

OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
10:00 A.M. – January 18, 2023  
JO ANN DAVIDSON HEARING ROOM  
100 E. BROAD STREET, 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

The regular meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission (Commission) was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Chair June Taylor. Vice-Chair John Steinhauer and Commissioners Sheetal Bajoria, McKinley Brown, Will Lucas, and Lynn Slaby were also in attendance. The minutes of the December 14, 2022, meeting were approved following a motion by Chair Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Slaby.

Executive Director Matthew Schuler began his report with Rick Anthony, Deputy Executive Director providing a budget update. Mr. Anthony reported that casino tax revenue was above estimates, but that tax revenue overall was expected to level out through the remainder of the fiscal year. Vendor fees were \$60,000.00 below estimates, primarily due to timing issues, due the need to put vendor applications on hold while focusing licensing resources on the launch of sports gaming. The fees are anticipated meet estimates through the rest of the fiscal year. Wages and benefits were on track, and all other expenses were below estimates. Equipment expenses are anticipated to rise, as staff begin to evaluate equipment upgrade needs. Mr. Anthony reported that an illegal casino investigation case that began during the pandemic has now been fully adjudicated, and approximately \$41,000.00 in revenue is expected to be received for the Enforcement Fund in the future.

Next, Mr. Schuler touched upon a troubling development with the recent launch of sports gaming in the state of Ohio. Mr. Schuler explained that it had been brought to his attention that on the previous night Dayton Flyers Coach Anthony Grant spent time during a post-game press conference addressing threatening messages his players had received from gamblers upset about their losses. Mr. Schuler expressed that this type of behavior is unacceptable. Mr. Schuler further stated that, the Commission will determine whether it has the authority to invoke involuntary exclusion procedures to ban individuals who make illegal threats against athletes from Ohio betting markets in the future.

Mr. Schuler ended his report thanking Commission staff for their collaborative work to launch sports gaming in the state. Ohio became the latest state to enter the world of sports gaming on January 1<sup>st</sup>, with 16 online/mobile operators and 13 in-person retail sportsbooks, along with numerous kiosks at bars and restaurants. This was the largest simultaneous launch of sports gaming in the United States. Mr. Schuler noted that to meet the aggressive January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, this achievement required an all-hands-on deck approach by Commission staff. Mr. Schuler and the Commissioners commended staff on their tireless efforts and exceptional work. Vice-Chair Steinhauer made a motion to issue a resolution commending Commission staff on commencing sports gaming in the state of Ohio. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Lastly, Mr. Schuler introduced Chevonne Sorensen joining the Licensing & Investigations team as its newest Application Analyst.

Monica Wilcoxon, Manager of Investigations, presented to the Commission for consideration five key-employee license applications. The Licensing & Investigations Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2023-01, granting or renewing, as applicable, key-employee licenses to: David Harrison, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati; Anthony Carolo, JACK Cleveland Casino; Linster Fox, Everi Holdings, Inc.; Paolo Tacchini, De Agostini S.p.A.; and Thomas Zulawski, IGT. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Brown. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas and approved.

Berena Seifert, Manager of Skill Games, presented for consideration 16 new and 21 renewal skill-based amusement machine-related license applications. The Skill Games Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2023-02, granting or renewing, as applicable, skill-based amusement machine-related licenses upon receipt of the required licensing fees. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Slaby. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bajoria and approved.

Aleah Page, Deputy Director of Licensing, presented for consideration a fantasy contest operator license application for Verdict MMA, Inc. (Verdict). The Commission's Licensing & Investigations, Legal, Regulatory Compliance, and Problem Gambling Services Divisions completed a suitability investigation of Verdict, which did not uncover any material derogatory information. Ms. Page recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2023-03, granting Verdict a three-year fantasy contest operator license. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Brown. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Anna Marin Russell, Director of Licensing and Investigations and Senior Legal Counsel, presented to the Commission for consideration a sports gaming mobile management services provider (MMSP) license application for WSI US, LLC dba WynnBet (WynnBet). The Division of Licensing & Investigations completed an investigation to determine that each entity or person in control of WynnBet had met the qualifications of licensure, which did not uncover any material derogatory information that would render WynnBet or their holding companies or persons in control unsuitable or unqualified. Therefore, the Division recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2023-04, granting a five-year sports gaming MMSP license to WynnBet. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Lucas. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Steinhauer and approved.

Then, Ms. Russell presented to the Commission for consideration two sports gaming supplier license applications. The Division of Licensing & Investigations completed an investigation to determine that each person in control of the applicants has met the qualifications of licensure, which did not uncover

any material derogatory information that would render the entities or their persons in control unsuitable or unqualified. Therefore, the Division recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2023-05, granting three-year sports gaming supplier licenses to: Sports IQ Analytics, Inc. and M3 Technology Solutions, LLC. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Slaby. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Chelsea Castle, Manager of Compliance, presented to the Commission for consideration the three-year approval of Jebran & Abraham PC (Jebran & Abraham) as an independent registered certified public accounting firm for the purpose of conducting financial statement and compliance audits for Ohio fantasy contest operators. Ms. Castle explained that pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 3772-74-15, fantasy contest operators are required to undergo a financial audit each year and a compliance audit once each three-year licensure period. A motion to approve Jebran & Abraham was made by Commissioner Bajoria. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Andromeda Morrison, General Counsel and Director of Skill Games, presented to the Commission for consideration a sports gaming final order:

A final order regarding American Wagering Inc. dba Caesars Sportsbook (“Caesars”) (case no. 2023-SGR-003). The final order resolves a regulatory matter involving advertising and promotion violation by Caesars. Eric Hession, President of Caesars Sports and Online Gaming and Jeffrey Hendricks, VP and Assistant General Counsel of Caesars Entertainment described to the Commission the affirmative steps taken by Caesars as a result of the administrative action. In addition to the administrative sanctions imposed by the final order, Caesars has terminated its relationship with the affiliate marketer involved in the violations, issued training and guidance to all remaining affiliate marketers to ensure future compliance, and will not engage in “pay per click” affiliate marketing in Ohio. Chair Taylor moved to adopt the final order imposing sanctions for American Wagering Inc dba Caesars Sportsbook. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

Next, Ms. Morrison, presented to the Commission for consideration three casino gaming final orders:

A final order regarding the denial of casino gaming employee license applications (case nos. #2022-LIC-072, -082 & -087). Chair Taylor moved to deny the casino gaming employee license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas and approved.

A final order regarding JaVon Wilkins (case no. 2022-LIC-045). Chair Taylor moved to approve and adopt the report and recommendation without modifications to deny the casino gaming employee license application for JaVon Wilkins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

A final order regarding the closure of casino gaming employee license application for Edward Humphries (case no. #2022-LIC-086). Chair Taylor moved to close the casino gaming employee license application for Edward Humphries. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Then, Ms. Morrison presented for consideration of four skill games final orders:

A final order regarding the denial of the skill-based amusement machine license applications (case nos. #2022-SLIC-072 & -073). Chair Taylor moved to deny the skill-based amusement machine license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas and approved.

A final order regarding the closure of skill-based amusement machine license applications (case nos. #2022-SLIC-035 & -036). Chair Taylor moved to close the skill-based amusement machine license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bajoria and approved.

A final order regarding Richard Webb (case no. 2022-SLIC-054). Chair Taylor moved to approve and adopt the report and recommendation without modifications to deny the skill-based amusement machine license application for Richard Webb. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

A final order regarding the revocation of the skill-based amusement machine license for Two American Brothers, Inc. (2022-SLIC-087). Chair Taylor moved to revoke the skill-based amusement machine license for Two American Brothers, Inc. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Steinhauer and approved.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed,



Lara Thomas

Commission Secretary

Approved: February 15, 2023