



---

## Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

---

**Date/Time:** August 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 444 4823

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The 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:**

Interim Chair Jordan Maynard  
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien  
Commissioner Bradford Hill  
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

#### 1. [Call to Order](#) (00:04)

Interim Chair Maynard called to order the 528<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all four Commissioners were present for the meeting.

Interim Chair Maynard and the Commissioners thanked David Souza for his time with the Commission upon his departure.

#### 2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (03:54)

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the minutes from the September 7, 2023 and September 18, 2023 public meetings as included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors, or any other non-material matters. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner O'Brien:* Aye.

*Commissioner Hill:* Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.  
Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.  
The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

3. [Administrative Update](#) (05:06)

a. [Wager Limitation by Operator Follow Up](#) (05:22)

Executive Director Dean Serpa noted that the Commission spoke about wager limitations in the sports wagering space during the August 1, 2024 public meeting and reached a consensus to hold a second discussion on the topic during a public meeting. Executive Director Serpa asked to set a date for that second discussion and to finalize the format of the conversation.

Commissioner Hill asked for a date no later than October and for the discussion to be a standalone meeting. Commissioner O'Brien agreed and noted that there could be statistics that need to be prepared for the meeting. Commissioner Skinner also agreed and noted that having questions prescribed for the operators in advance would be reasonable. Interim Chair Maynard agreed that prescribed questions were a good start and that the Commissioners reserved the right to ask further questions. Interim Chair Maynard established an expectation that every operator would engage with the Commission.

b. [FY24 Year End Financial Gaming Obligations](#) (11:11)

Investigation and Enforcement Bureau ("IEB") Gaming Agents Division Chief Burke Cain provided a brief casino update on events and promotions held by Blue Tarp reDevelopment, LLC d/b/a MGM Springfield ("MGM Springfield"), Wynn MA, LLC d/b/a Encore Boston Harbor ("Encore"), and Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC d/b/a Plainridge Park Casino ("PPC"). Chief Cain covered the financial gaming obligations for the three casinos, *found on pages 25-26 of the Commissioners' Packet*.

Interim Chair Maynard thanked Chief Cain. Commissioner O'Brien congratulated PPC for having had no underage financial forfeitures. Chief Cain showed appreciation for the gaming agents who worked at each of the locations.

4. [Legislative Update](#) (19:03)

Commissioner Hill provided a legislative update on the HERO Act and noted that it did not include language that would have allowed slot machines in veteran organizations as part of the final bill.

5. [Community Affairs Division](#) (20:05)

a. [Plainridge Park Casino Quarterly Report](#) (20:46)

General Manager North Grounsell presented the quarterly report for PPC, with topics including revenue and taxes, lottery sales, state and local spend, vendor diversity, compliance, review of

employment, and community development. *The quarterly report for PPC was found on pages 27-41 of the Commissioners' Packet.*

Commissioner Skinner asked what PPC's role was with the Diner en Blanc Boston event. Mr. Grounsell said that PPC acted in a supporting capacity for the event. Commissioner Hill also commented on his own attendance to one of the events named in the presentation. Interim Chair Maynard applauded PPC for their accomplishments.

b. [MGM Springfield Quarterly Report](#) (30:13)

Vice President and Legal Counsel Gus Kim, Vice President of Finance Arlen Carballo, Director of Compliance Daniel Miller, and Director of Public Affairs Beth Ward presented the quarterly report for MGM Springfield with topics including revenue and taxes, lottery sales, diversity and local spend, diversity procurement efforts, compliance, employment, community outreach and entertainment. *The quarterly report for MGM Springfield was found on pages 42-69 of the Commissioners' Packet.*

Commissioner O'Brien thanked the presenters for breaking down their underage compliance statistics but asked how the minors were getting through. Mr. Miller stated that underage individuals were primarily getting through unmanned locations. Commissioner O'Brien asked if MGM was exploring options for closing off those locations. Mr. Miller confirmed their attempts to close those entrance points to minors.

Interim Chair Maynard showed his appreciation for one of the staff members at MGM who was working on preventing underage individuals from entering the floor of the casino. Commissioner Skinner expressed her gratitude for the community engagement presentation. Mr. Kim thanked the Commissioners for their efforts.

c. [Encore Boston Harbor Quarterly Report](#) (51:40)

Senior Vice President and General Counsel Jacqui Krum, Executive Director of the Legal Department Juliana Catanzariti, Executive Director of Security and Investigations Tom Coffey, Vice President and General Counsel of WSI US, LLC d/b/a WynnBet Jennifer Roberts presented the quarterly report for Encore with topics including revenue and taxes, lottery sales, workforce, operating spend: diversity and local, compliance, human resources initiatives, promotions, and a WynnBet wind-down timeline. *The quarterly report for Encore was found on pages 70-101 of the Commissioners' Packet.*

Commissioner Skinner asked what action was taken by Encore against the parent whose minor child was intercepted consuming alcohol. Mr. Coffey stated that if the parent facilitated the entrance of the minor onto the floor, then they were both treated as trespassers. Interim Chair Maynard asked the ages of the minors. Mr. Coffey replied by stating that they were 17 years old. Commissioner O'Brien asked about the instance with longest time period of the minor having been on the floor. Mr. Coffey replied that it was the situation where a minor was with their parents on the floor.

Commissioner Skinner thanked Ms. Roberts for her presentation on WynnBet's wind-down operations. Commissioner Skinner stated that she had further questions on some outstanding items that she would follow up with them on. Interim Chair Maynard applauded the Encore team for their efforts to represent the community.

*Transcriber's notes: The Commission went on a break at [1:08:44](#) and returned at [1:15:38](#).*

d. [FY26 Community Mitigation Fund Policy Questions](#) (1:15:43)

Interim Chair Maynard announced the return of the Commission from break. Roll call attendance was conducted, and all four Commissioners were present for the meeting.

Commissioner Skinner clarified that her previous comment regarding further questions to Ms. Roberts was misdirected and should have been directed to Ms. Krum.

Chief of the Community Affairs Division Joe Delaney described the FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund Policy process and presented questions for the Commission's review and consideration. *The questions and related information were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 102-104.*

Commissioner Hill responded to question 1 regarding the amount of money to be allocated for FY26 by saying that the Commission needed to proceed as before, allocating the same amount of funding to the community. Commissioner O'Brien agreed with Commissioner Hill. Commissioner Skinner also agreed and stated the increased need to communicate with the communities that the funds were a one-time allocation for the grant year. Interim Chair Maynard stated that the grant applications needed to be the guide for money allocation.

Commissioner Skinner asked for further understanding on how the licensees or operators would feel about the proposed funds transfer from Region A to Region B as outlined in question 2. She said that she found value in the licensees' input and wanted to make fully informed decisions. Commissioner O'Brien and Commissioner Hill both agreed with the recommendation for the funds transfer provided by Chief Delaney. Interim Chair Maynard stated his understanding of the situation and agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Skinner clarified that she did not disagree with the but said that to fully understand the impact of their decisions, she wanted to hear from the licensees. Chief Delaney stated that he would reach out to the licensees.

All of the Commissioners stated their full agreement with the recommendations provided by Chief Delaney in response to question 3 to not make any changes to grant eligibility.

In response to question 4 on whether the Commission should make any changes to the distribution formula, Interim Chair Maynard asked if there was a community in Region A that wanted to get reclassified and asked if the Commission looked into it. Chief Delaney stated that it was Revere, which was not designated as a surrounding community, meaning they did not receive additional community mitigation funds. Chief Delaney clarified that Revere did not petition to be a surrounding community at the designated time, thus Revere did not receive the additional funding based on the formula. Interim Chair Maynard said that he preferred to know if the Commission was able to allocate the additional funds to Revere. Chief Delaney stated that he

would look into it further along with the Legal Division. He further noted that if the money could be allocated to Revere, the funding allocations in Region A would have to be rejiggered. Commissioner Skinner asked for a separate discussion dedicated to this issue. The Commissioners and Chief Delaney continued to discuss the issue and chose to delegate it to the Commission's Legal Division for further information.

Commissioner O'Brien asked Chief Delaney, responding to question 5 regarding whether the Commission should change the length of the grant term or not allow extensions of current grants, if the funds were restricted and protected, which Chief Delaney confirmed. The Commissioners agreed with the recommendation provided by Chief Delaney to reduce the grant term to two years.

For question 6 on whether the Commission should be more prescriptive on the required backup documentation, Commissioner Skinner agreed with the recommendation to develop additional guidance and added that the Commission needed to hold the applicants to a different standard when it came to the supporting documentation for funding applications. Chief Delaney agreed with the need for more clarity. Interim Chair Maynard also agreed that the integrity of the program had to be protected.

All of the Commissioners agreed with the recommendations provided by Chief Delaney for question 7 that the Commission should not make any changes to the identified project impacts.

For question 8 on whether the lease assistance that has been provided to the Hampden County Sheriff's Department should be limited, Interim Chair Maynard stated that he did not want to pre-judge an application. Commissioner O'Brien agreed with Interim Chair Maynard. Commissioner Hill agreed with the other Commissioners but asked if the Commission had any responsibility to notify consistent fund recipients if their application was going to be denied. After a brief discussion of the issue, the Commissioners agreed that the Commission should not pre-judge applications despite prior approvals and budgeting concerns.

For question 9 regarding a vehicle purchase policy, Commissioner O'Brien stated that the Commission already had a broad policy dealing with vehicles. Chief Delaney questioned the full extent of the application of the funding for the vehicle requests in relation to casino impact and agreed to provide more guidelines.

Interim Chair Maynard encouraged grant recipients to acknowledge that the grants were allocated by the Commission. He clarified that it would not be a condition on the grant but an offer to promote awareness of the work of the Commission.

6. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (2:17:30)

a. [Commission Consideration to Remove League from Event Catalog per 205 CMR 247](#) (2:17:35)

Sports Wagering Operations Manager Andrew Steffen introduced for the Commission's consideration the issue and the investigation behind the recommendation for the removal of the

International Boxing Association (“IBA”), which was run by a Russian national, from the Massachusetts Event Catalog, *as outlined on pages 105-107 of the Commissioners’ Packet*.

Commissioner Skinner stated her support for the recommendation and asked if the fact that the operations were run from Russia was enough for a revocation of the approval. Deputy General Counsel Carrie Torrisi stated that as the catalog contained restrictions related to Russia and Belarus and the related regulations give the Commission broad authority to determine what is and what is not in the catalog, the Commission could draw the conclusion that it intended to exclude this league from the catalog. Interim Chair Maynard asked how the outstanding wagers were to be settled. Mr. Steffen replied by stating that the process would involve cease-and-desist notifications to the operators or operator updates. Commissioner O’Brien expressed her support for the recommendation.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission revoke its prior approval of the IBA to be included in the official catalog of events and wagers in accordance with 205 CMR 247.03(8) as included in the Commissioners’ packet and discussed here today, and that the staff be authorized to remove the IBA from the official catalog of events and wagers posted on the Commission’s website. Commissioner O’Brien seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

b. [Request for Amendment to House Rules: Fanatics](#) (2:27:45)

Mr. Steffen introduced and reviewed amendments to the house rules of FBG Enterprises Opco, LLC d/b/a Fanatics Betting & Gaming (“Fanatics”), *as outlined on pages 108-114 of the Commissioners’ Packet*.

Commissioner O’Brien moved that the Commission approve the updates to Fanatics’ House Rules 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.*

*Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

*Transcriber’s notes: The Commission went on a break at [2:33:43](#) and returned at [2:39:55](#).*

7. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (2:40:45)

Interim Chair Maynard announced the return of the Commission. Roll call attendance was conducted, and all four Commissioners were present for the meeting.

a. [AI Working Group Update](#) (2:41:39)

Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden noted that the Commission expressed an interest a year ago in the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) technology for the purpose of responsible gaming. He stated that the Commission decided to form a working group to review this topic. Mr. Vander Linden proceeded to give updates on the working group, *which were described on page 115 of the Commissioners’ Packet.*

Commissioner Skinner thanked Mr. Vander Linden for the information he provided to the Commission and asked him to share the “AI best practices” outlined by the International Gaming Standards Association.

Mr. Vander Linden stated that the Commission’s collaboration with other jurisdictions was essential, especially in regard to responsible gaming.

8. [Discussion regarding collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement](#) (2:52:21)

a. Executive Session

*Transcriber’s note: Discussion of this agenda item occurred after Agenda Item numbers 10 and 11, at which time the Commission returned to this Agenda Item at the above-noted time.*

Interim Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Commission.”

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission enter into executive session for the reasons stated on the record by the Chair. Commissioner O’Brien seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Interim Chair Maynard stated that before entering the executive session, the Commission would consider Agenda Item number 9.



9. [Legal](#) (2:54:30)

Interim Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will meet in 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 sessions were convened pursuant to: G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(4), c. 30A, §21(a)(7), and G.L. c. 4, §7(26)(f): May, 10, 2023.”

Commissioner O’Brien moved that the Commission enter into executive session on the matter for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

*Roll call vote:*

*Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.*

*Commissioner Hill: Aye.*

*Commissioner Skinner: Aye.*

*Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

10. [Commissioner Updates](#) (2:52:00)

After inquiry by Interim Chair Maynard, no Commissioner Updates were noted.

11. [Other Business](#) (2:52:14)

No other business was raised by the Commissioners prior to entering the executive session.

*Transcriber’s note: The Commission entered executive session upon their vote and did not reconvene the public meeting.*

**List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated August 13, 2024
2. [Commissioners’ Packet](#) from the August 15, 2024, meeting (posted on massgaming.com)