

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

* * * * *

IN RE: HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS

LICENSE RENEWAL

* * * * *

PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

* * * * *

BEFORE: Linda Lloyd, Presiding Officer
Denise J. Smyler, Board Chair
Frank Dermody, Commissioner
Sean Logan, Commissioner
Sara Manzano-Diaz, Commissioner
T. Mark Mustio, Commissioner
Nedia Ralston, Commissioner
Frances J. Reagan, Commissioner

HEARING: Tuesday, March 15, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Reporter: Danielle S. Ohm

Any reproduction of this transcript
is prohibited without authorization
by the certifying agency

LOCATION: North Strabane Township Fire Department
Station No. 2
1032 Route 519
Eighty-Four, PA 15330

A P P E A R A N C E S

ADRIAN R. KING, ESQUIRE

Ballard Spahr, LLP

1735 Market Street, 1st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Counsels for Washington Trotting Association,
LLC, d/b/a Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

DAVID TEPPER, ESQUIRE

WESLEY HURST, ESQUIRE

Assistant Enforcement Counsels

Office of Enforcement Counsel

P.O. Box 69060

Harrisburg, PA 17106

Counsels for Gaming Control Board

OTHER ATTENDEES FOR MEETING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board/OEC Speakers:

David Bryga, Bureau of Investigations & Enforcement

Joshua Hofrichter, Supervisor/Bureau of Casino
Compliance

Sergeant Gesuele Burello, Office Commander,
Hollywood Casino at The Meadows, State Police,
Bureau of Gaming Enforcement

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A P P E A R A N C E S (cont.)

OTHER ATTENDEES FOR MEETING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Hollywood Casino at The Meadows - License Renewal

- Tony Frabbiele, VP and General Manager
- Alex Hvizda, Director of Compliance
- Erin Chamberlain, Senior VP of Operations
- Kendra Stronach, VP of Finance/CFO
- Ben Kowalski, VP of Casino Operations
- Kim Rego, VP of Human Resources
- Adam Komorowski, Director of Security
- Steve Hartmann, Director of Player Development
- Tim Timko, Director of Surveillance

PUBLIC COMMENTERS PRESENT:

- Timothy O'Neal, State Representative
- Diane I. Vaughan, Chair of Washington County Board of Commissioners
- Rennick A. Remley, District Director - Presenting for Senator Carman Bartolotta
- Jeff M. Kotula, President of Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Promotion Agency

I N D E X

1		
2		
3	OPENING REMARKS	
4	By Presiding Officer	7 - 9
5	OPENING STATEMENT	
6	By Attorney King	9 - 11
7	PRESENTATION	
8	By Mr. Frabbiele	11 - 17
9	By Mr. Kowalski	17 - 21
10	By Ms. Rego	21 - 23
11	By Mr. Frabbiele	23 - 27
12	QUESTIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS	27 - 35
13	DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES	35 - 38
14	QUESTIONS BY ENFORCEMENT COUNSEL	
15	By Attorney Tepper	38 - 43
16	PRESENTATION	
17	By Attorney Tepper	44 - 72
18	PUBLIC COMMENT	
19	By Mr. O'Neal	73 - 77
20	By Ms. Vaughan	77 - 80
21	By Mr. Remley	80 - 81
22	By Mr. Kotula	81 - 84
23	DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES	84 - 85
24	CERTIFICATE	86
25		

E X H I B I T S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u> <u>Identified</u>	<u>Page</u> <u>Admitted</u>
<u>Hollywood Casino Hearing:</u>			
Exhibit 1	Presentation	38	38
<u>OEC Exhibit:</u>			
1	Arrest Statistics		
	2018 to 2021	44	46 *
2	Letter from Bureau of		
	Liquor Control Enforcement	45	46 *
3	Memorandum from Office of		
	Compulsive and Problem		
	Gambling	45	46 *
4	Letter from Department		
	of Revenue	45	46 *
5	Letter from State Horse		
	Racing Commission	45	46 *

*EXHIBIT NOT ATTACHED

P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Linda Lloyd and I'm the Presiding Officer assigned by the Board today to conduct this portion of the Category 1 License Renewal Hearing for Washington Trotting Association, now doing business as Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

Before we begin, if we can all turn our cellphones to vibrate and that sort of thing.

As the Presiding Officer, I call this hearing to order. The date is Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The time is 3:01 and the location is the brand new North Strabane Township Fire Department Station Number Two, located at 1032 Route 519 in Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act requires at Section 1326 that an operator's license shall be subject to renewal by the Board every five years. This License Renewal Hearing is convened by the Board pursuant to the mandate found in Section 1205(b) of the Act, which requires that the Board conduct a Public Input Hearing for any license renewal application. This Public Input Hearing was advertised on the Board's

1 website, announced by the Board at prior Board
2 meetings and advertised in local newspapers.

3 All of the Board Members are present
4 here today with us for this hearing. The hearing
5 will begin with a presentation by Hollywood Casino
6 with Cross Examination of witnesses by the Board's
7 Office of Enforcement Counsel (OEC) and questions
8 from Board Members if they desire. And the OEC will
9 then make a presentation with the opportunity for
10 Hollywood Casino Counsel to cross examine if he
11 desires and questions by the Board.

12 After the close of the testimony and
13 evidence from both of the parties, those individuals
14 who have registered to speak at today's hearing
15 during the public comment period will be heard, and
16 each registered speaker will have five minutes to
17 provide their thoughts on the renewal application.
18 At the close of the comment period, the parties will
19 have the opportunity to provide a short closing
20 statement if they desire.

21 I'd like to remind all witnesses, if
22 you could speak loudly and clearly and into the
23 microphones provided so that our Court Reporter
24 sitting over here to my left can hear you today and
25 those that are on our live stream right now out on

1 the YouTube Channel can hear you as well.

2 So let's begin by having all the
3 witnesses for Hollywood Casino and our OEC who will
4 testify today, if you could please stand and raise
5 your hand to be sworn by the Court Reporter.

6 ---

7 (WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

8 ---

9 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, you may
10 begin.

11 ATTORNEY KING: Thank you, Director
12 Lloyd. Chairwoman Smyler, Members of the Gaming
13 Control Board, Adrian King from the Ballard Spahr
14 Law Firm here on behalf of Washington Trotting
15 Association, LLC, now doing business as you heard,
16 as Hollywood Casino at The Meadows, as well as our
17 parent company Penn National Gaming.

18 We're pleased to be here today. We
19 will try to be succinct with our comments. I just
20 thought real quick before - well, let me say this.
21 Let me just introduce who - our team here before we
22 begin. First, I want to introduce Erin Chamberlin,
23 who is our Senior VP of Operations for the Eastern
24 Division. Alex Hvizda, who's our Director of
25 Compliance. We also have Kendra Stronach, VP of

1 Finance of the property. Tony Frabbiele who's our
2 Vice President and General Manager. Ben Kowalski,
3 who's our Vice President of Casino Operations, and
4 Kim Rego, who's our Vice President of Human
5 Resources and we're all very pleased to be here
6 today.

7 I thought it'd be interesting, just
8 quickly, to give a very brief history of this
9 property since we have so many new members of the
10 Board and it's been a very long time since we've had
11 a hearing with respect to this property. This
12 property is a harness track. It's a Category 1
13 property. It was actually started in 1963.

14 I won't go through all the owners,
15 since 2006, but this property has actually had quite
16 a few owners actually from 1963, but even from when
17 gaming was authorized. But if you can imagine,
18 since the last time we had a public input hearing on
19 this property, which was 2015, Penn National was
20 actually the third owner since then. So in 2015 it
21 was owned by Cannery Resorts out of Australia. It
22 then was sold to Pinnacle Gaming in 2016. That's
23 when the license was last renewed.

24 Obviously, COVID maybe threw a small
25 wrench into timing. And then Penn National bought

1 this property in 2018 when it bought Pinnacle Gaming
 2 and this was one of the properties in the portfolio.
 3 And that was also permitted because in 2017 when we
 4 did the last amendments to the Gaming Act, we
 5 removed the prohibition on owning more than one and
 6 a-third of - you know, one and then a third of a
 7 second property. In any event, one of the things I
 8 think we're really here to talk to you about are all
 9 the investments that Penn National has brought to
 10 this facility. So with that, I'm going to turn it
 11 over to Tony and his team.

12 MR. FRABBIELE: Thank you, Adrian.
 13 Madam Chair, Director, Members of the Board, thanks
 14 for making the trip out to Washington County to be
 15 with us today. It's a pleasure to have you in this
 16 facility. My first time here as well. It's
 17 absolutely amazing. So nicely done by the Township
 18 and County for bringing this here.

19 Just briefly, you know, to give you an
 20 overview of our team up on the Board. As Adrian
 21 mentioned, a few of our Executive Team Members are -
 22 are in the room with us today, but we still have
 23 four day-one executive team members that are with
 24 us. Ben Kowalski, one of them to my left. Adam
 25 Komorowski, our Director of Security. Steve

1 Hartmann, Director of Player Development and Tim
2 Timko in Surveillance have all been with The
3 Meadows, now Hollywood Casino at The Meadows since
4 inception of gaming. And combined, we have a pretty
5 diverse group of leaders that have had experience in
6 numerous regional and destination markets, including
7 Las Vegas, Atlantic City and Macau. So a very
8 impressive group that I think we have running the
9 property today.

10 Turning to Investments and I joined
11 the team January of 2019, shortly after the
12 acquisition by Penn National Gaming into the
13 property, and at that moment, we really started to
14 master plan. You know, really, what does the
15 property look like moving forward in the next three
16 to five years to remain competitive in the
17 marketplace. I'm pleased to share with you that
18 we've invested over \$26 million not only in the
19 property improvements but also capital improvements
20 in order to make sure that the property remains very
21 successful and safe for customers to visit.

22 Some of the ones I wanted to highlight
23 off of this slide is the Eatery by Fabio Viviani,
24 which was our - our first venture into a partnership
25 with a celebrity chef. He was just with us a few

1 weeks ago hosting an event with our VIP players.
2 The H Lounge renovation, which puts us into a
3 position to be able to what - really go after our
4 value proposition which is being the best in
5 entertainment.

6 Bringing a retail sportsbook. When we
7 arrived, although sports betting had come to
8 Pennsylvania, we hadn't had that opportunity yet.
9 We partnered with Draft Kings to get through the
10 license fee and then the reinvestment back into our
11 facility here.

12 So that leads us through 2019 and
13 2020, and then obviously, the pandemic.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: We've had a
15 request if you could tell us the slide number that
16 you're on as you change because we can't see it
17 behind us.

18 MR. FRABBIELE: My apologies.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: That's quite all
20 right. It's logistics.

21 MR. FRABBIELE: So that was slide -
22 slide four that I was just speaking to and it
23 continues on into slide five where, you know, coming
24 through the pandemic, where we really started to
25 change and pivot about how do we know become a

1 competitive property in a post-COVID environment?
2 And it goes through a variety of ways. It's not
3 only just what we do in investing in the property,
4 but it's also how we reward and recognize those that
5 have given so much to our community.

6 So we're proud to bring the myHeroes
7 Program to the area and we were able to go out and
8 celebrate that with a lot of local law enforcement,
9 the VFWs and the Fire Department and recognition of
10 the work that they do for us. We have now over -
11 over a hundred thousand members that have come into
12 the myHeroes program nationally, which is really
13 exciting for us. And then the next program we
14 really started to go after, and we were the first
15 ones as a company and at the Hollywood Casino at The
16 Meadows, the second property to bring a cashless
17 experience to gaming.

18 So we launched that in the late part
19 of last year, mid to late part and then we started
20 into table games as well. And we've really seen a
21 successful approach with that on the table games
22 side and we believe that's really going to be the
23 future of gaming, being able to connect our
24 customers, not only through mychoice App, but have
25 the Wallet connected there as well. We think that

1 provides the most safe and secure gaming experience
2 out there for our customers and for our business.

3 And then just before you, a few months
4 back, I talked about the rebranding to going away
5 from being just The Meadows, the Hollywood Casino at
6 The Meadows and that was really about tying our
7 network together with over 40 properties nationwide
8 and surrounded by four in Ohio, our two Category
9 4's, which have recently opened and Penn National
10 Racecourse. We wanted to make sure that customers
11 really understood the power of mychoice and how many
12 options they have inside of our database to take
13 advantage of.

14 So that's why we decided to go and tie
15 all of that in together. As well as keeping The
16 Meadows and keeping it under the same logo so that
17 we pay homage to our history with racing starting in
18 1963. We're coming up on our 60th anniversary,
19 which is really exciting for us to be able to
20 celebrate as we move forward into 2023.

21 Moving on to slide six. We are now,
22 you know, going through and finishing up what we
23 believe is the culmination of our rebrand experience
24 with the Barstool Campus, which will be, by square
25 footage, the largest Sportsbook venture that we have

1 inside our company. It has a dining component with
2 it. It has a variety of entertainment options that
3 will be available to customers, as well as a sports
4 wagering activities that will take place in the
5 venue. It has an indoor/outdoor component, too,
6 which we really think will be lucrative, not only
7 for our sports betters, but also as we move into
8 race season with our Adios Race being at the end of
9 July. We think it's something that we can really
10 leverage and folks will continue to enjoy for years
11 to come. All in told, that's about a \$6.8 million
12 project for us that we expect to finish by the end
13 of May.

14 With that, I'll turn to slide seven,
15 and just, you know, a brief overview. I don't want
16 to go through each bullet point here, but I think
17 just the magnitude of reinvestment and revenues
18 generated by the facility I think is really
19 impressive to see. The reinvestment back in the
20 community though I think is what we're most proud of
21 when you look at the wages, benefits and payroll
22 taxes that we've paid.

23 That's over \$600 million that's been
24 reinvested back locally here into Washington County
25 through our team members. And then our \$29.1

1 million that goes to local and state vendors.
2 Obviously, a lot of that in-state and local, and
3 then also minority and women-owned businesses.
4 Businesses like Ivy Green, who does a lot of our
5 floral and decorative arrangements throughout the
6 property and Everything Under the Sun are big
7 supporters of ours and partners that we use quite
8 frequently in the area and we're proud of that.

9 Yes. Also, the local share, \$213
10 million is also a number that we think is pretty
11 impressive. Thanks, Adrian. With that, I will turn
12 it over to Ben Kowalski to walk you through some our
13 gaming statistics and non-gaming initiatives.

14 MR. KOWALSKI: Thanks, Tony. And
15 thank you to the Board for taking the time to - and
16 everybody else for taking the time to hear our
17 presentation today. And thank you - especially
18 thank you for traveling to Washington County to do
19 it.

20 When you look at Gross Terminal
21 Revenue, you can see we peaked in 2009, followed by
22 some periods of stability that were impacted by new
23 competitors coming online. Understandably, a
24 decline for 2020, and then a nice, healthy recovery
25 in 2021.

1 Now, the big influencers to that were
2 new competitors online, introduction of iGaming and
3 the skill-base games, which you all are well aware
4 are untaxed, unregulated and we don't know the exact
5 impact, but we know that they're in close proximity
6 to the casino. I've been at the property since 2010
7 and had the opportunity to work with three different
8 ownership groups and I have good things to say about
9 all three of those groups, but I will say that it's
10 been really exciting in our time with Penn, for a
11 lot of the things that Tony had mentioned earlier.

12 We've had a chance to reimagine the
13 casino floor and shift from what the customer was
14 looking for when we first opened the property to
15 what we think they were looking for in 2022. And
16 that's smaller banks, more space. We opened a
17 sightline so we can showcase the new amenities. We
18 increased our non-smoking square footage to 60
19 percent and really pushed the smoking to one area of
20 the casino. So if you're a non-smoking guest, you
21 can walk through the casino, hit venue to venue,
22 without ever having to set foot in a smoking section
23 of the casino. And we've also made significant
24 investment in new product. We've refreshed over ten
25 percent of our casino floor and continue to offer

1 the best games that are out there in our market.

2 Switching to slide nine. Table games
3 is near and dear to my heart. I was an original
4 table games team member opening the property. I was
5 there at 6:00 a.m. when the first card was flipped.
6 So - and I also came from an area where a regional
7 casino came online. My mother went to work there
8 and she was raising two kids by herself and I
9 benefitted firsthand from what that stable, secure,
10 good-paying job, and congrats to her as she just
11 retired after nearly 30 years at that property.

12 And it's a similar story that you'll
13 see at The Meadows. We have a lot our team members
14 that have been there for several years. Many of
15 them since day one. It's a big team, nearly 200
16 people, predominantly Pennsylvania residents. And
17 it really is a family environment that we're proud
18 to have at the property.

19 And the capital side, we continue to
20 invest. In the last six months, we upgraded our
21 table system, replaced our table tops and installed
22 the cashless technology on table games. We're also
23 always looking to be first in market with new-
24 approved products in the state.

25 Slide ten. Tony touched on this, but

1 when we first became acquired -. When Sportsbook
2 were launching across the state, we were in the
3 middle of an ownership change, so we didn't get one
4 of the initial Sportsbook licenses and those of us
5 at the property saw that as a missed opportunity.
6 Penn was quick to recognize that opportunity.
7 Quickly, we applied for our license, installed a
8 sportsbook right in the center of the casino and
9 that space is currently being - undergoing a major
10 renovation. When that project is finished later
11 this year, we have no doubt that it will be a first
12 best in class experience.

13 Slide 11. We can't talk about The
14 Meadows without mentioning and talking about racing.
15 We were a racetrack long before we were a casino.
16 Almost six years in operation. We've invested \$12
17 million in backside improvements. We race over 180
18 days a year. We stable 800 horses and you -. It's
19 enjoyable to walk around, hearing our racing guests,
20 to hear just from members of the community who have
21 nostalgic good memories from the track. And we
22 continue to make those memories as we invested in
23 the Embers outdoor Bar and Restaurant last - at the
24 end of last season. We're looking forward to fully
25 programming it this year and making some further

1 enhancements to the interior of the building in the
2 near future.

3 Slide 12. When we think of The
4 Meadows, we don't just think of it as a gaming
5 facility. We really do see ourselves as the best in
6 entertainment. We partner with local businesses to
7 pull off several of these events. We have our
8 annual Corks and Kegs event, Food Truck Festival.
9 We allowed a local restaurant chain to take over one
10 of our outlets for a weekend, and this will be the
11 first year since COVID that we have our full-on -
12 full-on concert series starting in April.

13 Even when we were closed, we ran a
14 light show that people can drive through last year
15 for the holiday season. It was what we thought we
16 can pull off and then given the time and the
17 situation. This year, we took it a step further and
18 we actually built an ice rink on the apron. So
19 we're always looking for fun and creative ways to
20 drive visitation to the property. But really at the
21 core of what we do is our people and to talk more
22 about our people is Kim Rego.

23 MS. REGO: Thanks, Ben. Good
24 afternoon, everybody.

25 So our diversity stats are consistent

1 within the host community. And when we talk about
2 our people, engagement initiatives are constant
3 throughout the year. We want to have fun at work.
4 We want to make sure that we're retaining our team
5 members. Some of the - some of the things we do on
6 an annual basis, our Walk With Me program. We have
7 a bowling tournament. Our exclusive team member
8 sales, a talent show and a farmer's market, just to
9 mention a few.

10 Last year we launched a new diversity
11 scholarship and awarded one of our team members'
12 children a \$20,000 scholarship for their tuition.
13 We also launched a new recognition program, Aces of
14 Penn, and this is a real-time, on-the-spot
15 recognition, allowing team members to earn points
16 for Amazon purchases, gift cards and so much more.
17 So last year we also increased our starting rates to
18 stay competitive with the market. And so I'm going
19 to talk more about recruitment on the next slide, so
20 slide 14.

21 So on this slide, as you can see,
22 there's been a steady decline in workforce size and
23 there are now 2.2 million more job openings than
24 there are unemployed workers in the economy. One in
25 67 jobs were remote pre-pandemic, and now it's 1 in

1 7. And unfortunately, hospitality workers aren't
2 sharing in that shift of flexible work. Our sector
3 has been the hardest hit. So some of the things
4 that we've done to combat that is we created a new
5 recruitment committee last year and we focused on
6 streamlining our onboarding so that we could get new
7 hires in as fast as we could within this robust job
8 market.

9 We also focused on a brand awareness
10 campaign and recruited heavily on social media. We
11 replaced the models that we had in our
12 advertisements with our team members, in their
13 uniforms. We increased our referral bonuses and we
14 added a sign-on bonus for some of our new positions
15 that have opened. And now I'll turn it back over to
16 Tony.

17 MR. FRABBIELE: Thank you, Kim.

18 We'll move to slide 15. And so I'd
19 like to just take a moment to talk about our
20 community and I'll do it really in two phases, pre-
21 COVID and post-COVID. So again, when we came into
22 the property - when I came into the property in
23 2019, you know, we thought it as an opportunity for
24 us to be more active partners in the community and
25 how we reinvested back into - into the local

1 community to support those around us. And so that's
2 been a big focus for us since coming in, and you can
3 see it in the numbers. You know, big businesses or
4 big ones that we support; American Cancer Society,
5 the Washington County Foodbank. Every opportunity
6 we have to help them out, we know they truly need it
7 in times like we are in now. Veterans Leadership
8 Program and the Area Humane Society, which is
9 honestly near and dear to my heart because I have
10 four dogs. So that's why that one shows up there.

11 But you know, they - we like to try to
12 do what we can to support everybody in the area.
13 And not only just, you know, the philanthropic
14 efforts, but we also have a partnership with the
15 Hyatt Place, which is developed right in front of
16 our casino that we operate with. Bistecca, if
17 you've ever been inside of our facility and dined in
18 Bistecca, it's a family-owned restaurant upstairs
19 and it's got a great history and we're proud that
20 they - they're partners with us.

21 Going in and looking at post-COVID on
22 slide 16, and through COVID, you know, I'd like to
23 take a minute to really just talk about, you know,
24 how we went about helping the community and
25 activating in a - in, I think, the most critical

1 time of need that any of us had ever seen. So when
2 we were - went into closure in the middle of March,
3 you know, obviously, we, as a large facility, have a
4 lot of product on-hand and we wanted to make sure
5 that went to good use. So we took every - every
6 perishable item that we had in the property and gave
7 it over to the Washington County Foodbank so they
8 could get it out to families in need. We also
9 gathered up all our PPE equipment and donated it to
10 the Washington Health System, as at that time, they
11 were in dire need of also that type of equipment to
12 be able to help out the community.

13 We also knew that our team members
14 needed assistance and, you know, Penn National
15 Gaming was phenomenal in supporting us through that
16 and making sure that our team members had benefits
17 carried all the way through August of 2020, and then
18 again when we were forced to shut down in December
19 of 2020 through January of 2021, and we waived all
20 arrears for all of those team members.

21 We established an emergency relief
22 fund, which was funded by executives like myself,
23 those at the table and in the room with me, along
24 with our board of directors and our chair - our CEO
25 Jay Snowden, to help out everyone across Penn

1 National Gaming who was struggling through the
2 pandemic and that continues on today. And then also
3 at the end of 2020, our executive leadership team
4 decided that they would take monies that were tagged
5 for other purposes and refocus them back to our team
6 members and gave every non-executive team member a
7 bonus of a minimum of \$500 at the end of 2020 to
8 help recover from the pandemic. We also allowed
9 folks to sell back their PTO in more higher
10 increments than we normally would. And then we
11 partnered with the Washington Health System in order
12 to make sure that our team members who really needed
13 those vaccines and were and to get their first that
14 they were able to do so.

15 Continuing on the community theme, you
16 know, I think a - as a business of our size and
17 scope of what we do. We have a role in protecting
18 those that can't protect themselves. And you know,
19 that - that really turns the page to unattended
20 minors. And you know, from my - my personal belief
21 is that anybody that leaves a minor unattended
22 should be prosecuted. But we're going to do
23 everything that we can to protect underage minors
24 and make sure that they are not left unattended at
25 our property. We saw it best practice from another

1 operator that has installed infrared cameras in two
2 - our other facilities, three other facilities in
3 the state have already done so and we are now moving
4 forward and we'll have them installed in the spring,
5 which I think is critical before we get into the
6 summer season. So we'll be able to cover every
7 entrance of any garage or any parking lot space and
8 be able to see if there's a - anybody left in those
9 vehicles, and that goes for dogs too, or cats.

10 So we will be able to pick up on
11 anything that's left in a vehicle, through the
12 infrared cameras, which we think are going to be
13 really helpful, as well as, you know, the signage
14 and our security team and partnering with the PSP
15 and local law enforcement to do everything we can to
16 protect everybody.

17 MR. LOGAN: Is the infrared
18 stationary? Does somebody control them?

19 MR. FRABBIELE: They're what we call
20 PTZs. So they're able to be able to move around
21 from the surveillance room. And with that, I will
22 move to questions and thank you for your time.

23 CHAIR SMYLER: I do have a question
24 about the unattended minors.

25 Do you have security roving your

1 parking lots or anything? It doesn't say so on the
2 slide?

3 MR. FRABBIELE: We do, we do.
4 Security, that's been something we've done since day
5 one. We have constant security that roves through
6 our racing and also through the front, both parking
7 garages and surface lot.

8 CHAIR SMYLER: Thank you.

9 MR. FRABBIELE: Thank you.

10 MR. MUSTIO: Could you turn to slide
11 eight? Just to get on the record, would you talk a
12 little bit about what's highlighted in yellow?

13 ATTORNEY KING: Well, just to put back
14 or revisit the issue. You had the pleasure of
15 hearing me read a very long statement into the
16 record, I think, in November with respect to skill
17 games. This is when both Grantville and The Meadows
18 were before the Board with respect to a slot - slot
19 reduction petitions.

20 I think just to reiterate what was
21 said there, I mean the problem continues. Skill
22 games are not being addressed in the General
23 Assembly. We know that the state police is doing
24 everything they can with limited resources. There
25 have been raids. They have seized machines. There

1 is one particular skill game operator that I'll keep
2 as nameless, that has a lawsuit pending in the
3 Commonwealth Court where they are attempting to have
4 the Commonwealth Court effectively affirm a decision
5 out of Beaver County that found that those machines
6 were games of skill, not games of chance and
7 therefore, legal.

8 You know, our position as a gaming
9 industry is that that opinion out of Beaver County
10 only applies to Beaver County. It is not a - it
11 does not have precedential value across the state.
12 That's why they're in Commonwealth Court, and our
13 position is -. Actually, quite frankly, I'll also
14 tell you, I think that decision is rather stale. It
15 was - it deals with machines seized in 2014. God
16 only knows how they've changed since then.

17 We obviously welcome all efforts by
18 law enforcement and the General Assembly. I don't
19 think it's good for anybody in Pennsylvania to have
20 these machines. I know that there are people making
21 arguments that this is what helped them get through
22 the pandemic, but I would - I would say, there are a
23 lot of business that struggled.

24 MR. MUSTIO: I guess specifically,
25 it's on the Revenue page?

1 ATTORNEY KING: Yep.

2 MR. MUSTIO: You're showing the arrow
3 for the line, and you show Live Pittsburgh, but you
4 say it doesn't include that. So do you have any
5 information that can specifically help? Because we
6 have people here today that are benefitting from
7 this?

8 ATTORNEY KING: Sure.

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. FRABBIELE: I think it's hard for
11 us to quantify because there's no reportable data
12 off of Pennsylvania skill games that we know of that
13 we could put into a report and share with you. But
14 I think what we could point out is, if you turn to
15 slide nine and if you look at the performance of
16 table games versus the performance of slots, even
17 post a Cat 4 entry. We've fared much better through
18 table games and what we've seen there, versus what
19 we've seen in slots. So from an operator's
20 perspective, that would lead me down a hypothesis
21 that skill games would have more of an effect.

22 CHAIR SMYLER: Actually, if you look
23 at slide seven where it talks about your annual
24 local and state vendor purchasing of \$29.1 million.
25 Can you tell me, what is your total vendor

1 purchasing? Like what percentage of that is local
2 and state?

3 MR. FRABBIELE: All right.

4 I'm sorry?

5 CHAIR SMYLER: The total vendor
6 purchasing annually, 29.1 represents what percentage
7 if you know?

8 ATTORNEY KING: State versus the
9 total -.

10 MR. FRABBIELE: I don't know the exact
11 total. I mean, I could, you know, make an educated
12 guess, but I can throw - you know, put something
13 together and have it sent over your way.

14 CHAIR SMYLER: What's your educated
15 guess?

16 MR. FRABBIELE: Well, when I look at
17 the \$29.1 million and I look directly at \$13.4
18 million, I would say it's about 40 percent. In that
19 range.

20 CHAIR SMYLER: And that's been pretty
21 consistent?

22 MR. FRABBIELE: Yeah, Kendra Stronach
23 is in the room.

24 MS. STRONACH: Just to understand the
25 question, you're asking what the total - if that \$29

1 million is our total spend.

2 Is that correct?

3 CHAIR SMYLER: For vendor purchasing,
4 or however you're defining that?

5 MS. STRONACH: We look at our total
6 expenses for the year, this is about 95 percent of
7 that total spend. So we do the majority of our
8 spend with local and state vendors. I think if
9 that's what you're asking.

10 CHAIR SMYLER: That's excellent.
11 Thank you. And I do have one question on personnel,
12 and I'm trying to find the slide.

13 MS. REGO: Thirteen (13).

14 CHAIR SMYLER: Thank you. Thirteen
15 (13). I see that you have ten percent, which is a
16 racial minority, that are ten percent of your team
17 members. Can you just tell me, what kind of
18 outreach you do to try to attract more minorities
19 into your particular casino? I mean, I know it's
20 probably a struggle, not that I've been here before,
21 but having been here today and having been to a
22 restaurant, I kind of noticed that there weren't a
23 lot of us out there. So what kind of outreach
24 efforts do you make?

25 MS. REGO: So we've been trying to do

1 more outreach to get more diverse team members, but
2 it is a struggle because, even when we try to
3 recruit and do stuff in Pittsburgh, a lot of people
4 don't want to leave that Pittsburgh area to drive to
5 Washington County. So we do struggle. You know, I
6 know our statistics do match our host community and
7 we're trying to get outside of the host community,
8 but we have not been super successful.

9 CHAIR SMYLER: Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Before we turn to
11 our OEC for any questions, do I have questions from
12 Sean, Mr. Logan?

13 MR. LOGAN: First, thank you for your
14 commitment to the children left unattended. I think
15 you know I'm passionate about it, being here for
16 five years and just still, I can't get my hands
17 around how folks leave children unattended, but I
18 appreciate what you're doing to try to combat it.

19 Also, I appreciate your commitment to
20 the community. If you have any - I don't know if
21 you do, but if you have any agreements, memorandums
22 of understanding with any community organization;
23 fire department, police department, chamber, that's
24 not legislatively mandated, will you continue those?

25 MR. FRABBIELE: Absolutely. We have a

1 great - great partnerships, not only with the - Jeff
2 Kotula, who I believe is in the room today, and the
3 Washington County Tourism and Chamber. But - and
4 you know, no formal agreement, but the foodbank and
5 the humane society. You know, as long as I'm here
6 and in tenure and Penn National Gaming I believe is
7 around, we're going to continue those relationships
8 and support those organizations.

9 MR. LOGAN: Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner
11 Ralston, questions?

12 MS. RALSTON: The Chairwoman actually
13 asked my question. I think she was looking at my
14 notes.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner
16 Dermody?

17 MR. DERMODY: No, no questions.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner
19 Mustio? Commissioner Regan?

20 MS. REGAN: Back to slide 13. The ten
21 percent racial minority, do you have a breakdown of
22 how many African-American, Latinos and Asian?

23 MS. STRONACH: I do not, but we can
24 get something to you.

25 MS. REGAN: Okay.

1 Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: And for ease of
3 distribution, Mr. King, if you just want to send it
4 to the Board Clerk -

5 ATTORNEY KING: Yes.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: - we can get that
7 out to the Board Members.

8 ATTORNEY KING: Yeah. And just to be
9 clear, we'll answer that question and we will -
10 although I'm sure Kendra's right, but we'll make
11 sure we're exactly right on the spending and get you
12 all the details.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Excellent.

14 ATTORNEY KING: Before we - if we're
15 ready to transition over, can I just make one point
16 on slide 14?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sure.

18 ATTORNEY KING: There's a little black
19 box with a color chart that says licensing process.
20 Let me just say as an initial remark, working with
21 your staff is always an extremely helpful and
22 beneficial experience. Obviously, they're our
23 regulator and they hold our feet to the fire as
24 necessary, but they also work with us wherever they
25 can. We will likely be asking to meet with Kevin

1 and Steve, either as ourselves, Penn National with
2 our properties, or possibly with some of our
3 partners just to talk about ways that we might be
4 able to further fine tune some of the application
5 process for employees. And the issue is, not -
6 we've been doing this for years and it's not that
7 it's not working, it's just we're dealing with an
8 unprecedented time in terms of maintaining and
9 finding employees. And so if there are any ways
10 that we can tweak the process to make it as
11 efficient and effective as possible.

12 And the thing that we're really
13 pointing out and I know the challenges, we're
14 somewhat dealing with what the statute says in terms
15 of the Gaming Act, but you know, we have to get tax
16 clearance, even down to the lowest level of
17 employees. And the problem is, a lot of times, you
18 know, we're kind of in limbo with an employee, where
19 we want the employee, we've given them an offer, but
20 they don't know if they're going to get the job
21 because we're waiting to, you know, get these
22 materials from the IRS. And quite frankly, the IRS
23 not working very effectively these days, if I may
24 say so.

25 And so the problem is, we have, you

1 know, potential candidates who will walk because
2 they don't want to wait. They need to get a job.
3 And so if there are ways that we can tweak the
4 process, I think that will be helpful to us. That
5 would be helpful to us also because we'll make the
6 staff happier in terms of minimum staffing levels
7 and all the things that we're trying to do.

8 So I just wanted to highlight that,
9 but again, I want to emphasize, that's by no means,
10 a criticism with the Gaming Control Board, or the
11 team or the staff. It's just we're dealing with
12 some difficult situations.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: And Mr. King,
14 based on the questions from the Commissioners, do
15 you have any follow up with your witnesses?

16 ATTORNEY KING: I do not. That would
17 conclude our presentation.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

19 ATTORNEY KING: And if it's
20 appropriate now, the only document that I want to
21 move into the record is our Presentation.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

23 We will mark it as Hollywood Casino
24 Hearing Exhibit Number 1.

25 ---

1 (Whereupon, Hollywood Casino Hearing Exhibit 1,
2 Presentation, was marked for identification.)

3 ---

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Tepper, do you
5 have any objections?

6 ATTORNEY TEPPER: No objections,
7 Director Lloyd.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.
9 So moved.

10 ---

11 (Whereupon, Hollywood Casino Hearing Exhibit 1,
12 Presentation, was admitted.)

13 ---

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: And we'll turn for
15 Mr. Tepper for any questions you might have for
16 their witnesses.

17 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you, Director
18 Lloyd. David Tepper, T-E-P-P-E-R, on behalf of the
19 OEC. I have a few questions.

20 Are there any plans to change the size
21 or footprint of the gaming floor?

22 MR. FRABBIELE: Not at this time.

23 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Turning to slide
24 six, are there any plans in the works, either
25 renovations or new projects, other than the Barstool

1 Sportsbook Campus launch?

2 MR. FRABBIELE: Not currently in
3 progress.

4 ATTORNEY TEPPER: And -?

5 MR. FRABBIELE: But we are always
6 exploring opportunities.

7 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. And
8 turning to the slide seven. You note that \$2.2
9 billion in gaming racing taxes and fees paid since
10 2007, do you know how much have been paid since
11 Washington Trotting Association's last license
12 renewal in 2016?

13 MR. FRABBIELE: I don't know that I
14 have that figure today, but I certainly can get it
15 for you.

16 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. And when
17 you get it for us, can you break down the difference
18 between slots, table games and sports gaming
19 revenue?

20 MR. FRABBIELE: We can.

21 ATTORNEY TEPPER: And you noted that
22 the square footage has - or the non-gaming area has
23 increased from 50 to 60 percent on slide eight.

24 Is that for just the slot section or
25 for the entire gaming floor?

1 MR. FRABBIELE: It's actually -

2 ATTORNEY TEPPER: No, sorry -.

3 MR. FRABBIELE: - non-smoking.

4 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Non-smoking, I'm
5 sorry.

6 MR. FRABBIELE: So what we did and in
7 Ben's remarks is we try to make the experience the
8 best we can for those customers that don't want to
9 be around smoke. So we made the business decision
10 to go beyond what is allowed.

11 ATTORNEY TEPPER: I guess the - my
12 question was, is that just the slot space or is that
13 table games as well?

14 MR. FRABBIELE: Both.

15 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Both.

16 And what impact, if any, have you seen
17 by increasing the non-smoking square footage?

18 MR. FRABBIELE: I think - I think it's
19 hard to quantify. I don't know that we've really -
20 really have looked at it from that perspective. You
21 know, when you think about just over the time
22 horizon of when we made this adjustment, it was in a
23 COVID period of June 28th of last year, where I
24 think the public and everything was still maybe a
25 little bit apprehensive about getting out.

1 So we haven't really felt like we have
2 tangible data to really make a strong assumption one
3 way or the other. But when we look at, I would say,
4 overall market performance and where we fall in the
5 market, we believe we're competitive and close to
6 where we should be in the marketplace.

7 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. And
8 turning to slide 13, I have a few questions as well.
9 Of your approximately, 660 team members, how many
10 are part time versus full time?

11 MR. FRABBIELE: I'd let Kim go ahead.
12 I believe it's like - about 70/30. Kim, can you
13 give a -?

14 MS. REGO: I don't have an exact
15 number, but that's about close.

16 MR. FRABBIELE: We can also get you
17 the exact number.

18 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. And what
19 qualifies an employee to be eligible for benefits?

20 MS. REGO: Thirty (30) or more hours.

21 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Are there any
22 benefits for employees that work less than 30 hours?

23 MS. REGO: Paid time off.

24 ATTORNEY TEPPER: And of your
25 managerial and professional employees, what

1 percentage come from internal promotions?

2 MS. REGO: I do not have that, but we
3 could get that to you.

4 ATTORNEY TEPPER: And approximately,
5 what percentage of Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
6 employees are RAMP trained?

7 MR. FRABBIELE: RAMP?

8 ATTORNEY TEPPER: RAMP.

9 MR. FRABBIELE: RAMP Certification?

10 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Yeah.

11 MR. FRABBIELE: We can send that over
12 to you as well, but we've recently went to the point
13 where all food and beverage team members are RAMP
14 Certified. I'm RAMP Certified. So anybody that's
15 servicing alcohol is RAMP Certified, but we can send
16 you that exact number.

17 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: And Mr. Tepper,
19 just if I can interrupt, but we have a lot of new
20 Board Members, can you tell us what RAMP is, or can
21 someone, either from Hollywood or -?

22 MR. FRABBIELE: Responsible Alcohol
23 Management Program.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

25 Thank you.

1 ATTORNEY TEPPER: It is the alcohol
2 training about over-service and carding of minors to
3 ensure that they're served appropriately and that
4 those who should not be served are not provided
5 alcohol.

6 And how often do employees receive
7 training in compulsive and problem gambling?

8 MS. REGO: On an annual basis.

9 ATTORNEY TEPPER: And what measures
10 are taken to ensure that those ages 18 to 20, who
11 are betting on horse racing, are not accessing the
12 gaming floor?

13 MR. FRABBIELE: So we - we have
14 security stationed at each entry point where racing
15 intersects with gaming and we I.D. anybody that
16 looks under the age of 30, and on weekends where we
17 typically see a higher volume of customer, we
18 instruct our officers to go to under 40.

19 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. We have
20 no further questions.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, do you
22 have any follow up with your witnesses?

23 ATTORNEY KING: No, no follow up.
24 We've taken careful notes. We'll update the record
25 with the submissions. We thank you for your time

1 and naturally, we respectively request that you
2 renew our license. We would appreciate it.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

4 So we will turn to Mr. Tepper, our OEC
5 for your presentation and can we move a microphone
6 over?

7 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Good afternoon,
8 Chair Lloyd - or Director Lloyd, Chair Smyler, Board
9 Members.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: I wish I was the
11 Chair.

12 ATTORNEY TEPPER: As a preliminary
13 matter, the OEC has entered into stipulations with
14 Washington Trotting Association regarding the
15 authenticity and admission of five exhibits,
16 including Arrest Statistics for The Meadows from
17 2018 to 2021, compiled by the Pennsylvania State
18 Police.

19 ---

20 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 1, Arrest Statistics 2018
21 to 2021, was marked for identification.)

22 ---

23 ATTORNEY TEPPER: A Letter from the
24 Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control
25 Enforcement.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 2, Letter from Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, was marked for identification.)

ATTORNEY TEPPER: A Memorandum from the Board's Office of Compulsive and Problem Gambling.

(Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 3, Memorandum from Office of Compulsive and Problem Gambling, was marked for identification.)

ATTORNEY TEPPER: A Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

(Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 4, Letter from Department of Revenue, was marked for identification.)

ATTORNEY TEPPER: And a Letter from the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission that we would like to move into the record.

(Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 5, Letter from State Horse Racing Commission, was marked for

1 identification.)

2 ---

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, any
4 objections?

5 ATTORNEY KING: No objections.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: And are they 1
7 through 6?

8 ATTORNEY TEPPER: They are marked OEC
9 1 through 5.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: One through 5.
11 Okay.

12 So moved.

13 ---

14 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 1, Arrest Statistics 2018
15 to 2021, was admitted.)

16 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 2, Letter from Bureau of
17 Liquor Control Enforcement, was admitted.)

18 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 3, Memorandum from Office
19 of Compulsive and Problem Gambling, was
20 admitted.)

21 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 4, Letter from Department
22 of Revenue, was admitted.)

23 (Whereupon, OEC Exhibit 5, Letter from State
24 Horse Racing Commission, was admitted.)

25 ---

1 introduce yourself and talk about where you're
2 employed?

3 A. Yes. My name is Dave Bryga. I've been
4 employed with the Bureau of Investigation and
5 Enforcement (BIE) for over 15 years starting in
6 October of 2006, and I've been the case agent for
7 The Meadows Casino since July of 2010.

8 Q. Thank you. And what are your - what is
9 your current position the BIE?

10 A. I'm an Investigator.

11 Q. And can you please describe your duties
12 with BIE?

13 A. As an Investigator, we conduct background
14 investigations, determine suitability for licensure
15 and approval by the Board.

16 Q. As part of your duties as an Investigator
17 with BIE, did you conduct an investigation into
18 Hollywood Casino at The Meadows for the Renewal of
19 its Category 1 Slot Machine License?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. Can you please describe the scope of your
22 typical casino renewal investigation?

23 A. The renewal investigation of The Meadows
24 Casino covered a period since its last renewal
25 application that was submitted and investigated by

1 BIE back in 2015, which was approved by the Board in
2 March of 2016.

3 Q. And can you please expand on the
4 investigation of principals, principal entities and
5 affiliates?

6 A. Yeah. With Penn National being the
7 parent company and also having ownership of several
8 other entities that are licensed in Pennsylvania,
9 the principal entities and the principals had been
10 investigation in relation to the renewal
11 investigation of their other property, Hollywood
12 Casino property in Grantville.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 Can you please give me some examples of
15 the areas that the BIE looks into during a renewal
16 investigation?

17 A. Yes. During each investigation, we look
18 at - check for any criminal records or history,
19 liens or judgements, civil litigation, bankruptcy.
20 We check for compliance with tax compliance, as well
21 as other state agency compliance such as Department
22 of Revenue, Liquor Control Board and the Harness
23 Racing Commission.

24 Q. What tools does the BIE utilize to
25 examine these areas?

1 A. We'll conduct various database searches
2 and review the results. We look for compliance, as
3 I stated, with the other state agencies for
4 compliance with those. We also conduct various -
5 let's see database checks, I got that, and IRS. So
6 I think -.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Although suitability investigations
9 remain ongoing, at this time, is the renewal
10 investigation into Hollywood Casino at The Meadows,
11 and associated individuals and entities complete?

12 A. Yes, it is.

13 Q. Were Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
14 cooperative during the renewal investigation?

15 A. Yes. They were very cooperative and they
16 were responsive to all of my requests.

17 Q. Did the BIE discover any areas of concern
18 during the course of this investigation?

19 A. I did not.

20 ATTORNEY HURST: Thank you, Mr. Bryga.
21 OEC has no more questions.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, any
23 questions for the witness?

24 ATTORNEY KING: No questions. Thank
25 you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioners, any
2 questions?

3 Okay.

4 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you, Mr.
5 Bryga. The OEC's next witness is Joshua Hofrichter.

6 ---

7 JOSHUA HOFRICHTER,
8 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
9 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
10 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

11 ---

12 EXAMINATION

13 ---

14 BY ATTORNEY TEPPER:

15 Q. Good afternoon. Can you state your name
16 and spell your last name for the record, please?

17 A. My name is Joshua Hofrichter,
18 H-O-F-R-I-C-H-T-E-R.

19 Q. And can you please introduce yourself?

20 A. Joshua Hofrichter. I'm the Casino
21 Compliance Supervisor assigned to The Meadows
22 Casino.

23 Q. And can you please describe your
24 employment history with the Board?

25 A. Yeah. I was hired in July of 2009 as a

1 Casino Compliance Representative. I got promoted to
2 the supervisor position in December of 2017. My
3 entire career has been at The Meadows.

4 Q. And what are your job duties as the
5 Casino Compliance Supervisor assigned to Hollywood
6 Casino at The Meadows?

7 A. I act as a liaison between the casino
8 management and staff and the Board Members and the
9 Board itself. I assign tasks and monitor the
10 activities of the Casino Compliance Representatives
11 assigned to The Meadows and I review their reports
12 and submit them for further action if necessary.

13 Q. And can you describe the role of the
14 Bureau of Casino Compliance and a slot machine
15 licensee like Hollywood Casino at The Meadows?

16 A. We're on-site to monitor for compliance
17 with the Act, the regulations, submitted internal
18 controls and any other applicable laws to maintain
19 the integrity of gaming within the Commonwealth.

20 Some examples include, you know, assuring
21 adequate surveillance coverage, assuring that the -
22 adequate staffing for surveillance and security and
23 table games personnel. Assuring that all of the
24 employees and vendors are appropriately licensed to
25 be on the gaming floor or restricted area. And to

1 assure that gaming, both table games and slot
2 machines are being conducted in accordance with
3 those rules and regulations. And the slot machines,
4 specifically, assuring that they're communicating
5 with the central computer system.

6 Q. Thank you. And how has the role of
7 Bureau of Casino Compliance changed since Hollywood
8 Casino at The Meadows license was last renewed by
9 the Board?

10 A. Well, since the last renewal, obviously
11 the legislation has changed to allow for sports
12 wagering. The casino has done numerous operational
13 floor plan changes, which included the addition of a
14 sports wagering area. So our staff did the overview
15 for the surveillance coverage and then we monitor
16 the activities of the sports wagering area for cash
17 flow, bets placed, to make sure that they're in
18 compliance with the regulations, the house rules,
19 the catalog of wagers.

20 Q. Thank you. And can you describe the
21 level and scope of access which the Bureau of Casino
22 Compliance has at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows?

23 A. Ultimately, we have unfettered access to
24 the entire property, including the restricted areas.
25 We do have regulatory and obviously,

1 responsibilities in those areas, the surveillance
2 room, count room cage, slot storage, card and dice
3 storage and a central computer system control room.

4 Q. And briefly turning to the central
5 control computer system room, have there been any
6 connectivity issues between the central control
7 computer system and Hollywood Casino at The Meadows?

8 A. They're have not.

9 Q. And can you please describe the Bureau of
10 Casino Compliance's interactions with the Department
11 of Revenue who controls the central control computer
12 system?

13 A. Sure. We get regular notifications from
14 the Department of Revenue regarding non-responding
15 slot machines or, you know, to ensure that slot
16 machines are reporting financials. We report meters
17 for RAM clears and, occasionally, we'll have to
18 research a potential issue in one of the room, such
19 as a high temperature alarm or maybe a surveillance
20 camera that's out.

21 Q. Thank you. And can you please discuss
22 the relationship between the Bureau of Casino
23 Compliance and the on-site Pennsylvania State
24 Police?

25 A. Absolutely. We have a very great working

1 relationship. We share a common office space. So
2 we have regular, every-day communications; some
3 informal, some formal. And we share information and
4 provide notifications as needed for activities or
5 events at the casino.

6 Q. And can you please discuss the
7 relationship between the Bureau of Casino Compliance
8 and local law enforcement?

9 A. The local law enforcement is - is the
10 North Strabane Township Police Department. They
11 have jurisdiction on the exterior of the building,
12 and they're the primary backup for the Pennsylvania
13 State Police for activities or incidents inside the
14 casino. We will provide them information as
15 necessary for any of their investigations from
16 whatever systems that we have access to.

17 Q. And can you please explain in what ways
18 the Bureau of Casino Compliance interact with
19 patrons at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows?

20 A. Our staff is, you know - and the duties
21 that we have are out on the gaming floor. So we
22 have regular interactions with answering questions,
23 gaming-related questions or property-related
24 questions. We also handle the patron complaints and
25 patron disputes. We verify, for lack of a better

1 term, monitor the jackpot payouts. So we interact
2 with patrons for those. And we answer inquires
3 and/or facilitate the enrollment in the self-
4 exclusion program.

5 Q. Thank you. And can you please describe
6 the relationship between the Bureau of Casino
7 Compliance and Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
8 staff?

9 A. Certainly. We have daily interactions,
10 open communication as far as the staff reporting
11 events and activities at the casino to our staff. I
12 have regular monthly meetings with The Meadows
13 management and the state police regarding incidents
14 or activities that need to be discussed and upcoming
15 events that we need to be aware of.

16 Q. Thank you. And has Hollywood Casino at
17 The Meadows been cooperative in compliance reviews
18 conducted by the Bureau of Casino Compliance?

19 A. Yes, they have.

20 Q. And as the Casino Compliance Supervisor
21 assigned to Hollywood Casino at The Meadows, are you
22 familiar with the regulatory issues which occur at
23 the casinos?

24 A. Yes, I am.

25 Q. And what are the most common regulatory

1 issues at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows?

2 A. Recently, the most common have been
3 intoxicated patrons or over service of alcohol,
4 cheating at table games and employee arrests.

5 Q. Are those employee arrests on or off
6 property?

7 A. They're mostly off property. There's the
8 occasional.

9 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you. I have
10 no further questions.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, any
12 questions for Mr. Hofrichter?

13 ATTORNEY KING: No. No questions.
14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.
16 Commissioners, any questions?

17 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you, Mr.
18 Hofrichter. OEC's next witness is Sergeant Burello
19 with the Pennsylvania State Police.

20 SERGEANT BURELLO: Good afternoon.

21 ---

22 SERGEANT GESUELE BURELLO,
23 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
24 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
25 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

EXAMINATION

BY ATTORNEY TEPPER:

Q. Good afternoon, Sergeant. Can you please state your name, spell your last name for the record?

A. My name is Gesuele, G-E-S-U-E-L-E, Burello, B as in Bravo, U-R-E-L-L-O.

Q. And can you please introduce yourself, Sergeant?

A. My name is Sergeant Gesuele Burello with Pennsylvania State Police. I am the Office Commander for the Pennsylvania State Police Detachment at The Meadows Casino.

Q. And can you please describe your career with the Pennsylvania State Police?

A. Yes, sir. I was hired by the Pennsylvania State Police in May of 2004. Upon graduation of the Pennsylvania State Police Academy, I was assigned to Troop J Lancaster Patrol Unit. I was a member of the patrol unit until September 2006 when I transferred to Troop D Butler Patrol Unit, and I was a member of the patrol unit at Butler from 2006 until August 2011. Then I transitioned to the

1 Butler Criminal Investigation Unit. I remained in
2 that position until October of 2014. And then I
3 transferred to the Bureau of Forensic Services,
4 where I began training as a firearm and tool mark
5 examiner, and I remained in that position until
6 September 2020, when I transferred to the Bureau of
7 Gaming Enforcement and assumed the office here at
8 The Meadows Casino.

9 Q. Thank you. And what are your duties as
10 the Sergeant for the Pennsylvania State Police
11 Gaming Enforcement at The Meadows?

12 A. So as the Sergeant, I supervise and
13 manage members of the Pennsylvania State Police that
14 are assigned to the Bureau of Gaming Enforcement. I
15 also keep informed on gaming and office activity by
16 meeting with the section commander to discuss
17 incidents within the gaming office.

18 I implement Department and Bureau of
19 Gaming Enforcement Policies at - at the office
20 level. And I also, of course, manage the day-to-day
21 operations of the office itself.

22 Q. Thank you. And what is the role of the
23 Pennsylvania State Police at Hollywood Casino at The
24 Meadows?

25 A. The State Police is responsible for

1 investigating all criminal incidents which occur at
2 The Meadows Casino and inside the building. We have
3 the primary jurisdiction inside the building. We
4 also - so that would include Title 18 violations,
5 Title 75 violations, which are traffic violations if
6 we see those occurring outside the building. And
7 also, the Title 4 and the other gaming violations as
8 well.

9 Q. But just for clarification, Title 18 is
10 the Crimes Code and Title 4 is the Gaming Act?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And can you please describe who has
13 primary jurisdiction over the parking lot?

14 A. So the parking lot falls under the - the
15 primary jurisdiction is North Strabane Township,
16 which is our local police department that the casino
17 resides in. So they - we have a Memorandum of
18 Agreement with North Strabane as they have all
19 enforcement, primary jurisdiction outside the
20 building. We have primary jurisdiction in the
21 building. Of course, that does not prevent us from
22 assisting them whenever necessary, or it does not
23 prevent them from assisting us when something
24 happens inside the building if it's necessary as
25 well.

1 Q. Thank you. And can you please describe
2 the working relationship between the Pennsylvania
3 State Police and Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
4 employees?

5 A. It's excellent.

6 Q. And can you please describe the working
7 relationship between Pennsylvania State Police and
8 the Board's Bureau of Casino Compliance?

9 A. It's also excellent as well. As I meet
10 daily, almost daily with Mr. Hofrichter and we speak
11 on issues either formally or informally as
12 necessary. As he's already stated, we share a
13 common office. So it's very easy for us to
14 communicate almost on a daily basis.

15 Q. Thank you. And can you please describe
16 how arrest statistics are reported by the
17 Pennsylvania State Police?

18 A. Yes. So there was a time when we went
19 with a system, what we would call the UCRs. The FBI
20 has changed that system and now we go through what's
21 called the NIBRS or the N-I-B-R-S system. So when
22 that change was made, we no longer have access to
23 the UCR data like we once had. So we report things
24 now through the NIBRS system and, of course, we have
25 our senate report that we - that's compiled every

1 year and sent every January up to the Senate of our
2 individual arrest statistics.

3 Q. And Hollywood Casino at The Meadows slot
4 machine (sic) was last renewed in 2016. However,
5 the data provided by the Pennsylvania State Police
6 for the Senate Report begins in 2018. Can you
7 please describe and outline what factors led to
8 this?

9 A. Yeah. So with the switch from the UCRs
10 to the NIBRS system, like I said, we no longer have
11 access to that information previously. So now we
12 are able to access - the Senate Report in 2018 began
13 reporting the individual arrest statistics. That
14 occurred - that change occurred in 2018. So now
15 we're able to look at that on individual-type
16 arrests going forward.

17 Q. And how frequently is this information
18 updated?

19 A. So the information is compiled on a
20 monthly basis and it's like a working copy. The
21 report, it's an ongoing report that we compile on a
22 monthly level and then every January it's submitted,
23 the final version for that year, for the previous
24 years' submitted in January.

25 Q. And is that information subject to

1 editing and revision after it's submitted the
2 following January?

3 A. No.

4 Q. I'm going to direct you to a document,
5 which has been provided as OEC Exhibit 1.

6 Can you identify this document, please?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is this document?

9 A. This is a copy of the Senate Report or
10 the Statistics that are compiled by The Meadows
11 Casino - or by the State Police gaming office at The
12 Meadows Casino.

13 Q. And what years does this cover?

14 A. This would be from 2018, going up
15 through, the last year completed, would be 2021.

16 Q. And does OEC Exhibit 1 show the actual
17 number of offenses which are prosecuted?

18 A. Yes. These show the actual number of
19 arrests. Correct.

20 Q. And what is the most common criminal
21 offense based on the information provided in OEC-1?

22 A. That would be the arrests for criminal
23 trespass, and the majority of those are triggered
24 through the self-exclusion program.

25 Q. And can you say approximately how many

1 thefts are reported on the average month?

2 A. Give me one second here if you don't
3 mind.

4 ---

5 (WHEREUPON, A PAUSE IN THE RECORD WAS HELD.)

6 ---

7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

8 ATTORNEY TEPPER: It's fine. Take
9 your time.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11 So looking at thefts, prior to COVID,
12 so let's look at, like, 2018 and 2019. There were
13 approximately two theft-type incidents per month
14 that were reported to us that resulted in arrest.
15 Now, post-COVID, going forward, 2020 through 2021,
16 we're looking at about one per month.

17 BY ATTORNEY TEPPER:

18 Q. And are there a significant number of
19 violent crimes that occur at Hollywood Casino at The
20 Meadows?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And are there a significant number of
23 crimes regarding individuals under the age of 21?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Have there been any noticeable steady

1 increases in specific crimes between 2018 and the
2 present?

3 A. No. No, sir. They've stayed consistent.

4 Q. And do you see a pattern in the type of
5 actual offenses that have occurred at Hollywood
6 Casino at The Meadows?

7 A. No. I mean, like I said, the biggest
8 pattern being as those - the trespassing on the
9 self-exclusion. I would say that's very consistent.

10 Q. And overall, is the Pennsylvania State
11 Police satisfied with the level of cooperation
12 between Hollywood Casino at The Meadows employees
13 and the troopers stationed at the casino?

14 A. Yes. As Mr. Hofrichter has testified and
15 my testimony will almost mirror his. I'm able to
16 meet with casino -. I do meet with casino - senior
17 casino management on a monthly basis. I have the
18 ability to reach out to them anytime between,
19 specifically, Mr. Komorowski, the Director of
20 Security. Him and I speak on a regular basis as
21 well. And also with some of his supervision staff
22 in the security end whenever necessary, and I also
23 have a very good relationship with Mr. Timko, the
24 Director of Surveillance.

25 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Thank you, Sergeant.

1 The OEC has no further questions.

2 THE WITNESS: You're welcome, sir.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King, any
4 questions for the Sergeant?

5 ATTORNEY KING: No questions. Thank
6 you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Board Members?

8 CHAIR SMYLER: Sergeant, I have two
9 questions. One is there seems to be a lot of
10 arrests for disorderly conduct and it looks like
11 hazardous physical.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 CHAIR SMYLER: In 2018, there were 40
14 of them, which is higher than the trespass. What
15 are those?

16 THE WITNESS: So in 2018,
17 unfortunately, I was not assigned to this office.
18 So those kind of things, disorderly conduct, could
19 be any sort of people arguing with each other or any
20 sort of harassment. So we can classify that into a
21 couple of categories depending on how we view that
22 activity. So it could either be a disorderly
23 conduct or it could be harassment.

24 So - and that kind of falls - those
25 are the two probably most common things that we

1 would see. So typically, like a disorderly conduct
2 could be damaging of a piece of property, maybe that
3 they're not - or I wouldn't even say that. More or
4 less, an argument, you know, between two customers
5 that led to the point where we needed to get
6 involved and maybe somebody was cited for disorderly
7 conduct.

8 CHAIR SMYLER: Okay.

9 And these statistics don't reflect the
10 arrests that somebody referenced, employees that are
11 off of the grounds? This is not reflected -

12 THE WITNESS: No.

13 CHAIR SMYLER: - in these numbers?

14 THE WITNESS: These numbers were
15 flexible. We respond to inside the casino.

16 CHAIR SMYLER: So it also would not
17 necessarily reflect if there were unattended
18 children in a car and people were arrested in the
19 parking lot?

20 THE WITNESS: Well, no. So as I
21 stated, we do not have primary jurisdiction in the
22 parking lot, but I -. Our policy is, like if we
23 were to be notified by surveillance or security that
24 they believe that there's an unattended minor in the
25 parking lot, they're going to notify North Strabane

1 and us. We're going to respond as well because
2 we're right there at the casino. We will respond as
3 well, and if we were to see - let's say -

4 I'll just give you an example. If we
5 were to see an unattended minor, and I'm going to
6 use like the worst-case scenario, like an infant in
7 the car by itself, okay, we would then make that
8 decision immediately, regardless of what police
9 department has jurisdiction of the parking lot,
10 which who in this case we know is North Strabane.
11 But we would probably more than likely arrive there
12 first. We would do whatever measures necessary to
13 ensure that we would save a life and then you could
14 sort out all the stuff of who's going to handle the
15 incident afterwards. But of course, we would - we
16 would inject life-saving measures if necessary.

17 CHAIR SMYLER: But more likely than
18 not, even if you were the first to arrive, North
19 Strabane would have primary jurisdiction, so those
20 numbers would not necessarily be in here?

21 THE WITNESS: Correct.

22 CHAIR SMYLER: Okay.

23 Thank you.

24 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

25 ATTORNEY KING: Madam Chair, can I

1 just add one other point, a point of information?

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. King?

3 ATTORNEY KING: I just want to note,
4 in 2018 and at least part of 2019, we operated a
5 nightclub on-site. So that may have elevated the
6 disorderly conduct numbers. I would say - maybe I -
7 I'm not qualified to offer a professional opinion,
8 but you know, I think these things happen in a
9 nightclub. The difference is we have state police
10 on-site where most nightclubs do not. But we've
11 moved more to programmed entertainment and we're not
12 having those sorts of problems. And also we
13 continue to take these issues very seriously. State
14 Police are always there. Local police would be
15 involved. But I did want to point out just that
16 probably explains why we had some elevated numbers
17 in those two years.

18 CHAIR SMYLER: Thank you.

19 MR. LOGAN: Sergeant, just a
20 hypothetical.

21 THE WITNESS: Sure.

22 MR. LOGAN: If the local police
23 department fails to charge parents, grandparents,
24 the adult that leaves the minor in the vehicle when
25 - and it happens all the time. It happens all the

1 time. So - and this is with our - our legislative
2 folks here, can you overrule them? Can you charge
3 them? So if the local police, North Strabane, does
4 not, for whatever reason, and it blows my mind, but
5 it happens all the time where local police do not
6 charge that person. Can you overrule that and
7 charge the person?

8 THE WITNESS: No. Our Memorandum of
9 Agreement is of course, that they would be the
10 primary investigating agency in the parking lot of
11 the casino. I think that can be looked at. That
12 would have to be looked at in a case-by-case basis.
13 But I would certainly think that we would probably
14 retain that ability to do that.

15 MR. LOGAN: Okay.

16 Thanks.

17 MR. DERMODY: Officer, if you're
18 concerned enough about a particular case that where
19 the locals have not charged, would you be able to go
20 to the local district attorney and present that same
21 evidence?

22 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. I'm sure we
23 - and that would be a discussion I could have. Yes.

24 MR. DERMODY: All right.

25 Thank you.

1 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Any other
3 questions, Commissioners?

4 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: I would like a
5 point of clarification. It says here, Def; Tress;
6 Actual; Communicate to. And I would like to know
7 what exactly is that? I assume Tress is trespass,
8 but I'm not sure, it says Def; Tress; Actual;
9 Communicate to.

10 THE WITNESS: Which page are you
11 looking at, ma'am? I'm sorry.

12 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: It's in your
13 report, in each of the years you have that under -
14 not the first column of offenses, but the second
15 column of offenses.

16 THE WITNESS: Yep.

17 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: And -.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Defiant trespass.

19 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: Defiant trespass?

20 THE WITNESS: That's defiant criminal
21 trespass, yes.

22 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: Okay.

23 Thank you very much.

24 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

25 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: And the

1 communication part, it says communicate to?

2 THE WITNESS: So that's because we
3 have - like casino management or us have
4 communicated to someone, you are not allowed to be
5 here, and then you come and do it anyway, and you
6 were in - that's defiant criminal trespass.

7 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: Okay.

8 THE WITNESS: You've been instructed
9 that you cannot be on the property. So the self-
10 exclusions somewhat fall into that category.

11 MS. MANZANO-DIAZ: Okay.

12 Thank you.

13 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Any other
15 questions from any of the parties or the Board
16 Members for this witness?

17 ATTORNEY TEPPER: Nothing further from
18 us.

19 ATTORNEY KING: Nothing further here.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

21 Then that concludes the two
22 presentations today and we will move on to our
23 registered public speakers, of which we have four.
24 So when I call your name, if you could please come
25 forward to where the witnesses for OEC were sitting

1 here at this table and choose a microphone. And
2 before you begin your comments, if you could please
3 state and spell your name for the record. But
4 before we do all that, if you would stand up and
5 raise your right hand to be sworn by the Court
6 Reporter. I think there's four of you.

7 ---

8 (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

9 ---

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: So we'll begin
11 with Timothy O'Neal, and actually, you can pick a
12 side, a table, a microphone. Everybody vacated.

13 ---

14 TIMOTHY O'NEAL,
15 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
16 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
17 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

18 ---

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: And I'd remind our
20 speakers, you have about five minutes to provide
21 your comments.

22 MR. O'NEAL: All right.

23 Thank you. My name is State
24 Representative Timothy O'Neal. I am the State
25 Representative that represents that 48th Legislative

1 District, which The Meadows Casino is a part of. So
2 I'm proud to be here to offer some comments on The
3 Meadows and the positive work that they do
4 throughout my District, across Washington County and
5 really, in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

6 In my district, The Meadows has been
7 and continues to be a large job creator and
8 supporter of Main Street businesses. Meadows
9 currently has 660 employees and since opening, has
10 paid \$407 million in salary and wages. \$145 million
11 in benefits, \$43.3 million in payroll taxes. The
12 spinoff impact of The Meadows over the past 16 years
13 cannot be overlooked.

14 At the property, they are creating
15 family-sustaining jobs that has a positive ripple
16 effect all over Southwestern Pennsylvania. They
17 purchase from our local shops. I believe Tony
18 mentioned earlier, the Ivy Green that is located in
19 my district as well in the City of Washington. So -
20 which has a positive impact to our economic
21 wellbeing throughout the region. The Meadows spends
22 over \$3.4 million annually in our local communities,
23 including both Washington and Allegheny Counties.
24 Quite literally, The Meadows, it does it right.
25 They're a great partner. They understand

1 Responsible Gaming and they work tirelessly to
2 ensure that their patrons can enjoy the property in
3 a safe and secure environment.

4 As a Veteran, The Meadows also focuses
5 a large portion of their corporate and property
6 philanthropic endeavors towards veteran and the
7 first responder community. They've done this by
8 donating almost \$30,000 to the Veteran's Leadership
9 Program, and annually supports a variety of North
10 Strabane Township Fire Department initiatives,
11 including its Toys for Tots Drive. That matters to
12 me personally and professionally as my district is
13 made up of a wide and diverse veteran community.

14 We've come through an economically-
15 crippling pandemic that shuttered The Meadows twice
16 in 2020. Through it all, The Meadows was there for
17 its employees and the community. They offered
18 extended medical and pharmacy benefits as you heard
19 earlier and they waived any applicable arrears and
20 established their COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund.
21 Additionally, they gave bonuses to all employees in
22 December of 2020, allowed a one-time PTO sell-back
23 and changed their policy to allow up to 40 hours to
24 be sold back twice, per calendar year.

25 Still The Meadows is working to get

1 back to pre-COVID employment and their leadership
2 team is making investments in the property to
3 reimagine The Meadows and ensure it's a destination
4 status for years to come. The Meadows is leading
5 the industry in its investment in the next
6 generation of technology with the launch of its
7 cashless gaming products and its upcoming Barstool
8 Sportsbook Campus to provide a whole new set of
9 opportunities for growth.

10 I would personally say that The
11 Meadows works hand-in-hand with me for the events
12 that I do throughout and in the community. On
13 numerous occasions they've donated time, or effort
14 or even space for me to hold constituent events.
15 Recently we held a non-profit and municipal grant
16 seminar on the property, and they're absolutely
17 wonderful to work with. Upcoming, I actually have -
18 here in the next couple months, I have a shredding
19 event that will be located in The Meadows' parking
20 lot. And they do - it's actually the easiest place
21 we do it in my district because they'll set up the
22 cones and all we have to do is show up and shred
23 people's unwanted documents. And I know the former
24 legislators on the - on the Commission here
25 understand how valuable that is to our constituents.

1 So they're a pleasure to work with.
2 They're always a partner for - for what we're trying
3 to do here locally in the community and I whole-
4 heartedly support their relicensing. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Any
6 questions from Commissioners?

7 Thank you. Diana Vaughan?

8 ---

9 DIANA I. VAUGHAN,
10 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
11 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
12 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

13 ---

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Good afternoon.

15 MS. VAUGHAN: Good afternoon. My name
16 is Diana I. Vaughan. I am Chairwoman of the
17 Washington County Board of Commissioners and I thank
18 you for the opportunity to allow me to offer a few
19 remarks on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

20 I enthusiastically support the
21 relicensing of the Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.
22 In my 27 years as a County Commissioner and as a
23 Washington County resident, I've seen the massive
24 and positive transition of The Meadows from purely a
25 racetrack to a full destination property with

1 plentiful entertainment opportunities for its
2 patrons that provide numerous job opportunities for
3 Washington County residents, one of which was my
4 father, who retired from The Meadows at age 80.
5 I've also seen the property change ownership a few
6 times and I can attest to the exceptional leadership
7 that currently runs The Meadows with Pennsylvania-
8 based Penn National Gaming and our current VP and
9 General Manager Tony Frabbiele and his team.

10 Clearly, The Meadows' local impact is
11 massive. They care about their employees, offer
12 family-sustaining jobs and benefits and ensure that
13 local businesses benefit as their vendors. However,
14 the investments and reinvestments at The Meadows
15 makes - keeps the property as a destination location
16 for the entire region. As The Meadows does so, so
17 does Washington County and our taxpayers, due to the
18 local share tax assessment that we receive from the
19 property.

20 Since it's opening, The Meadows has
21 provided, just to Washington County in our local
22 share, over \$120 million in funds, and when coupled
23 with the over \$449 million in leveraged funds, we
24 have a direct impact in Washington County of over
25 \$569 million.

1 While we direct a majority of funding
2 towards infrastructure, the true benefits of the LSA
3 program are that it also allows for small groups to
4 access funds. A project that was recently
5 recommended for funding, benefit and after-school
6 program in the small community of Daisytown.
7 Without this funding resource, they would surely
8 have closed their doors to our children.

9 Additionally, smaller scale projects
10 that have benefited from the local share funding are
11 Peters Township Park Trails, Washington County Land
12 Bank, Blight Reduction Program, Beallsville Sewage
13 System Rehabilitation, Centerville Clinics 3-D
14 mammography equipment and the City of Monongahela
15 slope stabilization. The spinoff impact of The
16 Meadows over the years cannot be overlooked.

17 The Meadows Racetrack and Casino have
18 grown to this point because they understand what it
19 takes to run a world-class operation and be a pillar
20 of our community. The Meadows does it right. They
21 understand Responsible Gaming and work tirelessly to
22 ensure that their patrons can enjoy the property in
23 a safe environment.

24 As the Chair of the Board of
25 Commissioners and on behalf of my colleagues, we

1 enthusiastically support The Meadows relicensing.
2 We thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Any
4 questions, comments?

5 Thank you. Next speaker with
6 Government Representative is Rennick Remley.

7 ---

8 RENNICK A. REMLEY,
9 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
10 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
11 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

12 ---

13 MR. REMLEY: Good afternoon. My name
14 is Rennick Remley. I am the District Director for
15 Senator Bartolotta here in the 46th. She just sent
16 me this brief statement as she's on her way back
17 from Harrisburg right now.

18 While The Meadows Racetrack and Casino
19 began as a harness track, it has been a valuable and
20 trustworthy member of not only Washington County,
21 but also as a Regional Southwestern Pennsylvania
22 business and philanthropic community for nearly 60
23 years. The Meadows has done an exceptional job in
24 making sure that all patrons have a safe
25 entertainment and gaming environment. It's

1 commitment to responsible gaming is second to none.
2 It has given back to our area in so many ways from
3 providing job opportunities for local residents, to
4 continuing to pay and healthcare benefits for team
5 members during the COVID-19 casino shutdowns.

6 The Meadows has continuously
7 demonstrated its focus on being a true pillar in the
8 community and Senator Bartolotta looks forward to
9 the renewal of its slot machine license. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

11 And moving to community groups, we
12 have Jeff Kotula from the Washington County Chamber
13 of Commerce and Tourism. Mr. Kotula?

14 ---

15 JEFF M. KOTULA,
16 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
17 HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND
18 SAID AS FOLLOWS:

19 ---

20 MR. KOTULA: Good afternoon,
21 Commissioners. I'm Jeff Kotula, President of the
22 Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
23 Promotion Agency and I would not be doing my job if
24 I didn't welcome you to Washington County where the
25 American spirit lives here.

1 As we emerge from the pandemic, it's
2 important that we look at the positives and
3 Washington County continues to receive encouraging
4 news concerning our tourism industry. According to
5 the Pennsylvania Department of Community and
6 Economic Development, Washington County is second
7 behind Allegheny County in the Greater Pittsburgh
8 Region in significant tourism impact categories,
9 such as traveler spending, travelling industry
10 employment, and overall, travel industry impacts.

11 The County also fares well in
12 individual tourism categories such as lodging, food
13 and beverage, shopping and recreation. It can be
14 easy to overlook news like this but as we move
15 towards, in 2022, the tourism season and our
16 economic continued recovery from the global pandemic
17 it's reassuring to know that we have a strong
18 foundation from which to build upon,

19 Direct traveler spending in Washington
20 County is approximately \$737 million per year. The
21 tourism industry in this county employs 6,000
22 people, and generates over \$200 million in labor
23 income. These travel industry impacts also generate
24 nearly \$44.4 million in state and local tax revenue.
25 Of course, this overall tourism activity continues

1 to be driven by the Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
2 and led, of course, by its General Manger, Tony
3 Frabbiele.

4 The casino, which attracts millions of
5 visitors to our area each year is the county's
6 leading tourism attraction and one of our largest
7 employers. It's an economic driver that provides
8 our residents with jobs, our visitors with industry-
9 leading entertainment and sustains our county's high
10 quality of life.

11 And a significant part of our local
12 and regional economies, in line with other
13 industries, such as energy, manufacturing, financial
14 services and healthcare. And its importance goes
15 beyond tourism as it adds to the versification of
16 our economy and serves as partners to our small
17 business and non-profits. You will find no stronger
18 community partner for our non-profits and business
19 in this county than the Hollywood Casino.

20 Appropriately, it is important to
21 recognize that our tourism industry, like all
22 businesses, must demonstrate a return on investment.
23 Our positive return on investment is reflected in
24 terms of increased traveler's spending, increased in
25 tourism employment overall impacts and other

1 counties it increases, all led by the casino's
2 presence in Washington County.

3 Looking into the future and chartering
4 the course for our economic expansion, the casino
5 will be the foundation of our growth and the
6 Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
7 Promotion Agency and their over 1,200 members fully
8 support the renewal of their license. Thank you for
9 your time, Commissioners.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

11 Any questions or comments?

12 Okay.

13 That is my list of registered
14 speakers. Is there anyone here today that believes
15 they registered to speak, but I haven't called your
16 name, raise your hands.

17 Seeing no hands, just a few
18 housekeeping matters. The record will remain open
19 until the Board hears the matter at a later public
20 board meeting. They will get a transcript of
21 today's hearing, as well as exhibits and other
22 documents for their consideration and the date of
23 the future board meeting will be published on our
24 website.

25 I want to thank North Strabane

1 Township to be one of the first groups to use their
2 brand new Fire Station No. 2. It's a wonderful
3 facility and I hope the rest of your chairs, et
4 cetera, come in off the boats and the harbors in San
5 Francisco or wherever they're stuck. I'd like to
6 thank Andy Walls for his help because he's been our
7 liaison here and he's been wonderful, and now we
8 know hopefully we can come back in another five
9 years and you'll have your chairs.

10 So I want to thank you all for coming
11 today and for your cooperation. The hearing is now
12 adjourned. Thank you.

13 * * * * *

14 HEARING CONCLUDED

15 * * * * *

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing was held before Presiding Officer Lloyd, was reported by me on March 15, 2022 and that I Danielle S. Ohm read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 12 day of April, 2022



Court Reporter
Danielle Ohm