

STAFF AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: April 22, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: **Ocean Downs Smoking Area Expansion and Temporary Reduction of VLTs**

PRESENTER: James Logue, Managing Director, Gaming

ISSUE SUMMARY: Ocean Downs Casino has submitted a request for approval to expand their outdoor smoking area. Once completed, the area will consist of 93 VLTs which will be a combination of the 63 VLTs currently located in that area and 30 VLTs that will be relocated from the indoor gaming floor. The overall VLT count at the property will be unaffected by this project.

Ocean Downs has secured the necessary permits for construction. They have been providing MLGCA staff with plans, drawings and updates as required. Staff will ensure that the outdoor gaming area meets all regulatory requirements prior to commencement of gaming activities. The projected opening date will be on or around July 4, 2021. The Ocean Downs request and schematics can be found on the MLGCA shared drive under commission reports (Logue Confidential).

The construction project will require the closing of the outdoor smoking area and the removal of the existing VLTs in that area. Ocean Downs is also requesting approval for the temporary reduction and storage of 63 VLTs which will be returned to operation at the completion of the project.

Ocean Downs projects a slight reduction in gaming revenue once the VLTs are temporarily removed which will last until the outdoor smoking area is reopened.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED/REQUESTED:

- Approval of Ocean Downs' request for the expansion of their outdoor smoking area.
- Approval of the temporary reduction of 63 VLTs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval for both requests.