



PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes

Date/Time: October 11, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission, 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA

Members Present:

Gayle Cameron, Chair
Jennifer Queally
Patrick Hanley
Gina Masotta

Chief Steve Wojnar
Michael Morrissey
Peggie Krippendorf
Brian Canavan

Members Absent:

Dana Pullman
Dermot Quinn

Attendees:

Mark Vander Linden
Mary Thurlow
Maryanne Dooley

Christopher Bruce
Loretta Lillios
Karen Wells
Jennifer Fitzgerald

Enrique Zuniga
John Ziemba
Tim Babbin

Call to Order

The Chair welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 10:05. The Chair discussed a recent meeting held in Springfield and how positive a meeting it was with the Task Force and State Police.

The first item on an agenda is approval of minutes. Assistant Attorney General Hanley moved to approve the minutes and District Attorney Morrissey seconded the approval of the minutes for the January 25, 2017 meeting. The members unanimously voted to approve.

Next the Chair welcomed Pat Hanley and Gina Masotta from the Office of the Attorney General to present on the topic of ***“Illegal Gambling in Massachusetts”***. The presentation covered the primary criminal components of the Expanded Gaming Act and what types of criminal activities such as operating a casino game without a license, money laundering and enterprise crime are the focus of the law enforcement. It highlighted various illegal slot cases and the ongoing efforts to crack down on illegal gambling.

The Chair then introduced Christopher Bruce who is an internationally-recognized expert in police data systems and police data analysis. Mr. Bruce gave a presentation of his analysis of Plainridge Park’s first year on ***“Plainridge Park: Update on Effects on Crime and Police Activity”***. Mr. Bruce described the methodology used to analyze data and what data may trigger further analysis. He noted crimes in which a casino may have a relationship such as theft, robbery and fraud. Mr. Bruce further described potential troubling trends in which fraud, traffic issues, lost property and suspicious activities are involved and potentially are related to the presence of a casino.

Mr. Bruce introduced the type of work he does and how he interprets data and develops themes based on the data. He does not anticipate a lot of new crime and is excited that Foxborough is

now a part of the study. He noted that initially all of the record managements systems are different and are now being merged into a common data base.

Calls for service were included in this study. Mr. Bruce compared data from prior to opening, and data directly from Plainridge in order to determine trends. He noted that assigning crime causation to the casino is difficult but it's clear that some crimes have no signs of a relationship to the casino relationship.

Mr. Bruce found that traffic incidents were debatable among police as some say it was just the result population growth in the area. Areas of crime that increased the most have to be untangled from the data and coding input by the police. It was noted that some corrections may skew numbers.

Credit card fraud was the next topic of conversation. Mr. Morrissey noted that it was not the theft of credit cards but the increase in stolen cards used in area. He noted that a credit card fraud report often is filed in the hometown of the victim, although a credit card may have been stolen elsewhere. Cards may be used locally for food, liquor and cigarettes. Mr. Morrissey noted that the credit cards are not being used at the casino but may be used elsewhere for lower detection and lower arrests. Chair Cameron noted that in discussions with the police chiefs, the chiefs do not see this issue as related to the casino and that these appear to have no direct correlation.

Mr. Wojnar noted that issues in MGM and Wynn will be different, as each have a different environment, a city vs. the more isolated area around Plainridge Park.

Mr. Morrissey noted there are no pawn shops in Plainville.

It was noted that fraud and identity theft had increased overall. Chair Cameron noted that some Chiefs believe increases in domestic violence are related to drug usage and are sometime related to consequence of drug arrests. Ms. Queally noted that heroin users are not known for fighting in comparison to those in alcohol related arrests.

Mr. Bruce mentioned that it takes a while for numbers from the state to reach him. Mr. Bruce looks forward to two-year report and to starting the baseline report on MGM Springfield.

Next on the agenda is Sergeant Tim Babbin presenting on "***An Overview of Criminal Activity at Plainridge Park Casino***". Sergeant Babbin noted that Plainridge Park policing is 24/7 with 11 State Police and 2 Plainville police working jointly. He described the unique challenges presented by casinos in general, such as, maintaining a safe environment; electronic voucher theft; money laundering through use of the slot machines; intoxicated patrons; and the use of counterfeit currency. He noted that on the floor of the casino there are only plain clothes police.

Chair Cameron noted that now all 12 communities in Western Massachusetts have agreed to participate in the study.

Attorney Lillios asked how does Christopher Bruce get information regarding coding? The information does not include a narrative as that includes personal data. One can't necessarily go by code. Any control put in place, narratives help a lot; comparison data from other communities;

sometimes same themes which would mean not related to casino; reports urged to include description of casino where language used.

Mr. Morrissey noted that it is critical that bad habits regarding coding and related administrative work need to be remedied to ensure accurate statistics.

Lieutenant Babbitt noted that casinos are like small towns as there may be narcotics, intoxication, counterfeit currency; etc. He noted that the police are prepared for just about any incident that could occur including dealing with overdose victims with Narcan.

Chair Cameron asked about crime apprehension. Officer Babbitt noted that it was around 90%; there are no uniformed officers on the casino floor, only on the track side of the facility.

There being no further business,

Chair Cameron closed the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

/s/ Mary S. Thurlow
Mary S. Thurlow, Secretary

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of meeting and agenda
2. Membership of the Public Safety Subcommittee
3. Minutes from the January 25, 2017 meeting
4. Presentation on “*Illegal Gambling in Massachusetts*” by Pat Hanley & Gina Masotta, Office of the Attorney General
5. Presentation on “*Assessing the Impact of Gambling on Public Safety in Massachusetts - An Analysis of Plainridge Park’s first 18 months*” by Christopher Bruce, Crime Analysis Consultant