

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Wes Moore, Governor • John Martin, Director



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STAFF AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: July 20, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: Washington Commanders - Sports Wagering Licenses

PRESENTER: John Mooney, Managing Director, Regulatory Oversight

ISSUE SUMMARY: Agency staff recently learned of the sale of the Washington Commanders NFL Team to the Harris Group. The NFL owners are expected to approve the sale on July 20. The transaction is expected to close July 21. We are providing this information in advance of the transaction for transparency purposes.

The Commission has issued a Class A-1 sports wagering facility license and a mobile sports wagering facility license related to the Commanders. The Sports Wagering Law requires that the facility (retail) license be held by the owner of the Prince George's County Stadium or its designee. The designee is Maryland Stadium Sub, which holds both licenses. Commanders owner Dan Snyder is the sole principal of MSS. After the transaction closes, Mr. Snyder will no longer be associated with the Commanders or MSS. Joshua Harris, who is currently qualified by the Commission, will take control of MSS. Two other individuals will also own greater than 5% interest in MSS, but will not have any control of MSS and will not take any sports wagering profits until such time that each is qualified by the Commission.

NFL prohibits the disclosure of documents related to the sale of the Commanders until after the transaction closes. There is a desire to ensure continuity of sports wagering operations under both licenses after the transaction closes. MSS holds the two sports wagering licenses. It will continue to conduct sports wagering under Mr. Harris' control. Mr. Harris has been found qualified by the Commission. Agency staff will investigate the transaction and present its findings to the Commission for approval as soon as practicable, in accordance with State Government Article § 9-1A-19, Annotated Code of Md.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED: None. This report is for informational purposes only and updates will be provided.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Not applicable