

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

Please see the last page for Elections of Committee Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary

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 18th, 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, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee on Aug 3 (S2670). If the bill passes, sportsbooks will be allowed to offer wagering on Esports and competitive eating events without seeking special approval from gaming regulators.

Casino relief legislation stalls – the Press of AC – Two bills, S2400/A4032 and S2398/A4031, designed to provide financial relief for the casino industry following the March closures, have not progressed in the legislature since mid-June. On September 14th, S2400/A4032 was recommended to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and, S2257/A4022 listed for discussion on September 17. On September 17, the Committee cleared S2257/A4022 but held back S2400/A4031. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Wynn sports app becomes 18th sports betting app in NJ – Casion.org- Wynn sports, a unit of Wynn Resort launched a mobile sports betting app in New Jersey on August 4th. Wynn does not operate a land-based casino in New Jersey and is partnering with Caesars Interactive. German based BetBull will provide sports lines/odds.

NJ governor allows indoor dining to resume at 25% capacity – the Press of AC – August 28th, NJ Governor Phil Murphy, announced that restaurants would be allowed to open indoor dining at 25% capacity on Friday, September 4th. Food & Beverage service inside AC casinos, including on gaming floors, was allowed to resume at 25% capacity, which I welcome news to casino operators and food service workers who have been out of work since the mid-march shutdown.

Borgata reopened July 26, 2020 – the Press of Atlantic City

NJ Racing Commission considers approval for fixed-odds wagering – ROI NJ

NJ sportsbooks accept first legal bets on annual July 4th hot dog eating contest – NJ.com - ESPN

NJ Assembly to consider bill authorizing poker to be played in poker rooms at horse racetracks – If Bill were passed, the NJ DGE would have jurisdiction over poker at racetracks and be responsible for defining the rules & regulations.

Jennifer Valentovic provided following reports:

CRF Revenue as of Sept 21st (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

New positions to committee – fill vacant spots

Elections for chair/vice chair/secretary

Nominee for Chair is Maureen Bergeron

Nominee for Vice Chair is James Carney

Nominee for 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!!