but

that there may be very difficult decisions that will have to be made next year due to the expected lack of funding in the state's budget.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the application from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$400,000 for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. [Municipal Block Grant Applications](#) (1:36:41)

a. Region B Communities

i. [Holyoke](#) (1:37:04)

Chief Delaney began by reviewing the applications from the remaining Region B communities. Starting with the City of Holyoke, he stated that the City requested the full amount of their allocated funding of \$294,000, including funding for maintenance on their ExploreHolyoke.com website, development of promotional materials for MGM patrons, increased service on the MGM shuttle bus between Holyoke and MGM, public art installations, development of the Puerto Rican Cultural District, Race and Main Street Placemaking at a major tourism sector, developing an action plan in connection with a gambling harm reduction project, traffic software fees to manage radar speed and message signs, and a bike share program. *A summary of the City of Holyoke's Application was included on pages 176 through 181 of the Commissioners' packet.* He noted that the City withdrew their proposed Sister City Project and requested that funding be transferred to their ExploreHolyoke.com project. He further noted that some projects were recommended with conditions as outlined in the Commissioners' Packet.

ii. [Longmeadow](#) (1:40:26)

Chief Delaney, noting that the application was reviewed on May 27, 2025, briefly reviewed the Town of Longmeadow's proposed projects, which include increased rescue capability for their fire department and funding for traffic cameras. He explained that the Town withdrew their request for a sidewalk project on Lynwood Drive and requested that the funding be repurposed towards public safety equipment and training, bringing their final grant request to \$292,800. *A summary of the Application from the Town of Longmeadow was included on pages 182 through*

183 of the Commissioners' packet.

iii. [Springfield](#) (1:41:30)

Chief Delaney reviewed the application from the City of Springfield, noting that their application included a waiver request as they were requesting \$2.9 million as compared to their allocated funding of about \$1.4 million. *A summary of the Application from the City of Springfield was included on pages 184 through 189 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the City's proposed projects, which included a local and regional traffic study to be done in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission ("PVPC") with any approved funding to be transferred to PVPC; repurposing of a building into a regional visitors and event center; a gambling awareness initiative, continuing work that has already been done in Springfield; improvements to Symphony Hall; construction improvements to the Downtown Public Realm area; and construction costs related to a proposed parking garage, which the Commission has previously funded in two (2) previous grant rounds, noting their request to extend all grants related to this project to September 30, 2026. He explained that the Review Committee was not recommending funding for the purchase of an Axon My-90 platform, as a nexus to the casino could not be identified, or overtime for the fire department to staff a tactical emergency response vehicle unit, as such should be funded via their host community agreement. Chief Delaney also noted that their proposed construction improvements to the Downtown Public Realm area would both necessitate a waiver as well as conditions as the project is not fully developed.

Commissioner Hill stated that he would be in favor of granting the waiver for the Downtown Public Realm project. Chair Maynard agreed.

Rather than continuing with his review of the Region A applications, Chair Maynard requested that votes be taken with regard to these three (3) applications to close out the Region B review.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Springfield's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$2,903,700 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request and of which \$120,000 is to be transferred to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today; and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Commissioner Skinner noted for the record her previous comments during the May 27, 2025 public meeting regarding her concern in granting waivers as a matter of routine and beyond the current guidelines.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the following applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet 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: the City of Holyoke in the amount of \$294,000 with conditions as discussed and the Town of Longmeadow in the amount of \$292,800. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Region A Communities](#) (1:52:19)

i. Cambridge

Chief Delaney continued with his review of applications from Region A starting with the City of Cambridge, which requested a small waiver in addition to their allocated funding amount of \$700,000. He noted that the City provided a list of extra projects should the Review Team not recommend a particular project so some projects may not be recommended as not being on the City's priority list. *A summary of the Application from the City of Cambridge was included on pages 190 through 196 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the projects that were recommended: special events support for commercial districts; a training program for safe biking to the casino; a gambling harm reduction project with the Cambridge Public Health and Arts Department, with a condition to ensure they are reaching people experiencing gambling related harm; de-escalation training; public safety electric vehicle fire blankets; tactical training; traffic education and enforcement during peak operational hours of the casino; and bike lane improvements on Prospect and Cambridge Street. Chief Delaney noted that they were not recommending a community planning commercial district wayfinding plan project and an active shooter training project as these were not on the City's priority list. Furthermore, the City withdrew two (2) additional projects.

ii. [Chelsea](#) (1:56:55)

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Chelsea's application and its proposed projects, including: funding for training and education at the Bunker Hill Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and Training so that they may compete for business with the casino and other businesses; the Discovery Chelsea campaign; traffic patrols and related equipment; and funding for two (2) (out

of four (4)) new firefighter positions, full funding for one year and half funding for the second year. He noted that there would be a stipulation that the City hire their two (2) positions first.

Commissioner Hill asked if the City of Chelsea was aware that funds may not be available in the future and that they would be on the hook for the funding of the requested new fire department personnel. Chief Delaney confirmed that they are aware. *A summary of the Application from the City of Chelsea was included on pages 197 through 199 of the Commissioners' packet.*

iii. [Everett](#) (2:00:47)

Chief Delaney next reviewed the application from the City of Everett, noting that they requested a waiver in addition to their total allocation of \$2.86 million, bringing their actual request to \$2,913,500. *A summary of the Application from the City of Everett was included on pages 200 through 206 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed their proposed projects: high-rise fire training to provide the police and fire department specialized training; video cameras and police radios as long as they provide documentation that they have received permission for placement on Encore, MBTA and DCR property; land and water police patrols during peak periods; fireboat training; analysis and design of mobility networks and infrastructure in the lower Broadway area which will be used in addition to a \$1.5 million MassWorks grant; funding to continue the reconfiguration of the Everett Square sidewalk project which was previously funded; the lower Broadway bus priority to perform survey work in connection with a RAISE grant they received; design of the MBTA Assembly Station headhouse connector, with such funds to be transferred to the Department of Transportation to continue with design; and the reuniting neighborhoods and communities project to look at improvements in Sweetser Circle, providing matching funds to a federal grant the City received.

iv. [Lynn](#) (2:09:01)

Next, Chief Delaney outlined projects proposed in the City of Lynn's application. He stated that the Review Team is recommending their allocated funding amount of \$200,000 though they proposed repurposing funding from a project that is not recommended, keeping the total the same. *A summary of the Application from the City of Lynn was included on pages 207 through 209 of the Commissioners' packet.* He stated that the Team recommended funding their wayfinding project, including repurposing funds from the non-recommended project, which was requested by the City of Lynn. Additional projects include funding for six (6) citation printers for police cruisers and the installation of fifteen (15) city cameras. He stated that the Team was not recommending funding for two (2) drones, including training and technical support, noting that though drones are a useful tool for the police, there was a lack of nexus due to the distance from the casino and the possible lack of casino-related traffic that may be found along the Northern Strand in Lynn.

Commissioner Hill noted that he disagreed with the review team's recommendation to not fund the City of Lynn's drone project and that he felt strongly that if the Lynn Police felt that the drones would assist in the fight against human trafficking, despite Lynn's distance from Encore Boston Harbor, he would be inclined to support funding for this project. Commissioner Skinner stated that there was more of a nexus to the casino than some of the other projects they have

chosen to fund, and further that she was happy to be part of the City obtaining this equipment to continue moving in the right direction. Commissioner O'Brien expressed her agreement, particularly due to the uptick in human trafficking cases in surrounding communities.

Commissioner Skinnner moved that the Commission approve the following application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted application and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and 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: the City of Lynn in the amount of \$200,000 for the projects discussed here today, including item number 4: the public safety: drone unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which has a requested funding amount of \$33,800. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

v. [Malden](#) (2:22:00)

Chief Delaney continued with his review of the City of Malden's application for community mitigation funding, indicating that the City requested \$881,400, which is slightly less than their \$882,800 allocation. *A summary of the Application from the City of Malden was included on pages 210 through 213 of the Commissioners' packet.* He reviewed the recommended proposed projects for the City: funding for casino-related impacts in a comprehensive plan for Malden; the Gaming and Gourmet tourism initiative; speed alert signs; traffic enforcement equipment and training, particularly on driver impairment; and safety improvements on Main Street. Chief Delaney noted that the Review Team did not recommend their snowplow for the Northern Strand Bike Path as the City already has a contractor which performs that task and instead is recommending funding of the speed alert signs, as noted.

Commissioner Hill asked for support from his fellow commissioners that the Commission fund the City's snowplow for the bike path project instead of repurposing that funding for their wayfinding project. Chair Maynard stated that he would be in favor of allowing the City to use the funding for either project as they are both worthy of funding. Commissioner O'Brien disagreed with funding the project based on the "supplementing, not supplanting" rule, to which Commissioner Skinner agreed.

vi. [Medford](#) (2:32:18)

Chief Delaney reviewed the application from the City of Medford, which requested basically their entire allocated funding amount and which also provided a priority list of projects, similar to the City of Cambridge, in case of projects not being recommended. He reviewed the City's

proposed projects which the Review Team recommended: continuation of work began last year on gambling harm reduction strategies; an emergency vehicle operator course to improve driving skills; public safety tactical communication and leadership training; administrative costs; and Salem Street pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements, both design and construction, noting that he would want to see the final cost estimates on construction before signing off. He explained that two (2) projects were not recommended: an emergency services unit as they could not connect this to a casino-related impact, and the repainting of the Chevalier Theater as it was viewed as more of a maintenance project than a capital project and the City could not make a strong argument that it would make them more competitive with Encore. *A summary of the Application from the City of Medford was included on pages 214 through 218 of the Commissioners' packet.*

Commissioner Brodeur expressed his support for the Chevalier Theater project, which the review team had not recommended funding, noting the Legislature's desire, in regard to the Community Mitigation Fund, that we continue to ensure that our existing arts and culture remained viable. He noted that he struggled with seeing any distinction between this project and the previously approved improvements to Springfield's Symphony Hall, which included curtain restoration. Commissioner Skinner agreed that she did not see a discernable difference between the two projects and, without further understanding, would be in favor of the project. Chair Maynard stated that he would compare this project to the funding of new lighting at the Chevalier Theater last year and so would be inclined to agree here as well.

Chief Delaney explained the Review Team's thought process in regard to the recommendation to approve the Springfield project and not this Medford project. He explained that they looked at whether the improvements would make the facility more competitive for entertainment dollars in the area. He noted that Springfield's proposal did include updates to lighting and sound and further, that the curtains would allow them to hold more daytime performances, making them more competitive, whereas they did not see that in the Medford project's proposed interior repainting. He also noted that the City of Medford does receive funding from its Surrounding Community Agreement for the theater.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the decision was not as clear cut to her as her fellow commissioners but that she was swayed by seeing similar improvements during a site visit in Foxboro which showed the impact that can be had from the painting of such a facility. She believed that they should approve the project based on their original request and suggested removing the supplemental project which was added. Chief Delaney suggested that the Commission could recommend a smaller funding amount in connection with the construction project for the Salem Street pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements. Reducing that by \$325,600 would allow the funding to remain level.

vii. [Melrose](#) (2:46:35)

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Melrose's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund. He stated that the City was allocated \$200,000 in funding and the Review Team recommended \$166,800 in funding for the following projects: a pop-up shopping experience, which was funded last year; the next phase of a gambling harm reduction project;

funding for public safety equipment; and funding for activities at their senior center. He noted that purchase of a hybrid police vehicle was not recommended but that the City requested that funding be repurposed to fund the public safety equipment and senior activities. *A summary of the Application from the City of Melrose was included on pages 219 through 221 of the Commissioners' packet.*

viii. [Revere](#) (2:48:11)

Chief Delaney presented the City of Revere's application. He stated that the City's allocation was \$662,100, but that they requested \$862,000 and would require an approximate \$200,000 waiver. He indicated that the City believes that they should be granted this waiver based upon their contention that the City should be a designated surrounding community. Despite their argument, the granting of a waiver is left to the Commission's discretion, and he noted that each of their proposed projects is eligible for funding. Such projects include: a zoning analysis on Broadway; a master plan for the Squire Road area; a wayfinding project on Broadway; a gambling harm reduction project to continue work started last year; purchase of automatic external defibrillators; funding for the design of the Revere Beach Connector to bring it to 25% design; a Revere bypass traffic study around Copeland Circle; and administration funding. *A summary of the Application from the City of Revere was included on pages 222 through 226 of the Commissioners' packet.*

ix. [Somerville](#) (2:51:26)

The last application for review by the Commission was presented by Chief Delaney: the City of Somerville. *A summary of the Application from the City of Somerville was included on pages 227 through 228 of the Commissioners' packet.* Chief Delaney stated that the City requested the full amount of their allocation of approximately \$1.1 million. He reviewed their proposed projects: a small business commercial district ad campaign to promote small businesses in East Somerville, which will include bus advertising; traffic enforcement patrols targeting main routes to the casino and peak hours of operation; and the Union Square Plaza and Streetscape design to advance the project from 25% design.

The commissioners moved forward with motions on the remaining applications which were reviewed.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the following applications for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet 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: the City of Chelsea in the amount of \$1,027,000 with conditions as discussed; the City of Melrose in the amount of \$166,800; and the City of Somerville in the amount of \$1,110,000. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the application for the City of Malden for the amount of \$882,800 for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund for the reasons set forth in the submitted application, that includes the requested numbers 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of said application, and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet 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.

In voting nay on the above motion, Commissioner Skinner referenced language in the FY26 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines which stated that the CMF will not fund the mitigation of impacts already being addressed and that funds will supplement and not supplant historical operations funding.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Nay.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Nay.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 3-2.

Transcriber's note: The numbers noted in the motion above correspond with the numbered projects proposed by the City of Malden as outlined in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 210 through 213.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Cambridge's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$704,800 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve in part the City of Everett's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$2,913,500 with conditions, including the amount of their waiver request and of which \$460,000 is to be transferred to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the City of Revere's application for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$862,000, including the amount of their waiver request, for the reasons set forth in the submitted applications and materials included in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the City of Medford's application in part for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$1,046,800 with conditions for the reasons set forth in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today, and further, that Commission staff be authorized to execute all necessary grant instruments commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04; provided that the recommended funding for the City's transportation project be reduced to \$274,400 and that this approval include \$325,600 for the Chevalier Theater project. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Modifications to FY 2025 CMF Grants](#) (3:05:55)

I. Revere

Chief Delaney reviewed the City of Revere's request to transfer \$89,557 granted in FY25 towards the International Sand Sculpting Festival. *Information regarding this request is contained in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 229 through 236.* Chief Delaney stated that the request was reviewed to ensure compliance with the guidelines governing funding from the CMF. He explained the casino-related impact as attracting casino patrons to the Festival. He noted, in light of the concern of supplementing vs. supplanting, that the City has not historically provided funds towards this event. The requested funds would cover the cost of public safety details, particularly the state police as the event is held on DCR property. He explained that providing this funding would not run afoul of the Anti-Aid Amendment as the funding would reimburse the City of Revere rather than pay any non-profit entity directly. Lastly, Chief Delaney noted that the funding was being repurposed from a project approved last year by the Commission which the City was unable to proceed with as well as from surpluses in other projects.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2025 Community Mitigation Fund grant to the City of Revere by authorizing a reallocation of \$89,557 towards funding for public safety costs associated with the International Sand Sculpting Festival as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. [Springfield Technical Community College](#) (3:10:49)

Chief Delaney reviewed Springfield Technical Community College's ("STCC") request to reallocate funding from their FY25 CMF grant from personnel to the purchase of equipment, specifically, computers, iPads, tablets and licenses for students of the program that they run with CMF funds. He noted that we have funded such technology requests in the past and that STCC will be unable to spend the personnel funds by the end of the fiscal year. *Information related to STCC's request is found in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 237 and 238.*

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her support for this requested reallocation in funding, noting that it is a great program.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2025 Community Mitigation Fund grant to Springfield Technical Community College by authorizing a reallocation of \$47,625 towards funding for equipment and curriculum licenses for digital educational programs as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

11. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (3:38:20)

a. House Rules Update – FanDuel

Compliance Manager Andrew Steffen reviewed updates to FanDuel's House Rules, specifically revisions to eight (8) sports specific sections, including football, Australian rules, baseball, basketball, golf, motorsports, softball, and tennis. *A memorandum and additional information regarding the requested house rules updates for FanDuel are found in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 239 through 246.*

Commissioner Hill asked how many professional softball leagues there are. Manager Steffen noted that only collegiate events and the Athletes Unlimited league are approved in the Commission's catalog and that no operators have asked that other leagues be added. Commissioner Brodeur asked whether the idea of a violation counting as a strike is connected to the MLB's use of the pitch clock. Manager Steffen confirmed that it does and further, that the Commission is likely to see that update in other operators' house rules.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the updates to FanDuel's House Rules as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson Overview and Considerations for Combat Sport Policy](#)
(3:45:10)

Manager Steffen provided a review of the Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson fight which was sanctioned by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (“TDLR”) despite notable deviations from standard professional boxing rules which are established by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (“ABC”). He noted that the ABC is an approved boxing governing body in Massachusetts. *A memorandum regarding this discussion item can be found in the Commissioners’ Packet on pages 247 through 250.*

Compliance Officer Griffin Miniutti reviewed the specific rule changes which were made for this particular fight, based on medical guidance, and were adopted upon request from Tyson: the weight of the gloves was increased; the round lengths were reduced to 2 minutes; and the fight was set at eight (8) rounds. He explained that these rules changes led some states to not allow wagering on the event, mainly citing the noncompliance with the ABC rules or an integrity concern stemming from the significant age gap between the competitors. Compliance Officer Miniutti highlighted that the total handle from operators in Massachusetts was over \$8 million.

Manager Steffen noted the policy concerns that were raised as a result of this fight. He explained that from an integrity perspective, this situation falls within the process already in place but that there is an opportunity to make the process more efficient and predictable. He outlined several options for the Commission’s review, including maintaining the current process, a regulation amendment, a requirement that operators include language in their house rules to address this type of situation, or have the Division draft a guidance document to require operators to notify the Division before offering wagering in such a situation.

Commissioner Hill stated that he has no problem leaving the current process to stand, but that he would agree with the requirement for pre-event notification. Commissioner O’Brien said that she views a requirement for operators to notify the Division as the least invasion option, which would allow for their review and possible Commission review. She noted that she did not like that this fight’s rules changes were brought to the Commission’s attention by happenstance. Commissioner Brodeur agreed, noting that it was important to keep in mind what we mean by a deviation from the rules as it will be a challenge to determine when exactly the Commission would want notice. Commissioner Skinner concurred. Chair Maynard also agreed, stating that it would not be an undue burden to require this notification and that he also did not like how the Commission became aware of this fight’s changes.

The Commission came to a consensus to have the Sports Wagering Division draft guidance that will mandate that operators notify the Division in advance when they intend to offer markets on combat sports events that involve known or likely deviations from standard rules.

c. [Penn Sports Interactive request to use alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04\(4\)](#) (4:01:20)

Chief of the Sports Wagering Division Carrie Torrisi introduced Nathan Saylor, Technical Compliance Coordinator, to review Penn Sports Interactive’s (“PSI”) request for approval of an alternate method of KYC pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04(4). Coordinator Saylor briefly reviewed PSI’s request to replace their current KYC method with a waterfall approach. He noted the need to meet in an executive session to conduct further discussion, but that following review, the Sports Wagering Division recommended that the Commission approve PSI’s alternate method of KYC.

I. [Executive Session](#) (4:05:08)

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will convene in an executive session in conjunction with its review of Penn Sports Interactive’s methods of KYC in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) to review certain materials in connection with the sports wagering operator’s processes and parameters during account creation related to customer verification and authentication, as these matters relate to cyber security within the Commonwealth, and the public discussion or disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize public safety or cyber security.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber’s note: The Commission entered executive session at 2:07 P.M. After the conclusion of the executive session, the public session resumed at [2:15 P.M.](#)

Commissioner Brodeur moved that, pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04(4), the Commission approve the alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment currently utilized by Penn Sports Interactive, as included in the Commissioners’ Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

12. [Executive Session Minutes](#) (4:18:59)

Transcriber's note: Prior to entering this executive session, the Commission discussed agenda items 13 and 14.

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will meet in an executive session to review minutes from previous executive sessions as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the intended purpose for which the executive session was convened pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3): February 24, 2025 at 11:52 A.M. and March 11, 2025 at 10:21 A.M.; and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(n): March 11, 2025 at 11:41 A.M. and 11:56 A.M.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session upon their vote at [2:21 P.M.](#) and did not reconvene the public meeting.

13. [Commission Updates](#) (4:16:03)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that several members of the Commission attended the North American Gaming Regulators Association's ("NAGRA") recent conference in Nashville, TN. She touched on some of the information that was discussed, including the work being done in Massachusetts with regard to wager limitations and responsible gaming.

Chair Maynard noted his attendance at the G7 Summit where an international framework on responsible gaming was discussed. He thanked Director Vander Linden for his work in this space and noted he was particularly amazed at how many jurisdictions recognize the work of the Commission.

Chair Maynard noted that other Commission members attended the International Association of Gaming Advisors conference.

14. [Other Business](#) (4:18:52)

No other business was noted by the commissioners.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated June 13, 2025
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the June 17, 2025 meeting (posted on massgaming.com)
3. Additional Finance Budget spreadsheet.