

CASINO REVENUE FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DECEMBER 11, 2020
MINUTES OF MEETING

The telephone meeting of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission was held on Friday, December 11, 2020 via conference call. Those in attendance were:

Members:

Tina Zsenak – NJDHS
Maureen Bergeron, Chair, NJ4A
ASW. DiAnne Gove, NJLeg
Christna, rep. Sen. Gopal
Peggy Carrigg, Secretary, Seniors
James Carney, Vice Chair, Seniors
Joe Tyrell, VP Gov. Relations, Caesars Entertainment
Charity Jeffries, Asm. Vince Mazzeo

Guests:

David Scanlan, CCC
Lisa Tulley, NJTransit

Support:

Jennifer Valentovic, Treasury OMB
Karen Storcella, Treasury fiscal

Jim C opened the meeting (10:00a) followed by the flag salute.

Membership:

Introduction/welcome of committee and guests were announced.

Joe Tyrell

Casinos have been strongly affected by the pandemic. The casinos had been closed until July. Indoor dining had been banned by the governor. Positive note: amazing growth in internet gaming, which had nearly doubled by October. Also, no local taxes were deducted from internet gambling. Protocol in casinos: sanitation, temp checks, rooms cleaned (closed for approx. 3 days after customer checks out), distance between slots, plexi-glass between tables. Joe pointed out that the casinos are partnered with the Atlantic Care Health System which provides strong oversight and enforcement during Covid19. Casino revenues decreased during March & April. However, Internet gaming, Sports betting (online) has continued to grow since Summer of 2018.

Jim Carney

Internet gaming has grown, due to COVID – people have not been visiting the brick & mortar. Suggested to bring the CRFAC website up to date. Officers, meeting dates, meeting minutes and the significance of Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission.

NEWS from Division of Gaming Enforcement

As of October 2020, the DGE reports that year-to-date total gaming revenues (casino industry) reflected a decrease of 20.7%.

Year to date internet gaming had a 102.8% increase compared to 2019

Year to date sports wagering revenue (casino industry) \$281.6mill.

The following explains the impact of the casino closures in March due to COVID-19:

Revenues had been trending up in the beginning of 2020

Jan & Feb 2020 gross revenues were higher than Jan/Feb 2019 gross revenues.

In March 2020, gross revenues were \$85m, compared to \$223m in March 2019

April, May, June 2020, gross revenue was \$0 due to casino closures

LIGHT SNAPSHOTS (Lloyd Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism at Stockton University)

Borgata first in AC to reopen poker room – October 21, 2020

Sale of Bally's moves forward following meeting of CCC – purchased by Twin River Worldwide Holdings

Casino Reinvestment Development Auth (CRDA) – Luxury Tax Revenue Bonds downgraded by itch Ratings.

Stockton University breaks ground on Phase II project in Atlantic City

Buddakan & The Continental restaurants in Atlantic City will be permanently closed due to COVID19.

-Diminished casino taxes neutralized by online gaming – The Press of AC 12/7/2020

-Online gambling, sports betting continue to grow as Atlantic City casino revenue drops – The Press of AC 11/13/2020

-Twin River approved by NJ gaming regulators to operate Bally's Atlantic City – The Press of AC 11/5/2020

Jennifer Valentovic provided following reports:

CRF Revenue as of December 7th (by Fiscal Year)

End of Year Total CRF (2014 – DEC 2020)

Gross Casino Revenues as of DECEMBER 2020

Monthly Internet Revenues as of OCTOBER 2020

New positions to committee – fill vacant spots

Congratulations to the NEW:

Chair is Maureen Bergeron

Vice Chair is James Carney

Secretary is Peggy Carrigg

Please email me if you wish to elect these (3) candidates into the positions listed above.

General:

Travel expense reports were distributed to the committee and instructed to use for travel expenses to and from the CRFAC meetings in Trenton. (i.e., Mileage, tolls, parking)

Motion to close the meeting – motion seconded. Meeting concluded at 12:08a. We will let you know about our next meeting at a later date.

EVERYONE TAKE CARE & STAY SAFE!!