

RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION – GAMING TASK FORCE**Minutes of May 6, 2020**

The meeting of the Resilient Louisiana Commission – Gaming Task Force was convened on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 10:00, via Zoom. Present at the meeting were: Ronnie Jones, Chairman, Dan Real, Co-Chairman, Arthur Lawson, Barron Fuller, Barry Regula, Earl Barbry, II, Michael Legendre, Roseanne Thompson, Stan Guidroz, Trey Tantillo and ex-officio members, Trudy Smith, Natalie Thurman. Once the meeting commenced, ex-officio member Major Chuck McNeal was noted to be in attendance.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. The Chairman presented the Gaming Task Force's Certification for Lack of a Quorum. It was moved by Wade Duty to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2020 meeting of the Gaming Task Force. That motion was seconded by Dan Real and, there being no objection, the minutes were adopted.

Chairman Jones advised the Task Force of the procedures for the reopening of Louisiana businesses. The Resilient Louisiana Commission, after consideration of the Gaming Task Force's recommendations, will make its recommendations to the Governor. The Governor will make a final decision, after consultation with staff and public health officials, under what conditions and when gaming can resume.

Unite Here, a labor organization for gaming employees, provided the task force with its recommended guidelines for reopening gaming activity. It was noted that the task force's recommendations aligned with United Here's guidelines.

Dan Real, Gaming Task Force Co-Chairman, addressed the concerns with customer temperature checks which are mainly equipment availability and customer willingness. Similar concerns were voiced by all industry representatives. The Chairman advised that it is very likely that temperature checks will be mandated and that the industry must prepare for this condition.

The next item on the agenda was PPE acquisition issues. Industry consensus was that this was not a major issue, Sources have been found and orders made. Chairman Jones noted that, almost certainly, employees will be required to wear masks and he recommended that gaming establishments have masks available for customers.

The next item addressed was reopening challenges of 25% capacity versus 50% capacity as initially recommended by the Gaming Task Force. Representatives of the video gaming industry and a representative of the charitable gaming industry indicated that while that was not preferable, 25% capacity would be financially feasible if the number of operational devices were not limited while social distancing mandates were followed. Casino gaming representatives informed the task force that, after financial analysis, 25% capacity would not be financially feasible. Additional staffing, expenses relating to cleaning mandates and security, and low customer turnout were factors in reaching this conclusion. A 35% capacity would be feasible although 50% capacity would be preferred when a limited capacity was required. The American Gaming Association reached a similar conclusion and recommendation. Dan Real stated that the landbased casino could reopen at a 25% capacity, but that riverboat and slot facilities at racetracks might be more challenged at that level of operation.

Chairman Jones advised that gaming establishments should have their reopening plans submitted to Louisiana State Police as soon as possible. Major McNeal informed the task force that State Police is developing a checklist to assist licensees in the preparation of reopening plans. The checklist will be

available next week. He also answered in the affirmation when asked if security personnel at the video gaming establishments would assist in customer screening.

Chairman Jones announced that at the next Gaming Task Force meeting, Spectrum Gaming will present the recommendations made in its report of last year, "Comprehensive Gaming Industry Analysis: State of Louisiana."

Michael Legendre, Director, Office of Charitable Gaming, addressed the possible confusion caused by the Fire Marshall's registration clearance for safe reopening. Chairman Jones will speak with the Fire Marshall. All licensees must get approval from their respective gaming regulatory agency before reopening.

Public comments were taken.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Wade Duty to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded by Barry Regula. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned.