



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Gaming Task Force

May 12, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members Present:

- Ronnie Jones
- Chairman Dan Real
- Co-Chairman Arthur Lawson
- Barron Fuller
- Barry Regula
- Michael Legendre
- Ned White
- Rosanne Thompson
- Stan Guidroz
- Trey Tantillo
- Vincent Schwartz
- Christopher Hebert
- Trudy Smith
- Natalie Thurman
- Charlie Gardiner
- David Sickey
- Wade Duty
- Major Chuck McNeal

- Agenda and Roll Call
 - Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. The Chairman presented the Gaming Task Force's Certification for Lack of a Quorum. A motion was made by Dan Real to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020, meeting of the Gaming Task Force. The motion was seconded by Rosanne Thompson and, there being no objection, the minutes were adopted.
- Chairman Jones introduced representatives of the Spectrum Gaming Group ("Spectrum"): Joseph Weiner, Steven Ingis, and Matt Roob, who conducted the study "*Comprehensive Gaming Industry Analysis: State of Louisiana.*" They presented the recommendations made in the study which included:
 - Movement of two riverboat licensees from the Shreveport/Bossier market to Northeast Louisiana or the Northshore area of Lake Ponchartrain
 - Eliminating tax on free play which would generate more state tax revenue by growing the market
 - Legalizing internet gaming and sports betting, with the inclusion of wagering on collegiate sporting events.
- When asked about the biggest threat to the Louisiana gaming industry, Spectrum mentioned the lack of modernization such as the first-generation riverboat gaming vessels as an example. Other threats include lack of compelling products such as sports betting and internet gaming, competition from Oklahoma and Arkansas, the probability of the legalization of gaming in Texas, and lower taxes and sports betting in Mississippi.
- Spectrum advised that a referendum on sports betting may have better footing now that this crisis has occurred and that a mobile sports betting platform would provide the most tax revenue and the greatest success in eliminating or reducing black market.
- Barry Regula asked Spectrum about cashless wagering, eGaming and touchless pay technology due to the current health crisis. Spectrum agreed that those options are most preferable and this technology also provides the benefit of player tracing, solving AML issues, and abolishing the need of drop boxes and tokens while benefitting each industry's regulatory control and safety. Stan Guidroz asked Spectrum about the impact of investing in brick and mortar buildings if iGaming is legalized. Spectrum found that they can be complimentary in that 80% are new customers and can be drawn to the brick and mortar facilities.
- Chairman Jones asked if there were any other questions for the representatives of the Spectrum Gaming Group and, hearing none, thanked them for their presentation.

- Discussion of feedback from Resilient Louisiana Commission
 - The feedback from the RLC has been very positive. The Task Force showed great initiative in organizing, meeting, and submitting its recommendations to the RLC prior to any other task force.
 - Discussion was had concerning the RLC's and the Governor's Office's reaction to the Task Force's recommendations. It was conveyed that the Governor's Office would probably not agree to the 50% capacity recommendation and would instead allow a 25% capacity opening with a cap of 25% gaming devices/positions allowed. It was also conveyed that gaming would most likely be allowed in Phase One with opening of gaming facilities on May 18, 2020.
 - Representatives from all sectors of the gaming industry were unanimous in their position that the dual cap on capacity and devices or positions would make it financially impossible for many gaming operators to reopen in Phase One.
 - Wade Duty made a motion requesting that the RLC be notified of the industry's concern and that the 25% occupancy and the limitation on gaming devices/positions be reconsidered. Included as part of the motion was for the RLC to ask the Governor's Office for an explanation of the health reasons for the limitations so that the industry may address those concerns. The motion was seconded by Stan Guidroz and, there being no objection, the motion was adopted.
- Reopening Discussion and Plans
 - Chairman Jones informed the Task Force that all reopening plans must be filed with Louisiana State Police for approval.
 - Major Chuck McNeal confirmed that Casino Gaming field lieutenants received the guidelines and will meet with the general managers and compliance personnel. Video Gaming guidelines were forwarded to device owners for dissemination. Discussion was had concerning face masks, machine shut downs, temperature checks, and social distancing requirements. The Task Force guidelines were referenced.
- Adjournment
 - There being no further business, a motion was made by Wade Duty to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Real and, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Acknowledgement and adjournment