

**New York State Gaming Commission  
27 January 2025**

A meeting of the Commission was conducted in New York, New York and Schenectady, New York.

**1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

Executive Director Robert Williams called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Establishment of a quorum was noted by Acting Secretary Kristen Buckley. In attendance in New York were Chairman Brian O'Dwyer and Members John Crotty, Sylvia Hamer, Marissa Shorenstein, and Jerry Skurnik. Members Martin Mack and Peter Moschetti attended in Schenectady.

**2. Consideration of Minutes for Meeting of 16 December 2024**

The Commission considered previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting conducted on December 16, 2024. The minutes were accepted as circulated.

**3. Consideration and Appointment of Gaming Facility Location Board Members**

- a. The Commissioners considered and appointed Marion Phillips III, of Brooklyn, as a member of the Gaming Facility Location Board for the Additional Casino Licensing Process authorized by Part RR of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Shorenstein  
APPROVED: 7-0

- b. The Commissioners considered and appointed Greg Reimers, of Mamaroneck, as a member of the Gaming Facility Location Board for the Additional Casino Licensing Process authorized by Part RR of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Crotty  
APPROVED: 7-0

**4. Report of the Executive Director**

The Executive Director presented a report that included information regarding forthcoming activities of the Division of Charitable Gaming, an overview of salient portions of the gaming-related legislation contained in the

Governor's Executive Budget and announced staff intention to seek Pre-Proposal Comment on an aspect of the Commission's Self-Exclusion rule. He also advised of a forthcoming Franchise Oversight Board meeting.

## 5. New & Old Business

- a. Gambling Advertising. Chairman O'Dwyer noted that there were practical implementation challenges in meeting the requirements of the Commission's gaming advertising regulations, as there has been a blurring between pre-event discussion and sports betting promotion. The Chairman also noted there is also a blurring of what can be considered news information and what is practically a sports wagering enticement. To ensure there was common understanding of what is subject to the law and regulations, he requested staff set an educational listening session with casino, video lottery and mobile sports wagering operators, the New York State Office of Addiction Supports and Services, the New York Council on Problem Gambling, and other interested parties to identify and resolve impediments with achieving compliance with the law.
- b. Social Gaming Activity. Chairman O'Dwyer raised concern with the conduct of social gaming, the activity or practice of playing a gambling-related game online on a social network or media platform using non-value virtual currency. The Chairman indicated a belief that there are operators conducting business inside our State that are running afoul of New York's penal restrictions on unlawful gambling. He further noted that staff have made several referrals to law enforcement and was assisting in case development and requested to be routinely informed of new information or case progress.
- c. Staff Retirement. Chairman O'Dwyer concluded by noting the impending retirement of Ronald Ochrym. He noted Ron was formerly the Executive Director of the New York State Racing & Wagering Board, and, following the 2013 merger between the Board and the New York Lottery, served as the Director of the Division of Horse Racing and Pari-Mutuel Wagering and as the Commission's Deputy Executive Director for Operations. The Chairman further noted that Ron had used his statistics background to help identify and analyze data relative to racing and that his tireless service regarding horse health and safety made the sport undeniably safer.

## 6. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.