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RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION
GAMING TASK FORCE MEETING

(Meeting via Zoom)

MAY 12, 2020

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Good morning and
2 welcome to the Gaming Task Force
3 meeting. We'll be meeting on Tuesday
4 right now at the request of the
5 governing body of the Commission.

6 Ms. Thurman, would you call the
7 roll.

8 MS. THURMAN: Chairman Jones?

9 CHAIRMAN JONES: Here.

10 MS. THURMAN: Dan Real?

11 MR. REAL: Here.

12 MS. THURMAN: Arthur Lawson?

13 CHAIRMAN JONES: He's there. I can
14 see him.

15 MS. THURMAN: Barron Fuller?

16 MR. FULLER: Here.

17 MS. THURMAN: Barry Regula?

18 MR. REGULA: Here.

19 MS. THURMAN: Charlie Gardiner? [No
20 response.]

21 Chris Hebert?

22 MR. HEBERT: Here.

23 MS. THURMAN: Major Chuck McNeal?

24 [No response.]

25 David Sickey? [No response.]

1 Earl Barbry, II? [No response.]

2 Michael Legendre?

3 MR. LEGENDRE: Here for the

4 Department of Revenue.

5 MS. THURMAN: Ned White?

6 MR. WHITE: Here.

7 MS. THURMAN: Rosanne Thompson? Is

8 Ms. Thompson here?

9 MS. THOMPSON: Yes, I'm here.

10 MS. THURMAN: Stan Guidroz?

11 I'm going to ask everybody to please

12 mute their mikes.

13 Stan Guidroz?

14 MR. GUIDROZ: Here.

15 MS. THURMAN: Thomas LaViest? [No

16 response.]

17 Trey Tantillo? [No response.]

18 Trudy Smith?

19 MS. SMITH: Here.

20 MR. TANTILLO: Trey Tantillo here.

21 MS. THURMAN: Thank you, Trey.

22 Vincent Schwartz? [No response.]

23 And Wade Duty? Is Wade here? [No

24 response.]

25 Okay, we have a quorum.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. In
2 conformance to the existing orders,
3 Governor Edwards with respect to a
4 quorum, since we're unable to meet due
5 to the public health conference, we have
6 certified this meeting and a quorum to
7 conduct business.

8 I'd like to welcome Tim -- Ned White
9 to our group. Ned is affiliated with
10 video bingo and charitable gaming up in
11 the Monroe area. Is that correct, Ned?

12 MR. WHITE: Yes, sir, and video
13 poker in other parishes.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Great, glad to have
15 you onboard. We've also added Charlie
16 Gardiner, executive ex officio member,
17 just for coordination purposes, and
18 we're glad to have both of you here.

19 We want to start off this morning,
20 since -- and we're going to circle back
21 around and talk about what happened
22 yesterday later into the meeting, but we
23 wanted to invite Spectrum Gaming to join
24 us. Some of you have -- economic
25 development entered into a contract with

1 Spectrum more than a year ago actually
2 to do a comprehensive analysis of the
3 environment of gaming, of the industry
4 in Louisiana. It's available on our
5 website -- the Gaming Control Board
6 website, and in addition to the
7 analysis, they provided some
8 recommendations, sort of a path for
9 planning the future of this industry and
10 this state.

11 Since we accomplished our first goal
12 of meeting with the crisis of gaming in
13 Louisiana by providing recommendation
14 about getting businesses up and running,
15 we're going to be shifting our focus to
16 what policy recommendation we can make
17 moving forward that will be positive for
18 this industry over the next five years,
19 ten years, twenty years or thirty years,
20 and I thought a good starting point on
21 that would be to have Spectrum join us
22 this morning and brief all of you on
23 what their findings were.

24 Who's going to start for Spectrum?
25 Turn your microphone on, Joe. Unmute --

1 unmute yourself, Joe. There we go.

2 MR. WEINERT: Morning, Chairman
3 Jones, I'm Joe Weinert. It's our
4 pleasure to be here. Joining me from
5 the Spectrum team is Senior
6 Vice-President of Analysis, Matt Roob.
7 Matt is out of his home office in
8 Chicago, and Steven Ingis, is a VP for
9 regulatory services. His home office is
10 in Philadelphia and New Jersey --
11 Atlantic City, New Jersey.

12 As Chairman Jones indicated, we
13 completed our study for Louisiana
14 economic development about 13 months
15 ago, and in printing it out, I'm sure
16 the State of Louisiana killed a few
17 trees in doing that. So I'm just going
18 to run you through the key
19 recommendations that we made, and we're
20 happy to answer any questions that you
21 may have. We do encourage you to read
22 the whole report because there are
23 certain assumptions, background
24 references, nuances and frankly a lot of
25 other information that you're just not

1 going to get in executive summary or
2 even in this presentation today.

3 So our key recommendations, the
4 first one was to -- the relocation of
5 gaming devices. We saw the
6 Shreveport/Bossier City market is
7 getting whacked by the travel casinos in
8 Oklahoma. They are drawing customers
9 from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, WinStar
10 most notably. That's the largest casino
11 floor in the world, and they're really
12 drawing the patrons there who have gone
13 to the Shreveport/Bossier City boats.

14 So we believe that allowing -- and I
15 think this would be a business
16 decision -- not necessarily a regulatory
17 mandate but a -- but to allow up to two
18 of the operators to relocate to the
19 North Shore area of Lake Pontchartrain
20 and northeast region of Louisiana. We
21 believe this -- that this would help
22 stop gambling dollars from flowing to
23 Mississippi.

24 Mississippi has a number of inherent
25 advantages already just in terms of

1 gaming and other, you know, lower
2 regulatory requirements so that would
3 help to stimulate the dollars going
4 there.

5 Sports betting, as you know sports
6 betting is spreading across the country
7 like wildfire. Now I think we're up to
8 17 states that have it, another three --
9 three or more have legalized but have
10 yet to implement, the most recent being
11 Virginia. And I think it's only a
12 matter of time before this happens in
13 Louisiana. Mississippi already has it
14 so patrons wanting to bet legally have
15 to go to Mississippi anyway.

16 One of the big questions for the
17 State of Louisiana, who gets to offer
18 sports betting and also will you offer
19 it in retail, meaning have a physical
20 location or also digitally, meaning
21 online or through mobile channels.
22 We're finding in jurisdictions that have
23 legalized both formats, both retail and
24 digital, that the digital is the
25 overwhelming choice among betters. Here

1 in New Jersey which offers the most data
2 that we're closing in on two years of
3 legalization, up to 85 percent of the
4 total wagers are being done digitally
5 and some of that is coming from New
6 York. People are literally crossing
7 from Manhattan and going back.

8 One thing that the State of
9 Louisiana would have to decide if it
10 were to implement sports betting is do
11 you want to allow betting on college
12 teams, and a subset of that is do you
13 want to allow betting on instate college
14 teams. Some states allow that, some
15 don't. If you don't do it and people
16 want to place a bet on the Tigers
17 football team, they're going to go
18 through the illegal channels or going to
19 go to Mississippi to do it, but they're
20 not going to stop betting. And if they
21 do go to Mississippi or illegal
22 channels, they're going to bring the
23 other bets there. They're not going to
24 bet on the Saints legally and the Tigers
25 illegally. And you also need to decide

1 who gets to offer sports betting. Is it
2 going to be through the Lottery, the
3 casinos even through the truck stops, a
4 lot of policy questions there.

5 And we did not make a recommendation
6 in that regard. That's really a higher
7 level discussion that needs to be had.
8 We're certainly happy to offer our
9 thoughts and our guidance on that
10 as-needed.

11 We also recommended that the state
12 consider adopting Internet gaming or
13 what's commonly called iGaming, and this
14 is the offering of casino games over the
15 Internet, whether slots, blackjack,
16 roulette. This was supposed to be the
17 next big waive in gaming -- Internet
18 gaming. So far it's been a slow go.
19 It's legal only in three states right
20 now, New Jersey, Nevada -- sorry, four
21 states, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
22 Nevada is really limited, and Delaware
23 has such a small population that they
24 don't offer a good sample size yet. And
25 New Jersey, it has become a major part

1 of the total gaming pie, and especially
2 during the shutdown pandemic there's
3 been a lot of Internet gaming revenues
4 that really order, and I think if there
5 were legal sports to bet on, those
6 numbers would be even higher because we
7 are seeing a crossover on sports betters
8 and also the blackjack.

9 And as part of that, one
10 consideration that the State will have
11 is with the Louisiana Lottery offering
12 what is called iLottery or offering
13 their games over the Internet. I
14 believe this is happening now in six
15 states, and they offer what they call
16 Digital Instant over the Internet.
17 Virginia just legalized it. It's under
18 consideration in North Carolina.
19 Michigan is the primary -- is the best
20 example of successful iLottery, and
21 Pennsylvania also have had it; however,
22 their lottery does not offer so much
23 Digital Instance, but they offer
24 essentially what is seen as a competing
25 product. They're offering slots online.

1 And there is a lawsuit that the casino
2 industry has sued the lottery to stop
3 this, and you're offering the same games
4 and titles and yet we had to pay a big
5 license fee to get online gaming.

6 Casino free play, Matt, you want to
7 talk about the casino free play? I know
8 it's something you looked at close.

9 MR. ROOB: Got it. Hi everybody.
10 Good.morning. It's nice to see some
11 friendly faces and people I've met when
12 doing our research. Good to see y'all.

13 The issue with casino Free Play, as
14 I think the people in the industry
15 understand, is that basically it's a
16 coupon, and so if someone wants to come
17 in and spend a hundred dollars at your
18 casino, you give them 20 bucks to come
19 in, and he's got 20 to play in Illinois,
20 Indiana and other jurisdictions. That
21 \$20 coupon you give them is not taxed
22 because it's a coupon. As Wade Duty put
23 it actually, which I thought was a great
24 way to put it, was it's like going to
25 Coles with a \$20 coupon buying a hundred

1 dollar pair of pants, having the cashier
2 ring it up at 20, and you have to pay
3 tax on the hundred. I thought that was
4 a really interesting way of putting it.
5 So I've -- Wade, I've stolen that. I do
6 footnote you that, but I have stolen
7 that.

8 In other jurisdictions they don't do
9 that. In Mississippi the free play is
10 not taxed, and that's a significant
11 advantage. In both sides of the river
12 there it's -- it's easier, better for
13 me. I can given the players a better
14 deal in Mississippi than I can afford to
15 in Louisiana. And that's something
16 you-guys should consider. Will it cost
17 a little bit of revenue? It may, but it
18 also may encourage higher offers from
19 the casinos. And typically in a market
20 you see six or seven to one dollars of
21 free play to dollars of casino wear, so
22 for every dollar of free play generates
23 about six to seven dollars of casino win
24 or GGR, whatever you want to call it.
25 And, again, that depends on the market

1 and how competitive it is and things
2 like that, but that's generally the
3 average around the country for giving up
4 the 21 percent tax on that one dollar.
5 You may get the 21 percent tax on
6 another six.

7 We also recommend that the State --
8 this is a Lottery recommendation. It's
9 at the -- right now the State of
10 Louisiana has to -- the Lottery has to
11 transfer 35 percent of its gross revenue
12 to the state, and we've found that's
13 having a negative impact on the
14 lotteries and the to other, you know,
15 certain instant tickets as well as their
16 marketing; and we believe that by
17 reducing that percentage, the State
18 would be able to increase the lottery
19 sales and thus actually increase the
20 amount of money that the State gets.

21 I don't know, Chairman Jones, if
22 you're looking at lotteries with the
23 Gaming Task Force, but that was one of
24 our recommendations.

25 And our last major recommendation

1 was the Gaming Control Board regulatory
2 staff, and I'll ask Steve Ingis to
3 discuss that recommendation. Steve.

4 MR. WEINERT: Steve, you may have to
5 unmute down in the lower left corner.

6 CHAIRMAN JONES: Are you there,
7 Steve?

8 MR. WEINERT: Steve, we can't hear
9 you. You should see a microphone.

10 MR. INGIS: Good morning.

11 CHAIRMAN JONES: Good morning.

12 MR. INGIS: Third time's a charm.
13 We made a recommendation that we believe
14 it would be a more effective regulatory
15 system if additional staffing level --
16 levels were provided, assuming that
17 there is sufficient revenue recognizing
18 that in the present situation the
19 economic constraints may alter this
20 situation temporarily. Although, we
21 found that the regulatory bodies are
22 operating quite -- quite well in terms
23 of being able to regulate the industry,
24 we believe that it would enhance their
25 ability and make it more efficient if

1 there was additional staffing,
2 particularly in terms of a in-house
3 legal team to be provided for the Gaming
4 Control Board.

5 In our experience and particularly
6 the fact that I was an in-house counsel
7 for 26 years, it's a very valuable tool
8 for the regulators to have on-site
9 someone that they can confer with on
10 important legal and operational issues.
11 My discussions with Chairman Jones, he
12 also indicated that it would be
13 beneficial to have someone with
14 financial expertise on staff, and so we
15 made those recommendations in our
16 report.

17 MR. WEINERT: Chairman Jones, that's
18 a very brief summary of our primary
19 recommendations. Steve, Matt and I are
20 happy to answer any questions that you
21 or any members of the Commission may
22 have, and collectively Steve, Matt and I
23 in participating, observing, studying
24 analyzing the industry for about a
25 hundred years among the three of us,

1 we're happy to provide whatever insights
2 or information that we can.

3 CHAIRMAN JONES: Great. After the
4 last six weeks, I feel like I'm about a
5 hundred years old. I can identify with
6 that. A couple of quick questions.
7 First of all, Joe, Matt, Steve, thanks
8 for joining us this morning. What's the
9 biggest threat to this industry out of
10 everything that you looked at, your
11 colleagues looked at last year? What do
12 you see the biggest threat? Is it
13 competition or failure to sort of bring
14 the industry up to where other states
15 are?

16 MR. WEINERT: Yeah, I'll start and
17 turn it over to Matt and Steve. I
18 think, Ronnie, you hit the nail on the
19 head there. I think Louisiana overall,
20 the industry and to a certain extent the
21 regulatory scheme, it needs modernizing.
22 Louisiana was a pioneer. It's done
23 quite well, but we found some of the
24 products were old. The idea of, you
25 know, keeping gaming on riverboats which

1 tend to be cramped, multi-level, it's
2 outdated. And I think right now there's
3 not a lot of compelling product in the
4 industry, and that's not the industry's
5 fault, per se. They're trying to make
6 as much money as they can.

7 Right now, again, you've got the
8 competition in Oklahoma, which can be
9 big. I think Texas -- it's only a
10 matter of -- Texas is a question of, you
11 know, when, not if. I know every two
12 years we hear it was proposed in Texas
13 to legalize. At some point it will.

14 Once the gaming debate starts in the
15 state, it doesn't end until they have
16 success. The opponents have to win all
17 the time, the proponents only once, and
18 it will happen. And particularly you
19 can imagine the devastation if gaming
20 were allowed in Houston.

21 In Mississippi, lower tax rate,
22 sports betting, right now frankly
23 Louisiana is giving its customers a lot
24 of reason to go to Mississippi to
25 gamble. So I think those -- those are

1 the -- Matt, I'll turn it over to you
2 for your thoughts.

3 MR. ROOB: Thanks, Joe.

4 Mississippi, sounds odd to say, but had
5 a bit of advantage in the casino
6 industry when it was wiped out by
7 Katrina, and when this happened, they
8 took the opportunity to say, okay, let's
9 rethink this. What can we do to make --
10 to modernize our regulations as well as
11 our physical plan going forward so you
12 don't really have a -- at least along
13 the coast you don't have -- there's
14 nothing that even looks like a boat
15 anymore. They are all online, single
16 floor, great smoke handling, and part of
17 the reason they can do that is, A, they
18 changed the regulations in order to get
19 the industry back up and running after
20 the tragedy of Katrina, number one, and
21 number two, what they've done is by
22 virtue of having a lower tax rate,
23 they're able to keep more of their
24 money.

25 You know, it's simply the

1 marginal -- the marginal dollar that
2 goes into Mississippi is worth more. If
3 I -- I'm a hundred dollar player there,
4 I get to keep 88 percent of it. Over
5 in -- you know, in Louisiana I only keep
6 78 percent of it, so that extra
7 10 percent makes a huge difference in
8 what -- where if I'm a corporate
9 executive where I'm going to invest my
10 money and what sort of capex
11 expenditures I can afford to make in my
12 properties. And I think you see that in
13 several markets where there's been
14 under-investment in the physical plan
15 because the return's just not there as
16 it might be in another jurisdiction for
17 some of these multi-jurisdictional
18 corporations.

19 So that's one thing to look at, and
20 to paraphrase our former mayor here in
21 Chicago, never let a good crisis go to
22 waste. This may be a good opportunity
23 to bring employment back, to bring
24 development back, to bring construction
25 back, economic development of other

1 venues associated with gaming. Now may
2 be the time to say, hey, what -- we're
3 going to give you a bit of a break on
4 your taxes in order to encourage you to
5 get people back to work and expand and
6 improve your facilities.

7 MR. WEINERT: From a regulatory
8 standpoint, your thoughts on this.

9 MR. INGIS: I think that in terms of
10 competition, as Chairman Jones alluded
11 to, I agreed with what you and Matt has
12 said. It's important to be able to put
13 a spark into the industry given the
14 competition from the adjacent states,
15 particularly Mississippi, and we've
16 already addressed the tax on free play
17 in Mississippi.

18 MR. ROOB: And let's not forget
19 Arkansas just has opened up, and they
20 have Pine Bluff and a couple of things
21 going keeping people in Arkansas from
22 going to Arkansas as well.

23 MR. INGIS: Right, and I believe
24 that sports getting would be an
25 important addition to the Louisiana

1 regulatory framework particularly now as
2 Louisiana tries to start up again. You
3 need to look at additional revenue and
4 being at a level playing field with the
5 adjacent states that do offer sports
6 betting and tax incentives regarding
7 free play.

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank all of you.

9 MR. ROOB: One more thing. While we
10 understand that the relocation of boats
11 is not prohibited, that it's on a parish
12 by parish basis, it's a thumbs up or
13 thumbs down on a referendum basis, again
14 I think that a move to make that
15 argument may have more traction these
16 days, again given the economic situation
17 and what people are seeing as far as
18 dollars being transferred out of state
19 from their local community to Vicksburg
20 in the case of Monroe or to, you know,
21 the new Arkansas properties in the case
22 of some of those other parishes that are
23 on the other northern part of the state.

24 CHAIRMAN JONES: I think that's a
25 great assessment, and I've shared with

1 others my -- my sentiment that if you
2 look for good things to come out of bad
3 times, and I think one of the good
4 things that might happen in that case is
5 that the policymakers, legislators have
6 come to realize the importance of this
7 industry to the State as a whole. Those
8 of us who deal with the industry all the
9 time already knew that they had
10 surpassed oil and gas in terms of
11 revenue to the state for supporting the
12 state budget. I don't think a lot of
13 policymakers understood how many
14 thousands of people were employed by the
15 industry or how many local businesses
16 were supported by casinos and video
17 poker truck stops and businesses.

18 There's a tremendous economic ripple
19 effect that we've seen in the state, and
20 I'm hopeful that as we come around to
21 recommendations from this Task Force and
22 they sort of go up through the process,
23 with legislators that perhaps we can --
24 we can see a change in the law that will
25 permit the industry to grow and mature

1 and promote the State's economic
2 development. That's why we have gaming
3 to begin with.

4 I have one last question, and then
5 I'll turn it to over to the Task Force
6 members. With respect to sports
7 betting, the discussion has always sort
8 of gone back to, okay, where is it going
9 to be offered, what kind of platform,
10 and on the one side, it's like -- like
11 Mississippi, the casino properties,
12 brick and mortar; but if, in fact, one
13 of the reasons we want to legalize
14 sports betting is to eliminate the black
15 market, the bookies, I'm told, and I
16 believe that unless you go to a mobile
17 platform, you're never ever really going
18 to -- you're never going to eliminate it
19 completely. But you're much more likely
20 to reduce that black market if you take
21 the approach of permitting sports
22 betting on a mobile platform. Would
23 y'all agree with that?

24 MR. WEINERT: Yes. And, again, the
25 people have spoken. Again in

1 Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we're
2 seeing figures 80 percent and above for
3 the breakdown between mobile and retail
4 sports betting, and if people perceive
5 there's a inconvenience to go to a
6 casino or another retail location and
7 they can go online and just place it
8 with an offshore sports book -- and
9 those offshore sports books, they're
10 good. They may not be legal in this
11 country, but they're good. They pay;
12 they offer good odds, and in some ways
13 they're more [Inaudible] than state. I
14 think people would rather place the bet
15 legally or if it's inconvenient or they
16 don't offer the odds or the choices.
17 The amount of choices, again, I go back
18 to the early one, Louisiana will have to
19 consider, do you want to allow betting
20 on the LSU Tigers? And if it's not
21 offered, you know, where that bet's
22 going to go because people are going to
23 want to bet anyway.

24 CHAIRMAN JONES: Matt, did you want
25 to weigh in on it? Matt, do you have

1 anything to add?

2 MR. ROOB: No, Joe summed it up
3 beautifully.

4 MR. INGIS: This is Steve. I wanted
5 to add anecdotally, I believe it would
6 be beneficial if you did open it up for
7 the betting on college sports given the
8 reputation that Louisiana has. I
9 believe there's a significant clientele
10 for betting on Louisiana state football
11 for example. I believe that it's -- it
12 would be advantageous to make sports
13 betting readily available and as
14 convenient as possible.

15 CHAIRMAN JONES: I would suggest
16 that there probably were a lot of bets
17 on LSU football last year by people who
18 live in this state, but they weren't
19 done through any Louisiana sports
20 betting portal. Some may have been done
21 in neighboring states, but I'm certain a
22 lot were done offshore. I don't want to
23 take up a lot of y'all's time. I would
24 open it up to the Task Force if any of
25 them have questions with the Spectrum

1 team.

2 MR. REGULA: Barry Regula from
3 Boomtown representing Penn. Guys,
4 thanks for your remarks this morning.
5 Given the current crisis, do you think
6 we should be pursuing cashless wagers in
7 the facilities and E wage technology and
8 exposure to some of the instruments that
9 we handle in the community?

10 MR. WEINERT: Yes.

11 MR. ROOB: Absolutely, and how you
12 do it, whether you do it at the table or
13 whether you do it through an account
14 that they open up with Penn and, you
15 know, I put a thousand dollars in my
16 account and then when I go to the
17 casino, it's there at the Tropicana in
18 Las Vegas for me to play with and I can,
19 you know, use my own phone and say,
20 okay, I want to bet a hundred dollars
21 and there's a picture of a black chip
22 and it goes over to the dealer side of
23 the table and then when I win, the black
24 chip comes back to me with another black
25 chip. You know, there are -- I don't

1 know -- there's got to be technology to
2 do this.

3 If I can do touchless pay at
4 Starbucks, it doesn't seem unreasonable
5 to be able to do touchless pay at a
6 casino, and that will solve several
7 issues. My background is FP&A from a
8 bunch of different places, but anyway
9 you could never find out what the table
10 player did. You had the pit boss, and
11 he was always betting black. Oh, well
12 maybe, maybe not, and you've got the
13 drop box and you've got what the guys
14 theoretical is, but you don't really
15 know because you can't track it like a
16 slot machine. You don't have a card and
17 it doesn't track every bet, and so that
18 sort of a system would allow tracking of
19 individual players.

20 Another thing it would do is it
21 would help with AML. So if I walk into
22 the casino and I buy a thousand dollars
23 worth of chips, I'm under the threshold
24 and I give them to a good friend, now
25 you don't know they exist, but on a

1 digital platform, I couldn't do that
2 without saying, okay, transfer my money
3 over to Bob Smith or Karen Jones. That
4 would help with some of the AML issues
5 as well.

6 From a regulatory standpoint -- oh,
7 and talk about labor. No more drop
8 boxes. You have an instant drop. Every
9 second you've got a drop going on, so
10 there's no -- there's no lag time. You
11 don't need -- probably still need a soft
12 count room for the slots, but all the --
13 all the fuss and bother of transferring
14 chips to the table and fill slips and
15 all that goes away. So I would say
16 absolutely, from a safety as well as a
17 regulatory as well as a control
18 standpoint, it makes a ton of sense, and
19 now there's the technology to do it.

20 Now 15 years ago TITO was really
21 exciting because it got rid of quarters.
22 I think this is the same potential for
23 that.

24 MR. REGULA: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN JONES: Task Force members?

1 MR. REAL: Dan Real, as we work with
2 the Task Force, have you worked with
3 task forces before in other states that
4 have had success with some of the
5 recommendations you've put forward and
6 maybe have a contact that we can use and
7 reach out to help guide us as we get our
8 feet underneath us?

9 MR. WEINERT: We have done studies
10 similar to this for eight other states,
11 most recently North Carolina and
12 currently with New York. We have not
13 worked with the task force directly.
14 Typically the task force is created
15 after we do a report like this similar
16 to what you're doing now with the State
17 of Louisiana. So -- and they use our
18 studies as a tool to go forward. But
19 I'm not -- I'd have to go back and look,
20 but I don't think we've worked with the
21 task force directly.

22 Certainly some states have
23 implemented some of the recommendations
24 we made. Oftentimes they're molded and
25 shaped a little bit differently, and we

1 have -- may have recommended just based
2 on their particular needs or frankly the
3 politics of the day. But we'd be happy
4 to get back to you and, you know, look
5 back and see -- see where some of our
6 recommendations may have been
7 implemented. I think once the -- you
8 may be particularly interested, once our
9 reports for the State of North Carolina
10 are published, we'll -- we'll make sure
11 you get those, Chairman Jones, and you
12 can distribute those because North
13 Carolina right now has the lottery and
14 not much else. Like Virginia they're
15 looking to or considering widespread
16 expansion, but I'll have to get back to
17 you. That's a good question. We'll get
18 back to you on that.

19 MR. REAL: Thank you very much and
20 thanks for your comments today.

21 MR. WEINERT: You're welcome.

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else?

23 MR. GUIDROZ: Stan Guidroz,
24 Louisiana Video Gaming Association.
25 Just out of the concern for the

1 significant investments in the brick and
2 mortar facilities, you mentioned there's
3 only three markets with iGaming, and
4 it's a slow growth. How do you predict
5 the impact of Internet gaming on the
6 brick and mortar gaming revenues?

7 MR. WEINERT: Well, what we've seen
8 is that they can be complementary. You
9 know, Caesars in a number of public
10 forums has gone on record and saying
11 through the iGaming platforms that they
12 offer they're seeing 80 percent of the
13 customers are new or been inactive. So
14 that is a creative revenue. Very little
15 of it is cannibalized, and, in fact,
16 they can use the database created from
17 the digital profile to attract customers
18 to the brick and mortar properties.

19 And interesting as I was saying
20 earlier, we've seen that since sports
21 betting was introduced in New Jersey,
22 iGaming revenues have accelerated -- the
23 growth has accelerated because once
24 people are on their phones, they can
25 instantly switch over to apps to play

1 casino games; and, in fact, two of the
2 largest sports betting digital providers
3 right now are offering Internet casinos
4 as well to really capture it within a
5 single -- and, Matt, you want to fill in
6 on that?

7 MR. ROOB: Nope.

8 MR. WEINERT: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else on the
10 Task Force?

11 MR. SCHWARTZ: I have a question.
12 With Boyd Gaming when you were
13 mentioning the relocation -- I was
14 having some audio challenges -- about
15 taking some product out of the
16 Shreveport market. Did you have a
17 recommended market to relocate those
18 properties?

19 MR. ROOB: Well, we felt looking at
20 the state location or potential location
21 to other states, we felt that the North
22 Shore of Lake Pontchartrain would be a
23 good location. We also felt up to
24 Monroe would be a good location. I
25 understand -- as I mentioned earlier, I

1 understand that it's a parish by parish
2 decision. You may see the parishes
3 becoming more willing to do that, but if
4 I'm over, you know -- I forget the names
5 of the towns, but if I'm over on the
6 east side of Lake Pontchartrain or the
7 North Shore, it's a lot longer for me to
8 get to a Louisiana property than it is
9 for me to go to a Mississippi property,
10 so in order to -- from a statewide basis
11 looking at what's better for the state,
12 you might want to try to put something
13 there maintaining revenue within the
14 borders of Louisiana.

15 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you. And the
16 comment about iGaming, we had a similar
17 conversation regarding another market
18 that, you know, in the event that we had
19 this situation that we're in today with
20 the casinos shut down, because of the
21 social distancing needs and safety, that
22 certainly mobile or iGaming would
23 certainly help supplement the operators
24 as well as the state coffers, so -- so
25 that would -- that would be somewhat of

1 a primitive measure if we were in the
2 same circumstances again.

3 MR. ROOB: No, that's absolutely the
4 case, and I think if you look at New
5 Jersey -- their numbers from April will
6 come out tomorrow, and I'm dying to see
7 them. But I think if you look at New
8 Jersey's numbers in March, that was born
9 out quite dramatically.

10 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else on the
11 Task Force? Any other questions for our
12 Spectrum team? I will take that as a
13 no.

14 Gentlemen, Joe, Matt, Steve, thanks
15 for joining us this morning. I would --
16 I would really urge everyone who's on
17 the Task Force who has not read the
18 report, find it on our website. You
19 know, we didn't kill any trees by
20 putting it on the website. It's
21 voluminous. There's a lot of
22 information there, and I think some of
23 the recommendations can provide us a
24 road map as we work through the next
25 three or four weeks in getting our final

1 recommendation to the governing body for
2 the RLC. Thank you, gentlemen. Thanks
3 for being with us.

4 MR. WEINERT: My pleasure, and if
5 you or any other members of the Task
6 Force have questions this afternoon,
7 tomorrow, a few months from now, you can
8 always call us, and we'd be happy to
9 help you out.

10 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. We
11 appreciate it.

12 MR. WEINERT: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN JONES: We'll now talk
14 about -- and since I have -- have sort
15 of guided our meetings according to the
16 Robert's Rules of Disorder, I -- I
17 neglected to ask that we -- that we
18 waive the reading of the minutes from
19 the last meeting and -- and approve
20 them. If I could have a motion and a
21 second.

22 MR. LAWSON: I'll move.

23 MS. THOMPSON: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN JONES: We have a second by
25 whom? I'm sorry.

1 MS. THOMPSON: It was Rosanne.

2 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay, great, Art
3 and Dan [sic].

4 Any objection? Without objection,
5 we have -- we have come back and
6 finished out that piece that I just ran
7 completely over. I apologize for that.

8 So let me share with you a little
9 bit. We were the first task force to
10 organize ourselves. We were the first
11 to meet, and we were the first to submit
12 recommendations to the governing body of
13 the RLC, and I'm -- and I'm proud of
14 that. And I think that speaks to the --
15 the energy and the foresight of this
16 group that we've put together in this
17 task force, because you represent all
18 sectors from all parts of the state.

19 The feedback that I got from members
20 of that commission was very positive.
21 They were pleased with the work that we
22 had done. You know, we -- we prefaced
23 the recommendation with some background
24 information about this industry and how
25 important it is to the state, and that's

1 been posted for -- for anybody to go to
2 and read. And I think that's beneficial
3 to the industry for everybody to
4 understand how important it is, what a
5 huge employer we are in the state, the
6 revenue that's generated for -- for the
7 state in terms of fees. And -- and
8 deciding how we're going to move
9 forward, I think people need to
10 understand that.

11 So the recommendation went up as you
12 know to -- to permit gaming to reopen at
13 50 percent. People were supportive of
14 that, but in discussion with the -- the
15 Governor's Office and his staff, it
16 was -- it was their recommendation that
17 all businesses -- not just gaming, but
18 that all businesses reopen at 25 percent
19 of capacity. I had a discussion with
20 the staff about that. I alerted them to
21 the fact that the gaming association had
22 recommended 35 percent, but their
23 rationale I understood; and I absolutely
24 support that rationale. I think the
25 Governor is trying to be conservative in

1 getting commerce up and going. This is
2 really just a delicate balance between
3 the risk involved and the benefits, so
4 I'm respectful that first of all they're
5 permitting gaming to resume in Phase 1.
6 Gaming is not contemplated in the
7 federal plan in Phase 1, and I was very
8 concerned that we might have to wait
9 until Phase 2, which runs -- could run
10 conceivably into June, and many
11 commercial state operations in other
12 states -- gaming commercial operations
13 are going to be opening in June. But I
14 was hopeful that we made the case that
15 perhaps we could fall somewhere between
16 Phase 1 and Phase 2.

17 Well, they're permitting gaming to
18 resume operations beginning on -- on the
19 18th, next Monday. I -- I understand
20 the challenges that have been added to
21 gaming based on also limiting the number
22 of gaming positions or devices. I've
23 heard from a -- a lot of you. I heard
24 from a lot of you last night, and I've
25 heard from a lot of people today. I

1 just got a -- a message from Senator
2 Johns who serves ex officio on this, and
3 he's -- he's supportive of dropping that
4 device capacity. That's a decision. We
5 did not make a recommendation on that.
6 We left it to capacity of the gaming
7 floor and capped it at -- we recommended
8 50 percent, but I think we all certainly
9 were willing to accept 25 percent.

10 I know the -- the device cap came as
11 a surprise to many of you yesterday. We
12 -- I did not know with certainty if, in
13 fact, that would be the plan, but that's
14 the plan as it is now. I -- I believe
15 it's going to create some problems for
16 some businesses to reopen. I
17 acknowledge that, and -- and just for
18 the record, I want to get that
19 information out today so that the
20 industry has had the opportunity to
21 weigh in on -- on those restrictions.
22 So I -- I open it up for your comments.

23 Go ahead, Stan.

24 MR. GUIDROZ: Yes, sir, since we've
25 been on the phone, we've received

1 advisory notice from Gaming Enforcement
2 Division, and they're referencing the
3 guidelines that we looked at last that
4 have the social distancing as this
5 committee has discussed it; and it says
6 nothing about device restrictions at 25
7 percent. And so is the -- is the
8 advisory notice that just came out the
9 update from the Governor's Office that
10 we're going to go with?

11 CHAIRMAN JONES: I -- I have not
12 been told since yesterday --

13 MR. GUIDROZ: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: -- that is any
15 different from what they said yesterday.

16 MR. GUIDROZ: Yeah. Literally as
17 you were speaking, it came out from
18 State Police, and it says, the direction
19 of Governor Edwards' Office, and it's
20 referencing the -- the document that
21 we've been working on, so...

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: I -- I -- I suspect
23 25 percent device or position cap is
24 still in place. Obviously, if I get a
25 message while I'm here from someone --

1 the RLC governing body or the Governor's
2 staff, I'll pass that along. If I get
3 it after we complete the meeting today,
4 I will pass that along, but I do not
5 believe that that has changed since
6 yesterday.

7 How's that going to affect truck
8 stops, Stan?

9 MR. GUIDROZ: Significantly, I
10 think. I think when you -- when you're
11 looking at a 50 machine location, I'm
12 assuming we're going to round down, so
13 12-and-a-half is 12. I -- I don't think
14 it's going to be every truck stop that's
15 going to open. I've gotten calls from
16 several higher volume properties are
17 going -- you know, opening and -- and
18 feel they're going to have the demand
19 for it. I think the medium to lower
20 volume properties have a decision to
21 make. You know, I mean, just economics,
22 just like everybody else on the call has
23 made, I think at the -- at the
24 25 percent device level, it
25 definitely -- you got to go back and run

1 the numbers.

2 CHAIRMAN JONES: Art?

3 MR. LAWSON: Mr. Chairman, yeah, I
4 -- I totally agree. I think that the
5 25 percent of the devices changes the
6 whole plan that we had and -- and I know
7 others have had in opening. You know,
8 we have one location there's 19
9 machines. Those probably won't be able
10 to open, and that's just not going to be
11 cost effective. The others -- several
12 others that are going to be right on
13 the -- on the wire as to whether or not
14 they're cost effective, the time you had
15 to add, all the additional restrictions
16 and requirements and keeping the -- the
17 sanitary levels up and checking
18 temperatures and things like that. You
19 have additional burden and cost but yet
20 a severe restriction on the number of
21 devices.

22 You know, I mean, I don't know
23 whether in the gyms that are opening, is
24 it 25 percent of the machines that they
25 have or equipment in the -- in the gym,

1 or is it 25 percent of the occupancy?
2 So, I mean, I don't know if that's just
3 under the same premise, but, you know, I
4 think it's going to be a -- a big hit to
5 a lot of -- and then if we talk about
6 restaurants, I know there was some
7 mention that restaurants could -- in one
8 of our conversations that machines could
9 go on when restaurants were allowed. If
10 that is the case, if restaurants would
11 be allowed to turn on, 25 percent of the
12 three machine or two machine location
13 presents a problem as well, so...

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Trey, did you want
15 to add anything? Are you there, Trey?

16 MR. TANTILLO: Mr. Chairman, I'm
17 sorry. Can you hear me now?

18 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

19 MR. TANTILLO: I apologize.

20 CHAIRMAN JONES: That's okay.

21 MR. TANTILLO: We've had those --
22 we've had those same discussions. We've
23 kind of analyzed our different
24 properties and figuring out which
25 ones -- I mean, our -- our properties

1 range from 35 machines to 50 machines.
2 So like Arthur said, we -- we have a --
3 we have a big decision to make to -- to
4 decide and -- and see what -- what -- if
5 it's even economical for us to open up
6 those locations.

7 So that's -- that's kind of -- we're
8 in the same boat. We're kind of
9 figuring out what -- what the processes
10 are, what -- what staff we need, and
11 like I said, just to see if it's going
12 to be economical for us to open those
13 locations. So we're still working
14 through that process and figuring out
15 what -- what we should and shouldn't do.

16 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay.

17 MR. GUIDROZ: Chairman, Stan
18 Guidroz. What was the logic -- and I
19 think I'm preaching to the choir when we
20 talk about the social distancing
21 guidelines we had initially established
22 as compared to this 25 percent device.
23 What was the logic behind that
24 additional restriction?

25 CHAIRMAN JONES: My -- my sense --

1 [Inaudible] -- limitation on the number
2 of devices because that was never a part
3 of our discussion. It wasn't part of
4 our recommendation. But I know the
5 Governor's staff had that discussion
6 among themselves. And I -- and I
7 suspect -- and I don't know, and I don't
8 want to speak for the Governor and his
9 staff, but I suspect that they were just
10 trying to be very cautious about how
11 many people ended up in a place and how
12 close they were. Despite the fact that
13 we do -- I think we addressed that.

14 And the dilemma for me is that when
15 I'm with you in this task force, I'm
16 representing your interest, all right?
17 And I speak for the Task Force. But
18 when I'm not with you, I'm the
19 regulator, and I'm obliged to uphold the
20 regulations that are in place. And what
21 was conveyed to me yesterday in my role
22 as regulator was, they're going to have
23 to be caps not only on occupancy but on
24 devices. That could change. It hasn't,
25 that I'm aware of right now. I will --

1 when we're done today, I will convey the
2 concern of this group up through the
3 RLC, the governing body, and then I'm
4 sure they will convey it to the
5 Governor's Office.

6 I'm suspect the Governor and his
7 staff have already received calls, and
8 they probably already talked to people.
9 So this -- you know, this isn't some
10 surprise to them that -- that there's
11 some discomfort for [Inaudible].

12 I can hear from the casino side.
13 Wade, do you want to start?

14 MR. DUTY: Yes, sir. Obviously we
15 share the same concerns that -- that
16 Stan and Chief Lawson had articulated,
17 that, you know, if we understood the
18 concern they're attempting to address
19 through this 25 position -- or 25
20 percent position restriction, we might
21 be able to come up with some
22 alternatives, but in a quick, informal
23 polling of membership, we were looking
24 at maybe two to three casinos not
25 opening with known prior restrictions.

1 Now that number is probably more than
2 half.

3 So, you know, we don't want to seem
4 ungrateful. We don't want to seem
5 uncooperative. But, again, it's kind of
6 like, well, you can do everything to
7 open your business except unlock the
8 door.

9 So that's kind of where we find
10 ourselves now that, you know, it -- it
11 really does push us into kind of a Phase
12 2 consideration that, you know, do we
13 have any bright spots on the horizon as
14 to when that might occur and with what
15 kind of restrictions it may be
16 accompanied by. Because that's what
17 these operators are going to balance
18 against additionally as we ramp up with
19 employees, you know, to service
20 25 percent of your positions versus
21 50 percent versus whatever, you know, is
22 appropriate for social distancing really
23 impacts the number of people we've got
24 to call back and process and get
25 permitted, and that's a longer timeline.

1 So, I guess, our two questions are
2 this: What concern is the Governor's
3 staff attempting to address through this
4 25 percent positions restriction, and
5 what does Phase 2 look like and
6 prospectively -- obviously no
7 guarantees -- when might it arrive?

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: And -- and -- and I
9 can't answer the first question. The --
10 the second question is, you know,
11 we're -- we're going to move beyond this
12 into the first part of June, and
13 hopefully if the data supports lifting
14 some of the restrictions, we'll be able
15 to do that. So there may be short-term
16 relief. I -- I don't know, and I can't
17 get ahead of the game. I can't predict
18 where we're going to be on the end of
19 this month and the first week in June,
20 and -- and the Governor can't either. I
21 mean, I'm sure he made yesterday's
22 decision probably yesterday morning. Up
23 to the very end throughout the weekend,
24 they were monitoring the data, and
25 that's why none of this was shared until

1 he decided yesterday.

2 And, you know, nothing that we're
3 doing is going to be permanent, and --
4 and I realize that some businesses are
5 going to be disadvantaged by the current
6 restrictions that are in place if -- if
7 they're not eased. I understand that.
8 I know that some truck stops may not
9 open, some -- some smaller video poker
10 operations may not open, some casinos
11 may not open. I understand the business
12 model. That is a business decision that
13 each of your members of your
14 constituency will have to make.

15 There -- there's no -- in a
16 discussion with a -- with a casino
17 general manager yesterday, you know, I
18 said, what if you just -- you know, what
19 if you just open up your slot devices
20 and ignore the table games, and he said,
21 well, we've looked at that. But, you
22 know, some people come just for the
23 table games. And those are tough
24 decisions.

25 I can't make those choices for you

1 or for any of the properties. It's
2 something you're going to have to do
3 yourself. I do know that things are
4 going to get better. We're going to be
5 able to lift restrictions at some point,
6 but I don't have that date.

7 Vincent, are you there?

8 MR. DUTY: While Vincent is coming
9 on line, if I could jump in, I wasn't
10 posing those questions necessarily to
11 you, because you and I had already had
12 this -- this discussion. I guess that
13 was just more or less a request that as
14 you're communicating with the RLC and
15 the Governor's staff, to -- to try and
16 garner whatever we can from -- from
17 those communications. But thank you,
18 sir.

19 CHAIRMAN JONES: Unmute your mike,
20 Vincent. Can't hear you, Vincent.
21 There you go -- not yet. You're still
22 muted. There we go. Okay. For a
23 second.

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: I was calling on the
25 phone because I was having some

1 intermittent problems so I've hung the
2 phone up, and now I'm on the computer.
3 So I actually have similar concerns
4 that, you know, [Inaudible] most had
5 mentioned, and most of us have modeled
6 various scenarios for each of the
7 properties. I don't think we modeled
8 25 percent. So we're kind of going back
9 through the exercise and seeing -- you
10 know, each property is -- is different
11 so -- has a different level of
12 profitability at that 25 percent. So
13 we're going to go through the
14 exercise -- and see if -- if there is a
15 property that we can get open and start
16 generating some revenue. And -- and
17 hopefully there is some that we can get
18 open, but -- but certainly 25 percent is
19 fairly painful overall.

20 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay. Barry, what
21 about -- where do you-guys come in?

22 MR. REGULA: Yeah, I don't -- I
23 don't think I could add anything new. I
24 think everybody's concerns are the same
25 on this topic.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Everybody else
2 please mute. Go ahead, Barry.

3 MR. REGULA: It's the static labor
4 that you have to bring in, so if you are
5 a third generation riverboat, like those
6 main crews, you have to bring in and get
7 back up, and then there's security crews
8 at the same time. And then -- then just
9 the cash buy that you have to do to get
10 the cash back into these buildings to
11 make them flow -- you know what I mean?
12 So that kind of sets us apart from just
13 being a general business, you know, core
14 staffing and that amount of cash buy we
15 have to do at our facilities just to get
16 music back into the building.

17 So those are our concerns just like
18 everybody else. We're modeling it. I
19 think we're leaning towards to opening.
20 We want to get opening. We want to get
21 life back in these buildings. Buildings
22 that sit idle tend to go away on you one
23 way or the other [Inaudible], things
24 like that.

25 So we want to get open. We

1 appreciate this step. We wish we
2 weren't at that 25 percent limited
3 capacity of active devices. We'll model
4 it, and we'll make it work, right; but
5 the sooner we can get that percentage up
6 the happier we'll be.

7 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you.

8 Dan?

9 MR. REAL: Very similar, Mr.
10 Chairman. The one thing I would ask is
11 if there is an opportunity for some
12 change, that the Governor and the staff
13 understand the urgency with which we
14 need to work with that change. We -- we
15 all have modeled and staffed our teams
16 to live in what would be a 25 percent
17 world. Having that -- that secondary
18 restriction pop up last night was a
19 little bit of a surprise. We planned on
20 moving forward in the northwest with it
21 even -- even in place; however, it does
22 take some extra work and some extra
23 labor and also takes more devices out of
24 play, and then you have to interact with
25 your gaming operators. And there's --

1 there's just a whole bunch that goes
2 into it that I hope they understand when
3 they're making these decisions, but I --
4 I would be remiss if I didn't say how
5 it's great to be in Phase 1 and have an
6 opportunity to even debate this and
7 thank you for the work that you did.
8 You led the charge. I know by sitting
9 vice-chair that you were the leading
10 force, and so I would be remised not to
11 say thank you for taking on -- on the
12 issue firsthand and getting us to at
13 least have this debate.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Michael, you and
15 Ned want to weigh in a little bit about
16 charitable gaming, video bingo?

17 MR. LEGENDRE: I may echo
18 everybody's compliments. I mean, at
19 25 percent of the number of machines,
20 I'd have to guess that most of them will
21 not open at that.

22 Ned, Trey, y'all want to -- want to
23 voice in on that? I -- I mean,
24 25 percent of occupancy, I think
25 everybody was kind of okay with that to

1 get it open, but the 25 percent of the
2 number of machines, it would -- it would
3 probably make a decision not to open
4 right away.

5 MR. TANTILLO: It's Trey Tantillo
6 here.

7 CHAIRMAN JONES: One -- one second,
8 Trey. We've got Ned. Go ahead, Ned.

9 MR. WHITE: I agree. I totally
10 agree. I -- I don't think it's going to
11 be profitable at all. This is the first
12 I've heard of it. You know, we're
13 gearing up. You know, everybody's
14 sending in this open safely stuff
15 through the fire marshal. I actually
16 talked to an agent with the fire marshal
17 yesterday about both locations, and he
18 had actually said that the 25 percent
19 that's going to come back emailed to us
20 is going to be more liberal than what
21 the fire marshal would actually give
22 occupancy on.

23 So I don't know how that's coming
24 about, but maybe we'll take it if that's
25 what they're going to give us. But we

1 were geared up to try to get open
2 Monday, and we're filling out stuff and
3 getting it in as soon as possible; and
4 there's just no way that our industry's
5 going to be able to survive, you know,
6 like that. And then back to the three
7 machine video poker parlors, there's --
8 you know, it's just a moot point.

9 There's no -- no way we'll be opening
10 any of that with this. I strongly
11 suggest that we urge the Governor and
12 his staff to reconsider to get us back
13 to this 25 percent occupancy and not on
14 these device -- device standpoint.

15 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay. Anybody else
16 want to weigh in on this -- on this
17 issue?

18 MR. REGULA: Chairman, it's Barry.
19 I had one other thought. You know, I
20 echo what everyone else said, and we're
21 excited to be at Phase 1. We believe
22 that there has to be restrictions to
23 open safely to protect their team
24 members and our guests. We thought the
25 25 percent on occupancy would do that.

1 I'm not sure what the 25 percent
2 limitation on gaming devices does other
3 than put the state in a competitive
4 disadvantage with Oklahoma or Arkansas
5 and Mississippi.

6 But to -- to Wade's point as we move
7 on to Phase 2, if -- if we had a clearer
8 idea of what Phase 2 looked like, it
9 would help us greatly. So in the
10 discussions going forward, the sooner we
11 knew what Phase 2 looked like the better
12 it would be for us to plan on making the
13 experience better for the guests.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you, Barry.

15 Walter Leger, are you still on with
16 us? Walter, are you there? He may be
17 away.

18 Would -- would the Task Force be
19 inclined to form -- formalize its -- its
20 opinion on the -- the 25 percent cap on
21 gaming devices to put it in the form of
22 a motion to ask the RLC -- based on the
23 difficulties many of the business
24 operations will have getting back in
25 business at that, asking the RLC to

1 convey to the Governor's Office to
2 perhaps reconsider that cap and maintain
3 the 25 percent occupancy cap that had
4 been planned for? I -- I'm open to
5 suggestions.

6 MR. DUTY: I would suggest we do
7 that and also ask for an articulation of
8 what concern they're trying to address
9 with that. You've got a lot of talented
10 people with, you know, centuries of
11 combined experience. If we knew what
12 they were trying to fix, we might be
13 able to propose a more workable
14 alternative.

15 MR. REGULA: I second that.

16 MR. WHITE: I totally agree.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Can you just -- so
18 just for clarity purposes, Wade, would
19 you state the motion, which we already
20 have a second to, just so we can record
21 it appropriately.

22 MR. DUTY: Certainly. My motion
23 would be substantially along the lines
24 of ask the RLC to revisit the issue with
25 the Governor with respect to the

1 25 percent position limitation and
2 additionally to articulate as much as
3 possible what concern is trying to be
4 addressed through that 25 percent
5 position limitation that is not achieved
6 through the existing 25 percent
7 occupancy limit for social distancing.

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay, and Stan has
9 seconded that.

10 Everyone -- is there anyone who does
11 not understand the motion? [No
12 response.]

13 Is there any opposition to the
14 motion? [No response.] The motion is
15 adopted, and I will convey that today.

16 MS. RUSSELL: Hey, Ronnie?

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

18 MS. RUSSELL: Hey, this is Jade.

19 CHAIRMAN JONES: Hey, Jade.

20 MS. RUSSELL: Hey, how are you? I
21 also -- I absolutely do not, of course,
22 have any objection but would just
23 reemphasize that the Commission is not
24 scheduled to meet until Friday, so you
25 may want to just make sure that they

1 request that commissioners get that
2 information before Friday so that they
3 can start reviewing it --

4 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

5 MS. RUSSELL: -- as opposed to us
6 just kind of picking it up as soon as we
7 get on the call on Friday, so...

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Thanks
9 for reminding me of that. I sometimes
10 get lost in my own schedule, so I will
11 convey that today to the leadership of
12 the RLC and ask if they sort of fast
13 track that to commissioners to see if it
14 can be fast tracked to the attentions of
15 the Governor's Office. Because
16 ultimately that's where the decision is
17 going to have to be made one way or
18 another so thank you for that.

19 Assuming right now that there's no
20 change, those who you represent should
21 know that -- that the guidance for
22 submitting reopening plans will be --
23 has been provided. It's -- it's -- we
24 have already voted on it and it's
25 reported to the RLC, and those -- those

1 reopening plans should be submitted to
2 State Police because that's where the
3 approval is going to be. [Inaudible]
4 should be well underway in getting plans
5 together and submitted to State Police.

6 Major McNeal, are you on? Chuck
7 McNeal? Okay. I was going to see if he
8 had any specific requests, so those --

9 MAJOR MCNEAL: Can you hear me,
10 Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes, yes, now I
12 can. Is there anything you want to
13 share about that process at this point?

14 MAJOR MCNEAL: Yes, sir. The field
15 lieutenants for the casino side were
16 sent the guidelines for reopening today,
17 and we'll be getting with the GMs and
18 the compliance personnel. And for video
19 poker, the guidelines were sent out
20 through advisory through the normal
21 procedures to device owners like we
22 normally do.

23 CHAIRMAN JONES: Does anyone have
24 any questions of State Police before we
25 move on?

1 MAJOR MCNEAL: Can I answer Stan's
2 question earlier?

3 CHAIRMAN JONES: Go ahead.

4 MAJOR MCNEAL: Nothing has changed.
5 It's -- it said in the proclamation it's
6 25 and 25 percent, but of your
7 25 percent machines, they still have to
8 be social distanced that you have, so
9 you need to let us know. That's what
10 we're asking on the 25 percent, how are
11 you going to social distance those
12 machines. Are you doing -- are you
13 moving a bank, putting a barrier and so
14 forth, so we need to know that, and the
15 same thing with casinos. If you have
16 25 percent doesn't mean you still have
17 to practice -- you still have to
18 practice social distancing, and we need
19 to know what your requirements are and
20 how you're going to do that.

21 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay.

22 MR. SCHWARTZ: Vincent Schwartz, you
23 know, earlier conversations that we had
24 had we had talked about every other
25 device and -- and turning off that game,

1 and I know with only 25 percent of the
2 units being up, it might be two devices
3 in between that. But in some cases that
4 may be very close to 6 feet. It may be
5 a little more than 6 feet. Is turning
6 off, you know -- I -- I guess we had
7 talked about, you know, not really
8 getting that involved with a tape
9 measure, but is -- is that the
10 expectation is that we shut down a
11 multitude of units to create some
12 distance between the players?

13 MAJOR MCNEAL: I would say yes. It
14 has to be the distance, and, again,
15 we're not coming out with tape measures.
16 Our stance has been since we -- since we
17 discussed with the Task Force every
18 other machine. If it's in a row, it's
19 sufficient, but like when I went with --
20 to Stan's place in -- in St. Helena,
21 those carousels are -- on a carousel
22 those are typically more than 6 feet
23 apart as it is, so I would not -- we
24 would not expect that to be -- that
25 would not need to be shut off, if that

1 makes sense.

2 MR. SCHWARTZ: I -- I understand,
3 and -- and some of the four packs or a
4 five pack type carousel has, you know,
5 more distancing between them so each
6 floor is unique, and I do understand
7 that. I just wanted to kind of
8 understand what the thought process was.
9 Thank you.

10 MAJOR MCNEAL: Yes, sir. That's
11 what we're thinking.

12 CHAIRMAN JONES: Michael, do you
13 have something? I'm sorry?

14 MR. LEGENDRE: I was just going to
15 echo what Chuck had said about video
16 poker and the casinos. I sent a similar
17 letter to the -- to charitable gaming
18 with all the guidelines that we had
19 talked about before. Although the
20 25 percent machines is something new
21 that came up this morning, I was not
22 aware of that. If that's going to stand
23 or we're not going to know the answer to
24 that until Friday, that is going to be a
25 logistics problem for -- for charitable

1 gaming whether they're going to decide
2 whether they want to open or not. But I
3 did want to know -- let everyone know I
4 did send out a letter last night or
5 guidelines last night, but I did -- I
6 did have two questions for Major McNeal.

7 The last time we had met we had
8 talked about not requiring face masks on
9 patrons. Is that still in -- in place?
10 We don't require them; although, if
11 anyone wants to require it is up to them
12 and also the -- not checking the
13 temperature of patrons as they walk in
14 unless it's up to them.

15 MAJOR MCNEAL: I think that's being
16 spelled out in both -- in Chairman
17 Jones' order, but, no, we're not
18 requiring face masks for patrons. And
19 they can wear them, but they may have to
20 visually remove it themselves so we can
21 positively ID them on who they are.

22 MR. LEGENDRE: And that's -- that's
23 exactly how I stated it in my
24 guidelines.

25 MAJOR MCNEAL: Yes, sir.

1 MR. LEGENDRE: I wanted to make sure
2 that didn't change. But this 25 percent
3 of the machines, that -- that's going to
4 be probably a major issue for most of
5 my -- my video poker locations.

6 So as soon as we can get an answer
7 on that, that would be wonderful.

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: I will convey the
9 sentiment of the Task Force. Well, I
10 would say before noon, but we're at
11 11:10 now. So they will have it this
12 afternoon, and I will urge them to -- to
13 pass along [Inaudible]. That has a lot
14 to do with whether or not people will
15 start filing preopening plans, and
16 I'm -- I'm sensitive to that. So I -- I
17 don't have -- I -- I can't control when
18 you will get an answer if you get a
19 different answer, but -- but I will
20 certainly carry the message forward for
21 you today.

22 MR. LEGENDRE: Thank you. Thank
23 you, Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN JONES: Is -- is -- yes.

25 MAJOR MCNEAL: I just want to

1 clarify, Michael, you mentioned
2 temperature checks are optional.

3 CHAIRMAN JONES: They're mandatory.

4 MAJOR MCNEAL: Yeah. I just wanted
5 to clarify that.

6 MR. LEGENDRE: For workers or
7 patrons or both?

8 CHAIRMAN JONES: Patrons, that's --
9 that's part of the entry process,
10 temperature checks are mandatory.

11 MR. LEGENDRE: Temperature checks
12 for patrons is mandatory, okay.

13 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes. And -- and --

14 MR. LEGENDRE: And face masks is
15 optional for patrons.

16 CHAIRMAN JONES: But -- but we
17 recommend in our guidelines that the
18 face masks be offered. If someone comes
19 in without a face mask, the business
20 should offer them a face mask and
21 encourage them to wear it.

22 MR. LEGENDRE: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN JONES: And if the business
24 wants to be more restrictive and require
25 face masks of customers, they can do

1 that.

2 MR. LEGENDRE: Correct.

3 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay.

4 MR. LEGENDRE: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN JONES: I had missed that,
6 Dan. Thank you for bringing that up.

7 MR. LEGENDRE: I missed the
8 temperature, so it's mandated --

9 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

10 MR. LEGENDRE: -- workers and
11 patrons be checked on temperature.

12 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yeah -- yes.

13 Dan, did -- did you want to -- we're
14 sort of winding down. Did you want to
15 add anything?

16 MR. REAL: No, I just -- are you
17 going to make sure that we have some
18 public comment time? I'm not sure if
19 you're going to be able to fit that in
20 today.

21 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

22 MR. REAL: And I just -- again, I --
23 I've been able to state my points
24 earlier and thank you for the time.

25 CHAIRMAN JONES: And we are near the

1 end of our agenda. If there's anyone
2 from the public who wishes to offer
3 comment to the Task Force, we welcome to
4 hear from you now. And I don't hear
5 from anyone. We ma have received
6 comments on our website that I'm not
7 aware of; but if we have they're always
8 welcome there, and we'll make them part
9 of the record.

10 There being no further business, I
11 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

12 MR. DUTY: Motion to adjourn.

13 MR. REAL: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: I have a motion and
15 a second. Who made the motion?

16 MR. DUTY: Wade.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Wade. And second,
18 Dan. Very good.

19 Any opposition? [No response.]
20 Without opposition, we'll stand
21 adjourned. Thank you, ladies and
22 gentlemen, and I appreciate your work
23 and your time.
24
25

1 REPORTER'S PAGE

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