

STAFF AGENDA MEMORANDUM

TO: Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission
John A. Martin, Director
Jim Nielsen, Deputy Director

FROM: John J. Mooney, Managing Director, Regulatory Oversight

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: **Qualification Hearings –
Applicants for a Sports Wagering Facility License**

Commission Action Items:

Before the Commission are 3 hearings by which we request the Commission to determine whether the sports wagering applicants are qualified for a sports wagering facility license:

1. PPE Casino Resorts Maryland, LLC d/b/a Live! Casino and Hotel
2. MGM National Harbor, LLC d/b/a MGM National Harbor
3. CBAC Borrower, LLC d/b/a Horseshoe Casino Baltimore

Summary:

The Commission has delegated to Agency Staff its authority to decide whether to apply an alternative licensing standard to an applicant.

The Sports Wagering Law requires the Commission to regulate sports wagering to the same extent that it regulates casino licensing and operations under the Gaming Law (SG, Title 9, Subtitle 1A). All 3 applicants before you for qualification hearings today hold current, valid casino operation licenses that this Commission has issued. Therefore, they already meet the Commission's sports wagering qualification standards. However, the Sports Wagering Law requires a person intending to conduct or offer sports wagering in its facility or on its premises to apply for a separate sports wagering facility license and undergo an extensive background investigation, be found qualified, and be issued, a separate sports wagering facility license before it may commence sports wagering operations. These 3 applicants are before the Commission requesting that the Commission find them qualified for a sports wagering facility license, by applying alternative licensing standards based on their current valid casino and sports wagering licenses.

Because at a minimum, the 3 applicants hold a valid MLGCC gaming license, Staff has decided to apply alternative licensing standards to each applicant to satisfy the qualification requirements before the Agency conducts a full background investigation. Staff will complete an extensive background investigation in due course. The hearings will proceed separately and I will request an appropriate motion from the Commission at the end of each hearing.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED/REQUESTED:

Following each sports wagering facility license applicant's qualification hearing, Staff recommends the Commission find each applicant qualified for a sports wagering facility license by application of alternative licensing standards.