

CASINO REVENUE FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 26, 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission was held on Friday, August 26, 2016 at the State House Annex. Those in attendance were:

Jim Thebery, Chair
Maureen Bergeron, Seniors
James Carney, Seniors
Derek DeLuca, Asm. Chris Brown

Guest:

Sharon Harrington, NJ CCC
Lisa Tulley, NJ Transit

Support:

Desmond Webb, Treasury
Karen Storcella, Fiscal Support

The meeting was called to order, at 10:35am, by James Thebery followed by the Flag salute by Sharon Harrington. James Thebery welcomed commission members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes of June 24, 2016 were approved.

Minutes:

Jim Thebery: Mentioned a few articles:

Atlantic City casino profits up 20%

“The AC casino industry boosted profits by more than 20 percent in the first half of 2016, according to figures released by the state Division of Gaming. The improved bottom line came as total revenues for the same period barely improved from \$1.66 billion in the first half of 2015 to \$1.68 billion in 2016. The gross operating profits at the Borgata climbed 26.7 percent to \$106.1 million. The other two casinos with profits above \$20 million for the first half of the year were Harrah’s with \$57.2 million and Caesars, with \$36.5 million”

Borgata has best-ever month in July; Taj Mahal slide persists

“The Borgata won nearly \$85 million from gamblers in July, its best month ever and a 12.1 percent increase over July 2015. Overall, revenue at Atlantic City’s eight casinos was up 6.9 percent in July, to \$275.2 million. The Tropicana posted the biggest increase among brick and mortar casinos, up 14.2 percent, to \$36.4 million. The Golden Nugget was up 9.7 percent, to \$25 million and Caesars was up 7.6 percent to \$31.2 million. Resorts saw its revenue increase by 6.2 percent in July compared with a year ago, to \$17.8 million.”

Casinos in North Jersey

Will the North Jersey casinos be on ballot in November? If passed, the legislation will determine the allocation of funds (i.e. Atlantic City, outside needs, etc.)

Jim Thebery – Requested a spreadsheet for demographics regarding Atlantic City casino activities. This should include: season, length of stay, distance traveled, etc.) Desmond Webb & Sharon Harrington will work on this report.

Sharon Harrington – Taj closing in October, 2016. This will result in 2,800 workers to be laid off. Caesars had a job fair to absorb the loss of workers and provide employment at their other (5) locations (Atlantic City, Baltimore & Philadelphia). Regarding Caesars (3) properties, their outstanding contracts were settled. Showboat opened in July as a hotel property only. Mr. Blatstien, who purchased the property, has opened as a hotel only. The Revel has not opened to date.

What’s happening in AC: Daily light show at Boardwalk Hall. Three concerts scheduled: Florida Georgia Line, Zac Brown Band and Jimmy Buffet. All of the properties have summer schedule concerts. Margaritaville is opened. Steel Pier is opened as an amusement center. In September, they will begin installation of the Eye in the Sky. Tropicana has a new club. Stockton will be breaking ground to provide a campus in Atlantic City. South Jersey Industries is returning their headquarters to Atlantic City. They will keep a satellite operation in Hammonton, NJ.

Open discussion regarding Governor appointing senior/disabled to be involved in Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission. Committee will consider a few candidates and present to Governor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am. Next meeting will be October 7, 2016 at the State House Annex in Trenton, NJ Room 1.