COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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PUBLIC MEETING

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BEFORE: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

DENISE J. SMYLER, CHAIR

Frank Dermody (phone)

Shawn Dillon

David S. Hickernell (phone)

Sara Manzano-Díaz

Nedia Ralston

Frances J. Regan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Adria Zimmerman, Ex-Officio Member,

Department of Revenue

Jennifer Langan, Ex-Officio Member,

Department of Treasury

Jorge Augusto, Ex-Officio Member,

Department of Agriculture

Reporter: Autumn Karper

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MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

Strawberry Square Complex

303 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

1	APPEARANCES		
2			
3	PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD EXECUTIVE STAFF WHO APPEARED		
4	BEFORE THE BOARD:		
5	Kevin O'Toole, Executive Director		
6	David Rhen, Director of Budget		
7	Danette Bixler-George, Director of Human Resources		
8	Steve Cook, Chief Counsel		
9	Sean Hannon, Director of Licensing		
10			
11	Office of Enforcement Counsel - Also presenting:		
12	David Tepper, Cyrus Pitre, Kelci Scirrotto, Juan		
13	Sanchez, Thomas Monaghan		
14			
15			
16	OTHER ATTENDEES FOR MEETING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS:		
17	Holdings Acquisition Co., L.P., d/b/a Rivers Casino		
18	Pittsburgh - Petition for Approval to Reconfigure		
19	Gaming Offerings and Approve a Revised Gaming Floor		
20	<u>Plan:</u>		
21	John Donnelly, Esquire, Donnelly & Associates (phone)		
22	André Barnabei, Assistant General Manager		
23	Derek Peluso, Director of Slot Operations		

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1	I N D E X		
2			
3	CALL TO ORDER	6	
4	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	6	
5	ANNOUNCEMENTS	7	
6	MINUTES AND TRANSCRIPT	7 – 8	
7	PRESENTATION		
8	By Mr. O'Toole	8 - 9	
9	By Mr. Rhen	10 - 11	
10	By Ms. Bixler-George	11 - 13	
11	By Attorney Cook	13 - 38	
12	By Mr. Hannon	39 - 55	
13	By Attorney Pitre	55 - 56	
14	By Attorney Scirrotto	56 - 58	
15	TESTIMONY		
16	By Mr. Hvizda	58 - 59	
17	By Mr. Heiskell	59 - 60	
18	PRESENTATION		
19	By Attorney Scirrotto	61 - 62	
20	By Attorney Sanchez	62 - 68	
21	By Attorney Monaghan	68 - 71	
22	By Attorney Tepper	72 - 73	
23	DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES	73	
24	ADJOURNMENT	7 4	
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PROCEEDINGS 1 2 3 CHAIR: Good morning. I'm Denise 4 Smyler, Chair of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control 5 I would ask everyone at this time to please 6 silence your cell phones and all electronic devices. 7 Also, while masks are no longer mandatory, please feel free to wear one if you believe it is required or necessary for your own wellbeing. With five Board 10 Members present and Commissioners Dermody and 11 Hickernell present by telephone, I'd like to call 12 today's meeting to order. Commissioner Dermody, can 13 you hear me?

MR. DERMODY: Yes, I can, Madam Chair.

15 <u>CHAIR:</u> Excellent. Commissioner

16 Hickernell, can you hear me?

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MR. HICKERNELL: Yes, I can.

18 <u>CHAIR:</u> Excellent. Excellent. Also,

19 I would note for the record that in addition to the

20 seven Board Members participating today, we have our

21 Ex-Officio Members, Jorge Augusto, representing

22 Russell Redding, Secretary for the Department of

23 Agriculture is joining us by telephone as well.

24 Jorge, can you hear me?

MR. AUGUSTO: Yes, I can, Madam Chair.

Thank you very much.

joining us.

CHAIR: Excellent. Excellent.

Okay.

We also have Adria Zimmerman, representing Pat Browne, Secretary for the Department of Revenue, and Jennifer Langan, representing Stacy Garrity, State Treasurer. Thank you Ex-Officios for

I'd like to now ask everyone to please rise and join me in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

12 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

CHAIR: By way of Announcements, the Board held an Executive Session yesterday, Tuesday, April 23rd, to discuss personnel matters, pending litigation and to conduct quasi-judicial deliberations relating to matters coming before the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD

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CHAIR: Our first Order of Business this morning is consideration of the Board meeting Transcript and Minutes from the February 21st, 2024 meeting. May I have a motion to approve the

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1 Transcript and Minutes of the February 21st, 2024
2 meeting?
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MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner Regan moves that the Board approve the Minutes and transcript of the February 21, 2024 meeting.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

9 (AYES RESPOND)

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10 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

We will now hear from Executive

today, Administrative Professionals Day.

14 Director Kevin O'Toole. Kevin?

MR. O'TOOLE: Good morning, Chair
Smyler. Good morning, Commissioners. I have the
pleasure this morning on behalf of myself and on
behalf of our leadership team and our management team
here at the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, to
recognize and express all of our appreciation to the

We are recognizing 14 employees who contribute in many significant ways to the success of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Eight of our

Board's administrative professionals as we celebrate

administrative professionals have ten to 15-plus years of service, and the others are on their way to that plateau. We sincerely thank the following individuals for their outstanding service and their unwavering commitment to the important work that they perform day after day to ensure the Board accomplishes its goals and objectives to fairly and competently regulate the casino industry and all gambling expansion activities.

The administrative professionals that I would like to recognize are Kathleen Black, Jacklyn Bruce, Deborah Davis, Sarah Heisey, Alexa Knisely, Shaun Kovach, Sarah Marley, Tara Ottenberg, Deena Pietsch, Cheryl Posavec, Stacey Russell, Linda Schramm, Kelly Spittle and Angela Yanoscak. With that, I conclude my remarks.

CHAIR: Thank you, Kevin. On behalf of the entire Board, please allow me to join in your comments regarding all of our administrative professionals whose work, while often being performed behind the scenes, is really the glue that holds this agency together. Thanks to all of you.

MR. O'TOOLE: Thank you.

CHAIR: Thanks, Kevin. Now we will hear from our Director of Budget, David Rhen.

MR. RHEN: Good morning, Chair Smyler and Board Members. Today we'll provide an update of Board expenditures through the end of the third quarter, which is March 31st. Through the end of the third quarter, Board expenses totaled \$37,584,000, or 72 percent of the total appropriation of \$52,159,000. Total expenses are in line with expectations.

Expenditures are up \$3.8 million from the same date last fiscal year due to the expansion of the agency complement and general salary and benefit cost increases.

Ninety-one (91) percent or \$34.1 million, of the Board expenses to date have been for payroll. This includes \$20 million for salaries and \$13.9 million for benefits. Benefits total 69 percent of the salary of salary costs. For the year, payroll expenses are up \$3.8 million, which is essentially all the increase for the fiscal year. Operating expenses total \$3.5 million. That was up \$45,000 from last year.

\$1.3 million, or 38 percent of total operating costs for rentals and leases. \$1 million for services, which were predominantly IT consultants and interagency billings for services provided by other

state agencies to the Board, and \$688,000 for other operating expenses, which includes fingerprint and database fees related to background investigations. That concludes my report. Thank you.

<u>CHAIR:</u> Thank you. Any questions or comments from the Board or Dave?

Okay.

Hearing none, thank you, Dave.

MR. RHEN: Thank you.

CHAIR: We will now hear from our Human Resources Director, Danette Bixler-George.

Danette?

MS. BIXLER-GEORGE: Good morning,
Chair, Board Members. The Office of Human Resources
has one motion today for your consideration relative
to the hiring of three individuals. The following
three individuals have completed the background
investigation process and drug screening and are
ready for presentation to the Board.

First, we have Dustin Lalle, who has been selected as a Sports Wagering Compliance
Representative in the Office of Sports Wagering
Operations and is recommended for hire by Kevin Kile,
the Director of Sports Wagering Operations.

Next we have Bruce Green, who has been

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selected as an Investigator in the Southeast Regional
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   office in the Bureau of Investigations and
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   Enforcement and is recommended for hire by Paul
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   Mauro, Director of Investigations and Enforcement.
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                   And finally, we have Heidi Zula, who
   has been selected as the Director of Human Resources
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   and is recommended for hire by Claire Yantis,
   Administrative Director.
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                   Unless you have questions, I ask that
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   the Board consider a motion to approve the hiring
   actions as indicated.
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                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
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   the Board?
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                   Hearing none, may I have a motion for
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   the applicants for hire as proposed by the Human
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   Resources Director?
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
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   Dillon moves that the Board approve the applicants
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   for hire as proposed by the Human Resources Director.
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                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
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   seconds.
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                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
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   (AYES RESPOND)
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                   CHAIR: All opposed?
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    (NO RESPONSE)
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CHAIR: Motion carries.

MS. BIXLER-GEORGE: Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Danette. Next is
our Office of Chief Counsel.

ATTORNEY COOK: Morning.

CHAIR: Good morning.

ATTORNEY COOK: Our first agenda item today relates to a Local Law Enforcement Grant Application. Specifically, the Delaware County District Attorney's Office is seeking a Local Law Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$250,000. If the Board were inclined to award this grant, it would be Delaware County's tenth grant under the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program.

The budget submitted with the grant application indicates that the funds requested are primarily going to be used to pay the salaries and benefits of one detective and one assistant district attorney who serve on the Delaware County illegal gaming task force. Other proposed uses for the funds include investigative overtime costs associated with public outreach programs and the purchase of equipment and vehicle rentals.

The proposed project meets all the eligibility criteria set forth by the Board and its

Local Law Enforcement Grant Guidelines, and I'd ask for a motion to approve this grant.

3 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? Hearing none, may I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves that the Board approve the Local Law Enforcement Grant Application as described by the OCC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

10 Manzano-Díaz second.

> All in favor? CHAIR:

12 (AYES RESPOND)

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13 CHAIR: All opposed?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

> CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board today are four petitions. One of those petitions was heard by the Board earlier today during a public hearing, and the remaining three petitions will be decided on the documentary record by agreement of the parties or because the OEC has no objection to the requested relief. In each of these matters, the Board has, in advance of this meeting, been provided with the complete evidentiary record that was filed with the Board's Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The first Petition before the Board is Holding Acquisition Company's Request to Modify the Gaming Floor of the Rivers Casino Pittsburgh. The Board heard from Holdings Acquisition just a few moments ago during a public hearing.

Rivers has a current complement of 2,283 slot machines on its gaming floor and the current request is to remove 302, or 13.23 percent of its current slot machines, which in total, will bring the slot machine complement down to 1,981 machines.

After review by the BIE's Financial Investigations Unit, the OEC does not object to the relief requested, but proposes that the Board impose several conditions which Rivers has agreed to and which have been outlined in OEC's Answer.

There is also a request by Rivers that some of the sensitive information pertaining to this matter that is found in the Pleadings and the record be maintained as confidential. OEC largely does not object to this request but does feel that certain pieces of information Rivers' Petition need not be redacted as it is in the public domain. The OCC would agree with the position of OEC in this matter, and this matter is now ripe for the Board's consideration.

16 Any questions or comments from 1 CHAIR: 2 the Board? 3 Hearing none, may I have a motion, 4 please? 5 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair, Commissioner Manzano-Díaz approves that the Board 6 7 grant Holdings Acquisition Company, LP, doing business as, Rivers Casino Pittsburgh's Petition for Approval to Reconfigure Gaming Offerings and Approve 10 a Revised Gaming Floor Plan as described by the OCC. 11 I further move that the Petitioner's request for 12 confidentiality as limited by OEC's response be 13 granted in part. 14 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston 15 seconds. 16 All in favor? CHAIR: 17 (AYES RESPOND) 18 CHAIR: All opposed? 19 (NO RESPONSE) 20 CHAIR: Motion carries. 21 ATTORNEY COOK: The next Petition 22 before the Board is 6406 Trucks Plaza, LLC's Petition 23 Requesting Approval of a Transfer of a 20 percent 24 interest in the company to an individual related to 25 the two present owners, as well as a request that the

licensing of the new Principal be expedited.

By way of background, 6406 Truck

Plaza, LLC operates a truck stop in Emlenton,

Pennsylvania, and has held a Video Gaming Terminal

license since April of 2019. The company is owned by

Edward J. Yasechko and Carol Burns, each holding a 50

percent interest. The petition seeks approval for

both Mr. Yasechko and Ms. Burns to each transfer a 10

percent interest to William Burns, giving him a 20

percent interest in the business.

The OEC has no objection to the proposed transfer of ownership subject to conditions outlined in their Answer, including the full licensure of the new owner in the normal course. The OCC agrees with OEC's position in this matter, and it's now ready for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
the Board?

Hearing none, may I have a motion, please?

 $\underline{\text{MS. RALSTON:}}$ Commissioner Ralston moves that the Board grant 6406 Truck Plaza, LLC's Petition for Change of Control as described by the OCC.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan

seconds.

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2 CHAIR: All in favor?

3 (AYES RESPOND)

CHAIR: All opposed?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: The next Petition before the Board today is a Request for Removal from the Self-Exclusion List. On March 21st, 2013, an individual with the initials F.B. placed himself on the Self-Exclusion List and chose the Lifetime Self-Exclusion option. Almost ten years later, on March 8th, 2023, F.B. filed a Request for Removal from the list.

Although F.B. initially failed to include the required Problem Gambling Assessment Verification Form signed by a Certified Assessment Provider, causing OEC to object, the Petitioner subsequently did file the requested form confirming that an assessment was performed and that a problem gambling treatment was not recommended.

Consequently, the OEC filed an Amended Answer,

Consequently, the OEC filed an Amended Answer,
withdrawing its objection, and this matter is now
ripe for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

May I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner Regan moves that the Board grant F.B.'s Petition for Removal from the Self-Exclusion List as described by the OCC.

6 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon 7 seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

(AYES RESPOND)

CHAIR: All opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board is a second Petition Requesting Removal from the Self-Exclusion List. On November 2nd, 2011, an individual with the initials J.B. placed himself on the Exclusion List, choosing the Lifetime Self-Exclusion option.

On January 30th, 2024, J.B. filed a
Request for Removal from the list. J.B. included
with his petition, a Problem Gambling Assessment
Verification Form signed by a Certified Treatment
Provider confirming that an assessment of J.B. was
performed and that problem gambling treatment was not
recommended. The OEC answered the petition having no

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objection, and this matter is now ripe for the
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  Board's consideration.
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3 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board grant J.B.'s Petition for Removal from the Self-Exclusion List as described by the OEC.

9 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

10 Manzano-Díaz second.

11 CHAIR: All in favor?

12 (AYES RESPOND)

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13 CHAIR: All opposed?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY COOK: The next matter before the Board today pertains to several unopposed Petitions to Withdraw Applications or Surrender the credentials of the following individuals and entities, David Crupi, Vadim Jelezniakov, Martin Sandoval, Heather Rollo, Justin Psaila, Thomas Mankowich, John Penntoft, The Action Network, Patrick

23 Keane, Aron Borod, Melissa Betts, Lorenzo Fertitta,

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Jr., Michael Daly, Peter McCluskey, Manjit Singh,

25 Jeremy Bowskill, Anthony Symons, Andrew Mellor,

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   Samual Swanell, John Aitken, Becky Harris, Terence
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   Kiliany, Niall Connell, Arunachalam Yeqappan, Yaviv
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   Sherman, no relation to Doug, Paul Godfrey, Robin
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   Godfrey, Sumesh Pathak, Lara Gauci, Christina
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   Stoever-Young, Kent B. Young Revocable Trust, Jeffrey
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   Trattner, Per Hellberg, Adam Noble, Gabrielle Lock,
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   Keith Gardeck.
                   The OEC has no objection to any of
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   these requests and therefore, if the Board grants
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   same, it would be doing so without prejudice to each
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   of these parties.
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                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
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   the Board?
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                   Hearing none, may I have a motion,
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   please?
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
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   moves that the Board issues orders to approve the
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   Withdrawals and Surrenders as described by the OCC.
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                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
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   Manzano-Díaz second.
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                   CHAIR: All in favor?
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   (AYES RESPOND)
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                           All opposed?
                   CHAIR:
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   (NO RESPONSE)
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                   CHAIR: Motion carries.
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ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board for consideration are eight Reports and Recommendations received from the OHA. These Reports and Recommendations have been provided to the Board in advance of this meeting along with the complete evidentiary record.

Additionally, each of the persons involved or the subject of these Reports and Recommendations have been advised that their matter was coming up before the Board today and that they could come forward and briefly address the Board if they so chose. If any of these persons are present and wish to address the Board, they should come forward when their matter is called.

Wayne Samuels is the first Report and Recommendation before the Board today. In September of 2014, the OEC filed a petition to place Wayne Samuels on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List after it was found that on June 17, 2014, while playing table games at Harrah's Philadelphia, he was surreptitiously capping bets after the outcome of the game appeared certain. Subsequently, the Board issued an Order on December 10th, 2014 placing Mr. Samuels on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

On September 7, 2022, Mr. Samuels

filed a request for removal from the list. OEC filed answer objecting to the request and after several continuances, a hearing in this matter was held. However, Mr. Samuels failed to appear and the hearing was held in his absence.

Pursuant to the uncontested Findings of Fact and Report and Recommendation, OEC presented evidence, including facts surrounding the cheating incident that led to Mr. Samuels's placement on the list, as well as evidence of additional incidents that occurred at Parx Casino prior to his placement on the list and three incidents where Mr. Samuels violated the Board's Order placing him on the list after his exclusion.

Consequently, the Report and Recommendation issued recommends that Mr. Samuels remain on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List and this matter is now ripe for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board adopt
the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as
described by the OCC, and that Wayne Samuels remain

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on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.
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                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
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   second.
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                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
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   (AYES RESPOND)
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                   CHAIR: All opposed?
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   (NO RESPONSE)
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
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                   ATTORNEY COOK: Shelton Scott's
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   request for removal from the Self-Exclusion List and
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   recovery of funds confiscated from him while on the
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   list is the subject of the next Report and
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   Recommendation. The OEC filed an Answer objecting to
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   this request.
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                   By way of background, in August of
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   2015, OEC filed a Petition seeking to place Mr. Scott
   on the Involuntary Exclusion List, alleging that he
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   stole a patron's chip and pinched a bet at Rivers
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   Casino Pittsburgh, was verbally abusive to a poker
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   manager at that property, as well as defaced the
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   property. A hearing on the Exclusion Petition was
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   held and subsequently the Board issued an Order on
23
   February 10, 2016 placing Mr. Scott on the
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   Involuntary Exclusion List.
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On July 12th, 2023, Mr. Scott filed

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his request for removal from the list and for recovery of funds confiscated from him at the Rivers Pittsburgh when he was found on that property's gaming floor in violation of his exclusion. OEC filed answer objecting in part to Mr. Scott's request. However, OEC did not object to Mr. Scott's recovering a portion of the money confiscated from him at Rivers.

A hearing in this matter was held on November 8th of 2023. OEC attended the hearing, presenting testimony and documentary evidence.

Although receiving proper notice, Mr. Scott failed to appear. The evidence presented by OEC showed that Mr. Scott violated the Board's Exclusion Order on at least three occasions. Specifically, on June 25th, 2017, he visited the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows, stole a patron's chip, and was charged with trespassing.

In January of 2021, he was again at the Meadows and placed sports wagers. He was identified as an excluded person and charged with defiant trespass, and then in June of 2023, he was found playing poker at the Rivers Casino, was evicted and \$430 was confiscated from him at that time. It is this \$430 to which Mr. Scott seeks recovery.

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After hearing all the evidence
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   presented, the Report and Recommendation issued
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   recommends that Mr. Scott remain on the exclusion
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   list, but be permitted to recover $300 of the $430
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   dollars confiscated from him as that was his buy-in
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   money and not winnings. And this matter is now ripe
   for the Board's consideration.
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                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
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   May I have a motion, please?
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                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
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   moves that the Board adopt the Report and
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   Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the
   OCC, and that Shelton Scott remain on the Board's
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14
   Involuntary Exclusion List, but that the $300 of
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   confiscated money be returned to Mr. Scott.
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan
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17
   seconds.
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                           All in favor?
                   CHAIR:
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   (AYES RESPOND)
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                   CHAIR: All opposed?
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   (NO RESPONSE)
22
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
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                   ATTORNEY COOK: The next Report and
24
   Recommendation pertains to Bryheem Wright. On August
25
   24, 2023, the OEC filed a Petition to place Mr.
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Wright on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

A hearing in that matter was scheduled for December 7th, 2023. OEC appeared and offered evidence. Mr. Wright failed to appear. Evidence presented showed that on September 18th, 2021, Mr. Wright stole a \$500 gaming chip from a patron at the Valley Forge Casino and Resort while sitting at a blackjack table. Mr. Wright later returned at a casino and was served with an eviction notice, which he refused to sign. He was ultimately charged with theft and subsequently pled guilty to disorderly conduct.

Following the hearing before the Hearing Officer, the Report and Recommendation issued recommends that Mr. Wright be placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List, and this matter is ripe for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner Regan moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the OCC, and that Bryheem Wright be placed in the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon

1 seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

3 (AYES RESPOND)

CHAIR: All opposed?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board is a Report and Recommendation for Rui Zheng. In January of 2023, the OEC filed a Petition to place Ms. Zheng on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

A hearing in this matter was held on July 19th, 2023. OEC appeared, presenting documentary, testimonial, and video evidence in support of its petition. Ms. Zheng appeared with counsel. Her counsel did not provide any testimony or documentary evidence. She relied solely on cross examination of OEC's witnesses. The evidence and testimony showed that on December 27th, 2021, management at the Luk Fu Restaurant at the Live! Philadelphia Casino notified surveillance regarding a disputed patron transaction in the amount of \$124.44, which Ms. Zheng was involved in.

Following an investigation by casino security and the Pennsylvania State Police, it was determined that in addition to that charge, between

December 19th, 2021 and December 27th, 2021, Ms.

Zheng redeemed rewards on several different patron's reward cards at both the Luk Fu Restaurant and the Live! Philadelphia Gift Shop for a total of \$693.44.

Relative to the initial complaint, Ms. Zheng was charged with theft of services for the disputed transaction and she ultimately made full restitution of \$124.44, causing the charges to be dismissed.

Counsel for Ms. Zheng suggested that Ms. Zheng regularly went to the casino with multiple friends who shared their rewards amongst each other, and testimony further indicated that there was only one patron complaint regarding the use of another's reward card, that being the \$124 charge at the restaurant. Additional evidence presented by OEC to support its Exclusion Petition outlined a 2014 incident wherein Ms. Zheng cashed a voucher that ultimately belonged to an unidentified individual who had lost that voucher.

Ultimately, after hearing all the evidence presented, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that Ms. Zheng be placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List for the 2021 incident at the restaurant and further finding that too much time had passed from the 2014 incident and

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basically making it stale. But notwithstanding that, it is recommended that she be placed on the Exclusion List and that recommendation is before the Board.
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CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the OCC, and that Rui Zheng be placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan seconds.

13 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

14 (AYES RESPOND)

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CHAIR: All opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 <u>CHAIR:</u> Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: The next Report and Recommendation before the Board today stems from a Request for Removal from the Voluntary Self-Exclusion List by an individual with the initials K.A. A hearing in this matter was held on November 7th, 2023. OEC appeared presenting evidence K.A. failed to appear and the hearing was held in his absence.

Evidence presented at the hearing

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showed that on August 9th, 2021, K.A. had properly
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2
   filled out an Exclusion Form and signed the
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   acknowledgement choosing the Lifetime Self-Exclusion
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   period, acknowledging that he reviewed all of the
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   forms and understood the information provided to him,
 6
   which included that he could not request removal from
7
   the Self-Exclusion List prior to ten years from his
   placement on the list.
9
                   No evidence having been presented from
10
   K.A. to support his petition, a Report and
11
   Recommendation was issued recommending K.A.'s request
12
   be denied, and this recommendation is presently
13
   before the Board.
14
                   CHAIR:
                           Any questions or comments?
15
                   Hearing none, may I have a motion,
16
   please?
17
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
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MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the OCC, and that K.A. remain on the Board's voluntary Self-Exclusion List.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

24 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

25 (AYES RESPOND)

18

19

20

21

CHAIR: All opposed?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board is Report and Recommendation pertaining to a request for recovery of funds confiscated from an individual while on the Self-Exclusion List. The OEC filed Answer objecting to this request. A hearing was held on January 16, 2024. An individual with the initials M.W. appeared and testified on her own behalf. Counsel for OEC also appeared, however, there was not a full hearing required as the parties stipulated to the authenticity and admission of OEC's exhibits.

The evidence presented at the hearing showed that on June 30th, 2018, M.W. placed herself on the Self-Exclusion List for a five-year period, signing the acknowledgments which include an acknowledgment that she was prohibited from collecting any winnings from gaming activity while on the list, as well as the requirement that she remove herself from the list even after the term had expired.

On October 14th, 2023, having not removed herself from the list, M.W. was found at the Parx Casino gaming floor where she won a \$3,000

Jackpot. At the time she sought to collect the jackpot, she was identified as self-exclusion and the jackpot was confiscated along with a \$286.40 voucher.

M.W. testified that she lives in New York, had placed herself on the five-year exclusion list, not only in Pennsylvania but in New York, and was automatically removed from the list in New York and thought the same would occur in Pennsylvania. She further stated that she did not carefully read through the terms and conditions of the exclusion documents. She has since taken the appropriate steps to remove herself from the list.

Following the hearing, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that M.W. be permitted to recover the \$286.40 voucher, but not the \$3,000 winning jackpot, and this is the recommendation before the Board.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the OCC, of the \$3,286.40 confiscated from M.W., \$286.40 shall be returned to her and the remaining \$3,000 which are winnings shall be remitted

```
to the Board.
1
2
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
3
   seconds.
 4
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
 5
   (AYES RESPOND)
 6
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
7
   (NO RESPONSE)
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
9
                   ATTORNEY COOK: G.D.'s request to
10
   recover $5,000 in funds confiscated from him while on
11
   the Self-Exclusion List is the next Report and
12
   Recommendation. The OEC filed answer objecting to
   this request. A hearing was held on December 20th,
13
14
   2023. At that hearing, OEC appeared and offered
15
   evidence. G.D. also appeared and testified on his
   own behalf.
16
17
                   The evidence presented at the hearing
18
   showed that on November 3rd, 2022, G.D.
19
   electronically submitted requests to exclude himself
20
   from all forms of gaming in the Commonwealth,
21
   effectively for his lifetime and five months later,
22
   on April 5th, 2023, after receiving promotional
23
   materials in the mail, GD nevertheless entered and
```

gamed at the Wind Creek Casino for approximately six

24

25

hours.

Petitioner acknowledges entering the casino with approximately \$4,000 in cash and while there, obtaining a cash advance for an additional \$1,000. Petitioner further acknowledges that he lost during his period of play and decided at some point that he would stop gaming when his bankroll returned to \$5,000.

During his play, G.D. wagered no less than \$2,200 in slot machines, over \$20,000 and 52 hands of blackjack, \$3,275 in 13 hands of poker, and approximately \$10,000 over 24 rounds of roulette upon his attempting to exchange \$5,000 in chips when he returned to that level of proceeds, he was identified as self-excluded and the \$5,000 was confiscated.

After hearing all of the evidence presented, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that G.D.'s Petition be granted and the monies returned to him based in part on the confusion caused by G.D. receiving promotional materials while self-excluded, and also the Hearing Officer determining that the \$5,000 in question was a buy-in and was not proceeds won.

OEC filed exceptions to the Report and Recommendations stating that G.D. completed buy-ins in the amount of \$4,700, lost most of that money, and

```
actually wagered far more than the $5,000 and as a
1
2
   result, the $5,000 should be confiscated as winnings,
3
   and they the recommendation is that the - the
 4
   recommendation of the Hearing Officer is that the
5
   funds be returned. The OEC and the OCC recommend
 6
   that the report recommendation be denied and the
   funds be remitted.
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
9
   the Board?
10
                   Hearing none, may I have a motion,
11
   please?
12
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
13
   moves that the Board reject the Report and
14
   Recommendation issued by the OHA, as described by the
15
   OCC, and that G.D.'s Petition to Recover Funds
   Confiscated while on the Self-Exclusion List be
16
```

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan

19 seconds.

denied.

17

20 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

21 (AYES RESPOND)

22 CHAIR: All opposed?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHAIR: Motion carries.

25 ATTORNEY COOK: The final Report and

Recommendation before the Board today is another request to recover funds confiscated while on the Self-Exclusion List. The OEC filed an Answer objecting to the request. A hearing in the matter was held on December 14th, 2023. OEC appeared, presented evidence, K.C., the requester, failed to appear for the hearing.

The uncontested evidence presented at the hearing showed that on March 13th, 2018, K.C., who was self-excluded, properly filed the exclusion form and signed an acknowledgment selecting the five-year period of self-exclusion making her eligible to request removal on March 13th, 2023. However, she failed to request removal at that time. On June 27, 2023, while still self-excluded, K.C. entered and gamed at Parx, winning \$2,475 in table games and then a \$1,303.52 jackpot at a slot machine, totaling \$3,778.52 in winnings for that evening.

When K.C. was asked to provide identification to claim her \$1,300 slot machine jackpot, she was identified as self-excluded and that jackpot was retained by the casino as well as an additional \$120.88 in credits on the machine.

Following the hearing, the Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that K.C.'s

request be denied, that all of the monies confiscated were, in fact, winnings and, in fact, were not even all of her winnings for the evening in question, and that's the recommendation before the Board.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as directed by the OCC, and that K.C.'s Petition to Recover Funds Confiscated while on the Self-Exclusion List be denied.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon seconds.

14 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

15 (AYES RESPOND)

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25

16 CHAIR: All opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 <u>CHAIR:</u> Motion's adopted.

19 <u>ATTORNEY COOK:</u> That concludes the

20 matters of the OCC. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Steve. We will now have the Bureau of Licensing matters presented by the Director of Bureau of Licensing, Sean Hannon. Sean?

MR. HANNON: Good morning, Madam Chair and Members of the Board. Today's first licensing

matter for your consideration is the renewal of the 1 2 Slot Machine, Table Game, Sports Wagering and VGT 3 Manufacturer Licenses for Novomatic AG. Novomatic AG was formed in Austria in June of 1990. The company 5 manufactures slot machines, table games, sports 6 wagering and Video Gaming Terminal products, and 7 associated equipment for use or play at licensed facilities in the Commonwealth.

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The BIE has completed its investigation of the company, and the Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a background investigation and suitability reports. I have provided you with draft orders and ask that the Board first consider the order to renew the Slot Machine Manufacturer License for Novomatic AG.

The OEC has no ATTORNEY PITRE: objection.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments from the Board? May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board grant the Slot Machine Manufacturer License Renewal a described by the Bureau of Licensing.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner Manzano-Díaz second.

40 CHAIR: All in favor? 1 2 (AYES RESPOND) 3 CHAIR: All opposed? 4 (NO RESPONSE) 5 CHAIR: Motion's adopted. 6 MR. HANNON: Next would be the Order 7 to Renew the Table Game Manufacturer License for Novomatic AG. 9 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel 10 has no objection. 11 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? 12 May I have a motion, please? 13 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board grant the Table Game 14 15 Manufacturer License Renewal as described by the 16 Bureau of Licensing. 17 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner 18 Manzano-Díaz second. CHAIR: All in favor? 19 20 (AYES RESPOND) 21 CHAIR: All opposed? 22 (NO RESPONSE) 23 CHAIR: Motion carries. 24 MR. HANNON: Next is the Order to 25 Renew the Sports Wagering Manufacturer License.

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ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
1
2
   has no objection.
 3
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
 4
   May I have a motion, please?
5
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
 6
   Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board grant
7
   the Sports Wagering Manufacturer License Renewal as
   described by the Bureau of Licensing.
9
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
10
   second.
11
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
12
   (AYES RESPOND)
13
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
   (NO RESPONSE)
14
15
                   CHAIR:
                           Motion's adopted.
16
                   MR. HANNON: And finally would be the
   Order to Renew their VGT Manufacturer License
17
18
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
19
   has no objection.
20
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
   May I have a motion, please?
21
22
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
23
   moves that the Board grant the Video Gaming Terminal
24
   Manufacturer License Renewal as described by the
25
   Bureau of Licensing.
```

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan 1 2 seconds. 3 CHAIR: All in favor? 4 (AYES RESPOND) 5 All opposed? CHAIR: 6 (NO RESPONSE) CHAIR: Motion's adopted. 8 MR. HANNON: The next licensing matter 9 for your consideration is the Renewal of the Slot 10 Machine and Table Game Manufacturer Designee 11 Licenses, as well as the Sports Wagering and VGT 12 Supplier Licenses for Novomatic America Sales, LLC. 13 Novomatic America Sales, LLC became 14 incorporated in April of 2012 and is headquartered in 15 Buffalo Grove, Illinois. The company is part of the 16 Novomatic Group of Companies that sells, supports and services various Novomatic AG gaming products. 17 18 The BIE has completed its 19 investigation of the company, and the Bureau of 20 Licensing has provided you with background 21 investigation and suitability reports. I have provided you with Draft Orders and asked the Board 22 23 first consider the Order to Renew the Slot Machine 24 Manufacturer Designee License for Novomatic America

25

Sales, LLC.

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ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
1
2
   has no objection.
 3
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
 4
   May I have a motion, please?
 5
                   MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner
   Regan moves that the Board grant the Slot Machine
6
   Manufacturer Designee's License Renewal as described
   by the Bureau of Licensing.
9
                   MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
10
   seconds.
11
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
12
   (AYES RESPOND)
13
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
14
   (NO RESPONSE)
15
                   CHAIR:
                           Motion's adopted.
16
                   MR. HANNON: Next is the Order to
   Renew the Table Game Manufacturer Designee License.
17
18
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
19
   has no objection.
20
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
21
   May I have a motion, please?
22
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
23
   Dillon moves that the Board grant the Table Game
24
   Manufacturer Designee License Renewal as described by
25
   the Bureau of Licensing.
```

44 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston CHAIR: All in favor? (AYES RESPOND) CHAIR: All opposed? CHAIR: Motion's adopted. MR. HANNON: Next is the Order to Renew the Sports Wagering Supplier License. ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel has no objection. CHAIR: Any questions or comments? MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves

May I have a motion, please?

15 that the Board grant the Sports Wagering Supplier

License Renewal as described by the Bureau of 16

17 Licensing.

1

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3

4

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6

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9

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12

13

14

seconds.

(NO RESPONSE)

18 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

19 Manzano-Díaz, second.

CHAIR: All in favor? 20

21 (AYES RESPOND)

22 CHAIR: All opposed?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

25 MR. HANNON: And finally, the Order to

4.5

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Renew the VGT Supplier License.
1
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
2
3
   has no objection.
 4
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
5
   May I have a motion, please?
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
 6
7
   Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board grant
   the Video Gaming Terminal Supplier License Renewal as
   described by the Bureau of Licensing.
10
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
11
   seconds.
12
                           All in favor?
                   CHAIR:
13
   (AYES RESPOND)
14
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed?
15
   (NO RESPONSE)
16
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
17
                   MR. HANNON: Next on the agenda, we
   have the consideration of an Interactive Gaming
18
19
   Manufacturer License for Supremeland Gaming
20
   Incorporated, formed in Delaware in October of 2022.
21
   The company's Principal place of business is in New
22
   York City. The company develops online games and was
23
   granted interim authorization on February 5th, 2024.
24
                   The BIE has completed its
25
   investigation of the company, and the Bureau of
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Licensing has provided you with a background
1
2
   investigation and suitability report.
3
   provided you with a Draft Order and ask the Board
 4
   consider the Order to Approve the Interactive Gaming
5
   Manufacturer License for Supremeland Gaming
 6
   Incorporated.
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
   has no objection.
9
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
10
   May I have a motion, please?
11
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
12
   moves that the Board grant the Interactive Gaming
13
   Manufacturer License as described by the Bureau of
14
   Licensing.
15
                   MS. REGAN:
                               Commissioner Regan
16
   seconds.
17
```

CHAIR: All in favor?

18 (AYES RESPOND)

19 CHAIR: All opposed?

20 (NO RESPONSE)

22

23

24

25

21 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

MR. HANNON: Next is the approval of an Interactive Gaming Manufacturer License for Galaxy Gaming-01, LLC. Galaxy Gaming is licensed in good standing as a Table Game Manufacturer. Under the

```
Gaming Act, the Board may use an abbreviated process
1
2
   to consider the application of a currently-licensed
3
   manufacturer. The Bureau of Licensing, OEC, and BIE
 4
   have reviewed the Application for an Interactive
5
   Gaming Manufacturer License for Galaxy Gaming-01,
 6
   LLC, and I have provided you with the results of that
7
   review. I have provided you with a Draft Order and
   asked the Board consider the Order to Approve the
   Interactive Gaming Manufacturer License for Galaxy
10
   Gaming-01, LLC.
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement counsel
11
12
   has no objection.
13
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
14
   May I have a motion, please?
15
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves
16
   that the Board grant the Interactive Gaming
17
   Manufacturer License as described by the Bureau of
18
   Licensing.
                   MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
```

- 19
- 20 seconds.
- 21 All in favor? CHAIR:
- 22 (AYES RESPOND)
- 23 All opposed? CHAIR:
- 24 (NO RESPONSE)
- 25 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

MR. HANNON: Next, we have consideration of the Video Gaming Terminal Manufacturer License Renewal for NRT Technologies Incorporated. NRT Technologies is licensed in good standing as a Slot Machine Manufacturer Designee and a Video Game Terminal Manufacturer.

Under the Gaming Act, the Board may use an abbreviated process to consider the application of a currently licensed manufacturer. The Bureau of Licensing, OEC and the BIE have reviewed the abbreviated application for a Video Game Terminal Manufacturer License for NRT Technologies, and I have provided you with the results of that review. I have provided you with a Draft Order and ask the Board consider the Order to Renew the Video Game Terminal Manufacturer License for NRT Technologies Incorporated.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillion moves that the Board grant the Video Gaming Terminal Manufacturer License Renewal as described by the Bureau of Licensing.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan 1 2 seconds. 3 CHAIR: All in favor? 4 (AYES RESPOND) 5 All opposed? CHAIR: 6 (NO RESPONSE) CHAIR: Motion's adopted. 8 MR. HANNON: In addition is 9 consideration of a Sports Wagering Manufacturer 10 License for Oak Ridge Interactive, LLC, formed in New Jersey in September of 2020. Oak Ridge Interactive's 11 12 Principal place of business is in Holmdel, New 13 Jersey. The company develops a sports wagering 14 platform which they intend to offer to licensed 15 online sportsbook operators. 16 The BIE has completed its 17 investigation and the Bureau of Licensing has 18 provided you with a background investigation and 19 suitability report for the approval and is ready for 20 your consideration. I have provided you with a Draft 21 Order and ask that you consider the Order to Approve

Oak Ridge Interactive, LLC for a Sports Wagering 23 Manufacturer License. ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel 24

22

25

has no objection.

```
1
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
2
   May I have a motion, please?
 3
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
4
   moves that the Board grant the Sports Wagering
5
   Manufacturer License as described by the Bureau of
 6
   Licensing.
7
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
   Manzano-Díaz second.
9
                           All in favor?
                   CHAIR:
10
   (AYES RESPOND)
11
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
12
   (NO RESPONSE)
13
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
14
                   MR. HANNON: Next, there are
15
   Principal, Key Employee and Qualifier Licenses.
                                                      The
16
   Bureau of Licensing provides you with a proposed
   order for 11 Principals, 22 Key Employees and one
17
   Qualifier. I ask the Board consider the Order
18
19
   approving these licenses.
20
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
21
   has no objection.
22
                   CHAIR:
                           Any questions or comments?
23
   May I have a motion, please?
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
24
25
   Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board grant
```

```
1 the Principal, Key Employee and Qualifier Licenses as
2 described by the Bureau of Licensing.
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MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

6 (AYES RESPOND)

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<u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion carries.

MR. HANNON: There are also Principal and Key Employee Temporary Credentials. The Bureau of Licensing provided you with an order regarding the issuance of temporary credentials for six Principals and 17 Key Employees. I ask that the Board consider the order approving these credentials.

16 <u>ATTORNEY PITRE:</u> Enforcement counsel 17 has no objection.

18 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments?

19 May I have a motion, please?

MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston moves that the Board grant the Temporary Principal and Key Employee credentials as described by the Bureau of Licensing.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor? 1 2 (AYES RESPOND) 3 All opposed? CHAIR: 4 (NO RESPONSE) 5 CHAIR: Motion's adopted. MR. HANNON: Additionally for your 6 7 consideration are gaming employee permits and Non-Gaming Employee registrations. The Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a list of 602 10 individuals to whom the Bureau is granted temporary 11 or full occupation permits, and 262 individuals to 12 whom the Bureau is granted registrations under the 13 authority delegated to the Bureau of Licensing. I 14 ask the Board consider a motion approving the order. 15 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement counsel 16 has no objection. 17 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? 18 May I have a motion, please? 19 MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner 20 Regan moves that the Board approve the Applications 21 for Gaming Employee Occupation Permits and Non-Gaming Employee Registrations as described by the Bureau of 22 23 Licensing. MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon 24 25 seconds.

```
53
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
1
2
   (AYES RESPOND)
 3
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed?
 4
   (NO RESPONSE)
 5
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
                   MR. HANNON: The next matter for
 6
7
   consideration is Withdrawal Requests. In each case,
   the License Permit or Registration is no longer
   required. For today's meeting, I've provided the
10
   Board with 41 gaming and 28 Non-Gaming Applicants.
                                                         Ι
   ask that the Board consider the orders approving
11
   these withdrawals.
12
13
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
14
   has no objection.
15
                   CHAIR:
                           Any questions or comments?
16
   May I have a motion?
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
17
18
   Dillon moves that the Board grant the withdrawal of
19
   Gaming and Non-Gaming Employee Applications as
20
   described by the Bureau of Licensing Commission.
21
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
22
   Manzano-Díaz, second.
23
                           All in favor?
                   CHAIR:
24
   (AYES RESPOND)
25
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
```

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1
   (NO RESPONSE)
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
 2
 3
                   MR. HANNON: In addition, we have an
4
   order to certify Continental Technologies
5
   Incorporated as a Gaming Service Provider.
   provided you with a Draft Order and ask the Board
 6
   consider the order certifying this company.
8
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
9
   has no objection.
10
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
11
   May I have a motion, please?
12
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
13
   Dillon moves that the Board approve the Gaming
   Service Provider Certification as described by the
14
15
   Bureau of Licensing.
16
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
   Manzano-Díaz, second.
17
18
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
```

19 (AYES RESPOND)

20 CHAIR: All opposed?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

23 MR. HANNON: And finally, for

24 consideration are Gaming Service Provider

25 Registrations. The Bureau of Licensing provided you

```
with an Order and an attached list of nine Registered
1
2
   Gaming Service Provider Applicants. I ask that the
3
   Board consider the Order registering these Gaming
 4
   Service Providers.
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
 5
6
   has no objection.
7
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
   May I have a motion, please?
9
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
10
   Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board
11
   approve the Gaming Service Provider Registrations as
12
   described by the Bureau of Licensing.
13
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
   seconds.
14
```

15 CHAIR: All in favor?

16 (AYES RESPOND)

17 CHAIR: All opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

20

19 CHAIR: Motion carries.

MR. HANNON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Thank you, Sean. Nice job on CHAIR:

22 Novomatics, by the way. Next is the OEC, Cyrus

23 Pitre. Cyrus?

24 ATTORNEY PITRE: The OEC will present

25 ten matters today for the Board's consideration in which we will request the approval of one consent agreement, three revocations, one suspension, and five involuntary exclusions.

The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is a Consent Agreement between the OEC and Category 1 Licensee, Washington Trotting Association, LLC, doing business as, Hollywood Casino at the Meadows. The matter will be presented by Assistant Enforcement Counsel Kelci Scirrotto.

At this time, I will ask the representatives for Hollywood Casino to please state their names and for all non-attorney witnesses to stand and be sworn.

MR. HVIZDA: Alex Hvizda, A-L-E-X,

H-V-I-Z-D-A, Director of Compliance.

MR. HEISKELL: Matthew Heiskell,
M-A-T-T-H-E-W, H-E-I-S-K-E-L-L, Vice President and
General Manager of Hollywood Casino.

- -

20 (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE.)

ATTORNEY SCIRROTTO: Good morning,

Madam Chair. Members of the Board Kelci Scirrotto,

S-C-I-R-R-O-T-T-O, Assistant Enforcement Counsel with
the OEC. This Consent Agreement involves a self-

exclusion incident. On February 27th, 2022, a 66-year old individual with the initials D.W. visited the casino, then known as the Meadows Casino and Racetrack, for approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes before being identified as a self-excluded individual. During that time, she gamed at 48 slot machines and visited the cage three times.

During her first visit to the cage,
D.W. conducted a \$300 e-Check cashing transaction
from cage cashier number one at the satellite cage.
She returned to playing slots and then conducted a
second transaction with the same cage cashier.
During the second transaction, D.W. provided her
identification and conducted a \$300 e-Check cashing
transaction. The cage cashier failed to verify that
D.W. was not on the Self-Exclusion List.

D.W. then returned to playing slots before attempting to conduct a third e-Check cashing transaction with a different cage cashier. During this third transaction, D.W. provided her identification and was identified as self-excluded. Security and police were notified, but D.W. left the casino without her identification before their arrival. Police contacted D.W. and she returned an hour later. D.W. was charged with summary defiant

trespass as a result. A final written warning was issued to the cage cashier who conducted the first two transactions.

At this time, the OEC respectfully requests that the Board approve the proposed Consent Agreement and Stipulation of Settlement, which requires that Hollywood Casino at the Meadows pay a Civil Penalty in the amount of \$10,000 and an administrative fee of \$2,500 for costs incurred by OEC, BIE and other related staff in connection with this matter. If you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them at this time.

CHAIR: Meadows, would you like to address the Board?

MR. HVIZDA: Just briefly, Madam
Chair, Members of the Board, Alex Hvizda, Director of
Compliance as you heard in OEC's presentation, we
take this very seriously, that we did a skip step all
the way to a final written warning on this. But
broader than that, our commitment to responsible
gaming isn't just doing the training once a year or
reminders during compulsion problem gaming month or
responsible gaming education month, but we also
quarterly randomly select employees and do a pop quiz
to make sure they know what they're supposed to do

And specifically after this incident, this is one where the patron was a known regular patron and the cashier didn't do what they were supposed to do because he thought he knew who this person was, as she had self-excluded just a couple days before, which goes to prove the point about complacency as our biggest enemy. But we also issued a read and sign to everybody in the cage reminding them that even if you do know this person and they are a regular, that doesn't mean they couldn't have signed up the day before or the week before. So you always have to check their self-exclusion status before conducting any type of transaction.

MR. HEISKELL: Madam Chair,

Commissioners, this is my first time to come here for a Consent Agreement. I've been at the property a year and-a-half, so we're going to work to keep that a relative rarity in terms of a showing here for this. Obviously, it's a disappointment. I think, as Alex really stated, it really underscores the need for diligence.

I mean, this is a situation where you would have thought it would have been just fine based on your working with a customer over and over the course of time. So we've had to reiterate that and

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make sure that everybody knows the policy.
1
2
   Obviously, we had to do what we had to do with the
3
   individual as well, but we take this very seriously,
 4
   and we're reiterating the importance of this at all
 5
   times.
                   CHAIR:
 6
                           Thank you. Any questions or
7
   comments from the Board?
               Commissioners Dermody and Hickernell, any
9
   questions or comments?
10
                   MR. DERMODY: No questions.
11
                   MR. HICKERNELL: No questions.
12
                   CHAIR:
                           Thank you. Excuse me, may I
13
   have a motion, please?
14
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston -
15
   sorry, it's out of order. Commissioner Ralston moves
16
   that the Board approve the Consent Agreement between
17
   the OEC and Washington Trotting Association, LLC,
18
   doing business as Hollywood Casino at the Meadows, as
19
   described by the OEC.
20
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan
21
   seconds.
22
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
23
   (AYES RESPOND)
24
                   CHAIR: All opposed?
25
   (NO RESPONSE)
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CHAIR: Motion is adopted. Thank you, gentlemen.

ATTORNEY PITRE: The next three matters on the agenda consist of enforcement actions in which the OEC filed complaints seeking the revocation of permits or registrations previously issued by the Board. The complaint in each matter has been filed with the Board's OHA and properly served upon the individual named in each complaint.

The individual named in each complaint failed to respond within 30 days as required by Board regulation. As a result, the OEC filed a request for Default Judgment in each instance and properly served the same upon each respondent. Therefore, the facts in each complaint are deemed admitted. All filed documents have been provided to the Board, and the matters are presently ripe for the Board's consideration. In each matter, we will provide a brief summary of the facts and make a request for the appropriate Board action.

ATTORNEY SCIRROTTO: Kelci Scirrotto once again with the OEC. The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is the Revocation of the Non-Gaming Registration issued to Shanel Jones. Miss Jones was employed as a cashier

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62
   by First American Bankcard Incorporated, a Licensed
1
2
   Manufacturer. While working as a cash advance
 3
   cashier at Rivers Casino Philadelphia, Miss Jones
   stole $100 on two occasions for a total of $200.
 4
5
   Police were notified, but no charges were filed.
                                                      She
 6
   was terminated from her position as a result and is
7
   not currently employed in Pennsylvania's gaming
   industry. At this time, the OEC requests that the
   Board revoke the Non-Gaming Employee Registration
10
   issued Shanel Jones.
11
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
12
   May I have a motion, please?
13
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves
14
   that the Board approve the revocation of Shanel Jones
15
   Non-Gaming Employee Registration for the conduct
16
   described by the OEC.
17
                   MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
18
   seconds.
19
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
20
   (AYES RESPOND)
21
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed?
22
   (NO RESPONSE)
23
                   CHAIR: Motion's adopted.
24
                   ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Good morning, Madam
25
   Chair, Commissioners. Juan Sanchez, S-A-N-C-H-E-Z,
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Assistant Enforcement Counsel with the OEC. The next 1 2 matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is 3 the revocation of the Gaming Employee Occupation 4 Permit issued to Nahzir Lango. Mr. Lango was 5 previously employed as a security officer at Mount 6 Airy Casino and Resort. The casino terminated Mr. 7 Lango's employment for unauthorized possession of property because he stole an envelope containing \$2,400 that a patron dropped on the casino gaming 10 floor. After being confronted by his supervisor, Mr. 11 Lango returned the \$2,400, which was then given to 12 the patron. Mr. Lango was not criminally charged and he is not currently employed in Pennsylvania's gaming 13 14 industry.

At this time. The OEC requests that the Board revoke the Gaming Employee Occupation Permit issued to Nahzir Lango.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board approved the revocation of Nahzir Lango's Gaming Employee Occupation Permit for the conduct described by the OEC.

CHAIR: Commissioner Ralston seconds.

25 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

15

16

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23

1 (AYES RESPOND)

2 CHAIR: All opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion carries.

ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Again, Juan

Sanchez. The next matter on the agenda for the

Board's consideration is the revocation of the Gaming

Employee Occupation Permit issued to Yanping Fang.

Miss Fang was previously employed as a Table Games Dealer at Hollywood Casino York.

Hollywood Casino York terminated Miss Fang from her employment because in at least nine instances, she colluded with or allowed two patrons playing blackjack to cheat or otherwise allowed two patrons to receive \$700 in winnings and avoid losses to the detriment of the casino. She is not currently

At this time, the OEC requests that the Board revoke the Gaming Employee Occupation Permit issued to Yanping Fang.

employed in Pennsylvania's gaming industry and no

criminal charges were filed against her.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
May I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner
Regan moves that the Board approve the revocation of

Yanping Fang's Gaming Employee Occupation Permit for the conduct described by the OEC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

4 Manzano-Díaz second.

CHAIR: All in favor?

6 (AYES RESPOND)

CHAIR: All opposed?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

attorney pitre: The next five matters on the agenda consists of enforcement actions in which the OEC filed Petitions Seeking the Involuntary Exclusion of individuals whose presence in a licensed facility are inimical to the interests of the Commonwealth and/or licensed gaming therein.

In each instance, a petition for exclusion has been filed with the Board's OHA and properly served upon the individual named in the petition. The individual named in each petition failed to respond within 30 days as required by Board regulation. As a result, the OEC filed a request for Default Judgment in each instance and properly served the same upon each individual.

Therefore, all facts in each petition are deemed admitted. All filed documents have been

provided to the Board and the matters are presently right for the Board's consideration. In each instance, if the Board orders a proposed exclusion, each individual's photo, personal identifiers, and a summary of the inimical conduct may be placed on the Board's public website. Once again, in each matter, we will provide a brief summary of the facts and make a request for the appropriate Board action.

ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Again, Juan Sanchez for the OEC. The next two matters on the agenda are related and our request to place Justin Draper and Felicia Taylor on the Involuntary Exclusion List. With the Board's permission, I will read one set of facts and then request that each individual be placed on the Exclusion List.

Mr. Draper and Miss Taylor played table games at Live! Casino Philadelphia colluded with a tables games dealer and three other patrons or otherwise cheated, capped and pinched wagers and were paid out for losing wagers owed to Live! Casino Philadelphia. Justin Draper received a total of \$44,410, and Felicia Taylor received a total of \$29,722.50 in ill-gotten gains.

Pennsylvania State Police arrested and charged both with third degree felonies, theft by

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deception, false impression and conspiracy, as well
1
2
   as first degree misdemeanors, unlawful taking by
3
   trick or deceit, and knowingly by trick, fraud or
 4
   manipulation, winning or reducing loss. Miss
5
   Taylor's criminal case was dismissed after she paid
 6
   $15,380 in restitution. Mr. Draper pleaded guilty to
7
   a third degree felony theft by deception, false
   impression. Live! Casino Philadelphia permanently
9
   evicted both from the casino for their actions.
10
```

At this time the OEC requests that the Board place Justin Draper on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

13 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 14 May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board
approve the addition of Justin Draper to the PGCB
Involuntary Exclusion List for the conduct described
by the OEC.

MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston seconds.

22 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

23 (AYES RESPOND)

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16

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24 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed?

25 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion's adopted. 1 2 ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: At this time, the 3 OEC requests that the Board place Felicia Taylor on 4 the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List. 5 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? 6 May I have a motion, please? 7 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston moves that the Board approve the addition of Felicia Taylor to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion List for the 10 conduct described by the OEC. MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan 11 12 seconds. 13 CHAIR: All in favor? 14 (AYES RESPOND) 15 CHAIR: All opposed? 16 (NO RESPONSE) 17 CHAIR: Motion's adopted. 18 ATTORNEY MONAGHAN: Good morning. 19 Thomas Monaghan, M-O-N-A-G-H-A-N, with the OEC. The 20 next matter in the agenda for the Board's 21 consideration is a request to place Mark Fornal on 22 the Board's Interactive Gaming Involuntary Exclusion 23 List.

gaming account on the PointsBet Interactive Sports

Mr. Fornal opened an interactive

24

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wagering platform and made two deposits totaling
1
2
   $2,500. Mr. Fornal's wagering activity resulted in
3
   losing the entirety of the money he deposited.
 4
   Subsequently, Mr. Fornal failed or refused to pay
5
   $1,500 that he owed to PointsBet as a result of his
6
   gaming activity. PointsBet closed Mr. Fornal's
7
   interactive gaming account.
8
                   At this time, the OEC requests the
9
   Board place Mark Fornal on the Interactive Gaming
10
   Involuntary Exclusion List.
11
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
12
   May I have a motion, please?
13
                   MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner
14
   Regan moves that the Board approve the addition of
15
   Mark Fornal to the PGCB Interactive Gaming
16
   Involuntary Exclusion List for the conduct described
17
   by the OEC.
18
                   MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
19
   seconds.
20
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
21
   (AYES RESPOND)
22
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed?
23
   (NO RESPONSE)
24
                   CHAIR: Motion carries.
                   ATTORNEY MONAGHAN: The next matter on
25
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the agenda for the Board's consideration is a request
1
2
   to place Lionel Franks on the Board's Involuntary
3
   Exclusion List. Mr. Franks stole $200 from a
 4
   patron's jacket while the patron was gaming at a slot
5
   machine at Rivers Casino Philadelphia. He was
   criminally charged with robbery and later convicted.
 6
7
   He was permanently evicted from Rivers Philadelphia
   for his actions.
9
                   At this time, the OEC requests the
10
   Board place Lionel Franks on the Board's Involuntary
   Exclusion List.
11
12
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
13
   May I have a motion, please?
14
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
15
   Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of
   Lionel Franks to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion List
16
   for the conduct described by the OEC.
17
18
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
   Manzano-Díaz second.
19
20
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
21
   (AYES RESPOND)
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22 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

25 <u>ATTORNEY MONAGHAN:</u> The next matter in

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the agenda for the Board's consideration is request
1
2
   to place James Hagan on the Board's Involuntary
3
   Exclusion List. Mr. Hagan physically assaulted a
 4
   female and two male patrons in a bar at Rivers Casino
5
   Philadelphia. He was permanently evicted from Rivers
   Philadelphia and an arrest warrant was issued for his
 6
7
   actions.
                   At this time, the OEC requests the
9
   Board place James Hagan on the Board's Involuntary
10
   Exclusion List.
11
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
12
   May I have a motion, please?
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MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of

James Hagan to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion List

for the conduct described by the OEC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

18 Manzano-Díaz second.

19 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

20 (AYES RESPOND)

21 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 <u>CHAIR:</u> Motion's adopted.

24 <u>ATTORNEY PITRE:</u> The final matter on 25 the agenda consists of an enforcement action in which

the OEC filed a complaint seeking the suspension of a Gaming Service Provider Registration previously issued by the Board and to place this Gaming Service provider in the Board's prohibited Gaming Service Provider List.

The complaint has been filed with the Board's OHA and properly served upon the respondent named in the complaint. The respondent named in the complaint failed to respond within 30 days as required by Board regulation. As a result, the OEC filed a request for Default Judgment. Therefore, the facts in the complaint are deemed admitted.

All filed documents have been provided to the Board and the matter is presently right for the Board's consideration. Senior Enforcement Counsel David Tepper will provide a brief summary of the facts and make a request for the appropriate Board action.

is a request to suspend the Gaming Service Provider registration of Iris Media, LLC and Place Iris Media, LLC on the Prohibited Gaming Service Provider List.

Iris Media is a Belarusian company that provides affiliate marketing services for other entities.

Iris Media, LLC failed to comply with a special

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1 condition which required them to submit the
2 fingerprints for each of their natural person
3 Oualifiers.
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At this time, the OEC requests that the Board suspend the Gaming Service Provider Registration of Iris Media, LLC and place them on the Prohibited Gaming Service Provider List.

8 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 9 May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board
approve the suspension of Iris Media, LLC's Gaming
Service Provider Registration and place them on the
Prohibited Gaming Service Provider List for the
conduct described by the OEC.

MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston seconds.

18 <u>CHAIR:</u> All in favor?

19 (AYES RESPOND)

4

5

6

7

10

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20 CHAIR: All opposed?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 <u>CHAIR:</u> Motion's adopted.

23 <u>ATTORNEY PITRE:</u> Thank you. That

24 concludes our business.

25 <u>CHAIR:</u> Thank you, Cyrus. The last

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item on the agenda today is public comment.
                                                  Is there
1
2
   anyone in the room that would like to address the
3
   Board?
   (NO RESPONSE)
 4
 5
                   CHAIR: Seeing no one, that concludes
6
   today's meeting. The next public meeting of the
   Board will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024, at
   10:00 a.m. at this location. And now, may I please
   have a motion to adjourn the meeting?
10
                   MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
11
   moves to adjourn.
12
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan
13
   seconds.
14
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
15
   (AYES RESPOND)
16
                           All opposed?
                   CHAIR:
   (NO RESPONSE)
17
18
                           The meeting is adjourned.
                   CHAIR:
19
   Thank you, Commissioners Dermody and Hinkernell, and
20
   thank you, Mr. Augusto for participating
21
   telephonically. Everybody. Take care. Thank you.
22
23
               MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:44 A.M.
24
25
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, a meeting held by Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, was reported by me on April 24, 2024 and that I, Autumn Karper, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 10th day of May, 2024

Autumn Karper,

Court Reporter