#### 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

Nedia Ralston (via phone)

Shawn Dillon

Frances J. Regan

Sara Manzano-Díaz

David S. Hickernell

Frank Dermody (via phone)

# EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Fred Strathmeyer, Designee, Department of

Agriculture

Jennifer Langan, Esquire, Designee,

Department of Treasury

Christin Heidingsfelder, Designee,

Department of Revenue

HEARING: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Reporter: Jorganna Showers

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LOCATION: Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Strawberry Square 2nd Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

## A P P E A R A N C E S

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- 3 PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD EXECUTIVE STAFF WHO APPEARED
- 4 BEFORE THE BOARD:
- 5 STEVE COOK, Chief Counsel
- 6 CHAD ZIMMERMANN, Deputy Chief Counsel
- 7 KEVIN O'TOOLE, Executive Director
- 8 DANETTE BIXLER-GEORGE, Director of Human Resources
- 9 SEAN HANNON, Director, Bureau of Licensing

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- 11 OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT COUNSEL:
- 12 CYRUS PITRE, Chief Enforcement Counsel
- 13 JOHN CROHE, Senior Enforcement Counsel
- 14 MICHAEL ROLAND, Senior Enforcement Counsel
- 15 THOMAS MONAGHAN, Assistant Enforcement Counsel

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- 17 OTHER ATTENDEES FOR MEETING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS:
- 18 | Stadium Casino RE, LLC d/b/a Live! Casino Hotel
- 19 Philadelphia
- 20 Craig Clark, Executive Vice President and General
- 21 Manager, Live! Philadelphia
- 22 | Kevin Hayes, Esquire, Saiber Law Firm
- 23 Corey March, Pennsylvania Manager of Operations,
- 24 Digital Gaming Corporation USA
- 25 | Tom Diehl, Esquire, Vice President of Legal, Live!

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   Philadelphia
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   OTHER ATTENDEES FOR MEETING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS
 3
   (cont.):
 4
   Crown PA DFS, Inc. d/b/a DraftKings
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   Kevin Hayes, Esquire, Saiber Law Firm
 6
   Jake List, Senior Director of Regulatory Operations,
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     DraftKings
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## PROCEEDINGS

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CHAIR: Good morning. 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 that it is required or necessary for your own well-being.

With five Board members present and Commissioners Dermody and Ralston present by telephone, I'd like to call today's meeting to order.

Commissioner Dermody, can you hear me?

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

CHAIR: Excellent. Thank you.

Commissioner Ralston, can you hear me?

MS. RALSTON: Yes, I can hear you as

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CHAIR: Perfect. Thank you so much.

With that being said, I'd also like to note for the record that in addition to the seven

24 Board members participating today, we also have our

25 ex-officio members, Fred Strathmeyer, representing

Russell Redding, Secretary for the Department of Agriculture; Christin Heidingsfelder, representing Pat Browne, Secretary for the Department of Revenue, and Jennifer Langan, representing Stacy Garrity, State Treasurer.

Thank you ex-officios for joining us.

I'd now like everybody to please stand and join me in
the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

CHAIR: We will now have presentations of service of awards for Gaming Control Board employees that will be made by our Executive Director Kevin O'Toole. Kevin.

MR. O'TOOLE: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Chair Smyler, members of the Board. It's always a great occasion to be able to recognize the loyalty and the dedication of employees who have worked hard for a long period of time. We do honor 10-year recipients and we honor 15-year recipients.

And I always like to note on occasions, once a quarter, we recognize individuals. But currently we have 353 employees, 167 of those employees have at least ten years of service.

Am I okay, Richard?

RICHARD MCGARVEY: Now you're good.

MR. O'TOOLE: And that represents 47 percent of our employees. And 110 have reached 15 years of service, which represents 31 percent of employees.

So, I note that those percentages are going down a little bit. Some of our 15-year recipients are deciding that they have enough years of service to resign and get all the welcome benefits of being long-term Commonwealth employees.

So, today I have two employees who are here to be honored in person, and I'm very appreciative of that. So, Michael. Our first recipient is Michael Roland. Michael is here for his 15 years of service. He was hired on December 6th of 2008 as an Assistant Enforcement Counsel, and today Michael serves as a Senior Enforcement Counsel.

Michael, congratulations on your service. We appreciate your work. Thank you very much.

MR. O'TOOLE: I'd like Charles Leister to come forward.

his ten-year service award. He commenced employment here at the Board on April 26th of 2014 as a Statistician. And today he serves as a Manager of

the Board's Office of Gaming Laboratory and Operations.

Charlie, thank you very much for your service and congratulations.

I have a few additional individuals who were not able to come today, and I'd like the record to reflect them and that they will get a certificate as well. It's always great that we have terrific live streaming services. So, all eight of these remaining individuals may be watching us at this time.

If they are, good morning. We have two employees who have reached their 15-year milestone in addition to Michael.

First is Linda Schramm. Linda was hired on January 5th, 2008, as an Executive Secretary for the Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement (BIE) and she holds that position today.

Secondly, we have Luke Rogers. Luke was hired on January 6th of 2008 as A Casino

Compliance Representative. Today Luke is an iGaming

Compliance Representative for the Bureau of Gaming

Operations.

And we also have six additional employees who have reached their ten-year anniversary

of employment with the Board.

The first is Andrew Dennis, who I'd like to recognize. In addition to Charlie, Andrew was hired on October 7th of 2013 as a Casino Compliance Representative. Today Andrew is a Technical Field Representative at Rivers Casino Pittsburgh with the Bureau of Casino Compliance.

Also on that same day, Douglas Kunst was hired with the Board on October 7th of 2013, as a Casino Compliance Representative assigned to the Meadows Casino, with the Bureau of Casino Compliance. And Doug holds that position today as well.

We also have Anthony Penna. Anthony was hired on January 21st, 2014, as a Casino Compliance Representative, also assigned at the Meadows Casino with the Bureau of Casino Compliance, and Anthony holds that position today.

Next we have Percival O'Shaughnessy.

Percy was hired on March 17th, 2014, as a Technical

Field Representative at Harrah's Philadelphia Casino

with the Bureau of Casino Compliance, and Percy holds

that position today as well.

Next is Michael Lamm. Michael was hired on March the 24th of 2014 as a Casino Compliance Representative at the Casino at Nemacolin

with the Bureau of Casino Compliance, and Michael also holds that position today.

Finally, we have David Gehman. David was hired on December the 12, 2013, as an Applications Developer with the Office of Information Technology, under the Bureau of Administration, and David holds that position today.

So, I'd like to congratulate all ten of our service award recipients and thank them all for their service. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Kevin. And thank all of you for your years of service to the Board and to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

By way of announcements, the Board held an executive session yesterday, Tuesday,

March 19th to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation and to conduct quasi-judicial deliberations related to matters coming before the Board.

I'd also like to recognize Christin

Heidingsfelder, our ex-officio designee for many

years for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

Christin recently announced her retirement from State

service after a distinguished career with the Revenue

Department, and related to that, outstanding service

to this Board. 1 2 Christin, on behalf of the entire 3 Board, I'd like to thank you for your years of 4 service and wish you the best in your retirement. 5 MS. HEIDINGSFELDER: Thank you. CHAIR: Our first order of business 6 7 this morning is the consideration of the Board meeting transcripts and minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting and the January 24th, 2024 meeting. 10 May I have a motion, please, to 11 approve the transcript and minutes of the 12 December 13th, 2023 meeting? 13 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair, Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board 14 15 approved the minutes and the transcript of the December 13, 2023 meeting. 16 17 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner 18 Hickernell seconds. All in favor? 19 CHAIR: 20 AYES RESPOND 21 CHAIR: All opposed? 22 Motion's adopted. 23 May I now have a motion to approve the

transcript and minutes of the January 24th, 2024

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meeting?

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MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair, 1 2 Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve 3 the minutes and transcript of the January 24th, 2024 4 meeting. MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon 5 6 seconds. 7 All in favor? CHAIR: 8 AYES RESPOND 9 All opposed? Motion's CHAIR: 10 adopted. 11 We will now hear again from our 12 Executive Director, Kevin O'Toole. 13 MR. O'TOOLE: And I'm very glad to 14 give a second presentation this morning. Thank you 15 very much. So, as we all know, the month of March 16 is Problem Gambling Awareness Month. And I wanted to 17 18 take the opportunity to raise awareness of certain 19 self-help steps that any player with an online gaming 20 account in Pennsylvania can use on their own to 21 lessen the impacts of gambling on a player's ability 22 to control their activity and stay clear of problem 23 or compulsive gambling. 24 Board regulations at Section 814A.2 25 offer to players a number of responsible gaming

self-imposed limits. These limits allow a player to control the amount of their deposits over a period of time. They allow patrons to set maximum amount limits for each wager that they place. It allows players to set a maximum amount of funds that they want to spend and potentially lose all of those funds, so they can set an upper limit. And it can be done on a daily basis. It can be done for a day, it can be done for a week, it can be done for a month or longer than that.

And also, players can also self-impose on themselves a cooling-off period with just one requirement. And that requirement is that the cooling-off period must be a minimum of 72 hours.

So, it could be three days or any period longer than three days. And these are, as the name indicates, self-imposed limits.

with our staff at the launch of online gambling, whatever time frame that was, because we've had people launch - we've had companies launch over the last five years on a fairly regular basis, but they incorporate into their systems that control the online gambling and control the registration process for online gambling to incorporate those limits

within their systems.

So, I also wanted to note that the Board's Office of Compulsive and Problem Gambling, through Director Elizabeth Lanza, has been able to monitor the usage of these self-imposed limits. So, on a monthly basis, she obtained statistics from the online gaming operators for their respective registered players during any particular month. And Director Lanza and her staff aggregate all those figures and have them available.

So, the most used limit that players choose is the deposit limit. And the second most used limit is the self-suspension cooldown period.

During the month of January 2024, by example, the deposit limit was activated by players over 154,000 times, and the self-suspension cooldown period was activated over 78,000 times. So, those are large numbers, but it is true that the number of players who have registered accounts are in the millions. So, it's good to see these self-imposed limits used the amounts that I just cited, but we would like to see it see them used even more.

And these self-imposed limits are important because they provide players with controls over their gambling activity, and particularly with

respect to online gambling on simulated slot machines and table games.

It's important to note that these self-imposed limits are in addition to any player who wishes to be on the Self-Exclusion List can also avail themselves of that service that the Board performs.

In a related effort, pursuant to the Gaming Act at Section 1211(d.1), the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, DDAP, coordinates the statutorily required annual report on the impact of online gambling on compulsive and problem gambling. The legislature adopted this requirement when online gambling was first authorized in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This report is written by a team of professors, researchers and analysts from Penn State University, once they complete and compile the current year's research of this topic.

In his 2023 report, which was just recently issued, on the impact of online gambling and compulsive and problem gambling, one of the more significant findings that they noted was that 16 percent of Pennsylvania adults reported that they engaged in online gambling during the year. This is an increase from 11 percent from the previous year's

report. And it certainly would not be surprising if that percentage continues to rise in future years, which makes these self-imposed limits all the more important.

So, to conclude, there's always challenges that must be met to minimize compulsive and problem gambling. These challenges are, in fact, being met in Pennsylvania by efforts of the Pennsylvania Council on Compulsive Gambling, which does a fabulous job of awareness and education and training all throughout the year. They perform much of the training at the casino land-based casinos to ensure that the required personnel at those land-based casinos receive their annual training in compulsive and problem gaming.

And it also is met by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, DDAP. Not only do they coordinate that annual report that Penn State prepares, they service and provide oversight to the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Trust Fund, which allows DDAP to issue grants and contracts with single county authorities all throughout the Commonwealth. And that money goes directly to service providers.

So, any citizen of Pennsylvania who has a compulsive or problem gambling problem, if

their insurance doesn't cover treatment for that issue, or if they don't have the funds to pay for that service, they can reach out to appropriate authorities and get the treatment that they need, and it would be paid through these grants.

And last but not least, those challenges are met by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, as I have just laid out to you on some of the initiatives that we do here at the Board. And this issue is - one of the challenges is, it's never going to go away. It's there when you start this job and it's there when you end this job, so long as there's legal gambling.

So, it does allow regulators to think in creative ways to get people to understand if they do have a problem, there are services and techniques and tools that they can avail themselves of. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Kevin.

And we will now hear from our Human Resource Director, Danette Bixler-George. Danette.

MS. BIXLER-GEORGE: Good morning,
Chair, Board members, the Office of Human Resources
has two motions today for your consideration relative
to the hiring of four individuals and the amendment

of the pay structure for nonunion employees.

I would note that the number of individuals being presented to you has changed from the previous information that was provided to you yesterday.

The following four individuals have completed the background investigation, interview process and drug screening and are ready for presentation to the Board.

First, we have Dennis Lebo, who has been selected as an Auditor in the Bureau of Gaming Operations and is recommended for hire by Paul Resch, the Director of Gaming Operations.

Next we have Julian Burton, who has been selected as a Licensing Technician in the Bureau of Licensing and is recommended for hire by Sean Hannon, Director of Licensing.

Next we have Tom Diecidue, who's been selected as the Director of Information Technology and is recommended for hire by Claire Yantis, Administrative Director.

And finally, we have Gavin Spallone, who has been selected as a Statistician in the Office of Gaming Laboratory Operations and is recommended for hire by Heather Worner, Director of Gaming

Laboratory Operations.

Unless you have questions, I ask that the Board consider a motion to approve the hiring actions as indicated.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

Dillon moves that the Board approve the applicants

for hire, as proposed by the Human Resources

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MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

12 Manzano-Díaz second.

13 CHAIR: All in favor?

14 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed?

Motion's adopted.

MS. BIXLER-GEORGE: The second motion

18 seeks to adopt amendments to the PGCB Classification

19 and Compensation Structure effective today, March the

20 20th, 2024. As you are aware, the original

21 Classification and Compensation Structure was adopted

22 by the Board in January 2011.

In October 2019, the Board adopted a

24 new Classification and Compensation Structure which

25 is a single-pay structure for all nonunion

represented employees. This single pay structure was adjusted most recently on July 1st, 2023. Almost didn't get that out. Currently, the Office of Human Resources is proposing two revisions to the management pay schedule for pay groups GM09 and GM10.

The revisions will aid in maintaining equity with the Commonwealth Standard Pay Schedule, which is our primary comparator for compensation matters. It is recommended that the top or maximum of these two pay groups be aged another 2.25 percent at this time. With the Board's adoption, the amended schedule will become effective immediately.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the changes in the compensation structure.

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

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board approve the updated nonunion pay schedule as proposed by the Human Resources Director.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

24 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed?

#### NAYS RESPOND

<u>CHAIR:</u> Motion passes.

MS. BIXLER-GEORGE: Thank you.

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

ATTORNEY COOK: Good morning, Chair, members of the Board.

Before the Board today are just two
Petitions. Both of these Petitions will be decided
on the documentary record as the Office of
Enforcement Counsel (OEC) has no objection to the
requested relief. In each of these matters the Board
has, in advance of today's meeting, been provided
with the complete evidentiary record.

The first Petition before the Board is Franklin Hollins' Petition for Removal from the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

By way of background, on January 21st, 2020, while gaming at Rivers Philadelphia, Mr. Hollins capped a wager, resulting in him winning \$240, to which he was not entitled. As a result of his actions, he was permanently evicted from Rivers Philadelphia, and he was charged with a summary offense. Subsequently, the OEC filed a Petition to place Mr. Hollins on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

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A hearing was held on the matter and
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   thereafter, on August 11th, 2021, the Board placed
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   Mr. Hollins on the list for two years, at which time
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   he could petition to come off the exclusion list.
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                   Mr. Hollins has now filed his request
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   for removal from the Involuntary Exclusion List.
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   Enforcement Counsel has no objection to the request.
   It has been over two years since he was placed on the
   exclusion list and there is no evidence that he
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   violated the Board's Order or otherwise engaged in
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   criminal activity. 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. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner
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   Regan moves that the Board grant Franklin Hollins'
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   Petition for Removal from the Involuntary Exclusion
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   List as described by the OCC.
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                   MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
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   Hickernell seconds.
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                           All in favor?
                   CHAIR:
   AYES RESPOND
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                           All opposed?
                                         Motion's
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   adopted.
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                   ATTORNEY COOK: Next before the Board
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is the Petition filed by Raymond Smith, also requesting removal from the Involuntary Exclusion List.

On several occasions in June of 2017, while working as a Slot Technician at SugarHouse Casino, which now operates as Rivers Casino Philadelphia, Mr. Smith stole vouchers totaling \$676. He was terminated, criminally charged and ultimately admitted into an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition Program in the Criminal Courts of Philadelphia.

Consequently, the OEC filed to revoke Mr. Smith's Gaming Permit and to place him on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List. In March of 2018, the Board issued Orders both revoking Mr. Smith's Permit and placing him on the exclusion list.

Mr. Smith is now requesting removal from the exclusion list. He has paid full restitution and has successfully completed the ARD Program. Enforcement Counsel has no objection, as it's been over five years since his placement on the list and there is no evidence that he violated the Board's Order relative to the exclusion or has been involved in any other criminal activity.

And just to be clear, this is only to

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remove Mr. Smith from the list. He still is not permitted to work in the industry. And that matter stands and that matter is now ripe for this Board to consider.
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CHAIR: Any questions or comments from the Board? Hearing none, may I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

Dillon moves that the Board grant Raymond Smiths'

Petition for Removal from the Involuntary Exclusion

List as described by the OCC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

Manzano-Díaz, second.

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

14 AYES RESPOND

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CHAIR: All opposed? Motion passes.

16 ATTORNEY COOK: Next presenting

17 Withdrawals, Surrenders, and Reports and

18 Recommendations, Deputy Chief Counsel Chad

19 Zimmermann.

20 <u>ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN:</u> Good morning,

21 Commissioners.

The next matter before the Board today pertains to several unopposed Petitions to withdraw applications or to surrender the credentials of the following individuals and entities: Carlin G3 Trust;

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Evolution Pennsylvania, LLC; Michael W. Smurfit Jr.;
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   Christopher Clark; Kevin Ciantar; Jonathan Jones;
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   Julian Bazley; Enrico Bradamante; Bradley Gibson; The
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   Duchossois Group, Inc.; CDI Holdings, LLC; Craig
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   Duchossois; Martin Smith; Lawrence J. Wheeler, Jr.;
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   Duncan B. McConnell; Jacob Joyce; City Op Holding
   Co.; Racetrack Op Holding Co.; LLN PA, LLC; Johan
   Karrbrink; Antoine Bonello; Philip E. Juliano; The
   Pala Band of Mission Indians; NG Poker; Anthony J.
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   Ravago; Bradley W. Gauchino; Kasey S. Thompson;
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   Robert H. Smith; Shauna S. Anton; Sheila Smith-Lopez;
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   Theresa J. Nieto; Theressa A. Villa and William F.
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   Bembenek.
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                   The OEC has no objections to any of
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   these Withdrawals or Surrenders. As a result, if the
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   Board chooses to grant the request, in every case it
   would be doing so without prejudice to the requester.
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   These matters are all 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?
                   MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
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   Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board issue
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Orders to approve the Withdrawals and Surrenders as

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described by the OCC.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon

2 seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion passes.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Next before the Board for consideration on the agenda are ten Reports and Recommendations received from the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). These Reports and Recommendations, along with the evidentiary record for each hearing, have been provided to the Board in advance of today's meeting.

Additionally, the persons involved have each been notified that the Board would be considering their matter today and that each would have the opportunity to come forward and briefly address the Board. If any of the persons who are the subject of one of these Reports and Recommendations would like to address the Board, I would ask them to come forward when the matter is called.

As an administrative matter, the first on the agenda is Joshua Lewis. Given some information that was garnered this morning, Mr. Lewis's matter is being removed from the agenda and will be relisted for a later date, so there is no

action needed to be taken today by the Board on Mr. Lewis' matter.

Moving on. Alexis Pawlowski. Ms.

Pawlowski holds a Gaming Employee Occupation Permit

and has been employed at Live! Pittsburgh as a Table

Games Dealer.

On November 29th, 2023, the OEC filed a complaint seeking an Emergency Suspension of Ms. Pawlowski's Permit after receiving notice that she had been criminally charged with seven felonies and four misdemeanor offenses pertaining to drug-related charges and charges involving the endangering the welfare of children. As a result of the charges, the Executive Director issued an Emergency Order suspending Ms. Pawlowski's Permit.

A hearing in this matter was held on December 21st, 2023. OEC presented testimony and documentary evidence at the hearing. Ms. Pawlowski appeared and testified on her own behalf. Evidence presented by OEC documented a joint investigation between several law-enforcement agencies that resulted in the seizure of firearms, cell phones, ammunition, bag of suspected cocaine, marijuana and other THC products at Ms. Pawlowski's residence.

Ms. Pawlowski testified at the hearing

that she was innocent of all charges. However, they are still pending in the Court of Common Pleas.

Following a hearing, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending the suspension of her Permit remain in effect. And this matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments from the Board? Hearing none, 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 Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) and
that the Emergency Suspension of Alexis Pawlowski's
Employee Occupation Permit remain in effect.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan seconds.

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

19 AYES RESPOND

20 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed? Motion's 21 adopted.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Luz Velazquez is the next Report and Recommendation before the Board today. Ms. Velazquez holds a Gaming Employee

Occupation Permit and previously worked as a Table

Games Dealer at Live! Casino and Hotel in Philadelphia.

Ms. Velazquez recently submitted an application to the Board for a Non-Gaming Employee Registration to work as a Games Presenter for Evolution US, LLC.

On October 16, 2023, the OEC filed a complaint seeking Emergency Suspension of Ms.

Velazquez's Permit after receiving notice that she had been criminally charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses relating to a firearm stemming from a traffic stop. As a result of Ms. Velazquez's charges, the Board's Executive Director issued an Emergency Order of Suspension, suspending her Permit.

A hearing in this matter was held in November of 2023. OEC appeared, presenting testimonial and documentary evidence. Ms. Velazquez appeared and briefly testified on her own behalf.

Following the hearing, a Report and Recommendation was issued, recommending that the suspension of Ms. Velazquez's Permit remain in effect given the fact that the charges against her were still pending and were disqualifying in nature. And this matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.

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 the Emergency Suspension of Luz Velazquez's Gaming Employee Occupation Permit remain in effect.

9 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
10 Hickernell seconds.

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

12 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's adopted.

On September 6, 2023, OEC filed a Petition to place Ms. Biddle on the Involuntary Exclusion List after she allegedly created a fake police report and provided that report to an interactive gaming operator, BetMGM, to resolve a dispute.

A hearing in this matter was held November 28, 2023. OEC appeared at the hearing and

presented testimony and documentary evidence. Ms.

Biddle appeared and testified on her own behalf.

OEC's evidence and testimony showed that Ms. Biddle had made several complaints to BetMGM, an interactive gaming operator. Specifically, Ms. Biddle complained of her inability to access her account or withdraw the funds to the credit or debit card she had listed on her account.

In August of 2021, Ms. Biddle was informed by BetMGM at one point that her account had a negative balance due to money being deposited in her account from a card that was not in her name and that was subsequently wagered and had to be returned to the card in question.

Subsequently, Ms. Biddle had informed BetMGM that her bank account was overdrawn, blamed BetMGM for the overdraw, and that she was not aware that there were cards on her account that were not in her name. She also then questioned why she should have to repay that money.

Ms. Biddle was instructed by BetMGM to provide a self-certified identification, which included a photo of herself holding her ID, as well as a police report to corroborate her claims of the fraudulent activity. Ms. Biddle did provide these

documents. However, the police report contained several irregularities and mistakes. And upon further investigation by the Board's Bureau of Gaming Operations, it was determined that the police department in question had never been contacted by Ms. Biddle and the report was fraudulent.

Consequently, Ms. Biddle was charged with forgery and admitted into the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition Program. During Ms. Biddle's testimony, she stated she did not dispute anything that OEC had presented, that her actions were stupid and she is remorseful. She claims to have committed a criminal act but is not a criminal herself.

Ms. Biddle testified that she has completed her ARD Program, that she's a mother and her children are her main priority. She's concerned that they will some day learn of her actions. After hearing all the evidence presented, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that Ms. Biddle be placed on the Board's Involuntary Interactive Gaming Exclusion List. And this matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments from the Board?

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May I have a motion, please?
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 2
                   MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
3
   Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board adopt
 4
   the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA
5
   described by the OCC and that Kelly Biddle be placed
   on the Board's Involuntary Interactive Exclusion
 6
7
   List.
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ:
                                      Commissioner
9
   Manzano-Díaz, second.
10
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
11
   AYES RESPOND
12
                   CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's
13
   adopted.
14
                   ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Next is a Report
15
   and Recommendation from Michael Churi.
                   On January 6, 2023, the OEC filed a
16
17
   Petition to place Mr. Churi on the Board's
18
   Involuntary Exclusion List. Mr. Churi failed to
19
   initially respond. However, prior to the matter
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   coming before the Board, he filed a hearing request.
21
                   A hearing was held in September of
22
   2023.
          OEC appeared and presented testimony,
23
   documentary and surveillance evidence. Although
24
   receiving proper notice, Mr. Churi failed to appear.
25
   Testimony and evidence provided at the hearing showed
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that on May 26, 2022, while at Mount Airy Casino
Resort, Mr. Churi, who was visibly intoxicated, was
in possession of an Airsoft pellet gun, and they also
- Security and Surveillance also found two tasers and
two knives on his person. This was in violation of
Mount Airy's policy on possession of weapons on their
premises.

He was arrested, charged with public drunkenness and permanently banned from the casino. Consequently, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that Mr. Churi be placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List. And this matter is now ready 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 Michael Churi be
placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan, 22 second.

CHAIR: All in favor?

24 AYES RESPOND

25 <u>CHAIR:</u> Thank you. All opposed?

Motion passes.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: Next is a Report and Recommendation for Dongwuk Moon.

On October 5th, 2022, the OEC filed a Petition to place Dongwuk Moon on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List after it was alleged that he had been cheating while gaming at several casinos.

The hearing in this matter was held in November of 2023. OEC appeared, presenting testimonial, documentary and surveillance evidence.

Mr. Moon appeared and testified on his own behalf.

OEC provided evidence at the hearing showing that on three separate incidents, while playing table games at Rivers Philadelphia, Lady Lucky Casino Nemacolin and Rivers Pittsburgh, Mr. Moon was observed marking cards.

Specifically, the Surveillance Report and testimony shows that at Rivers Philadelphia, he marked or bent 96 different times. The Report from Lady Luck says that he bent or marked seven cards, and a Surveillance Report from Rivers Pittsburgh alleges he bent cards approximately 17 times. He was permanently banned from each casino for his actions.

Mr. Moon testified that he handles his cards in a rough manner and checks them frequently

while he games, and that bending 96 cards doesn't make sense, as there would only be 16 high-ranking cards in the deck, that he ultimately lost money while gaming at Lady Luck, suggesting he didn't cheat. And he additionally stated that the surveillance pictures of the cards do not show that they are marked or bent.

After hearing all the evidence presented, a Report and Recommendation was issued recommending that Mr. Moon be placed on the Board's exclusion list. He did file Exceptions to this Report and Recommendation, reiterating the nature in which he handles his cards and that he was not attempting to mark them. This matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.

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

MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board adopt

the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as

described by the OCC, and that Dongwuk Moon be placed

on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

 $\underline{\text{MR. DILLON:}} \quad \text{Commissioner Dillon}$  seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

2 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed? The motion's 3 adopted.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The next two matters stem from identical set of facts and circumstances. So, I'll read one set of facts for both and then ask for a motion on each one independently.

And the next Reports and Recommendation relate to Lisa Gonzales and Donald Stipetich and a request by OEC to place them on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

Hearings of both of these matters were held. Lisa Gonzales's hearing was held July 20th of 2023, where OEC appeared. However, Ms. Gonzales failed to. However, she later contacted the Board Clerk requesting the record be reopened. The request was granted.

A new hearing date was scheduled in December of 2023, but she also again failed to appear. OEC did not enter any more evidence at that time.

Donald Stipetich's hearing was originally held in August of 2023, where OEC appeared. However, Mr. Stipetich failed to appear.

Once again, after receiving the Report and Recommendation, he requested the matter be reopened again by filing Exceptions. The records were reopened. He also did not fail (sic) for a second hearing. And so these matters are now closed, without their appearance.

The undisputed evidence, therefore, provided by OEC at both hearings shows that on February 25th, 2022, a patron at Rivers Casino Pittsburgh reported to Security that her bracelet, valued at \$38,000, was missing. Surveillance was reviewed and it was discovered that Mr. Stipetich and his wife, Ms. Gonzales, found the bracelet on the floor at the casino bar. They were admiring the bracelet, taking pictures with it, and then the couple left the casino within an hour of finding the bracelet.

Surveillance also shows them admiring the bracelets while in the elevators of the parking garage. Ms. Gonzales was later contacted the next morning by the Etna Township Police Department. In response, she contacted the Pennsylvania State Police, denied being in possession of the bracelet. However, later that same day, the bracelet was returned to the Etna Township Police.

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Both Ms. Gonzales and Mr. Stipetich
1
2
   were arrested and charged with theft-related felony
3
   offenses. Subsequently, a Report and Recommendation
 4
   was issued on both matters, recommending that the
 5
   pair be placed on the Involuntary Exclusion List.
   Both these matters are now ready for the Board's
 6
7
   consideration.
                   First, I would request a motion
9
   regarding Lisa Gonzales's Report and Recommendation.
10
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments from
11
   the Board?
               Hearing none, may I have a motion,
12
   please?
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
13
14
   Dillon moves that the Board adopt the Report and
15
   Recommendation issued by the OHA as described by the
16
   OCC and that Lisa Gonzales be placed on the Board's
17
   Involuntary Exclusion List.
18
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
19
   Manzano-Díaz, second.
20
                   CHAIR: All in favor?
21
   AYES RESPOND
22
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed?
                                          Motion's
23
   adopted.
24
                   ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN:
                                          Next would be a
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motion regarding Donald Stipetich's Report and

25

Recommendation.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

May I have a motion, please?

MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board adopt
the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as
described by the OCC and that Donald Stipetich be
placed on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan

10 seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

12 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's adopted.

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The next Report and Recommendation stems from a request for removal from the Board's Self-Exclusion List by an individual at the initial J.P. The OEC filed an Answer objecting to the request.

A hearing in this matter was held in May of 2023. OEC appeared and presented documentary and testimonial evidence. J.P. failed to appear for his hearing. Evidence presented at the hearing showed that on February 6, 2011, J.P. had properly filled out all self-exclusion paperwork, signing the

acknowledgment selecting the lifetime self-exclusion period.

On January 26, 2023, almost 12 years after placing himself on the list, J.P. filed a request for removal from the list, as permitted by the Board's regulations. However, J.P. failed to provide the required Problem Gambling Assessment Verification Form signed by a certified Assessment Provider.

Following the hearing, the Hearing Officer issued an Interim Order permitting J.P. to sign a completed form by July of 2023. J.P. failed to do so. And in November of 2023, this Report and Recommendation was issued, recommending denial of the request for failure to provide sufficient evidence in support of his request for removal. This matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

Hearing none, many I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves that the Board adopt the Report and Recommendation issued by the OHA as described by the OCC, and that J.P. remain on the casino self-exclusion list.

CHAIR: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

ATTORNEY ZIMMERMANN: The final Report and Recommendation before the Board is another request to be removed from the Board's Voluntary Self-Exclusion List. K.S. states in his Petition that while gaming online one night, something popped

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion carries.

9 up on his screen and he mistakenly signed up for 10 self-exclusion. The OEC filed an Answer objecting to

11 the request to come off the list.

A hearing in this matter was held November 2nd of 2023. OEC appeared, presenting testimony and documentary evidence. And despite receiving notice, K.S. failed to appear and the hearing was held in his absence.

The uncontested evidence shows that on June 12, 2023, K.S. properly filled out the exclusion form and signed the acknowledgment choosing the one year exclusion period, acknowledging that he had reviewed the forms and understood the information available to him and that he could not request removal prior to the conclusion of the one-year period.

Subsequently, the Report and

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Recommendation issued recommends that K.S.'s request for removal from this self-exclusion be denied. And this matter is now ready for the Board's consideration.
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5 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 6 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 K.S. remain on the casino self-exclusion list.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

Manzano-Díaz second.

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

15 AYES RESPOND

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CHAIR: All opposed? Motion is adopted.

18 <u>ATTORNEY COOK:</u> That concludes the 19 matters of the OCC. Thank you.

20 <u>CHAIR:</u> Thank you, Steve and Chad.

21 We will now have the Bureau of

22 Licensing matters presented by the Director of the

23 Bureau of Licensing, Sean Hannon. Sean.

 $\underline{\text{MR. HANNON:}}$  Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Board.

Today's first licensing matter for your consideration is the renewal of Interactive

Gaming and Sports Wagering Certificates for Category

1 Licensee, PID, LLC. The Bureau of Licensing, BIE,

Bureau of Gaming Operations and Office of Sports

Wagering Operations has completed its review of the documents and the Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a Background Investigation and Suitability Report for each.

I have provided you with Draft Orders for each and ask that you first consider the renewal of PID, LLC's Interactive Gaming Certificates.

PID, LLC is renewing certificates for non-peer to peer games which simulate slot machines and non-peer to peer games that simulate table games. This matter is now ready for consideration.

CHAIR: Thank you, Cyrus.

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

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board grant
the Interactive Gaming Certificate renewal as
described by the Bureau of Licensing.

1 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner 2 Hickernell seconds. 3 CHAIR: All in favor? 4 AYES RESPOND 5 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's 6 adopted. 7 MR. HANNON: Next, for your consideration is the renewal of PID LLC's Sports 9 Wagering Certificate. 10 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel 11 has no objection. 12 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? May I have a motion, please? 13 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner 14 15 Hickernell moves that the Board grant the Sports 16 Wagering Certificate renewal as described by the 17 Bureau of Licensing. 18 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon 19 seconds.

- seconds.
- 21 AYES RESPOND
- 22 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's
- 23 adopted.

20

MR. HANNON: The next licensing matter

CHAIR: All in favor?

25 for your consideration is the Slot Machine

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Manufacturer License renewal for NRT Technology Corp.
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2
   The company was formed on September 23rd, 1993 in
3
   Toronto, Ontario, and manufactures ticket redemption
 4
   and automated teller machines. The BIE has completed
5
   its investigation of the company, and the Bureau of
 6
   Licensing has provided you with a Background
7
   Investigation and Suitability Report.
                   I have provided you with a Draft Order
9
   and ask the Board consider the Order to renew the
10
   Slot Machine Manufacturer License for NRT Technology
11
   Corp.
12
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
13
   has no objection.
14
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
15
   May I have a motion, please?
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
16
   Dillon moves that the Board grant the Slot Machine
17
18
   Manufacturer License renewal as described by the
19
   Bureau of Licensing.
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
   Manzano-Díaz, second.
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20

21

CHAIR: All in favor? 22

23 AYES RESPOND

24

25

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion carries.

MR. HANNON: Also for your

consideration is the Video Gaming Terminal

Manufacturer License renewal for Everi Payments,

Incorporated. Everi Payments is licensed in good

standing as a slot machine and 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 has reviewed the abbreviated application for a Video Gaming

Terminal Manufacturer License for Everi Payments, and I have provided you with the results of that review.

I've also provided you with a Draft
Order and ask the Board consider the Order to approve
the Video Game Terminal Manufacturer License for
Everi Payments, Incorporated.

ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel does not object.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board grant
the Video Gaming Terminal Manufacturer License
renewal as described by the Bureau of Licensing.

MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan

1 seconds. CHAIR: All in favor? 2 3 AYES RESPOND 4 CHAIR: All opposed? The motion's 5 adopted. 6 MR. HANNON: Next there are Principal 7 The Bureau of Licensing provided you with a Proposed Order for 18 Principals. I ask that the Board consider the Order approving these licenses. 10 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel 11 has no objection. 12 CHAIR: Any questions or comments? 13 May I have a motion, please? 14 MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves 15 that the Board grant the Principal Licenses as 16 described by the Bureau of Licensing. 17 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner 18 Hickernell seconds. 19 CHAIR: All in favor? 20 AYES RESPOND 21 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion passes. 22 MR. HANNON: There are also Principal 23 and Key Employee Temporary Credentials. The Bureau

of Licensing provided you with an Order regarding the

issuance of temporary credentials for six Principals

24

25

and nine Key employees. I ask the Board consider the Order approving these credentials.

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

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

Dillon moves that the Board grant the temporary

Principal and Key employee credentials as described

by the Bureau of Licensing.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

Manzano-Díaz, second.

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

14 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's adopted.

MR. HANNON: Additionally, for consideration are Gaming Employee Permits and Non-Gaming Employee Registrations. The Bureau of Licensing has provided you with a list of 598 individuals to whom the Bureau has granted Temporary or Full Occupation Permits and 272 individuals to whom the Bureau has granted registrations under the authority delegated to the Bureau of Licensing. I ask that the Board consider a motion approving the

1 Order.

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2 <u>ATTORNEY PITRE:</u> Enforcement Counsel 3 has no objection.

4 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 5 May I have a motion, please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair, Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board approve the applications for Gaming Employee Occupation Permits and Non-Gaming Employee Registrations as described by the Bureau of Licensing.

MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner

Hickernell seconds.

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

15 AYES RESPOND

adopted.

16 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed? Motion's

MR. HANNON: Next there is a recommendation of denial for one Gaming, one Gaming Level 2, and one Gaming Service Provider Applicant. The Bureau of Licensing has provided you with the Orders addressing the applicants, who the OEC has recommended for denial. I ask that the Board consider the Orders approving these denials.

ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel

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continues to request denial in each matter.
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2 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comment? May 3 I have a motion, please?

MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board deny the

Gaming, Gaming Level 2 and Gaming Service Provider

Employee Applications as described by the Bureau of

Licensing.

9 MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon 10 seconds.

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

12 AYES RESPOND

required.

these Withdrawals.

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CHAIR: All opposed? Motion carries.

MR. HANNON: The next matter for your consideration is Withdrawal Requests. In each case, the License, Permit or Registration is no longer

For today's meeting I've provided the
Board with 45 Gaming and 16 Non-Gaming Applicants. I
ask that the Board consider the Orders approving

22 <u>ATTORNEY PITRE:</u> Enforcement Counsel 23 has no objection.

24 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 25 May I have a motion, please?

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1
                   MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner
2
   Dillon moves that the Board grant the Withdrawal of
3
   Key employee, Gaming and Non-Gaming Employee
 4
   Applications as described by the Bureau of Licensing.
 5
 6
                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan
7
   seconds.
                   CHAIR:
                           All in favor?
9
   AYES RESPOND
10
                   CHAIR:
                           All opposed? Motion's
11
   adopted.
12
                               In addition, we have an
                   MR. HANNON:
13
   Order to certify Encompass Develop, Design and
   Construct, LLC and RRC Gaming Management, LLC, who
14
15
   are Gaming Service Providers. I have provided you
   with a Draft Order and ask the Board consider the
16
17
   Order certifying these companies.
18
                   ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel
19
   has no objection.
20
                   CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
21
   May I have a motion, please?
22
                   MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Madam Chair,
23
   Commissioner Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board
24
   approve the Gaming Service Provider Certifications as
25
   described by the Bureau of Licensing.
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MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan

2 seconds.

3 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

4 I'm sorry.

5 All in favor?

6 AYES RESPOND

7 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's

8 adopted.

9 MR. HANNON: Finally, for your

10 consideration are Gaming Service Provider

11 Registrations. The Bureau of Licensing provided you

12 | with an Order and an attached list of six registered

13 | Gaming Service Provider Applicants. I ask the Board

14 consider the Order registering these Gaming Service

15 Providers.

16 ATTORNEY PITRE: Enforcement Counsel

17 | has no objection.

18 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

19 May I have a motion, please?

MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner

21 Regan moves that the Board approved the Gaming

22 Service Provider Registrations as described by the

23 Bureau of Licensing.

MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner

25 Hickernell seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's

4 adopted.

MR. HANNON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR: Thank you, Sean.

Next is the OEC, Cyrus Pitre. Cyrus.

ATTORNEY PITRE: Good morning, Chair,

members of the Board.

stand and be sworn.

The OEC will present seven matters today for the Board's consideration, in which we will request the approval of two Consent Agreements and five Involuntary Exclusions.

The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is a Consent Agreement between the OEC and Category 2 Licensee and iGaming Certificant, Stadium Casino RE, LLC, doing business at Live! Casino Hotel Philadelphia. The matter will be presented by Senior Enforcement Counsel John Crohe. Representatives for Stadium Casino are present. At this time, I request that those individuals please introduce themselves for the record and that all non-attorney witnesses please

MR. CLARK: Good morning. I'm Craig

56 I'm the Executive Vice President and General 1 Clark. 2 Manager of Philadelphia Live!. 3 ATTORNEY HAYES: I'm Kevin Hayes from 4 the Saiber Law Firm. I represent Digital Gaming 5 Corporation USA, who is a sports betting and iGaming 6 operator. 7 With me from - with me here today is 8 Corey March, who is the Pennsylvania Manager for Operations for Digital Gaming Corporation USA. And 10 he will need to be sworn in. 11 ATTORNEY DIEHL: And I'm Tom Diehl, 12 D-I-E-H-L, VP of Legal, with Stadium Casino RE, LLC, 13 which does business as Live! Casino and Hotel 14 Philadelphia. 15 CHAIR: Would you stand to be sworn, 16 please? 17 COURT REPORTER: If you could raise 18 your right hands, please. 19 20 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE 21 22 CHAIR: Thank you. 23 ATTORNEY CROHE: Thank you. 24 CHAIR: You may proceed. 25 ATTORNEY CROHE: Chair, members of the

Board, John Crohe, C-R-O-H-E, Senior Enforcement Counsel for the OEC.

The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is a Consent Agreement reached between Stadium Casino RE, LLC, doing business as Live! Casino and Hotel Philadelphia, and the OEC concerning unauthorized interactive gaming.

Live! Casino entered into an agreement with Digital Gaming Corporation USA, under which Digital Gaming Corporation USA participates directly in customer-facing iGaming and sports betting under the Betway brand.

Between August 27, 2022 and September 11, 2022, unapproved college prop wager markets were offered as a result of failing to block these markets following a system update. While the unapproved markets were available, 90 wagers were placed in an amount totaling \$5,406 with a total payout of \$6,357. Following the incident, the unapproved college prop wager markets were blocked. The OEC and Stadium Casino RE, LLC, doing business as Live! Casino and Hotel Philadelphia respectfully request that the Board approve the Consent Agreement and Stipulations of Settlement, and that Stadium Casino RE, LLC doing business as Live! Casino and Hotel Philadelphia pay a

civil penalty of \$10,000, as well as a \$2,500 administrative fee for costs incurred by Board staff in connection with investigations into this matter.

CHAIR: Thank you.

Live! would you want to address the Board at this time?

MR. CLARK: Yes, just briefly. I wanted to indicate that the recitation of facts as presented by OEC is accurate and we are here available for questioning, if necessary.

CHAIR: Can you put your mic closer?
MR. CLARK: Yes, certainly.

CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions or comments from the Board?

I'd like to know what actions you have taken to make sure this does not occur again.

MR. CLARK: Yes, certainly. I would like to thank, quite frankly, Elena Portman of DGC, who's not here today. However, as you know, whenever you're involved in online gaming or sports wagering, it does require a team. And we're here in the capacity of the certificate holder. DGC was here in capacity of the platform provider and operator.

And once we received notice from the Gaming Control Board of the Consent Agreement, I

immediately reached out to DGC and spoke with Elena, who was incredibly responsive. And she helped walk us through the process and put ourselves in contact with the remaining operators.

This was an instance where the vendor that DGC was using at the time simply made a human error, as I understand it. They have a mechanism by which they would be able to catch prop wagers. This is an instance where you had a prop bet placed on college games that were not yet approved by the Gaming Control Board.

Once it was brought to their attention, they then immediately reported it to DGC and then contacted the Gaming Control Board.

What we did in this instance, one of the things that Elena and her company did was help us improve our communications. Because again, this was something that Live!, as a certificate holder did not realize at first. And then we realized, as we're going back through the process and recreating what steps took place, we then put in place mechanisms where we'd be contacted immediately and be able to get involved in the process, quite frankly, earlier.

Separate from this, independent of this, DGC was in the process of changing the vendors

and the vendor that was involved with that transaction at the time. Again, as I understand it, independent of this has been replaced by another provider, so that we're taking the lessons we learned here with respect to the human error that was involved in missing this prop wager and putting safeguards in place to keep that from happening in the future.

Now, with respect to the specifics of the safeguards, I'd have to defer to DGC, which is why we have some of the representatives here today.

ATTORNEY HAYES: Madam Chair, members of the Board, Kevin Hayes. I'm here on behalf of Digital Gaming Corporation.

In short, Digital Gaming Corporation has communicated to its current platform provider, which is Marown, that college prop bets are not permitted in Pennsylvania, they cannot be accepted. That's been clearly communicated to them.

Obviously there was a system error that allowed this to occur back in September of 2022. As soon as we were made aware of it, the issue was investigated, and made sure that all the parties involved understood that college prop bets cannot be accepted. So, we've communicated that on an ongoing

basis to our - the platform provider to ensure that does not happen again.

CHAIR: And it has not happened since?

ATTORNEY HAYES: Not that I'm aware

of, no. That's correct.

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

Commissioner Manzano-Díaz.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: So, with regard to the new company that has been told about what happened previously, can you explain to us, what is the mechanism? So, it appears that this went on for at least a month or so before it was discovered. So, how is it that if it were to happen again, that you'll be notified not a month later, but immediately? How would that work?

ATTORNEY HAYES: Corey may have better operational knowledge as to how that occurred, so I'll defer to Corey March.

MR. MARCH: Yes, now that this has occurred, we're definitely more aware of it and proactive to search for it. That's actually part of my job responsibility, and I've since been hired since this occurrence to oversee the operational functionality of the product. So, on a day-to-day

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basis I am monitoring the site to make sure that
nothing of this nature is occurring.
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 $\underline{\text{MS. MANZANO-D\'IAZ:}} \quad \text{So you're getting}$  reports on a daily basis on this?

MR. MARCH: Yes.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Okay, alright. Thank

7 you.

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

MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner
Regan moves that the Board approve the Consent
Agreement between the OEC and Stadium Casino RE, LLC,

doing business as Live! Casino Hotel Philadelphia as

14 described by the OEC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

16 Manzano-Díaz, second.

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

18 AYES RESPOND

19 <u>CHAIR:</u> All opposed? Motion is

20 adopted.

Thank you very much for appearing,

22 gentlemen.

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ATTORNEY HAYES: Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY PITRE: The next matter on

25 the agenda for the Board's consideration is a Consent

Agreement between the OEC and Fantasy Contest
Operator, Crown PA DFS, Inc., doing business as
DraftKings.

The matter will once again be presented by Senior Enforcement Counsel, John Crohe.

Representatives for DraftKings are present and at this time I request that those individuals please introduce themselves for the record and that any non-attorney witnesses please stand and be sworn.

ATTORNEY HAYES: Madam Chair, members of the Board, Kevin Hayes again, on behalf of Crown PA DFS, Inc., which is the Sports or the Fantasy Contest Operator. Here with me today is Jacob List, who is a Senior Director of Regulatory Operations for DraftKings, and Mr. List will have to be sworn in.

 $\underline{\text{CHAIR:}}$  Please stand and be sworn in by the court reporter.

JAKE LIST,

CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS FOLLOWS:

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR: And Mr. List, can you just
spell your name for the court reporter, please?

MR. LIST: The spelling of my name?

Yes.

CHAIR:

MR. LIST: J-A-K-E, L-I-S-T.

CHAIR: Just like it sounds. Thank

you.

OEC, you may proceed.

ATTORNEY CROHE: Madam Chair, members of the Board, John Crohe, once again for the OEC.

The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is a Consent Agreement reached between Crown PA DFS, Inc., doing business as DraftKings and the OEC, concerning an unauthorized Fantasy offering.

On August 17, 2022, DraftKings began offering Reignmakers Football Contests in Pennsylvania. In Reignmakers Contests, patrons utilized their own collection of digital player cards to create Fantasy Sports lineups and compete against each other in contests based on a Fantasy point scoring system to win prizes funded by DraftKings.

On August 24th, 2022, the Board's Executive Director issued a letter to DraftKings demanding that DraftKings cease offering Reignmakers

Contests in Pennsylvania.

On October 7, 2022, DraftKings issued a confirmation email to Board staff stating that Reignmakers Contests were closed in Pennsylvania.

On October 26, 2022, DraftKings discovered that a patron was able to enter a Reignmakers Contest while physically located in another jurisdiction, which did not permit Reignmakers Contests, due to a technical error.

Upon further investigation, DraftKings discovered that patrons located in Pennsylvania were also impacted by the error and thus were also able to still participate in a Reignmakers Contest.

On October 27th, 2022, DraftKings deployed an emergency release to correct the issue.

In total, 201 individuals physically located in Pennsylvania were able to enter a total of 686 Reignmakers Contests following DraftKings informing Board staff that Reignmakers Contests had been closed in Pennsylvania. DraftKings thereafter removed all upcoming Rainmaker Contest entries in which the user had entered from Pennsylvania.

The OEC and Crown PA DFS, Inc., doing business as DraftKings, respectfully request that the Board approve the Consent Agreement and Stipulations

of Settlement, and that Crown PA DFS, Inc., doing business as DraftKings, pay a civil penalty of \$10,000, as well as a \$2,500 administrative fee for costs incurred by Board staff in connection with investigations into this matter.

CHAIR: Thank you.

DraftKings, would you like to address the Board?

ATTORNEY HAYES: With your permission, Madam Chair, briefly.

We listened to the recitation of the facts, as well as the facts set forth in the Consent Agreement and the conditions in that agreement. And on behalf of Crown PA DFS, we agree with them.

As you know, Crown PA DFS, or DraftKings, was among the initial group of Fantasy Contest Operators to begin operations in a regulated environment back in 2018.

I represented Crown PA DFS before this Board since 2018, and I can attest that they are firmly committed to ensuring regulatory compliance in all aspects of their operations.

As Enforcement Counsel indicated, as indicated in the Consent Agreement, this is the first Consent Agreement for Crown PA DFS, and it is the

first Consent Agreement with regard to any of DraftKing's operations in Pennsylvania.

At this time, with your permission,

Madam Chair, I'd like to introduce Jake List, who is

here with me today. Again, Jake is the Senior

Director of Regulatory Operations for DraftKings, who

would like to offer a brief statement.

CHAIR: You may proceed, Mr. List.

MR. LIST: Madam Chair and members of the Board, good morning. Since launching its Fantasy operations under the Regulation of the PGCB in 2018, DraftKings has enjoyed positive and productive working relationship with the members of your staff, who have worked so diligently to launch Fantasy Sports, iGaming and Sports Wagering operations in Pennsylvania.

We value our relationship with the PGCB and appreciate the important role your agency has in maintaining the integrity of Fantasy Sports and gaming in Pennsylvania.

We have taken responsibility for the incident as described in the Consent Agreement and put in remediations in place to make sure that it does not occur again. I appreciate the opportunity to appear in front of you today.

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

Commissioner Manzano-Díaz.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Could you please describe the remediations that you put in place? Because at first you thought you had remediated it. Apparently that was not successful. So, now you have new remediations in place? Could you please describe that for the Board.

MR. LIST: Yes, that's correct. So, apart from obviously shutting down the game correctly, in the second instance. We have put monitoring in place which essentially will alert us for any entry into that specific game that is made in a prohibited jurisdiction, which includes Pennsylvania.

CHAIR: They accepted NFTs.

Right? Yes? Which we don't accept here.

18 <u>ATTORNEY HAYES:</u> This game involved

19 NRTs, correct.

20 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any other questions or

21 comments?

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Hearing none, may I have a motion,

23 please?

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

25 Manzano-Díaz moves that the Board approve the Consent

Agreement between the OEC and Crown PA DFS, Inc., doing business as DraftKings as described by the OEC.

MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner

4 Hickernell seconds.

CHAIR: All in favor?

6 AYES RESPOND

CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's adopted. Thank you, gentlemen.

ATTORNEY HAYES: Thank you.

ATTORNEY PITRE: The remaining matters on the agenda consist 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.

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 ripe 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.

 $\frac{\text{ATTORNEY MONAGHAN:}}{\text{Thomas Monaghan, M-O-N-A-G-H-A-N, with the OEC.}} \text{ Good morning.}$  Thomas Monaghan, M-O-N-A-G-H-A-N, with the OEC. The next matter on the agenda for the Board's consideration is a request to place Tyler Bayly on

the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

On multiple dates, Mr. Bayly cheated by past posting his wagers while playing Roulette at Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino. He was criminally charged and permanently evicted from Wind Creek for his actions. At this time the OEC requests the Board place Tyler Bayly on the Board's Involuntary Exclusion List.

22 <u>CHAIR:</u> Any questions or comments? 23 May I have a motion, please?

MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,

Commissioner Hickernell moves that the Board approve

the addition of Tyler Bayly to the Pennsylvania 2 Gaming Control Board's Involuntary Exclusion List for 3 the conduct described by the OEC.

MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon seconds.

> CHAIR: All in favor?

7 AYES RESPOND

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Motion's All opposed? CHAIR: adopted.

ATTORNEY ROLAND: Morning, Madam Chair, members of the Board, Michael Roland, R-O-L-A-N-D, with the OEC.

Next on the agenda is a request to place Neera Hudson on the Involuntary Exclusion List. The Rivers Philadelphia Surveillance Department notified Security that a blue Ford Mustang was driving recklessly on the property of Rivers Philadelphia Casino. Several vehicles and a patron were struck by the vehicle, which then drove from the scene.

Neera Hudson was later identified as the driver of the vehicle when she was involved in a fatal accident in the City of Philadelphia. Hudson was criminally charged with 23 separate charges related to the incidents, nine of which are

felonies, and the charges are pending. And Ms.
Hudson remains in custody.

The OEC now requests that the Board place Neera Hudson on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

CHAIR: Any questions or comments?

May I have a motion, please?

MR. DILLON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Dillon moves that the Board approve the addition of Neera Hudson to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion List for the conduct described by the OEC.

MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner

Manzano-Díaz second.

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

14 AYES RESPOND

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CHAIR: All opposed? Motion carries.

ATTORNEY ROLAND: The next three matters on the agenda are related and are requests to place Shakirah Britton, Dashaun Singleton and Rasheed Mason 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 list.

A Buick sedan was observed arriving at Parx Casino. Rasheed Mason was then observed exiting the vehicle and entering the Gaming Floor. While on

the floor, Mr. Mason met Dashaun Singleton and the two proceeded to steal a total of \$4,000 in chips from a table game float.

The two individuals then fled out the west entrance to the D-3 section of the parking lot, where they entered a Buick sedan which was being driven by Shakirah Britton. The three individuals then immediately sped off the property.

Surveillance footage also shows that the vehicle license plate was covered by a piece of cardboard. Mr. Mason and Mr. Singleton were both criminally charged by the Pennsylvania State Police with robbery, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, and harassment. Mr. Singleton's criminal matters are pending and Mr. Mason's criminal case is listed as inactive.

Ms. Britton was not criminally charged.

Specific to Mr. Singleton. He was also involved in a similar incident at Rivers

Philadelphia. He took \$10,500 in chips in that incident.

Specific to Mr. Mason, he was involved in a similar incident at Rivers Philadelphia. He originally took \$1,000 in chips. However, Mr. Mason

abandoned the chips before leaving the casino, and 1 2 they were recovered.

The OEC now requests that the Board place Shakirah Britton on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

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

13 MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan 14 seconds.

15 CHAIR: All in favor?

16 AYES RESPOND

adopted.

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17 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's 18

ATTORNEY ROLAND: The OEC now requests that the Board place Dashaun Singleton on the Involuntary Exclusion List.

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

24 MS. REGAN: Madam Chair, Commissioner 25 Regan moves that the Board approve the addition of

- 1 Dashaun Singleton to the PGCB Involuntary Exclusion
- 2 List for conduct described by the OEC.
- 3 MR. HICKERNELL: Commissioner
- 4 Hickernell seconds.
- 5 CHAIR: All in favor?
- 6 AYES RESPOND
- 7 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion passes.
- 8 ATTORNEY ROLAND: And the OEC now
- 9 requests that the Board place Rasheed Mason on the
- 10 Involuntary Exclusion List.
- 11 CHAIR: Any questions or comments?
- 12 May I have a motion, please?
- MR. HICKERNELL: Madam Chair,
- 14 Commissioner Hickernell moves that Board approve the
- 15 addition of Rasheed Mason to the Pennsylvania Gaming
- 16 Control Board's Involuntary Exclusion List for
- 17 conduct described by the OEC.
- 18 MS. MANZANO-DÍAZ: Commissioner
- 19 Manzano-Díaz, second.
- 20 CHAIR: All in favor?
- 21 AYES RESPOND
- 22 CHAIR: All opposed? Motion's
- 23 adopted.
- 24 ATTORNEY PITRE: Thank you. That
- 25 concludes our business.

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                            Thank you, gentlemen.
                   CHAIR:
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                   The last item on the agenda today is
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   public comment.
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                   Is there anyone in the room that would
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   like to address the Board? Seeing no one approach
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   the front of the room, let's move to adjourn.
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                   So, that concludes today's meeting.
   The next public meeting will be held on Wednesday,
   April 24th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at this location.
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                   May I have a motion to adjourn,
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   please?
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                   MS. REGAN: Commissioner Regan moves
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   to adjourn.
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                   MR. DILLON: Commissioner Dillon
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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? Motion's
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   adopted. We are now adjourned.
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               MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:14 A.M.
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