#### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: PETITION FILED BY GREENWOOD GAMING AND
ENTERTAIMENT FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA TO CONDUCT A
POKER TOURAMENT

\* \* \* PUBLIC INPUT HEARING \* \* \*

BEFORE: GREGORY C. FAJT, CHAIRMAN

Raymond S. Angeli, James B. Ginty,

Keith R. McCall, Anthony C. Moscato,

Gary A. Sojka, Kenneth I. Trujillo; Members

Christopher Craig, Representing Robert M.

McCord, State Treasurer

Robert Coyne, Representing Daniel P.

Meuser, Secretary of Revenue

Matthew Meals, Deputy Secretary of

Agriculture, Representing George Greig,

Secretary of Agriculture

HEARING: Tuesday, July 28, 2011

10:10 a.m.

LOCATION: State Museum

300 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120

WITNESS: Ari Mizrachi

Reporter: Cynthia Piro Simpson

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#### PROCEEDINGS

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## CHAIRMAN:

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Good morning, everyone. I'm Greg Fajt, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. I'd like to ask everyone, as is our normal practice, if you could turn off any of your PDAs, Blackberries, cell phones, or put them on vibrate so they don't interfere with our communication system. I guess I better start by doing it myself. There we go.

Joining us today is Christopher Craig, representing Treasurer Rob McCord; Bob Coyne, representing our Revenue Secretary, Dan Meuser; and Matthew Meals, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, representing Secretary Greig. Thank you all for being here today.

A quorum of the Board being present, I'll call today's meeting to order. And as first order of business, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

## CHAIRMAN:

The first matter of business before the 23 Board today is a petition filed by Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment for designation of an area to conduct a poker tournament. I see that the folks from

Greenwood Gaming are here. And could I please have 1 2 you just initially introduce yourself? And any 3 non-lawyers who will be testifying today on your behalf, if you could please stand for --- to be sworn in. And then just don't start your presentation, but I'll be back to you. Just please introduce yourselves. 8 ATTORNEY KOHLER: 9 Chairman Fajt, I'm Alan Kohler from 10 Eckert Seamans, representing Greenwood Gaming and 11 Entertainment, Inc. 12 ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 13 Chairman, I'm Bryan Schroeder, just a 14 General Counsel for Greenwood Gaming and 15 Entertainment. 16 MR. MIZRACHI: 17 Ari Mizrachi, Director of Table Game Operations at Greenwood Gaming. 18 19 CHAIRMAN: 20 Okay. And are you a lawyer? 21 MR. MIZRACHI: 22 No. 23 CHAIRMAN: 24

Greenwood Gaming, if you'd please stand for swearing

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Okay. Anybody testifying on behalf of

1 in. 2 3 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE 5 MR. MIZRACHI: 6 First name's Ari, A-R-I, last name M-I-Z-R-A-C-H-I. 8 CHAIRMAN: 9 Great. Thank you. And with that, Counselor, you may begin. 10 11 ATTORNEY KOHLER: 12 Thank you, Chairman Fajt. Good morning. 13 Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Alan Kohler with 14 Eckert Seamans. We're here this morning to seek 15 regulatory approval of the Parx Open Poker Classic. You've been introduced to Bryan and Ari. Bryan is 16 17 going to do the presentation, which I believe you 18 have. Ari's here to answer any technical questions you might have about the conduct of the tournament. 19 20 So with that, I am going to turn it over to Bryan and 21 we'll get moving. 22 ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 23 Good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. 24 We are here today to discuss Parx Casino's Petition to 25 designate non-gaming floor space in our Parx East

building for our poker tournament, the Parx Open Poker Classic. And you'll forgive me, I've used an acronym for the last month and a half for this. It's POPC, P-O-P-C. It makes it easier than all those words.

So the POPC is a major tournament series. The design is for two prongs. One is to bring in additional revenue to the State, and the second is to attract poker players from outside the Pennsylvania-New Jersey area to our facility.

It's going to run from August 10th to
August 24th. We anticipate approximately 5,000
additional guests to the casino for this 15-day event.
And we've cooperated onsite with our Casino Compliance
Supervisor and representatives regarding security
requirements and surveillance requirements.

And just to give you a sense of the layout on the presentation, the third floor poker room is made up of some fully automated electronic tables and 61 poker tables that we have approved. And the non-gaming space we seek to have approved for 30 tournament tables currently, right now, is being used as a racing simulcast area. And it's used on live race days only, so Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday at Parx Casino, this is open for the horsemen to come. There's simulcasting and there's tables and chairs.

In August for about four weeks, we close live racing down at Parx, and this we saw as an opportunity to use that space for this tournament, POPC. And if you take a look at the slide ---. And there's 30 tables there. In the area that we're going to be using it for, there is a simulcast cashier area that's --- the cashiers use. That's going to be for poker registration when people come to buy-in.

And at that point --- you can move to the next slide if you want --- we imagine in terms of the general effect on racing to be nonexistent, because we already have simulcast available on the first floor of Parx Casino, in addition to our simulcast room in the casino main building. So we have two areas for simulcasting, one at Parx East and one at Parx Casino.

In terms of the tournament structure, I guess I should probably handle the tables first since they're the concrete part. We purchased 30 tables from GPI Gaming Partners International. Those are typical tournament tables with Board-approved felt. They're designed --- no drop box or anything, just designed for tournament. It's the same type that Harrah's used for its tournament that was approved a couple months ago.

The actual structure, I quess, to explain

1 POPC is it's 15 individual tournaments held over those

2 15 days, one tournament each day. And those

3 tournaments are all going to be Texas Hold'em, no

other variations, not Omaha, but just Texas Hold'em.

Some will be no limit, some will be limit.

So that's the process.

And the buy-in --- total buy-in is going to be from \$230 per person to \$2,000. And we've broken that down to a buy-in, which would cover the actual prizes awarded. That's from \$200 to \$1,850. The entry fee, which would be the revenue generated for the State, ranges from \$30 to \$150. And as an example, our main event is on August 20th. That is a \$1,850 buy-in and then a \$150 entry fee per person.

And if you go to the next slide, this is just a quick little schedule of the different types of events we have and the different buy-ins. They range, like I said, from \$200 buy-ins to \$1,850, and the entry fee ranges from \$30 to \$150.

At that point I think we've pretty much covered all this. I think the next step is just the concerns regarding security and surveillance.

Security, what we've done is we have a security guard stationed at each entrance, the initial entry to the temporary space, and there's a side entrance in the

back. We've also added an additional security guard full time near the registration area. So it's almost as having two security officers at the entrance and one security guard for the rooms. And there will be food and drink available for purchase, and all the chips in the poker area will be non-gaming.

Surveillance-wise we've added ten TTC cameras and six fixed cameras to cover the room. Also, importantly, we've added two PTC cameras at the 10 poker registration or the cashier --- the simulcast/cashier area and two fixed cameras. 11 And we're going to have 24-hour surveillance coverage of 12 this area for the entire tournament process. 1.3 14 when the tournament's not going on, the cameras will 15 still be recording, visualizing while security --- or surveillance are monitoring those cameras. 16

I guess staffing. Approximately 210 dealers were going to be used for this 15-day tournament. 160 will come from our current staff. Fifty (50) we'll be hiring from dealer schools and possibly from competitors, and the dealers will receive a regular gaming license, as is typical with Department of Licensing.

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And this final slide is just simply our request. What we're asking for is the designation of

1 the non-gaming floor space to be used temporarily for the poker tournament, actual authorization to conduct 3 a tournament. And the Board could designate an employee who could help us make decisions on the tournament as it works its way forward.

And finally, we'd hope this is the first annual one. We would hope to offer it more than once a year, tournaments in this space. So we would hope that we could have the approval done in addition future-wise for --- by delegated authority. It'd be the same location, same floor plan. If something were 12 to change, we'd obviously come back here. But if we just want to use the same space and the same floor plan, we'd hope we could use that through delegated authority.

And that's all I have in terms of my presentation. We are available to answer any questions that you may have about this.

#### CHAIRMAN:

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Thank you. And before we have questions, 21 how about if we go to Office of Enforcement Counsel for your presentation? Welcome, Mr. Miller.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

24 We just have a few questions for Parx, 25 Mr. Chairman, if we may.

## CHAIRMAN:

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Absolutely.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER

And I'll just ask the questions in general, and then, Mr. Kohler, you can ask whoever would be appropriate to respond to those questions.

Now, I understand that this is a 15-day tournament.

Do you anticipate any breaks during the tournament or will it be 15 days straight? Will there be one day for a break, or half a day or anything like that?

# ATTORNEY KOHLER:

So as Bryan spoke, the tournament consists of 15 individual events, so every day a new tournament starts at noon. Some of those tournaments last two days and will restart the next day at 2:00 p.m. Some will just end that night.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Okay. Now, I understand also that the area that the tournament's going to be held in is the normal simulcast area, but that there will be simulcast available on the first floor of the casino. Do you have any desire to publicize that? Are you going to have signs for those horse betters who want to utilize the simulcast facilities? How are you going to make that known to the public that the

simulcast area will still be available?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

We would make it known to the public
through our typical advertisement. But more
importantly, during this time of year this room is
never --- is not open to begin with, so there's ---.
No one would be up there to bet, because there's no
live racing. So the only time a horse could go up
there is when there's live racing. And in August
there's no live racing.

The horsemen are aware of it and most of our patrons are, as well. But we also ---. When you went to enter the casino, it's very clear we have simulcasting there. And we would emphasize that to our patrons and also advertise our new simulcast area in Parx Casino's main building.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

All right. Now, how soon after the tournament ---? When a tournament ends, how soon do you anticipate that you will rearrange the room and get the poker room back in shape? Are we talking 24 hours? Are we talking an hour? Can you give us an estimate?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

Sure. The poker room's not changing.

The temporary space, Dale, just that space should be converted back within two days. All the work ahead of time is adding the cameras, all along those lines.

The actual tables will be broken down and the other tables and chairs will be added --- put in, so within two days, because we're having live racing three days from then, August 27th. So we'll be ready to go with live racing on the 27th. That room will be open and ready to go for simulcast.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Now, how about the temporary cameras?

You're putting up a number of temporary cameras. Will they be removed or do you anticipate that some of them will stay and ---?

### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

They're all staying.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

So ---.

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#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

They're all staying. If we were to use this space again subsequently for a different --- for another tournament, the cameras will already be in place.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

All right. Now, I understand also from

your presentation that alcoholic drinks will be served, but they won't be free. They'll be for purchase. Is there a bar area set up and a bartender where those alcoholic drinks will be served?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

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There is a bar. This is the entire third floor. The temporary space is to the right. To the left is the bar area that's used for the poker room, and they can purchase food and drinks there.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Okay. So there'll be no new bar area?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

There's no new bar area.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Okay. Great. Now, you said that there'll be a number of temporary employees. I believe there's going to be 50.

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

I don't know if temporary so much as they're going to be hired by us to work for just this event. But room for a regular gaming license.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Will they be hired just for 15 days or will there be a week window on either side of that 15 2.4 days so they'll get maybe a month worth of work out of that? What do you anticipate regarding that employment?

#### MR. MIZRACHI:

Yes, we plan on doing an orientation with training a week prior to, and then they would deal up until the 24th. They'll only stay on board if business levels would stand and we will hold them on, because they will have a standard gaming license and whatnot. But our goal is one week prior and then up until the last day, which is the 24th.

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Now, one of our objections was that there may be some impact on normal revenue to the Commonwealth because of the change around of the tables and that sort of thing. Can you give us some detail on why you think that there won't be any negative impact on revenue to the Commonwealth and perhaps will even be more revenue to the Commonwealth? Please address that issue.

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

Sure. Parx is projecting a 20 percent increase in poker revenue due to this tournament, and it's ---. There's two types of scenarios I probably would like to explain, because that probably clears the issue up fairly easily.

For those 15 days we expect on most days
--- actually, on probably all but one of them. The
first day will be a special day. Every other day
after that we project between 200 and 350 patrons. So
that would cover --- that's 10 people per table, so
the 30 tables in the temporary space will be fully
occupied, and we've had some overflow into our poker
room, 5 to 10 tables. We would still be able to offer
our cash games on a regular basis for regular revenue
like we normally do.

At noon on a Wednesday we have 10 or 12 games already opened, so on a regular basis we assume this is not going to affect the cash games at all.

It's simply going to increase revenue based on the entry fees.

However, if for some reason we'd have --we would love to have it --- 900 people show up every
single day for 15 days, only ---. Our cash games will
only be temporarily closed for a few hours. What
would happen is the --- if we have 910 people show up,
all the tables will be occupied. Everyone would pay
an entry fee. On the high end, that could be three to
four times what we would make in a normal day, just
the entry fee. On the lowest entry fee of \$30, it
would roughly be about \$27,300?

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

Yes.

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

\$27,300. And that's a little bit below our average of about \$40,000 a day. However, after four hours, based on our operational experience and our directors and managers, a poker tournament's population is cut in half, so 91 tables would be cut to 45 in a matter of four hours. In two hours we would have probably available 20 tables to conduct cash games.

So suspension of cash games would only be for a few hours, and on almost every entry fee we would be at our average revenue. So the two-hour suspension and any additional gaming done that day would increase our average poker take each day.

So now, we plan that's going to happen on the first day when we have a \$300 buy-in and a \$40 entry fee. So the entry fee --- and we have 900 full people on that first day --- would be \$36,400. That is about close to our average of \$40,000 a day, depending if it's a Saturday, a Sunday or a Monday.

After two hours, 20 tables will be available for cash games. There will already be some 200 extra persons who have just been eliminated who

are going to want to continue to play. We'll have 2 constant people there and demands that will increase 3 the revenue. And as the tables are eliminated and we slowly shrink down, we will keep opening cash games. So we don't envision that being a problem at all in terms of revenue taken. That's why we projected a 20 percent increase in our poker revenue for these 15 days.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

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Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I must I didn't state my name for the record, and apologize. I'll do that now. I'm Dale Miller, M-I-L-E-R, the Deputy Chief Enforcement Counsel for the Eastern District.

We don't have any further questions of 16 Parx, but I must say that we have a number of objections in our response to their petition. supplement that Parx filed answered those objections, and I have to state that I had a conference, an oral conference with representatives of Parx with regard to our paragraph 25 and the buy-in and entry fees. explained the buy-in and entry fees orally to us, which was certainly easier, and we're satisfied with their presentation today. And that's all we have.

#### CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Does the Board have any questions of Greenwood? Commissioner Sojka?

#### MR. SOJKA:

I do, of course. Following up on the recently identified Mr. Miller's question, you will actually have people walking through your newly created simulcast area in order to get to POPC; is that right? Because you're going to put that down on the first floor and this is going to be up on the second floor; is that right?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

The POPC will be on the third floor.

## MR. SOJKA:

On the third ---. But what you're actually doing is exposing some poker players to simulcast that they may not have been exposed to before; right? That's a plus.

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

It is possible, in addition to people from outside of the normal area who are coming in to experience for the first time.

#### MR. SOJKA:

And so they will actually see that up and running and will be made aware that it exists, and you'll also indicate to them that there's also a

similar facility next door; right?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

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#### MR. SOJKA:

Okay. You gave us the number of players that you expect to come from out of state. How many was that, again?

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

I apologize. I don't think we have a set 10 number coming from out of state. We do expect on a daily basis approximately 200 to 350. And over the 15 12 days the total number of unique guests that come to play just POPC would be approximately 5,000. The 14 breakdown of out-of-state I am not 100 percent sure. I'm not sure. I would be speculating to guess.

## MR. MIZRACHI:

Typically, these major tournaments have a strong following from a national level. So what this tournament does for us is gets us some national exposure, which we don't have today.

#### MR. SOJKA:

And it also creates, then, in the 23 Bensalem area the need for possible outside-yourfacility reference, and maybe hotels.

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

Hotels, yes.

#### MR. SOJKA:

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Yeah. Have you talked to any of the hotels or anything about this possible influx?

#### MR. MIZRACHI:

Yeah, we have seven hotels that are working with us that are giving these poker players a special rate.

#### MR. SOJKA:

Excellent. Now, that means then that in order to get these --- this national following, you 12 must've advertised outside the region and have found some of these people. Was there a push to get it pushed out of this region?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

There was a push, and I would refer to Ari.

#### MR. MIZRACHI:

Yeah, we used traditional publications, which is our two major poker publications, which is Card Player and Poker Player. We've advertised with them. We're using social media, billboards and whatnot all throughout the nation to push this.

## MR. SOJKA:

And interestingly, that's what I thought.

Certainly on your billboards and in your print ads you'll carry the required caveats about habitual gaming and problem gaming. What about the social media contacts? Do they carry that same caveat?

## MR. MIZRACHI:

Yes, the 1-800-GAMBLER, yes.

#### MR. SOJKA:

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Okay. Okay. The non-gaming chips that'll be used, of course, would be no target for a thief. They are not worth anything. How long will money actually be in that room, because people are coming in to, you know, buy in and register and whatnot? Real coin of the realm will be in that room for a limited period of time? You're going to take the money and then get it out of there?

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

I believe it's staying there.

#### MR. MIZRACHI:

The temporary cage, as Bryan spoke earlier, the buy-ins will be done at this temporary facility and the pay-outs will be done at the main cage or the poker cage. So our temporary facility will only be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., so all funds will be transferred to the main cage at 2:00 a.m. every day.

## MR. SOJKA:

Okay. Good. And then I'd just like to finish with one ---. I'm going to reveal where I stand on one request that you just made, and that is I certainly understand the need for delegated authority. I understand the reasoning behind it. My own personal stance on that would be I'd like to see this one run and then entertain that request after the fact.

#### CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Other questions from Board members? I have two quick questions on the security. I believe you had mentioned that you are having additional security. Can you go over that one more time? I'm interested in the true additional security that you're going to have for this one tournament and where they're going to be placed.

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

Can you go back to the big map? To the left is the poker room, and in the poker room we have our regular security at the entranceway. To the right is the temporary space. If you look to the lower right-hand corner, there's a double doors kind of opening there.

#### CHAIRMAN:

Uh-huh (yes).

27 1 Yes. 2 CHAIRMAN: 3 --- an additional security? ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 4 5 Second additional security guard. 6 CHAIRMAN: Okay. ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 8 9 And then as you work your way up in the center there, there's a little --- I quess a column. 10 11 Your other security guard will be posted there, so you 12 have two in that vicinity where the money is, right 13 there in the entryway, one on the back entrance. And 14 then we have a fourth security guard roving those 30 15 tables, just walking through. 16 CHAIRMAN: 17 Okay. So that's four additional or one 18 of them is not? 19 ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 20 Four additional to the typical standard 21 minimum staffing. 22 CHAIRMAN: 23 Okay.

## ATTORNEY KOHLER:

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By the way, Chairman Fajt, this was an

issue raised by OEC and, you know, we took it 1 2 seriously and made sure we accommodated their concerns 3 well.

#### CHAIRMAN:

Okay. So the four additional security officers will be there at all times while the tournament is running?

## ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

Yes, sir.

## CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Second issue you had raised about 12 the 24-hour security surveillance, even if the 13 tournament's not running during that time period. I quess this might be a question for OEC, but if you know the answer, feel free to weigh in. Does PSP and our CCRs also have access to those new temporary cameras at all times?

#### ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

When they want to, yes.

## CHAIRMAN:

Okay. When they want to. That's what

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## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

24 Right.

25 CHAIRMAN: Right. I know they have ---.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

They'll be able to have access. know, we're not going to have somebody in the surveillance room ---.

## CHAIRMAN:

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I understand that. They do have access if they want it during the whole 24-hour period.

## ATTORNEY DALE MILLER:

They will. And I have to say, Chairman, that we discussed this with our CCRs. They reviewed 12 the plan, gave their input before we began to work with Parx on this. And as Mr. Kohler said, we required them to have an additional security officer at the buy-in desk. They agreed to do that. And the CCRs, as far as I know, are satisfied that they can provide the required security and surveillance for this event.

#### CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. That's all I have. Any other questions from any Board members? Commissioner Trujillo?

## MR. TRUJILLO:

On your marketing and attracting the players, are you going through any particular efforts 1 to bring in kind of known players? And then just the follow-up for that would just be, are you doing anything in terms of televising, or are there any plans in the future to do so?

#### ATTORNEY SCHROEDER:

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Right now we are not televising this tournament. It has been discussed possibly in the future. I do want to see how this runs first. be the first step. In terms of name players, I'm going to let Ari speak to this. We're doing a special, and I'll let you go ahead.

## MR. MIZRACHI:

So in order to answer from a national level to Mr. Trujillo's point, it is important to have some poker celebrities, as I might say, for lack of a better term. So we are working on a poker seminar the day before our main event. Our main event is August 20th.

So we're working on a poker seminar where these four professionals will kind of teach new players to the game, current players to the game of all levels, skill and whatnot. So from a marketing perspective, we'll be using their names, and they'll also be holding a seminar the day before the main event.

# 31 1 MR. TRUJILLO: That's all. 2 3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Does OEC have any additional 4 comments? 6 ATTORNEY DALE MILLER: The only comment we have, Mr. Chairman, is that we did have a number of objections based on the petition. After Parx filed their supplement and 10 after this presentation and the responses to your questions and our questions, we're satisfied that 11 12 those objections have been overcome, and we will withdraw those at this time. 13 14 CHAIRMAN: 15 I imagine that Greenwood wants to Okay. move this presentation into the record? 16 17 ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 18 Yes. 19 CHAIRMAN: 20 Okay. So moved. Does Greenwood have any additional comments? 21 22 ATTORNEY SCHROEDER: 23 No, sir. 24 CHAIRMAN:

Okay. With that, I know normally we

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1 would adjourn for an executive session. I don't think that's necessary, so we will move on. And thank you very much. We'll take this matter up today in the course of our regular meeting.

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 10:35 A.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Chairman Fajt, was reported by me on 06/28/2011 and that I Cynthia Piro Simpson read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

rt Reporter