

CASINO REVENUE FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 25, 2020  
MINUTES OF MEETING

The telephone meeting of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission was held on Friday, September 25, 2020 via conference call. Those in attendance were:

**Members:**

Tina Zsenak, Vice Chair – NJDHS  
Maureen Bergeron, NJ4A  
ASW. DiAnne Gove, NJLeg  
Christna, rep. Sen. Gopal  
Peggy Carrigg, Seniors  
James Carney, 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

Karen S opened the meeting (10:00a) followed by the flag salute.

**Membership:**

Introduction/welcome of committee and guests were announced.

**Joe Tyrell**

Government shutdown between March & July made difficult for AC casinos. Casinos opened on July 4, 2020 with a 25% capacity on casino floors. Indoor dining opened September 7, 2020. All casinos are taking proper precautions (6ft distancing, temperature checks, sanitizing machines, etc) for a more comfortable atmosphere for the customers. The merger between **Eldorado Resorts Inc. and Caesars Entertainment Corp.** is official, creating the largest casino and gaming company in the United States. The completion of the merger was announced by the new Caesars Entertainment Inc. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

**David Scanlan**

Casino properties are on a road to recovery since it's re-opening in July 2020. Having the ability of the internet gambling was (and still is) our "buffer" during this public health emergency.

**Maureen Bergeron**

Expressed concern regarding the Assembly Bill that may affect the funding of Casino Revenue Fund. Asm. Greenwald assured Maureen the Bill will be amended to include the concerns of the Casino Revenue Fund and should not be affected. Maureen will have more information at a later date. **Peggy Carrigg** also reached out to the Assemblyman with the same concerns.

### **NEWS from Division of Gaming Enforcement**

As of August 2020, the DGE reports that year-to-date total gaming revenues (casino industry) are 7.5% lower than in 2019.

Year to date casino win had a 29.0% decrease compared to 2019

Year to date internet gaming had a 100.7% increase compared to 2019

Year to date sports wagering revenue (casino industry) had a 16.5% increase compared to 2019

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)  
**Casino Reinvestment Development Auth (CRFDA) approves add'l \$350,000 for food assistance for AC residents – the Press of AC** – On August 18, the CRDA approved an add'l \$350k for a total \$949.655 spent on emergency food services for AC residents through a events being called “FeedAC.”

**CRFA approved preliminary site plan for waterpark adjacent to Showboat – the Press of AC** - On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the CRDA voted to approve the preliminary site plan for an indoor waterpark to be built on land adjacent to the Show boat hotel and former casino. Showboat owner Bart Blatstein is also seeking a zoning designation change to entertainment retail district that would allow up to a \$5 million rebate in sales tax on the project, half of which would be credited to the CRDA.

**Assembly passes bill expanding definition of sports eligible for wagering – NJ online Gambling** – July 30, the NJ State assembly passed Bill A637, which was referred to the Senate, Waegerting, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee

### **Jennifer Valentovic provided following reports:**

CRF Revenue as of Sept 21<sup>st</sup> (by Fiscal Year)

End of Year Total CRF (2014 – Jan 2020)

Gross Casino Revenues as of August 2020

Monthly Internet Revenues as of August 2020

### **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. Next meeting will be on Friday, March 13, 2020 at the State House Annex, 145 W. State St, Rm 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Trenton, NJ