

OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
10:00 A.M. – January 16, 2013
RHODES TOWER, LOBBY HEARING ROOM
30 W. BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

The regular meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair Jo Ann Davidson. Commissioners McKinley Brown, Martin Hoke, Ranjan Manoranjan, Peter Silverman, and John Steinhauer were also in attendance. Commissioner June Taylor had an excused absence. The minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting were approved following a motion by Commissioner Silverman, seconded by Commissioner Steinhauer.

Executive Director Matt Schuler introduced OCCC Staff to provide updates to the Commission.

David Acosta, Director of Licensing, reported a total of 4,603 casino gaming employee licenses have been received to date and 3,850 of those have been approved. He reviewed the on-site licensing procedure used by the Commission and noted that the State of Ohio e-licensing system provides assistance in follow-up on license application and renewal issues. Although gaming employees have a duty to disclose certain events that may impact their license, Mr. Acosta also reported that the OCCC is working with the Office of the Attorney General to receive timely reports on arrests involving gaming employee licensees.

Patrick Martin, OCCC Director of Regulatory Compliance, provided an update on the Cincinnati Horseshoe Casino. Slot machines have been installed and the verification process is underway which will be followed by Phase II testing. The two financial auditors for Cincinnati have been hired. Mr. Martin told the Commission that the entire Internal Control plan for Cincinnati will be on the agenda for approval at the February Commission meeting.

OCCC Director of Enforcement, Karen Huey said the Gaming Agent Supervisor in Cincinnati has begun work and the hiring of Gaming Agents is complete. The new agents will begin five weeks of training on January 28th.

Laura Clemens, Responsible Gambling Program Coordinator, reported that the number of persons in the Voluntary Exclusion Program has increased. Statistically, those requesting VEP enrollment are mostly men and under age 30. Training for problem gambling counselors has begun in cities across the state and the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Dependence Services is presenting a problem gambling conference in early March.

Rick Anthony, Director of Operations, and Noah Browning, Fiscal Officer, presented a six-month snapshot of casino revenue compared to estimates for that revenue. Executive Director Schuler noted that new revenue estimates are being developed and will be reported to the Commission at a future meeting.

Concluding his report, Executive Director Schuler noted that the Controlled Demonstration for the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati is set for February 27, 2013. At the next meeting a proposal will be made for the approval of charities to benefit from the Controlled Demonstration. The March 4, 2013 opening of the Horseshoe Cincinnati Casino will depend on the review and approval of numerous items which can be expected on the February 13 meeting agenda:

- Internal Controls
- Surety Bond Approval
- Certification of Capital Investment
- Review of Insurance
- An update on the natural persons probity
- Review of the conditional requirement of a financial report for Caesars Entertainment Corp.

Executive Director Schuler outlined for the Commission a letter from Rock Ohio Caesars requesting approval of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent accounting firm for the purposes of preparing the required annual audit. The request was accompanied by a letter from Ernst & Young confirming the arrangement. Mr. Timothy Colson, partner, represented Ernst & Young and verified to the Commission their independence from Rock Ohio Caesars. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Manoranjan seconded the motion and it was approved.

Tony Forchione, OCCC Director of Investigations, presented to the Commission for consideration the Key Employee licenses for fourteen Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati employees. OCCC has completed background investigations of these individuals and recommends granting three year licenses. Commissioner Steinhauer moved the adoption of Commission Resolution 2013-01, granting the Key Employee licenses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverman and approved.

Commissioner Hoke made a motion to approve the adoption of Commission Resolution 2013-02, granting Key Employee licenses to four additional individuals:

Mary Elizabeth Baranick – Controller, Hollywood Casino Toledo
Kyle Martin – Regional VP Internal Audit, Penn National Gaming
Richard Skinner – Regional VP Finance, Caesars Entertainment Corp
Jennifer Spencer – VP Human Resources, Hollywood Casino Toledo

Commissioner Brown seconded the motion and it was approved.

Commission Resolution 2013-03, approving the Casino Gaming Employee licenses of 355 individuals was brought before the Commission on a motion by Commissioner Manoranjan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Patrick Martin, OCCC Director of Regulatory Compliance, presented to the Commission waivers and amendments to Internal Control Plans being sought by Horseshoe Casino Cleveland and Hollywood Casino Columbus. Mr. Martin explained that a waiver is requested when a requirement cannot be meant for a valid reason. An amendment is requested when a change is needed that is within the parameters of Ohio law. Hollywood Casino Columbus requested a waiver to the damaged card replacement procedures. Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to grant such a waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoke and approved. Also requested by Hollywood Casino Columbus were amendments to their Internal Controls as submitted in the following areas:

- Player Services Operations
- Table Game Operations
- Table Games - Rules of the Game
- Surveillance
- Security
- Slot Operations

Chair Davidson made a motion to amend the language proposed in the amendment to the Slot Operations plan, changing the word “envelope” in paragraph A of “Unsecured Currency”, to the word “item” in order to be consistent within the paragraph. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoke and the amendment was approved. Commissioner Hoke made a motion to approve the amendments to Internal Controls as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Horseshoe Casino Cleveland also requested approval of amendments to their Internal Control Plans. Included were changes in these areas:

- Permanent amendment of the holiday daily drop schedule that was temporarily approved earlier in January.
- Introduction and Table of Contacts
- Accounting
- Accounting-Appendix AML Program
- Cage
- Cage-Appendix Drop and Count Times
- Table Games – Appendix Blackjack
- Sensitive Keys

Commissioner Silverman made a motion to approve the proposed amendments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and approved.

John Barron, OCCC Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel, reviewed for the Commission a settlement agreement being proposed regarding a notice of violation that was issued to Horseshoe Casino Cleveland. The notice was issued following a self-reported violation of the use of unauthorized software. Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Mr. Barron also presented to the Commission a recommendation for the denial of a gaming employee license for Marilyn Marshall (Case #2012-0074). The Report and Recommendation by OCCC Staff and the Hearing Examiner recommended denial of the license. Commissioner Silverman made a motion to approve and adopt the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoke and approved.

The Casino Gaming Employee License applications for five additional applicants were brought before the Commission for final orders. Upon notification by the OCCC of the intent to deny their licenses, these five applicants chose not to request a hearing. Commissioner Brown made a motion to deny the five licenses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverman and approved.

Public Comment was offered by Mr. Jonathan Freed. Mr. Freed expressed interest in modification of the wording requirements for problem gambling messages.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by:

Katherine L. Kelly,
Commission Clerk