

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

Shawn Dillon

David S. Hickernell

Sara Manzano-Díaz (phone)

Nedia Ralston

Frances J. Regan (phone)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., Ex-Officio Member,
Department of Agriculture

Adria Zimmerman, Ex-Officio Member,
Department of Revenue

Jennifer Langan, Ex-Officio Member,
Department of Revenue

Reporter: Derek Richmond

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1 MEETING: Wednesday, July 24, 2024
2 10:00 a.m.
3 LOCATION: Strawberry Square Complex
4 2nd Floor
5 Harrisburg, PA 17101

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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3 PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD EXECUTIVE STAFF WHO APPEARED4 BEFORE THE BOARD:

5 Kevin O'Toole, Executive Director

6 David Rhen, Director of Budget

7 Sean Hannon, Director of Bureau of Licensing

8 Heidi Zula, Director of Human Resources

9

10 Office of Chief Counsel - Also presenting:

11 Steve Cook, Chief Counsel

12 Denise Miller-Tshudy, Senior Counsel

13 Chad Zimmermann, Deputy Chief Counsel

14

15 Office of Enforcement Counsel - Also presenting:

16 Cyrus Pitre, Chief Enforcement Counsel

17 Sara Groody, Assistant Enforcement Counsel

18 Michael Roland, Senior Enforcement Counsel

19 John Crohe, Senior Enforcement Counsel

20 Thomas Monaghan, Assistant Enforcement Counsel

21 Juan Sanchez, Assistant Enforcement Counsel

22 Sarah Kolesar, Assistant Enforcement Counsel

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. I'm Denise Smyler, Chair of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. I would like to ask everyone to please silence your cell phones and all electronic devices at this time. Also, while masks are no longer mandatory, please feel free to wear a mask if you believe it is required or necessary for your own well-being.

We have five Board Members present this morning and Commissioners Manzano-Díaz and Regan are present by telephone. Commissioner Manzano-Díaz, can you hear me? Commissioner Manzano-Díaz, are you there?

Okay.

We'll double-back to her in a second. Commissioner Regan, can you hear me?

Is the system not working?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm trying, I apologize.

CHAIR: That's okay. Well, we're going to wait for another minute or so to see if we can get the fellow Commissioners on the line. In the meantime, -.

1 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: I can hear you now.

2 CHAIR: Commissioner Manzano-Díaz, you
3 can hear us okay?

4 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: I hear you now,
5 yes. Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Great. And Commissioner
7 Regan?

8 MS. REGAN: I can now, also. Yes, I
9 can hear you now also.

10 CHAIR: Okay.

11 Perfect. I would also like to note
12 that in addition to the Board Members, we also have
13 Ex-Officio Member, Fred Strathmeyer, representing
14 Russell Redding, Secretary of Department of
15 Agriculture. Adria Zimmerman, representing Pat
16 Browne, Secretary for the Department of Revenue, and
17 Jennifer Langan, representing Stacy Garrity, State
18 Treasurer. Thank you Ex-Officios for joining us.
19 And now I'd like to call today's meeting to order.
20 As the first Order of Business, I ask everybody to
21 please stand and join me in recitation of the Pledge
22 of Allegiance.

23 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

24 CHAIR: We will now have Presentations
25 of Service Awards for Gaming Control Board Employees

1 that will be made by our Executive Director, Kevin
2 O'Toole. Kevin?

3 MR. O'TOOLE: Good morning, Chair
4 Smyler, Members of the Board. So this morning we're
5 going to recognize a number of individuals who have
6 reached that milestone of either ten years of
7 continuous service to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control
8 Board or 15 years of continuous service.

9 So it's really an enjoyable day to
10 recognize the dedication and the loyalty of employees
11 who have clearly and significantly contributed to the
12 success of our agency. And I'd also like to note at
13 this time that we have 359 Gaming Control Board
14 employees as of today. 168 have reached at least ten
15 years of service, which represents 47 percent of our
16 employees. And of that 168, 116 of them have reached
17 15 years of service, which represents 32 percent of
18 our employees.

19 So this morning we are fortunate to
20 have two employees who were able to come in today in
21 person and we can recognize them at this time. Our
22 first honoree is Wayne Fritzing. Wayne, could you
23 stand up, please?

24 So Wayne is here for his 15th year
25 Service Award. He was hired on May 4th of 2009 as

1 Casino Compliance Representative. Today, Wayne
2 serves as our Casino Compliance Supervisor assigned
3 to the Hollywood Morgantown Casino for the Bureau of
4 Casino Compliance. Wayne, I'd like to present this
5 Certificate to you, and thank you very much for your
6 service and congratulations.

7 And, Mark, would you come up, please?
8 So, Mark Dinse, he is also receiving an honor for
9 being a 15 year service award winner. Mark was hired
10 on June 8 of 2009 as an Electronics Engineer. Today,
11 Mark serves as a Manager of the Board's Office of
12 Gaming Laboratory Operations. Mark, thank you very
13 much for your service and congratulations, and I'd
14 like to give you your Certificate.

15 I have a few more people that I would
16 like to recognize, but if you don't mind, I'll sit
17 down for that. So we also have five additional
18 employees who reached their 15-year milestone, and
19 they are Tom Wascura. Tom was hired on May 11 of
20 2009 as a Casino Compliance Representative. And then
21 in December of 2020, Tom took the position as an
22 iGaming Compliance Representative for the Bureau of
23 Gaming Operations, and he continues to serve the
24 agency in that capacity today.

25 Next, we have Jennifer Courtney

1 Martin. Jennifer was hired on June the 8th of 2009
2 as a Casino Compliance Representative assigned to the
3 Meadows Casino. Jennifer continues to serve the
4 agency in that capacity today. Next, we have Lauren
5 Berry. Lauren was hired on July 16th of 2009 as an
6 Electronics Engineer in the Office of Gaming
7 Laboratory Operations and still serves the Agency in
8 that capacity today.

9 And Joshua Hofrichter. Josh was hired
10 on July 20th of 2009 as a Casino Compliance
11 Representative. In December of 2017, Josh was
12 promoted to the position of Casino Compliance
13 Supervisor for the Meadows Casino within the Bureau
14 of Casino Compliance. And the final 15-year award
15 recognition goes to Katlyn Tortorice. Katlyn was
16 hired on July 20th, 2009 as a Casino Compliance
17 Representative. In September of 2014, Katlyn took
18 the position of Investigator for the Bureau of
19 Investigations and Enforcement in the Western Region,
20 and she serves the Agency in that capacity today.

21 We also have two employees who have
22 reached ten years of service with the Board who were
23 unable to come to Harrisburg today. The first is
24 A.J. McConnell. A.J. was hired on June the 9th of
25 2014 as a Casino Compliance Representative. Since

1 January of 2020, A.J. has held the position of
2 Investigator for the Bureau of Investigation and
3 Enforcement in the Northeast Region. And finally,
4 Scott Brettell. Scott was hired on July the 28th,
5 2014, as a Casino Compliance Representative at Rivers
6 Casino Pittsburgh with the Bureau of Casino
7 Compliance. He still serves in this capacity today.

8 So, I'd also like to mention that the
9 individuals in this category for 15 years, you know,
10 were hired in that May, June, July 2009 timeframe of
11 which I am one. So I am a 15-year veteran of the
12 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Thank you.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Kevin. And
14 congratulations to you, Kevin, for your 15 years of
15 exceptional service to the Board.

16 MR. O'TOOLE: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR: And thanks to all of you, for
18 all of your years of service to the Board and to the
19 citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

20 By way of Announcements, the Board
21 held an Executive Session yesterday, Tuesday, July
22 23rd, to discuss personnel matters pending litigation
23 and to conduct quasi-judicial deliberations relating
24 to matters coming before the Board. I would also
25 like to announce that the Board has rescheduled the

1 Public Input Hearing relative to the License Renewal
2 Application for Wind Creek Bethlehem. The hearing
3 will now be held on Wednesday, July 31st, beginning
4 at 10:30 a.m. At the Bethlehem Townhall, located at
5 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania ,
6 18018. The public is invited to attend and to
7 provide testimony on the renewal of Wind Creek's
8 License.

9 Now we again hear from our Executive
10 Director, Kevin O'Toole.

11 MR. O'TOOLE: Chair and Members of the
12 Board, for today's Executive Director's Report, I
13 would like to talk about the National Counsel of
14 Legislators from Gaming States, an organization
15 referred to as NCLGS. They held their 2024 summer
16 conference last week and most importantly, they held
17 it in Pennsylvania.

18 They held it at the Rivers Casino
19 Pittsburgh, and many of the attendees stayed at the
20 Landing Hotel, which is the hotel that rivers opened
21 fairly recently. And the conference rooms were all
22 fairly new. They have had an event center for the
23 last four or five years, but they expanded that even
24 more into a lot of breakout seminar rooms, which
25 accommodated this group very well.

1 The Conference brought in over 300
2 attendees. I know that the organizers were very
3 pleased with that attendance, and the Gaming Control
4 Board had three representatives on panels during that
5 conference, and I was glad about that.

6 Paul Resch, our Director of the Bureau
7 of Gaming Operations, was on a panel regarding the
8 challenges that regulators have faced in the area of
9 Interactive Gaming. Lee Copello, our Director of
10 iGaming Operations, appeared on the panel that
11 discussed best practices for developing good
12 regulations covering iGaming activity, and I appeared
13 on the panel on the opening day that dealt with
14 aspects of iGaming activity and how could you
15 encourage legislators in other states to move forward
16 with iGaming legislation since there are only seven
17 jurisdictions that have legalized iGaming to date?
18 And when you compare that to sports wagering, where
19 there's been 38 jurisdictions, you can see that
20 dichotomy.

21 So my emphasis was on how the
22 legislation, particularly here in Pennsylvania, you
23 know, has effectively allocated tax revenue so that
24 the taxes that benefit the Commonwealth have a very
25 broad - a very broad category of the population,

1 since - since one of the most significant uses of
2 that tax revenue is for property tax reduction, which
3 covers any homeowner who applies for that benefit.

4 Overall, it was a very informative
5 conference, and I am hopeful that NCLGS will return
6 to Pennsylvania soon to sponsor another conference.
7 That concludes my Report. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Kevin. And
9 Commissioner Dermody also attended, and he will
10 concur with the fact that it was a wonderful
11 conference.

12 Now we will hear from our Director of
13 Budget, Dave Rhen. Dave?

14 MR. RHEN: Good morning, Chair Smyler
15 and Board Members. Today I'll present the Final
16 Report of Expenditures for Fiscal Year '23-'24, which
17 ended on June 30th. Although the year is over, we
18 continue to receive and process invoices, so I am
19 including some anticipated expenses in the numbers
20 that I provide today.

21 For the year, expenditures totaled
22 \$51.99 million against an appropriation of \$52.16
23 million. That will leave us with an ending balance
24 of around \$170,000. Overall, expenditures increased
25 by \$4.3 million, or 9.1 percent due to an increase in

1 personnel costs. Ninety (90) percent of our
2 expenditures, or \$46.6 million, were for salaries and
3 benefits, with the remaining 10 percent, or \$5.4
4 million for operating expenses.

5 Personnel expenses consisted of \$27.1
6 million for salaries, \$19.3 million for benefits and
7 \$250,000 for retirement leave payouts. Benefits as
8 percentage of salaries, were 70 percent. Overall,
9 personnel costs increased by \$4.9 million, or 11.7
10 percent from the prior year. This was a result of
11 the expansion of our agency complement and increases
12 in salary costs.

13 In the operating category,
14 expenditures were \$5.4 million. The largest
15 expenditures were \$1.8 million for services. This is
16 predominantly interagency billings to other
17 Commonwealth agencies for services that they provide
18 to the Board, \$1.7 million for rentals and leases,
19 and \$1.1 million for other operating expenses, which
20 is predominantly database services that we use for
21 Background Investigations.

22 Operating expenses decreased by
23 \$550,000 from the prior year. That concludes my
24 remarks on '23-'24. For '24-'25, our appropriation
25 has been enacted and the budget for the current year

1 is \$57,222,000. And that concludes my remarks.

2 CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
3 the Board?

4 Hearing none, thank you, Dave.

5 MR. RHEN: Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Next is our Office of Human
7 Resources. Good morning, Heidi. I wasn't sure who
8 was presenting. My script doesn't say whether it's
9 your or Joe, so -. This is Heidi Zula. Our,
10 actually, two week - how many weeks have you been
11 here, Heidi?

12 MS. ZULA: About three weeks now.

13 CHAIR: About three weeks.

14 Okay.

15 So you may proceed.

16 MS. ZULA: All right. Good morning,
17 Madam Chair and Members of the Board. The Office of
18 Human Resources has one motion for your consideration
19 today, relative to the hiring of one individual who
20 has completed the Background Investigation and drug
21 screening. Stephanie Runyon has been selected as an
22 Auditor in the Bureau of Gaming Operations.
23 Stephanie is recommended for hire by Paul Resch, the
24 Director of Gaming Operations. Unless you have any
25 questions, I ask that the Board consider a motion to

1 approve the hiring action as indicated.

2 CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
3 the Board?

4 Hearing none, may I have a motion,
5 please?

6 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
7 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
8 the applicant for-hire as proposed by the Human
9 Resources Director.

10 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
11 seconds.

12 CHAIR: All in favor?

13 AYES RESPOND

14 CHAIR: All opposed?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

17 MS. ZULA: Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Heidi. Next, is
19 our OCC.

20 ATTORNEY COOK: Morning. Our first
21 Agenda item relates to a local law enforcement grant
22 application, which will be presented by Senior
23 Counsel Denise Miller-Tshudy.

24 ATTORNEY MILLER-TSHUDY: Good morning.
25 The local law enforcement grant that I have to

1 present to you is from the Cumberland County District
2 Attorney's Office, who's seeking a grant of \$149,569.
3 If awarded, this would be their fifth grant.

4 The grant is entitled to pay for full-
5 time detective, a half-time ADA salary and benefits,
6 overtime, training, and also miscellaneous expenses
7 in order to conduct their investigations and enforce
8 laws involving unlawful gaming. This matter is ready
9 for the Board's consideration.

10 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

11 Hearing none, may I have a motion,
12 please?

13 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
14 Dillon moves that the Board approve the local law
15 enforcement grant application as described by the
16 OCC.

17 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
18 seconds.

19 CHAIR: All in favor?

20 AYES RESPOND

21 CHAIR: All opposed?

22 NO RESPONSE

23 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

24 ATTORNEY MILLER-TSHUDY: Thank you.

25 ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board

1 are four Petitions. These Petitions will be decided
2 on a documentary record as the OEC has no objection
3 to the requested relief, or in the case of the first
4 matter because the Board has no authority to grant
5 the requested relief.

6 In each of these matters, the Board
7 has, in advance of the meeting, been provided with
8 all the documents filed of record. Thomas Fiore's
9 Motion to Protect Confidential Information is the
10 first request before the Board today. In December of
11 2022, the OEC filed a Complaint seeking to revoke Mr.
12 Fiore's Gaming Employee Occupation Permit for conduct
13 which occurred while he was employed at the Rivers
14 Pittsburgh Casino.

15 Following a hearing in the matter, a
16 Report and Recommendation was issued, and on June
17 28th, 2023, the Board revoked Mr. Fiore's permit.
18 Nine months later, on March 6, 2024, Mr. Fiori filed
19 a motion to protect confidential information
20 requesting that the Board make his entire case file
21 confidential. Specifically, Mr. Fiore states that
22 the record should be confidential because the
23 revocation complaint incorrectly stated a date that
24 certain actions took place - excuse me. That because
25 he settled a wrongful termination claim with the

1 Rivers Casino pursuant to a confidentiality clause,
2 and finally, because the criminal charges relating to
3 the matter were pleaded down to a summary offense.

4 Enforcement Counsel filed an Answer
5 objecting to Mr. Fiore's request on numerous grounds,
6 including that he failed to comply with the Board
7 regulations and provide a legal basis for his
8 confidentiality request, as well as that the
9 information is requesting to keep confidential does
10 not fall within the definition of confidential
11 information as described by the Gaming Act and the
12 Board's regulations, and this matter is now ripe for
13 the Board's consideration.

14 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
15 May I have a motion?

16 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
17 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board deny Thomas
18 Fiore's motion to protection - to protect
19 confidential information as described by the OCC.

20 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
21 Hickernell seconds.

22 CHAIR: All in favor?

23 AYES RESPOND

24 CHAIR: All opposed?

25 NO RESPONSE

1 CHAIR: Motion passes.

2 ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board
3 is Samuel Rice's request for removal from the Board's
4 Involuntary Exclusion List. By way of background, on
5 June 3rd, 2016, Mr. Rice, who was 19-years old at the
6 time, presented a fake identification at SugarHouse
7 Casino in Philadelphia, now Rivers Philadelphia, and
8 gained entry to the casino where he engaged in table
9 games play for over half an hour, and consumed
10 alcoholic beverages.

11 Consequently, Mr. Rice and the OEC
12 entered into a Consent Agreement approved by the
13 Board on June 7, 2017. The Agreement placed Mr. Rice
14 on the Involuntary Exclusion List until the earlier
15 of his 22nd birthday or one year from the date the
16 Consent Agreement was approved by the Board,
17 whichever occurred first.

18 At the appropriate time, Mr. Rice - or
19 pursuant to the terms of the Consent Agreement, at
20 the appropriate time, Mr. Rice would have to Petition
21 the Board seeking removal from the List. It has now
22 been nearly six years since Mr. Rice was eligible to
23 remove himself from the list or request removal from
24 the list. The OEC has no objection to Mr. Rice - Mr.
25 Rice's request given he has complied with the terms

1 of the Consent Agreement and this matter is now ripe
2 for the Board's consideration.

3 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

4 May I have a motion, please?

5 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
6 Dillon moves that the Board grant Samuel Rice's
7 Petition for Removal from the Board's Involuntary
8 Exclusion List, as described by the OCC.

9 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
10 seconds.

11 CHAIR: All in favor?

12 AYES RESPOND

13 CHAIR: All opposed?

14 NO RESPONSE

15 CHAIR: Motion passes.

16 ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board
17 is a Request for Removal from the Self-Exclusion
18 List. On July 10th, 2011, an individual with the
19 initials S.S. placed himself on the list, choosing a
20 lifetime self-exclusion option.

21 On April 23rd, 2024, S.S. filed a
22 request to be removed from the list. S.S. included
23 with his Petition two Problem Gambling Assessment
24 Verification Forms, both signed by certified
25 assessment providers confirming that assessments of

1 S.S. were performed and that problem gambling
2 treatment was not recommended.

3 He additionally provided documentation
4 relative to his removal from the Maryland Self-
5 Exclusion List. The OEC filed an Answer stating it
6 had no objection to S.S.'s request for removal from
7 the Self-Exclusion List as more than ten years has
8 passed since his placement on the list, he submitted
9 all the required documentation and there were no
10 known violations of his self-exclusion.

11 This matter is now ripe for the
12 Board's consideration.

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

15 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
16 moves that the Board grant S.S. Petition for Removal
17 from the Self-Exclusion List as described by the OCC.

18 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
19 Hickernell seconds.

20 CHAIR: All in favor?

21 AYES RESPOND

22 CHAIR: All opposed?

23 NO RESPONSE

24 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

25 ATTORNEY COOK: The final Petition

1 before the Board today is a second Request for
2 Removal from the Self-Exclusion List.

3 On June 11, 2013, an individual with
4 the initials L.H. placed herself on the list,
5 choosing the lifetime self-exclusion option. On May
6 8th, 2024, almost 11 years after placement on the
7 List, L.H. filed a Request to be removed from the
8 List. L.H. included with her Petition, a Problem
9 Gambling Assessment Verification Form signed by a
10 certified assessment provider, confirming that an
11 assessment of L.H. was performed and that Problem
12 Gambling treatment was not recommended.

13 L.H. did, in fact, have two violations
14 of her Self-Exclusion ban; one in 2014 where she was
15 present in a Pennsylvania casino but did not game,
16 and a second one in 2015 where she gamed at Sands
17 BethWorks at the time, now Wind Creek, for
18 approximately two and-a-half hours. The OEC filed
19 Answer to LH's Petition for Removal, saying that they
20 had no objection to L.H.'s request as it has been
21 over 11 years since her placement on the list, she's
22 provided all the necessary documentation, and
23 although she twice violated the self-exclusion, her
24 most recent violation was over nine years ago and
25 this matter's now ripe for the Board's consideration.

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

MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board grant
L.H.'s Petition for Removal from the Self-Exclusion
List as described by the OCC.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?
AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed?
NO RESPONSE

CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY COOK: Next, presenting
Withdrawals and Reports and Recommendations is Deputy
Chief Counsel, Chad Zimmermann.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Good morning,
Commissioners. The next matter before the Board
today pertains to several unopposed Petitions to
withdraw or surrender the credentials of the
following individuals and entities. Daniel Haight,
Kristy Jo, Aharon Aran, Stephen Capp, Laurent
Teitgen, John E. Taylor, Jr., Barak Matalon,
Frederick Tecce, Georgina Owens, John Koster, John

1 Jacquemin, Daniel Gawel, Paul Edgecliff-Johnson, and
2 Richard Meitzler.

3 The OEC has no objections to any of
4 these Withdrawals or Surrenders. As a result, if the
5 Board were to grant these requests, in every case, it
6 would be doing so without prejudice to the requester,
7 and these matters are now ripe for the Board's
8 consideration.

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

11 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
12 Dillon moves that the Board issue orders to approve
13 the Withdrawals and Surrenders as described by the
14 OCC.

15 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
16 seconds.

17 CHAIR: All in favor?

18 AYES RESPOND

19 CHAIR: All opposed?

20 NO RESPONSE

21 CHAIR: Motion carries.

22 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Next before the
23 Board for consideration are seven Reports and
24 Recommendations received from the Office of Hearings
25 and Appeals. These Reports and Recommendations,

1 along with the evidentiary record for each hearing,
2 have been provided to the Board in advance of today's
3 meeting. Additionally, the persons involved have
4 each been notified that the Board would be
5 considering their matter today and that each would
6 have the ability to come forward and briefly address
7 the Board. If any of the persons who are the subject
8 of one of these Reports and Recommendations would
9 like to address the Board, I would ask them to come
10 forward when their matter is called.

11 Marcus Anastasiadis is the first
12 Report and Recommendation before the Board today. On
13 October 18th, 2023, Mr. Anastasiadis submitted an
14 Application for a Non-Gaming Employee Registration
15 seeking work as an EVS attendant at Mount Airy Casino
16 Resort.

17 In January of 2024, the OEC sent Mr.
18 Anastasiadis a Notice recommending denial of his
19 Application based on his criminal record and debts
20 owed to the court. Specifically, in 2015, Mr.
21 Anastasiadis was convicted of misdemeanor offense
22 related to fleeing/attempting to elude police, in
23 which he was sentenced to two to 23 months
24 incarceration. In 2017, he was again charged with
25 the same offense, but a felony count, and sentenced

1 to 9 to 23 months incarceration. And in 2022, he was
2 charged with a driving under the influence offense
3 and admitted into the Accelerated Rehabilitative
4 Disposition program.

5 A hearing in this matter was held in
6 April of 2024. OEC appeared offering testimony and
7 documentary evidence. Despite receiving proper
8 notice, Mr. Anastasiadis failed to appear and the
9 hearing was held in his absence. Consequently, a
10 Report and Recommendation was issued recommending
11 that Mr. Anastasiadis's Application for a
12 registration be denied, and this matter is now ripe
13 for the Board's consideration.

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

16 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
17 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board adopt the
18 Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as
19 described by the OCC, and that Marcus Anastasiadis's
20 Application for a Non-Gaming Employee Registration be
21 denied.

22 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
23 Hickernell seconds.

24 CHAIR: All in favor?

25 AYES RESPOND

1 CHAIR: All opposed?

2 NO RESPONSE

3 CHAIR: Motion' adopted.

4 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Tyshyn Harmon is
5 the next Report and Recommendation before the Board
6 today. The Board heard Mr. Harmon's matter
7 originally at the June 26, 2024 meeting in which Mr.
8 Harmon appeared and spoke to the Board. This matter
9 was tabled pending additional documentation to be
10 provided by Mr. Harmon. Mr. Harmon did comply with
11 the Board's request and provided several character
12 reference letters to the Board. Unfortunately, Mr.
13 Harmon notified OCC last evening that he would not be
14 able to attend today's meeting.

15 I will briefly review the facts in
16 this matter that were presented to the Board during
17 the June 26 meeting. Mr. Harmon holds both a Gaming
18 Employee Occupation Permit and a Non-Gaming Employee
19 Registration. He previously worked as a games
20 presenter at Evolution US, LLC and he is currently
21 employed as a table games dealer at Wind Creek
22 Bethlehem.

23 In October of 2023, the OEC filed a
24 Complaint to revoke Mr. Harmon's permit and
25 registration upon learning that while dealing Live

1 Dealer Blackjack for Evolution, he manipulated the
2 cards he was shuffling to ensure that a patron would
3 win certain hands.

4 A hearing to address this matter was
5 held in March of 2024. OEC appeared and offered
6 testimony, documentary and surveillance evidence.
7 Mr. Harmon appeared and testified on his own behalf.
8 Following a hearing, a Report and Recommendation was
9 issued recommending that Mr. Harmon's registration
10 and permit be revoked. However, this matter is now
11 ready for the Board's consideration.

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

14 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
15 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board reject the
16 Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA, as
17 described by the OCC, and that Tyshyn Harmon's Non-
18 Gaming Employee Registration and Gaming Employee
19 Occupation Permit be suspended, but further moves
20 that the suspension be held in abeyance in accordance
21 with the terms which will be outlined in the Board's
22 order.

23 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
24 seconds.

25 CHAIR: All in favor?

1 AYES RESPOND

2 CHAIR: All opposed?

3 NO RESPONSE

4 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

5 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR: Commissioner Dermody?

7 MR. DERMODY: Yeah. Clearly that Mr.
8 Harmon was not able to join us here today, but I
9 would like to say to Mr. Harmon, if he's listening,
10 that he's been treated very fairly here today, I
11 believe, and that don't come back, Mr. Harmon.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner.

13 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The next Report
14 and Recommendation before the Board today stems from
15 Jessica Keys' request to lift the suspension of her
16 Gaming Employee Occupation Permit. By way of
17 background, Miss Keys held a permit and was employed
18 as a table games dealer at Valley Forge Casino.

19 In March 2022, the OEC filed a request
20 for an emergency suspension of Miss Key's permit
21 after receiving notice that she had been charged with
22 several felony and misdemeanor offenses. After she
23 and a conspirator are alleged to have forced their
24 way into a victim's home to assault, and then
25 threaten the victim and her family. A hearing on

1 this matter was held in April of 2022, and
2 subsequently the Board issued an order June 15, 2022,
3 continuing the suspension of her permit.

4 In September of 2023, Miss Keys filed
5 a request with the Board to lift the suspension of
6 her permit, stating that she had been acquitted of
7 the felony charges and was only convicted of
8 misdemeanors. OEC filed answer objecting the
9 request, and her hearing was held December of 2023.
10 OEC appeared offering testimony and documentary
11 evidence. Miss Keys also appeared and testified on
12 her own behalf. Following the hearing, a Hearing
13 Officer issued an Order permitting Ms. Keys to file
14 character statements in support of her.

15 Miss Keys did file several character
16 reference letters and an additional hearing was held
17 March of 2024, allowing her to provide additional
18 testimony on the submitted exhibits. Miss Keys
19 testified that she is the sole provider for her four
20 children, that the criminal incident was domestic in
21 nature and she is not a threat to the general
22 community. She has never been in trouble before this
23 incident, either criminally or during her work at the
24 casino. She further stated that she had been
25 employed at Valley Forge for seven years, that she

1 loved working there, and that they had respected and
2 supported her through all of the issues.

3 She further testified that Valley
4 Forge had even paid for her to move out of the area
5 to get away from the domestic situation she found
6 herself in with the ex-boyfriend that led to the
7 criminal incident. The Hearing Officer issued a
8 Report and Recommendation recommending that the
9 suspension of Miss Keys' Gaming Employee Occupation
10 Permit be terminated and this matter is now ripe for
11 the Board's consideration.

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

14 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
15 moves that the Board adopt the Report and
16 Recommendation issued by the OHA as described by the
17 OCC, and that Jessica Keys' Petition to lift the
18 emergency suspension of her Gaming Employee
19 Occupation Permit be granted.

20 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
21 Hickernell seconds.

22 CHAIR: All in favor?

23 AYES RESPOND

24 CHAIR: All opposed?

25 NO RESPONSE

1 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

2 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: David Polonsky
3 is the next matter before the Board today. Mr.
4 Polonsky had been issued a Non-Gaming Employee
5 Registration and previously worked as a cocktail
6 server at Parx Casino. On October 3rd, 2023, OEC
7 filed a request for an emergency suspension of Mr.
8 Polonsky's registration after receiving notice he had
9 been charged with several felony and misdemeanor
10 offenses related relating to possession and
11 dissemination of child pornography.

12 As a result of these charges, the
13 Board's Executive Director issued an emergency order
14 on the same day suspending Mr. Polonsky's
15 registration as requested by OEC. A hearing in this
16 matter was held in December of 2023. OEC appeared,
17 presenting testimony and documentary evidence.
18 Despite receiving proper notice, Mr. Polonsky failed
19 to appear. After the initial hearing date, Mr.
20 Polonsky contacted OHA stating he had marked down the
21 incorrect date for the hearing and asked if another
22 could be rescheduled.

23 His request was granted and a new
24 hearing was held January 31st, 2024. OEC appeared.
25 However, Mr. Polansky, again, failed to appear. He

1 did request another continuance, which was granted
2 and rescheduled. However, once again, Mr. Polonsky
3 did not appear at that rescheduled date.

4 Consequently, a Report and
5 Recommendation was issued recommending that
6 suspension of Mr. Polonsky's registration remain in
7 effect, and this matter's now ready for the Board's
8 consideration.

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

11 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair.
12 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board adopt
13 the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA and
14 as described by the OCC, and that the emergency
15 suspension of David Polansky's Non-Gaming Employee
16 Registration remain in effect.

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 carries.

24 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Next before the
25 Board is a Report pertaining to Courtnei Hairston.

1 In June of 2023, Miss Hairston filed a Petition with
2 the Board alleging that she had placed a \$5,000
3 sportsbook wager at Presque Isle Downs and Casino
4 that turned out to be a winning wager. She further
5 stated in her Petition, however, that she mistakenly
6 threw away the winning sportsbook ticket, initially
7 believing that the UFC fighter she had bet on had
8 lost. She further claimed that the fighters had
9 similar names and she mistook the name of a fighter
10 that actually had lost to the one she placed her
11 wager on and therefore threw out her ticket. Miss
12 Harrison included pictures with her Petition, which
13 she claimed show her hand holding the winning ticket.

14 In November of 2023, both OEC and
15 Presque Isle Downs, after being added to the matter
16 at the request of OEC, filed Answers objecting to
17 Miss Hairston's Petition. A hearing in this matter
18 was held in February 2024. Miss Hairston failed to
19 appear and OEC made an oral motion to deny her
20 Petition. However, after the hearings, Miss Hairston
21 sent an email to the Board Clerk requesting another
22 hearing date, saying she was unable to attend due to
23 a maintenance issue. Her request was granted and a
24 new hearing was scheduled in March of 2024. She once
25 again, however, failed to appear.

1 On April 5, 2024, the OHA issued a
2 Report and Recommendation recommending that the Board
3 grant OEC's oral motion and deny Miss Hairston's
4 Petition and this matter is now ripe for the Board's
5 consideration.

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

8 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
9 Dillon moves that the Board adopt the recommendation
10 issued by the OHA, as described by the OCC, and that
11 Courtnei Hairston's Petition be denied. It is
12 further moved that the OEC's request for
13 confidentiality be granted.

14 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
15 seconds.

16 CHAIR: All in favor?

17 AYES RESPOND

18 CHAIR: All opposed?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

21 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The next Report
22 and Recommendation stems from a request to recover
23 funds confiscated from an individual while on the
24 Self-Exclusion List. On January 5th, 2024, A.D.
25 filed a Petition requesting recovery of funds

1 confiscated from him.

2 A hearing in this matter was held
3 March 21st, 2024. OEC appeared and presented
4 testimony, documentary and surveillance evidence.
5 A.D. appeared and testified on his own behalf. The
6 underlying facts in this matter are that on January
7 26, 2012, A.D. placed himself on the Board's Self-
8 Exclusion List for a period of five years, signing
9 the acknowledgments, which included an
10 acknowledgement that he was prohibited from
11 collecting any winnings, money, or thing of value
12 from gaming activity while on the List.

13 On December 27th into 28th of 2023,
14 A.D. entered Mount Airy and played blackjack while
15 still on the Self-Exclusion List. Upon discovering
16 that he was still on the List, security confiscated
17 \$16,000 in gaming chips from him. A.D. was then
18 charged with trespass for this incident.

19 During A.D.'s testimony at the
20 hearing, he stated that he had moved to Florida soon
21 after placing himself on the list, was back in
22 Pennsylvania on vacation, and did not realize that he
23 had to request removal and believed he had no longer
24 been on the list as it had been 12 years since its
25 placement on the list.

1 He further stated that due to the
2 length of time he had been on the list, he believes
3 the Board should waive the prohibition and he should
4 be able to collect the entire \$16,000. A.D. has now
5 completed the required paperwork and has been removed
6 from the Self-Exclusion List.

7 After hearing all the evidence
8 presented, a Report and Recommendation was issued
9 recommending that A.D.'s Petition be granted in part
10 and that he be allowed to recover the value of his
11 last buy-in amount, which was \$3,000, as that amount
12 was not winnings and this matter is now ready for the
13 Board's consideration.

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

16 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
17 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board reject
18 the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as
19 described by the OCC, and that A.D.'s Petition be
20 granted.

21 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
22 seconds.

23 CHAIR: All in favor?

24 AYES RESPOND

25 CHAIR: All opposed?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

3 ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The Final Report
4 and Recommendation before the Board today is another
5 request to recover funds confiscated by an individual
6 on the Self-Exclusion List. On February 12th of
7 2018, S.A. filed a Petition requesting - sorry filed
8 a Petition to be placed on the Self-Exclusion List.
9 The OEC filed an Answer objecting to the request of
10 S.A. to recover funds.

11 A hearing in this matter was held
12 March 28, 2024. OEC appeared and presented
13 documentary and testimonial evidence. S.A. appeared
14 and testified on her own behalf. Evidence presented
15 at the hearing showed that in February 2018, S.A.
16 completed all the necessary Self-Exclusion paperwork,
17 choosing the one-year self-exclusion period.

18 On January 11, 2024, S.A. entered
19 Rivers Casino Pittsburgh and gamed while still on the
20 Self-Exclusion List. She placed a \$5 side wager
21 while playing blackjack and won \$5,000, ultimately
22 discovering that she was still on the List, casino
23 staff confiscated her winnings. She was then evicted
24 and charged with trespass. During S.A.'s testimony,
25 she acknowledged that she was still on the List while

1 gaming at Rivers Pittsburgh, but only found out that
2 day because she had forgotten that she was required
3 to remove herself from the List at the end of her
4 Self-Exclusion period.

5 She further stated that she had
6 patronized a different casino in 2021, had won money,
7 but was not identified as a self-excluded individual.
8 After hearing all the evidence, the Hearing Officer
9 issued a Report and Recommendation recommending that
10 the Petition be denied, and this matter is now ripe
11 for the Board's consideration.

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

14 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
15 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board reject
16 the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as
17 described by the OCC and that S.A.'s Petition be
18 granted.

19 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
20 seconds.

21 CHAIR: All in favor?

22 AYES RESPOND

23 CHAIR: All opposed?

24 NO RESPONSE

25 CHAIR: The motion carries.

1 ATTORNEY COOK: That concludes the
2 matters of the OCC. Thank you.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Denise, Chad and
4 Steve. We will now have the Bureau of Licensing
5 Matters presented by the Director of the Bureau of
6 Licensing, Sean Hannon. Sean?

7 MR. HANNON: Good morning, Madam
8 Chair, Members of the Board, today's first licensing
9 matter for your consideration is the approval of a
10 Sports Wagering Manufacturer License for AGS, LLC,
11 doing business as, American Gaming Systems.

12 AGS's license is in good standing as a
13 slot machine, table game and Interactive Gaming
14 Manufacturer. Under the Gaming Act, the Board may
15 use an abbreviated process to consider the
16 application of a currently licensed Manufacturer.

17 The Bureau of Licensing, OEC, and the
18 BIE have reviewed the Application for a Sports
19 Wagering Manufacturer License for AGS, LLC, and I
20 have provided you with the results of that review. I
21 have provided you with a draft order and ask that the
22 Board consider the order to approve the Sports
23 Wagering Manufacturer License for AGS, LLC. This
24 would be their initial license. In the initial
25 Agenda, it was marked as a renewal. This is an

1 initial license.

2 CHAIR: Thank you.

3 ATTORNEY PITRE: And the OEC has no
4 objection.

5 CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
6 the Board? Hearing none, may I have a motion?

7 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
8 moves that the Board grant the Sports Wagering
9 Manufacturing License, as described by the Bureau of
10 Licensing.

11 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
12 Hickernell seconds.

13 CHAIR: All in favor?

14 AYES RESPOND

15 CHAIR: All opposed?

16 NO RESPONSE

17 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

18 MR. HANNON: The next licensing matter
19 for your consideration is approval of an Interactive
20 Gaming Manufacturer License, for 4 the Company LTD,
21 doing business as 4 the Player and 4theplayer.com.

22 Formed in the United Kingdom in 2018,
23 4 the Company's Principal place of business is in
24 North Shields, United Kingdom. The company intends
25 to supply games to licensed operators in the

1 Commonwealth. 4 the Company was granted interim
2 authorization on April 25th, 2024. The BIE has
3 completed its investigation of the company and the
4 Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a
5 Background Investigation and Suitability Report. I
6 have provided you with a draft order and ask the
7 Board consider the order to approve the Interactive
8 Gaming Manufacturer License for, 4 the Company, LTD.

9 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
10 has no objection.

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

13 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
14 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board grant
15 the Interactive Gaming Manufacturer License as
16 described by the Bureau of Licensing.

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 MR. HANNON: Next, we have
25 consideration of an Interactive Gaming Manufacturer

1 License for Relax Gaming North America, LLC, doing
2 business as, Relax Gaming. Formed in Delaware on
3 September 30th, 2021. Relax Gaming's Principal place
4 of business is in New York City. The company offers
5 a Portfolio of casino proprietary content, including
6 games, aggregator services and content programs.

7 Relax was granted interim
8 authorization on March 28, 2024. The BIE has
9 completed its investigation of the company, and the
10 Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a
11 Background Investigation and Suitability Report. I
12 have provided you with a draft order and ask the
13 Board consider the order to approve the Interactive
14 Gaming Manufacturer License for Relax Gaming North
15 America, LLC.

16 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
17 has no objection.

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

20 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
21 Dillon moves that the Board grant the Interactive
22 Gaming Manufacturer License as described by the
23 Bureau of Licensing.

24 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
25 seconds.

1 CHAIR: All in favor?

2 AYES RESPOND

3 CHAIR: All opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIR: Motion carries.

6 MR. HANNON: Next is the approval of a
7 Gaming Junket Enterprise License for Kenneth Froom
8 Tours Incorporated. This was incorporated on January
9 1st, 1983 and is headquartered in Jupiter, Florida.
10 The company provides junket and related marketing
11 services by entering into contracts with casino
12 operators to provide these services.

13 The BIE has completed its
14 investigation of the company, and the Bureau of
15 Licensing has provided you with a Background
16 Investigation and Suitability Report. I have
17 provided you with a draft order and ask the Board to
18 consider the order to approve the Gaming Junket
19 Enterprise License for Kenneth Froom Tours
20 Incorporated.

21 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
22 has no objection.

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

25 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,

1 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board grant the
2 Gaming Junket Enterprise License as described by the
3 Bureau of Licensing.

4 MR. HICKERNELL: Mr. Hickernell
5 seconds.

6 CHAIR: All in favor?

7 AYES RESPOND

8 CHAIR: Commissioner Regan?

9 MS. REGAN: I said aye.

10 CHAIR: I thought I missed -.

11 Okay.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. REGAN: Sorry.

14 CHAIR: All opposed?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

17 MR. HANNON: Next, there are
18 Principal, Key Employee, and Key Qualifier Licenses.
19 The Bureau of Licensing provided you with a proposed
20 order for 14 Key Employees - for 14 Principals, five
21 Key Employees and five Qualifiers. I ask that the
22 Board consider the order approving these licenses.

23 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
24 has no objections.

25 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

1 May I have a motion?

2 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
3 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board grant the
4 Principal, Key Employee and Qualifier Licenses as
5 described by the Bureau of Licensing.

6 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
7 seconds.

8 CHAIR: All in favor?

9 AYES RESPOND

10 CHAIR: All opposed?

11 NO RESPONSE

12 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

13 MR. HANNON: There are also Principal
14 and Key Employee Temporary Credentials. The Bureau
15 of Licensing provided you with the order regarding
16 the issuance of temporary credentials for 16
17 Principals and eight Key Employees. I ask the Board
18 consider the order approving these credentials.

19 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
20 has no objection.

21 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

22 May I have a motion, please?

23 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
24 moves that the Board grant the Temporary Principal
25 and Key Employee credentials as described by the

1 Bureau of Licensing.

2 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner

3 Hickernell seconds.

4 CHAIR: All in favor?

5 AYES RESPOND

6 CHAIR: All opposed?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

9 MR. HANNON: Additionally for your
10 consideration are Gaming Employee Permits and Non-
11 Gaming Employee Registrations. The Bureau of
12 Licensing has provided you with a list of 943
13 individuals to whom the Bureau has granted Temporary
14 or Full Occupation Permits and 257 individuals to
15 whom the Bureau has granted registrations under the
16 authority delegated to the Bureau of Licensing. I
17 ask that the Board consider a motion approving the
18 order.

19 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
20 has no objection.

21 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

22 Hearing none, may I have a motion?

23 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,

24 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
25 the applications for Gaming Employee Occupation

1 Permits and Non-Gaming Employee Registrations as
2 described by the Bureau of Licensing.

3 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
4 seconds.

5 CHAIR: All in favor?

6 AYES RESPOND

7 CHAIR: All opposed?

8 NO RESPONSE

9 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

10 MR. HANNON: Next, there is a
11 recommendation of denial for one Gaming and two Non-
12 Gaming Applicants. The Bureau of Licensing has
13 provided you with the order addressing the Applicants
14 who the OEC has recommended for denial. I ask that
15 the Board consider the order approving these denials.

16 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
17 continues to request denial in each matter.

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

20 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
21 Dillon moves that the Board deny the Gaming and Non-
22 Gaming Employee applications as described by the
23 Bureau of Licensing.

24 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
25 seconds.

1 CHAIR: All in favor?

2 AYES RESPOND

3 CHAIR: All opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

6 MR. HANNON: The next matter for your
7 consideration is Withdrawal Requests. In each case,
8 the License, Permit or Registration is no longer
9 required. For today's meeting, I've provided the
10 Board with one Key Employee, 30 Gaming and 20 Non-
11 Gaming Applicants. I ask that the Board consider the
12 orders approving these withdrawals.

13 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
14 has no objection.

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

17 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
18 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board grant the
19 Withdrawals of Key Employee Gaming and Non-Gaming
20 Employee Applications as described by the Bureau of
21 Licensing.

22 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
23 seconds.

24 CHAIR: All in favor?

25 AYES RESPOND

1 CHAIR: All opposed?

2 NO RESPONSE

3 CHAIR: Motion carries.

4 MR. HANNON: And finally, we have an
5 order to certify Concentrix Global Services
6 Incorporated and Jumio Services Corporation, who are
7 Gaming Service Providers. I have provided you with a
8 draft order and ask the Board consider the order
9 certifying these companies.

10 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
11 has no objection.

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

14 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair?
15 Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board approve the
16 Gaming Service Provider Certifications as described
17 by Bureau of Licensing.

18 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston,
19 seconds.

20 CHAIR: All in favor?

21 AYES RESPOND

22 CHAIR: All opposed?

23 NO RESPONSE

24 CHAIR: Motion carries.

25 MR. HANNON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Sean. Next is the
2 OEC, Cyrus Pitre. Cyrus?

3 ATTORNEY PITRE: Good morning, Chair,
4 Members of the Board. The OEC will present 15
5 matters today for the Board's consideration in which
6 we will request the approval of three Revocations,
7 one Suspension, and 11 Involuntary Exclusions. The
8 next four matters on the agenda consist of
9 Enforcement actions in which the OEC filed Complaints
10 seeking the revocation or suspension of licenses,
11 permits, or registrations previously issued by the
12 Board.

13 The Complaint in each matter has been
14 filed with the Board's OHA and properly served upon
15 the individual named in each complaint. The
16 individual named in each complaint failed to respond
17 within 30 days as required by Board regulation. As a
18 result, the OEC filed a request for Default Judgment
19 in each instance and properly served the same upon
20 each Respondent. Therefore, the facts in each
21 complaint are deemed admitted. All filed documents
22 have been provided to the Board and the matters are
23 presently ripe for the Board's consideration. In
24 each matter, we will provide a brief summary of the
25 facts and make a request for the appropriate Board

1 action.

2 ATTORNEY GROODY: Good morning, Chair,
3 Members of the Board. Sara Groody, G-R-O-O-D-Y,
4 Assistant Enforcement Counsel with the OEC.
5 The next matter on the Agenda for the Board's
6 consideration is the revocation of the Gaming
7 Employee Occupation Permit issued to Rene Fraser.
8 Mr. Fraser was previously employed as a Sportsbook
9 Representative at Hollywood Casino Penn National.

10 Mr. Fraser was caught stealing while
11 working at a cash register and was terminated from
12 his position. Mr. Fraser was observed voiding sales,
13 ringing sales with an employee discount, although an
14 employee was not making the purchase and under-
15 ringing items. Mr. Fraser was also observed putting
16 money into his tip jar, meant as payment towards
17 items. He was criminally charged for these actions
18 and pled guilty to disorderly conduct.

19 Additionally, he pled guilty to disorderly
20 conduct for another unrelated offense. He has
21 notified the Board of these charges and he is not
22 currently employed in the Pennsylvania gaming
23 industry. At this time, the OEC requests the Board
24 revoke the Gaming Employee Occupation Permit issued
25 to Rene Fraser.

1 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

2 May I have a motion, please?

3 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
4 moves that the Board approve the revocation of Rene
5 Fraser's Gaming Employee Occupation Permit for the
6 conduct described by the OEC.

7 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
8 Hickernell seconds.

9 CHAIR: All in favor?

10 AYES RESPOND

11 CHAIR: All opposed?

12 NO RESPONSE

13 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

14 ATTORNEY GROODY:

15 Again, Sarah Groody with the OEC. The
16 next matter on the Agenda for the Board's
17 consideration is the revocation of the Non-Gaming
18 Employee Registration issued to Syberia Ward. Miss
19 Ward was previously employed as a cashier at Valley
20 Forge Casino. Miss Ward was terminated from her
21 position for criminal behavior.

22 This included accepting cash from
23 patrons for orders that she would clear from the
24 register screen or accepting cash - or for orders
25 which she never entered into her register. Taking

1 items from the food court and never paying for them.
2 Placing money, which was meant as a payment for food
3 orders, directly into her tip jar and taking money
4 from her drawer and placing it into her own bags.
5 She was criminally charged for her actions and she
6 pled guilty to disorderly conduct.

7 At this time, the OEC requests that
8 the Board revoke the Non-Gaming Employee Registration
9 issued to Syberia Ward.

10 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

11 May I have a motion, please?

12 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
13 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
14 the revocation of Syberia Ward's Non-Gaming Employee
15 Registration for the conduct described by the OEC.

16 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
17 seconds.

18 CHAIR: All in favor?

19 AYES RESPOND

20 CHAIR: All opposed?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

23 ATTORNEY ROLAND: Good morning, Madam
24 Chair, members of the Board. Michael Roland,
25 R-O-L-A-N-D, with the OEC. The next matter on the

1 Agenda for the Board's consideration is the
2 suspension of the Key Employee License issued to
3 Dennis Asselta.

4 Mr. Asselta was previously employed as
5 the executive director of table games at Mount Airy
6 Casino. During an investigation, the BIE, OEC,
7 issued a subpoena for a sworn interview of Mr.
8 Asselta. Mr. Asselta failed to cooperate with the
9 investigation or honor the subpoena. During the
10 course of the investigation, Mr. Asselta resigned
11 from his position at Mount Airy Casino. He is not
12 currently employed in the Pennsylvania gaming
13 industry.

14 At this time, the OEC requests that
15 the Board suspend the Key Employee License issued to
16 Dennis Asselta.

17 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

18 May I have a motion, please?

19 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
20 Dillon moves that the Board approve the suspension of
21 Dennis Asselta's Key Employee License for the conduct
22 described by the OEC.

23 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
24 seconds.

25 CHAIR: All in favor?

1 AYES RESPOND

2 CHAIR: All opposed?

3 NO RESPONSE

4 CHAIR: Motion passes.

5 ATTORNEY ROLAND: Next on the Agenda
6 is a request to revoke the Gaming Level Two Employee
7 Occupation Permit issued to Christopher Salvaggio,
8 who was previously employed at Mount Airy Casino as a
9 floor supervisor. The BIE conducted an investigation
10 which revealed that Mr. Salvaggio received
11 substantial tips from a Mount Airy patron.

12 Pursuant to Board Regulations, Gaming
13 Level Two Occupation Permit holders are prohibited
14 from accepting tips or gratuities. Mr. Salvaggio was
15 terminated from his position at Mount Airy Casino for
16 his actions. He is not currently employed in the
17 Pennsylvania gaming industry. At this time, the OEC
18 requests that the Board revoke the Gaming Level two
19 Occupation Permit issued to Christopher Salvaggio.

20 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

21 May I have a motion, please?

22 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
23 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board approve the
24 revocation of Christopher Salvaggio's Gaming Level
25 Two Employee Occupation Permit for the conduct

1 described by the OEC.

2 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
3 seconds.

4 CHAIR: All in favor?

5 AYES RESPOND

6 CHAIR: All opposed?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

9 ATTORNEY PITRE: The remaining matters
10 on the Agenda consist of enforcement actions in which
11 the OEC filed Petitions seeking the Involuntary
12 Exclusion of individuals who are inimical to the
13 interests of the Commonwealth and/or licensed gaming
14 therein. In each instance, the Petition for
15 Exclusion has been filed with the Board's OHA and
16 properly served upon the individual named in the
17 Petition. The individual named in each Petition
18 failed to respond within 30 days as required by Board
19 regulations. As a result, the OEC filed a request
20 for Default Judgment in each instance and properly
21 served the same upon each individual. Therefore, all
22 facts in each Petition are deemed admitted. All
23 filed documents have been provided to the Board. And
24 the matters are presently ripe for the Board's
25 consideration. In each instance, if the Board orders

1 the proposed exclusion, each individual's photo,
2 personal identifiers and a summary of the inimical
3 conduct may be placed on the Board's public website.
4 Once again, in each matter, we will provide a brief
5 summary of the facts and make a request for the
6 appropriate Board action.

7 ATTORNEY CROHE: Good morning, Chair,
8 members of the Board. John Crohe, C-R-O-H-E, Senior
9 Enforcement Counsel for the OEC. The next five
10 matters on the Agenda for the Board's consideration
11 stem from the same or similar set of facts.
12 Therefore, with the Board's permission, I will recite
13 one set of facts, then ask for each individual to be
14 placed on the Board's Interactive Gaming Involuntary
15 Exclusion List.

16 The following five individuals created
17 multiple accounts on the Barstool Sportsbook
18 Interactive Gaming platform using the personal
19 identifying information of other individuals and
20 funded those accounts with credit cards belonging to
21 other individuals, then withdrew funds from those
22 accounts into banking accounts controlled by the
23 perpetrator. The OEC now requests that the Board
24 place Tayquan Claxton on the Interactive Gaming
25 Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

3 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
4 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
5 the addition of Tayquan Claxton to the Pennsylvania
6 Gaming Control Board's Involuntary Interactive
7 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

8 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
9 seconds.

10 CHAIR: All in favor?

11 AYES RESPOND

12 CHAIR: All opposed?

13 NO RESPONSE

14 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

15 ATTORNEY CROHE: The OEC now requests
16 that the Board place Denmoy Chushnie on the
17 Interactive Gaming Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

20 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
21 moves that the Board approve the addition of Denmoy
22 Chushnie to the PGCB Involuntary Interactive
23 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

24 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
25 Hickernell seconds.

1 CHAIR: All in favor?

2 AYES RESPOND

3 CHAIR: All opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

6 ATTORNEY CROHE: The OEC now requests
7 the Board place Tyrell Parker on the Interactive
8 Gaming Involuntary Exclusion List.

9 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

10 May I have a motion, please?

11 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
12 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
13 the addition of Tyrell Parker to the Pennsylvania
14 Gaming Control Board's Involuntary Interactive
15 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

16 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
17 seconds.

18 CHAIR: All in favor?

19 AYES RESPOND

20 CHAIR: All opposed?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 CHAIR: Motion passes.

23 ATTORNEY CROHE: The OEC now requests
24 that the Board place Shakeya Williams on the
25 Interactive Gaming Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

3 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
4 Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of
5 Shakeya Williams to the PGCB Involuntary Interactive
6 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

7 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
8 seconds.

9 CHAIR: All in favor?

10 AYES RESPOND

11 CHAIR: All opposed?

12 NO RESPONSE

13 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

14 ATTORNEY CROHE: The OEC now requests
15 that the Board place Sade King on the Interactive
16 Gaming Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

19 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
20 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board approve the
21 addition of Sade King to the PGCB Involuntary
22 Interactive Exclusion List for the conduct described
23 by the OEC.

24 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston,
25 seconds.

1 CHAIR: All in favor?

2 AYES RESPOND

3 CHAIR: All opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIR: Motion passes.

6 ATTORNEY ROLAND: Michael Roland with
7 the OEC. Next on the Agenda is a request to place
8 Shaquille Upshur on the Involuntary Exclusion List.
9 A patron of Live! Philadelphia Casino inadvertently
10 dropped his wallet on the gaming floor. Mr. Upshur
11 picked up the wallet and left the area. He then
12 stripped the wallet of its contents and left it on a
13 slot machine. Surveillance found Mr. Upshur and he
14 made partial restitution.

15 He was arrested and criminally charged
16 with theft and receiving stolen property. The
17 disposition of those charges is unreported. The OEC
18 now requests that the Board place Shaquille Upshur on
19 the Involuntary Exclusion List.

20 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

21 May I have a motion, please?

22 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
23 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board approve the
24 addition of Shaquille Upshur to the PGCB Involuntary
25 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

1 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
2 seconds.

3 CHAIR: All in favor?

4 AYES RESPOND

5 CHAIR: All opposed?

6 NO RESPONSE

7 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

8 ATTORNEY MONAGHAN: Good morning,
9 Thomas Monaghan, M-O-N-A-G-H-A-N, with the OEC. The
10 next matter on the Agenda for the Board's
11 consideration is a request to place Jeffrey Hiller on
12 the Board's Interactive Gaming Involuntary Exclusion
13 List.

14 Mr. Hiller opened an Interactive
15 Gaming account on the Barstool Sports Interactive
16 Sports Wagering platform. He made seven deposits
17 totaling \$13,112.40, and withdrew \$3,012.40. Mr.
18 Hiller's wagering activity resulted in losing the
19 entirety of the remaining money he had deposited.
20 Subsequently, Mr. Hiller failed or refused to pay
21 \$10,100 that he owed to Barstool Sports as a result
22 of his gaming activity. Barstool Sports closed Mr.
23 Hiller's Interactive Gaming account.

24 At this time, the OEC requests the
25 Board place Jeffrey Hiller on the Interactive Gaming

1 Involuntary Exclusion List.

2 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

3 May I have a motion, please?

4 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
5 moves that the Board approve the addition of Jeffrey
6 Hiller to the PGCB Involuntary Interactive Exclusion
7 List for the conduct described by the OEC.

8 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
9 Hickernell seconds.

10 CHAIR: All in favor?

11 AYES RESPOND

12 CHAIR: All opposed?

13 NO RESPONSE

14 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

15 ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Morning, Madam
16 Chair, Commissioners. Juan Sanchez, S-A-N-C-H-E-Z,
17 Assistant Enforcement Counsel with the OEC. The next
18 matter on the Agenda for the Board's consideration is
19 a request to place Timothy Hutchins on the Board's
20 Involuntary Interactive Gaming Exclusion List.

21 Timothy Hutchins created and accessed
22 13 accounts on the BetMGM iGaming platform using the
23 personal identifying information of various other
24 individuals, deposited over \$1,000, received bonus
25 funds in some accounts and wagered. The accounts

1 created by Mr. Hutchins was permanently closed by
2 BetMGM after the fraud was discovered. No criminal
3 charges were filed against Mr. Hutchins.

4 The OEC now requests that the Board
5 place Timothy Hutchins on the Involuntary Interactive
6 Gaming Exclusion List.

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

9 MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
10 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve
11 the addition of Timothy Hutchins to the Pennsylvania
12 Gaming Control Boards Involuntary Interactive
13 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

14 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
15 seconds.

16 CHAIR: All in favor?

17 AYES RESPOND

18 CHAIR: All opposed?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

21 ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Again, Juan
22 Sanchez. The next matter on the Agenda for the
23 Board's consideration is a request to place Edward
24 Espana-Santana on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion
25 List.

1 Mr. Espana-Santana was intoxicated,
2 refused to leave and engaged in a physical and verbal
3 altercations with staff at Hollywood Casino York. He
4 was restrained and removed from the gaming floor for
5 his actions. Springettsbury Township Police
6 Department arrested Mr. Espana-Santana. He was
7 charged and pleaded guilty to defiant trespass.
8 Hollywood Casino York permanently evicted him from
9 their property as a result of his actions.

10 At this time, the OEC requests the
11 Board place Edward Espana-Santana on the Board's
12 Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

15 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
16 Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of
17 Edward Espana-Santana to the PGCB Involuntary
18 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

19 MR. DERMODY: Commissioner Dermody
20 seconds.

21 CHAIR: All in favor?

22 AYES RESPOND

23 CHAIR: All opposed?

24 NO RESPONSE

25 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

1 ATTORNEY SANCHEZ: Again, Juan
2 Sanchez. The next matter on the agenda for the
3 Board's consideration is a request to place Natan
4 Ruzhanskiy on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.
5 Mr. Ruzhanskiy was intoxicated, refused to leave
6 Mount Airy Casino and Resort. He engaged in physical
7 and verbal altercations with staff. Pennsylvania
8 State Police Troopers arrested Mr. Ruzhanskiy, which
9 he resisted. He was charged and pleaded guilty to
10 defiant trespass and public drunkenness. Mount Airy
11 Casino and Resort permanently evicted him from their
12 property as a result of his actions.

13 At this time, the OEC requests that
14 the Board place Natan Ruzhanskiy on the Board's
15 Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

18 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,
19 Commissioner Dermody moves that the Board approve the
20 addition of Natan Ruzhanskiy to the PGCB Involuntary
21 Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

22 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
23 seconds.

24 CHAIR: All in favor?

25 AYES RESPOND

1 CHAIR: Commissioner Regan?

2 MS. REGAN: Aye.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. All opposed?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIR: Motion passes.

6 ATTORNEY KOLESAR: Good morning.

7 Sarah Kolesar with the OEC. The final matter on the
8 Agenda for the Board's consideration is the Petition
9 to place Jonathan Sisneros on the Involuntary
10 Exclusion List.

11 Mr. Sisneros was ejected from
12 Hollywood Casino Grantville and criminally charged
13 after he engaged in verbal and physically combative
14 behavior toward casino personnel. As a result of
15 this incident, Mr. Sisneros was evicted from the
16 premises and ultimately entered into a guilty plea to
17 one count of terroristic threats, one count of public
18 drunkenness, one count of harassment and one count of
19 disorderly conduct. He was also permanently evicted
20 from Hollywood Casino Grantville.

21 At this time, the OEC requests that
22 the Board place Jonathan Sisneros on the Involuntary
23 Exclusion List.

24 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

25 May I have a motion, please?

1 MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
2 Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of
3 Jonathan Sisneros to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion
4 List for the conduct described by the OEC.

5 MS. RALSTON: Commissioner Ralston
6 seconds.

7 CHAIR: All in favor?

8 AYES RESPOND

9 CHAIR: All opposed?

10 NO RESPONSE

11 CHAIR: Motion's adopted.

12 ATTORNEY PITRE: Thank you. That
13 concludes our business.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. The last item on
15 the Agenda today is Public Comment. Is there anyone
16 in the room that would like to address the Board?

17 Okay.

18 Seeing no one, that concludes today's
19 meeting. I don't know what happened to my mic, but
20 anyway. The next public meeting of the Board will be
21 held on Wednesday, August 21st, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at
22 this location.

23 And now, may I please have a motion to
24 adjourn the meeting?

25 MR. DERMODY: Madam Chair,

1 Commissioner Dermody moves to adjourn the meeting.

2 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
3 seconds.

4 CHAIR: All in favor?

5 AYES RESPOND

6 CHAIR: All opposed?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 CHAIR: Excellent. Thank you.

9 Commissioner Manzano-Díaz and Commissioner Regan for
10 participating. The meeting is adjourned.

11 * * * * *

12 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:08 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

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

Date the 14th day of August, 2024



Derek Richmond,
Court Reporter