

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: RIVERS CASINO, LICENSE RENEWAL

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * *

BEFORE: Linda Lloyd, Director, Presiding Officer

William H. Ryan, Jr., Chairman

Richard G. Jewell, Commissioner

Anthony Moscato, Commissioner

Annamarie Kaiser, Commissioner

Gregory C. Fajt, Commissioner

Keith R. McCall, Commissioner

David W. Woods, Commissioner

HEARING: Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Allegheny County Courthouse

436 Grant Street

Gold Room

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Reporter: Juliette J. Hoffman

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER:

1
2 -----
3
4 Good afternoon everyone. My name is
5 Linda Lloyd and I'm the Presiding Officer assigned by
6 the Board to conduct this portion of the Category 2
7 License Renewal hearing for Holdings Acquisition
8 Company, LP doing business as the Rivers Casino.
9 Before we begin if we could all turn off or at least
10 to vibrate our --- all of our electronics so we don't
11 interrupt our speakers.

12 As Presiding Officer I call this hearing
13 to order. The date is Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015. The
14 time is one o'clock and the location is the Allegheny
15 County Courthouse, Gold Room Number 410, 436 Grant
16 Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

17 I would like to thank the courthouse
18 staff for all their help in holding this hearing and I
19 would also like to thank the Sheriff's office and the
20 staff and the county --- the city police that I
21 understand are outside the building providing some
22 guidance. We thank them as well.

23 Pennsylvania Racehorse Development and
24 Gaming Act, Section 1326 that an Operator's License
25 shall be subject to the renewal by the Board every

1 three years. This license renewal hearing is convened
2 by the Board pursuant to the mandate found in Section
3 1205(b)(1)(i) of the Gaming Act, which requires the
4 Board to conduct a public hearing for any License
5 Renewal Application.

6 This public hearing was advertised on
7 the Board's website, announced by the Board at several
8 Board meetings and advertised in local newspapers.
9 Present today for the hearing are all the Board
10 members. To my immediate right is Chairman Bill Ryan.

11 CHAIRMAN:

12 Thank you very much, Linda. Good
13 afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Can everybody hear
14 me? I am the Chairman of the Board and I just wanted
15 to take a few moments, if I could, to introduce the
16 newest member of the Gaming Board, Mr. Dick Jewell.

17 Dick, why don't you stand and be
18 recognized? Dick is a long time, long time resident
19 of the Pittsburgh area. He is a graduate of Grove
20 City College and the University of Michigan Law
21 School. Dick practiced law and forensic accounting
22 locally and nationally for about 30 years before
23 becoming president of Grove City College in 2003.

24 And Dick served in that capacity for 11
25 years until he retired in 2014. So ladies and

1 gentlemen, again, it's my pleasure to introduce and to
2 welcome Dick Jewell. And, Dick, we all are looking
3 forward to working with you and I know I speak for
4 every one of us when I say welcome to the Board.

5 MR. JEWELL:

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appreciate it.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER:

8 And the remaining Board members. To my
9 far right is David Woods and Commissioner Keith
10 McCall. To my immediate left Greg Fajt, Annmarie
11 Kaiser and Tony Moscato. So the hearing today will
12 begin with the presentation by the Rivers Casino.
13 Office of Enforcement Counsel (OEC) will have
14 opportunity to cross examine and the Board will have
15 an opportunity to ask questions.

16 After the River has concluded and all
17 the questions are asked the Board's OEC will also make
18 a presentation with questions by the Rivers if they
19 deem appropriate and any questions by the Board.
20 After the close of the testimony and evidence from the
21 parties those individuals who have registered to speak
22 today at the hearing during the public comment period
23 will be heard as their name's called.

24 Following the close of the public
25 comment period we'll wrap up and each party will have

1 the opportunity to provide a closing statement. This
2 is an official administrative hearing, so please treat
3 this as if you were attending a court proceeding. All
4 witnesses, if you would please speak loudly and
5 clearly into the microphone so that the court reporter
6 who's sitting down here to my right on the end can
7 hear you.

8 And please, spectators, refrain from
9 interrupting. If anybody has questions during the
10 hearing we have Board staff scattered throughout the
11 room who will try to answer that for you. And I would
12 remind all of you, the first time you speak if you
13 could state and spell your name for the court reporter
14 and the record, and I'll remind you if you don't.

15 So let's begin by having all the
16 witnesses from the Rivers and the OEC who'll testify
17 during the hearing please rise and raise your right
18 hand to be sworn.

19 -----

20 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE:

21 -----

22 PRESIDING OFFICER:

23 So, Counsel, if you are ready.

24 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

25 Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr.

1 Chairman, members of the Commission, Director Lloyd.
2 Welcome new Commissioner. We're happy to have another
3 lawyer. Can't have enough lawyers. I don't know
4 about the forensics, kind of makes me a little
5 nervous. This public input hearing for --- as
6 everyone knows for Holdings Acquisition, kind of a
7 weird name, but it's one we got stuck when it was
8 created and when the Chicago Bloom outfit helped out
9 taking control of this property when there was some
10 difficulties back in the financial crisis. Commonly
11 known as Rivers Casino.

12 I want to put on the record that this is
13 a kind of the beginning of a long process. Back in
14 July and August we filed 30 forms for business
15 entities associated with this Licensee and 20 for
16 personal individuals, Personal History Disclosure
17 Form, Pennsylvania Supplements.

18 The forms we filed would have filled a
19 UPS truck if they had not been electronic, so this is
20 part of the process and I think the public needs to
21 know what goes in --- what kind of arduous task this
22 is. We file these forms and then the people from BIE
23 who will be testifying today go over that. There are
24 personal interviews of the individuals who are
25 involved, so it's an extremely complicated and

1 thorough process, so --- and one that we take very
2 seriously and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
3 takes very seriously.

4 And I don't think the general public
5 understands what goes into licensing and regulating
6 one of these entities, so we appreciate that help and
7 so on. Today I'd like to first read into the record a
8 letter that came in a little bit just today from ---
9 or just yesterday, I'm sorry, from County Executive
10 Rich Fitzgerald. Director Lloyd has the other
11 letters, but it's directed to Chairman Ryan and the
12 members of the Board.

13 And it reads, I write today to convey my
14 support for the Rivers Casino License Renewal
15 Application, which is currently before the Board. I
16 understand that the public hearing that's being held
17 this week will allow you to gather evidence including
18 public comment on this renewal. I ask that you
19 include this letter as part of the process. Over
20 1,800 people are employed at the Rivers Casino, which
21 opened in 2009.

22 Since its debut it has been a premier
23 destination on Pittsburgh's North Shore, which
24 provides first class dining and entertainment in
25 addition to gaming. During that time the casino has

1 also been a great community partner with its
2 commitment to dedicating time to non-profits that
3 impact the Pittsburgh region and its residents. This
4 is included living up to its commitment to providing
5 ongoing funding for the Consol, C-O-N-S-O-L, Energy
6 Center with the contribution of \$7.5 million annually.

7 In the 2013/'14 fiscal year the casino
8 and its partners provided \$5.5 million in revenue to
9 the county, \$9.9 million to the City of Pittsburgh,
10 \$102,000 to the Visitors Bureau of Monroeville and
11 \$1.3 million to the school districts of the county.
12 These are revenues that would otherwise come from our
13 taxpayers. The Rivers Casino is an asset to our
14 community, has proven itself to be a strong community
15 partner.

16 I urge the Pennsylvania Gaming Control
17 Board to renew the license of the Rivers Casino at its
18 earliest opportunity so that we may continue to rely
19 upon their partnership in our region and it's signed
20 Rich Fitzgerald, the County Executive, County of
21 Allegheny.

22 I want to thank all the green team for
23 coming out today. We appreciate that. Today we'll be
24 --- you'll be presented --- we'll have a PowerPoint
25 presentation, but speaking will be David Patent who's

1 the president and Chief Operating Officer at Rush
2 Street Gaming, Craig Clark who is the general manager
3 of Rivers Casino, Mary Cheeks Senior Vice President
4 who --- of finance, who will have an announcement to
5 make to you as well.

6 Andre Barnabei who is the Vice President
7 of Human Resources, Rhonda Gilchrist, Vice President
8 of Compliance and Rahmon Hart, the Director of
9 Community Relations. With that I'll turn it over to
10 David Patent.

11 MR. PATENT:

12 Thank you, John.

13 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

14 Thank you.

15 MR. PATENT:

16 My name is David Patent. That's spelled
17 D-A-V-I-D, P-A-T-E-N-T. I'm the President and Chief
18 Operating Office for Rush Street Gaming. Good
19 afternoon, Chairman Ryan, members of the Gaming
20 Control Board, Director Lloyd. It's my pleasure today
21 to appear before you on behalf of Rivers at our
22 relicensing hearing. The microphone seems to be going
23 in and out, so we'll do our best.

24 Today you're going to hear from a number
25 of executives, team members and community partners.

1 They're going to speak in support of our relicensing
2 and I want to thank everybody in advance for coming
3 out and for their support. Now, for this presentation
4 they really gave me the easy part. I get to talk
5 about the last four years and some of the improvements
6 and enhancements that we've made to the facility since
7 2011.

8 Now, to start off here's an overview of
9 the facility. We're located on the North Shore in
10 Pittsburgh. We're really right in the middle of a
11 very vibrant commercial area. We sit virtually next
12 door to Heinz Field where the Steelers play and just a
13 few blocks down from PNC Park where the Pirates play.
14 We're also very close to the Convention Center and
15 Consol Energy also is not that far from our facility.

16 In terms of the actual --- what's inside
17 the building I'm not going to go through every bullet
18 point, but it's a very large gaming floor. We've got
19 nearly 3,000 slot machines, a large number of table
20 games, some great food and beverage entertainment
21 options for our guests as well.

22 We have a banquet space that we added in
23 2011, a high end Players Lounge, very ample parking
24 and over 4.6 million people visit our facility every
25 year. I'm hoping our technical advisor solved the

1 problem there. Here's a look at the improvements that
2 we've made since our 2011 relicensing and I'm also
3 going to talk a little bit about our future
4 development plans.

5 As you know, in 2010 we expanded the
6 facility, essentially added hundreds of new jobs ---
7 and added hundreds of new jobs when we added table
8 games to our gaming products. And then since 2011
9 we've had a number of enhancements. In 2011 we added
10 a banquet facility, in 2012 we created two separate
11 rooms for our high limit slot and table players.

12 Then in 2013 we completely renovated and
13 expanded our Players Club and in 2014 spent
14 significant sums on property maintenance and slot
15 refresh. In 2015 you can see the numbers that we plan
16 to spend, a little over \$6 million this year in
17 maintenance capital bringing our year average to about
18 \$9 million a year and if you include 2015 we will have
19 put over \$15 million in capital improvements in the
20 property since 2010.

21 So the banquet meeting space, we wanted
22 to make sure we weren't just entertaining gaming
23 customers. We spent \$5 million on the space. It's
24 got a number of configurations and can be used for a
25 wide range of functions. Meetings, concerts, trade

1 shows. We'll do comedy shows there as well, dinners,
2 corporate meetings and, in fact, we've had over
3 170,000 people through that room since we opened and
4 about 15,000 unique gaming customers who've been
5 introduced to the property as well.

6 When we opened the facility our slot and
7 table high limit rooms were actually contained in a
8 single room. We decided to separate them and enhance
9 them and spent \$5 and a half million. We've got about
10 70 slots in our high limit slot room. We've got a
11 very nice table game room that's got a private entrance
12 to our Players Lounge, which is called Club 446 and it
13 was received very well by our customers.

14 The original set up of our Players Club
15 at the casino was arguably not particularly well
16 thought out or optimal, and we struggled for some time
17 with long lines and service that really felt we needed
18 to improve.

19 So we spent over a million dollars to
20 relocate and expand the Players Club a couple of years
21 ago. We doubled the capacity that serves our guests.
22 And this really wasn't to drive revenue, but it was to
23 improve the experience of both our customers and our
24 team members trying to service those guests, and it's
25 been a big hit with everybody. We also constructed a

1 new gift giveaway center.

2 We actually do over 80 gift giveaways a
3 year. And to make sure that we can get customers in
4 and out efficiently, service them without having to
5 wait in line and also make sure that our team members
6 can give great service we built this facility. It's a
7 dedicated location just off the casino floor. It's
8 also been a big hit with our players and with our team
9 members. It's really helped us enhance our guest
10 service.

11 Now, in terms of the slot product, we
12 were blessed with a brand new floor when we first
13 opened the facility in 2009, so if you look on the
14 chart, you know, we really didn't have to spend a lot
15 of money on new slots the first couple of years. But
16 over the last three years we've really made a
17 concerted effort to make sure we got a state of the
18 art floor, we got a newer slot product for our
19 customers.

20 In fact, over 50 percent of our
21 maintenance capital over the past three years has been
22 invested in new slot product and we anticipate that
23 that's going to continue for the foreseeable future.
24 So that's a little bit about the last four years and
25 the investments we've made in the facility. I want to

1 talk a little bit about our future plans. We've very
2 excited to be planning for a hotel.

3 We've been working with the City of
4 Pittsburgh on a number of administrative items and
5 other items in terms of our own projections and
6 modeling. Those studies are complete. We've been in
7 design meetings and discussions with hotel operators.
8 We anticipate it's going to create 1,400 construction
9 jobs and over 100 permanent jobs and it's going to
10 generate significant additional tax revenue.

11 We project over \$29 million in gaming
12 taxes to the Commonwealth within five years of opening
13 and a combined approximately \$9 million in hotel and
14 sales tax revenues to the county and to the
15 Commonwealth within five years of opening. And this
16 is a really big project for us. This is a \$50 million
17 project and we couldn't be more excited to get it
18 moving as soon as possible.

19 Now, before I turn this over to Craig I
20 want to address a subject that comes up periodically
21 especially on important days like today. Now, as most
22 of you know, Rivers Casino is overseen by Rush Street
23 Gaming and Rush Street Gaming for the past several
24 years has been the subject of a corporate organizing
25 campaign by the activists group Unite Here.

1 Now, frankly Unite Here doesn't like our
2 labor policy because we respect our team members'
3 right to choose for themselves whether to be
4 represented by a union or not. And since day one
5 we've honored and respected the fair process for our
6 team members. Now, we define fair process the same
7 way I think most people do because federal labor law
8 provides for a fair process in the National Labor
9 Relations Act.

10 Fair process to us means an NLRB
11 sanction and supervised election in which team members
12 can vote anonymously for or against being represented
13 by a union. And you will find as a matter of record
14 and of policy that Rivers Casino has honored and will
15 honor the outcome of an NLRB sanctioned election every
16 time. Rivers Casino consistently supports this fair
17 process as outlined by the NLRB and we always have.
18 We're not anti-union.

19 In fact, we have the construction trades
20 to thank for the award winning quality of the Rivers
21 Casino and we look forward to creating even more union
22 construction jobs with the anticipated construction of
23 the hotel that I just took you through. Now, in April
24 Unite Here issued a press release saying that they've
25 collected signatures on a petition and that a 65

1 percent majority of workers demand fair process to
2 organize.

3 Now, I'm okay at math and I can tell you
4 that even if every signature on that petition were
5 verified those signatures wouldn't come close to 65
6 percent of our workforce of more than 1,700 team
7 members. But I've seen the language in that petition
8 and since upholding a fair process as our very own
9 policy I would have been happy to sign that petition
10 myself if they'd only asked. But the process that
11 Unite Here is advocating we deprive our team members
12 of their right to vote in a secret ballot election.

13 And Rush Street and Rivers Casino will
14 never bargain away our team members' rights to vote
15 without their consent. And we believe that because of
16 our respect for our team members the outstanding
17 benefits and competitive wages that we offer, that's
18 the reason the vast majority of our team members, 99
19 percent, have chosen to remain independent.

20 That's always been their choice and
21 that's always been their right. That's also why our
22 team members voted Rivers Casino one of Pittsburgh's
23 best places to work and even more recently one of
24 Pittsburgh's top workplaces. We support our team
25 members' right to choose. We always will, always have

1 and with that I'm going to turn the presentation over
2 to Craig.

3 MR. CLARK:

4 Good afternoon. My name is Craig Clark,
5 C-R-A-I-G, C-L-A-R-K. The one thing that I enjoy most
6 in the gaming business is celebrating events that are
7 held at the property. Just ten months ago we
8 celebrated our fifth anniversary, five years focused
9 on our team members, our community and our guests.
10 Our theme was being a proud community partner,
11 celebrating a great workplace that we've created with
12 the team members behind us as well as being a strong
13 economic engine for Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and
14 the Commonwealth. I would ask to present to you a
15 four minute video of that celebration, so if you give
16 us just a moment here.

17 VIDEO PLAYED

18 MR. CLARK:

19 So as pleased as we are about
20 celebrating events at the property, we're also proud
21 that of community commitments. First is the Sports
22 and Exhibition Authority, which supports the Consol
23 Energy Center, home of the Pittsburgh Penguins and
24 many great concerts and events that come to our
25 region. We are committed to pay \$225 million over 30

1 years. As of April 1st we have paid \$45 million to
2 this commitment, which is \$7.5 million a year.

3 We as a team are also proud of the
4 communities in which we live, the North Side and the
5 Hill District. The North Side Leadership Conference
6 received a million dollars a year for each of the
7 first three years, fulfilling our \$3 million
8 commitment. The Hill District also received a million
9 dollars annually in each of our first three years,
10 fulfilling our \$3 million commitment.

11 We continue to celebrate with these
12 communities as they invest in the future through loan
13 and grant programs that are made from these funds.
14 One of the things that I enjoy most is going to the
15 celebrations where we have ribbon cuttings in the
16 community and see the projects that have been
17 completed with this hard work.

18 We have also established great community
19 partnerships and relations. The Building and Trades
20 has created the Rivers Casino, continues to support us
21 on an ongoing basis through their members working on
22 projects within our facility. Carnegie Mellon
23 University, Rivers Casino and Microsoft held a unique
24 research project in April and May at the --- at our
25 facility. Four of the best heads up poker players

1 played 80,000 hands of poker against Claudico, the
2 Carnegie Mellon's artificial intelligence program.

3 This competition was to support the
4 number one graduate program for Computer Science in
5 the country. The research will be used for Homeland
6 Security and medical applications in the future. We
7 are proud to have been a part to highlight the
8 resources here in our community in Pittsburgh. We had
9 coverage both locally, nationally and internationally
10 of this event. We also are proud to have a great
11 relationship with Carnegie Science Center, which has
12 always been a close friend and neighbor on the North
13 Shore.

14 We have supported efforts like traffic
15 control as well as parking in our neighborhood. We
16 have also partnered on special occasions like Pi Day,
17 March 14th, the symbol pi. This event featured the
18 mathematics of gaming for visitors of the Science
19 Center over 21 years of age and our culinary staff
20 were able to show their talents in food preparation
21 and also enjoying the creations that they had that
22 evening.

23 Being located on the Ohio River, Rivers
24 Casino is proud of the Riverwalk that we are a part
25 of. Riverlife has established the guidelines for the

1 great experiences that we all enjoy here in
2 Pittsburgh. We have been proud to be a sponsor and
3 host of the Riverlife gala over the last --- each of
4 the last three years. This is the premier party in
5 the City of Pittsburgh bringing about 800 people to
6 our facility and highlighting the Riverwalk and the
7 river experiences. We'll be hosting that again in
8 August of this year.

9 VisitPITTSBURGH is always promoting the
10 city and its great resources and we're proud to be a
11 member and to be working with VisitPITTSBURGH on many
12 conventions and groups and other groups visiting the
13 city. As one of Pittsburgh's attractions, we actively
14 work with VisitPITTSBURGH to promote our city.
15 VisitPITTSBURGH has recognized us as an outstanding
16 partner for ongoing collaboration with them in the
17 region.

18 Rivers has been honored with many
19 property awards. Rivers Casino has won 102 Best of
20 Awards from Casino Player Magazine in several
21 categories from 2010 to 2014. Rivers has received 86
22 Best of awards from strictly Slots Magazine, winning
23 Best overall casino in each of the years 2010 through
24 2014. We have also received recognition for our work
25 with Warmathon as well as the Mario Lemieux

1 Foundation.

2 The North Side and Northshore Chamber of
3 Commerce has recognized us as a community champion in
4 2013. As you can see there's also a pretty large list
5 of other community awards that the property has won.
6 As shown in the video for the first five economic
7 impact for Rivers Casino in our Community and the
8 Commonwealth has been tremendous. In 2014 Rivers
9 Casino was the third largest gaming tax producer in
10 the Commonwealth.

11 This slide represents the tax --- gaming
12 tax component that the property has generated from
13 2009 until April 2015. These taxes generated are from
14 slots and table games, administrative fee, loan
15 repayment and local taxes that go to the city and the
16 county. Our team works hard and has generated over
17 \$938 million of gaming tax, but it doesn't end there.

18 In addition to the economic impact from
19 gaming taxes, we've also generated other taxes to
20 support our community. These taxes are property
21 taxes, payroll taxes, liquor taxed, sales and use
22 taxes and taxes withheld from those great casino
23 jackpots. From 2009 until April 2015 an additional
24 \$69 million has been collected to support our
25 community. At this time I'd like to turn the

1 presentation over to Andre Barnabei, our Vice
2 President of Human Resources.

3 MR. BARNEBEI:

4 Good afternoon. I'm excited and proud
5 to be here before you today. As Rivers Casino has
6 demonstrated continued progress in all of the areas
7 related to employment and career development. You may
8 be wondering why there's some colorful dots on the
9 left hand side of our presentation and I'd like to
10 provide an explanation for that.

11 Rivers Casino and Rush Street Gaming
12 strives to provide a positive working environment.
13 Together we're creating a unique culture in the casino
14 business. To assist us in identifying the desired
15 culture frontline team members were assembled to
16 provide input and strategy in the development of the
17 fundamentals that will serve as the framework for
18 developing our culture.

19 The fundamentals are fun, service,
20 respect and integrity were selected and if the Board
21 doesn't mind I'd like Craig to share with you a
22 product of the hard work and dedication that was put
23 forth by the committee of the team members called a
24 little one-on-one. And that's for you guys to take.
25 Rivers strives to meet and exceed all standards, laws,

1 regulations throughout our business and it shows.

2 We're very proud and honored that our
3 team members voted Rivers Casino best places to work
4 in 2014 and top work places in 2015 in two separate
5 independent surveys. These awards are a true
6 testimonial for the way that our team members feel
7 about working for Rivers Casino.

8 The little one-on-one booklet is a quick
9 and an easy read and it describes who this
10 organization is and it's clear after reading the
11 booklet why Rivers Casino offers a variety of quality
12 benefits. These benefits demonstrate the company's
13 position of valuing our team members. I'd like to
14 highlight a few of these benefit programs for you
15 today. We offer competitive wages. For team members
16 averaging 30 or more hours a week we offer medical,
17 dental, vision, prescription drug. We offer free
18 vision, free long term disability, free short term
19 disability, accidental death and dismemberment and
20 life insurance.

21 We have a 401(k) retirement program
22 where team members are eligible after six months of
23 employment to participate and that's both full and
24 part time team members. They're able to receive a 100
25 percent match on the first three percent, a 50 percent

1 match on the next two and most importantly they're 100
2 percent vested from the day they're enrolled in the
3 program.

4 We offer free parking in the City of
5 Pittsburgh, which is huge if you're from this area.
6 Very appreciated by the team. We offer paid break and
7 meal periods. Our hourly team members receive all of
8 their breaks and all of their meal period is paid and
9 this is not a standard, typical eight hour day. We
10 offer free and discounted dining in our team dining
11 room, time and a half on holidays. We offer paid time
12 off and sick and personal days where full-time team
13 members can earn up to 20 days paid within their first
14 year.

15 And any hourly team member that does not
16 use their sick and personal days throughout the year
17 are paid out the value of those days come the year
18 end. We offer a tuition reimbursement program where
19 you simply have to be there for just one year of
20 employment and you have to be full time.

21 The casino will award you up to \$5,000
22 per calendar year in reimbursement for not only a two
23 year degree, a four year degree or a Master's degree,
24 but any type of certification or any program that
25 would benefit working in the casino business. We also

1 have an employee assistance program, an ethics hotline
2 and we have something a little unique called a perfect
3 attendance bonus. It's an hourly perfect attendance
4 bonus.

5 Since its inception in January of 2013
6 we have paid out over \$200,000 representing an
7 additional bonus just for coming to work. Our team
8 members take pride in coming to work and we're proud
9 to state that 34 percent of our team members have all
10 of their attendance credits and have not been tardy or
11 late in one entire year. Forty-two (42) percent have
12 only had one occurrence in the last 12 months. Pretty
13 outstanding. We also offer a non-management quarterly
14 service bonus.

15 Since its inception in 2012 Rivers
16 Casino has paid over \$1.3 million to team members
17 representing a bonus for improved guest service
18 experiences. When it comes down to it we're here for
19 job creation and we've been fortunate with that.
20 Rivers Casino continues to be a strong resource for
21 job creation in Western Pennsylvania and we look
22 forward to future development, which will expand the
23 number of career opportunities that we have.

24 These opportunities are not just jobs,
25 they're career opportunities for local residents. As

1 you can see, 96 percent of our team members are
2 Pennsylvania residents. Fifty-seven (57) percent live
3 within the City of Pittsburgh. The red circle dots
4 represent our largest concentrations and you can see
5 that they're in the areas surrounding our property.

6 A unique fact is that, to date, Rivers
7 has exceeded over 1,000, 1,098 to be exact, internal
8 transfers and promotions, people that have had a
9 different opportunity from day one. Providing these
10 opportunities to the local community is very important
11 to us, but ensuring that our workforce represents the
12 demographic make up of the community is equally
13 important. As you can see from the graphs, Rivers
14 Casino's workforce exceeds the diversity of the local
15 community by nearly ten percent and we're very proud
16 of those numbers.

17 One of the results of these career
18 opportunities to the local residents is also a boost
19 to the local economy. Rivers Casino is proud to
20 demonstrate that each year our total salaries, wages,
21 taxes and benefits have increased. We have great team
22 members that support Rivers and our initiatives to
23 hire locally and to ensure that our workforce is
24 diverse, but we don't do it alone.

25 We're proud to partner with a very large

1 variety of local resources to ensure that
2 opportunities are provided at Rivers, that they're
3 widely known and properly communicated throughout the
4 community.

5 Our partnerships are not limited to just
6 communications and career opportunities, as they
7 consist of onsite interview sessions, resume
8 assistance, mock interviews and informational sessions
9 regarding what we look for for candidates in our
10 hospitality business. These efforts continue to be
11 valued and appreciated by our local partners.

12 In October of 2013 Rivers was recognized
13 for our commitment to work in employing those persons
14 with disabilities from the Governor's office and the
15 PA Department of Labor and Industry. Another avenue
16 Rivers takes to continue the career development of our
17 future leaders is our internship program.

18 We work with a large number of colleges
19 and universities in Western PA in an effort to employ
20 college students in meaningful and rewarding career
21 opportunities in Pittsburgh and hopefully they stay in
22 Pittsburgh and the State of Pennsylvania. To date
23 we've had 19 paid internships since we started the
24 program in the summer of 2012. Ten of those interns
25 continued to work with us, two of which have moved on

1 to management positions already.

2 In 2015 we're expanding the program and
3 tomorrow we actually have ten interns starting in our
4 orientation class. We're also looking to add a fall
5 and summer internship program as well. Outside of the
6 internship and tuition reimbursement programs we offer
7 another avenue for local training and career
8 development in the gaming industry.

9 Rivers Casino is an approved facility to
10 teach and certify new table game dealers. Since our
11 last renewal Rivers Casino has facilitated eight
12 additional schools with zero tuition costs to those
13 that attend. We've graduated 231 new dealers from
14 these programs whether you were one of the 78 internal
15 team members or one of the 153 selected from the local
16 community there were no tuition fees to take advantage
17 of that opportunity to become educated and certified
18 to deal in the State of Pennsylvania.

19 And with that I'd like to thank you for
20 your time and I will turn it over to Mary Cheeks, our
21 Senior Vice President of finance.

22 MS. CHEEKS:

23 Thank you, Andre. Mary Cheeks,
24 C-H-E-E-K-S. Good afternoon. Rivers Casino is truly
25 a great place to work. Andre spoke about 1,098 team

1 members being promoted since we opened. Well,
2 effective June 1st that number will change to 1,099.
3 I've been promoted to the general manager of Rivers
4 Casino Schenectady, New York.

5 Now, to speak to you about supplier
6 diversity and our continuous outreach we do as a
7 property. Rivers Casino is committed to partnering
8 with local and MWBE suppliers. We don't do this just
9 as a PGCB reporting requirement but as an organization
10 located within the Pittsburgh community that we look
11 to give back to.

12 As you can see from the chart on the
13 slide, each fiscal year we have improved in our
14 spending with MWBEs. Also you will note that the PA
15 Gaming industry averages 50.9 percent for local vendor
16 spending while Rivers Casino has trended above 60
17 percent or 28 percent above the average.

18 So how do we accomplish this? By
19 sponsoring and conducting vendor events to provide the
20 knowledge of how to win bids and what commodities are
21 in demand. To name a few of these initiatives Rivers
22 sponsored the Share event on March of '15. This was
23 an event of --- first of its kind in Pittsburgh
24 seeking to bring together the region's top
25 organizations, corporations and MWBEs to expand

1 opportunities and increase their growth.

2 Corporations and other organizations
3 have invited their top diverse suppliers to the event,
4 providing exposure to buyers from other area firms.
5 Conversely buyers were able to meet previously vetted
6 suppliers used by other organizations. This was a
7 very successful event.

8 Also we hold our Minority and Women
9 Supplier Expos each year allowing the vendors to
10 showcase their products to the operating departments
11 that use them. Seminars are held several times a year
12 to discuss how to win a bid, discuss vendor licensing
13 requirements and Tier 2 opportunities with national
14 vendors. We look forward to continuing our work with
15 local and MWBE vendors. Now, our next presenter is
16 Rhonda Gilchrist, VP of Compliance.

17 MS. GILCHRIST:

18 Thank you, Mary. Rhonda Gilchrist,
19 R-H-O-N-D-A, G-I-L-C-H-R-I-S-T. Good afternoon, Mr.
20 Chairman, Commissioners, Director Lloyd. Everyone at
21 Rivers Casino is committed to underage defense at our
22 facility. Number 621 was the number of days as of May
23 15 that we were able to avoid an incident of underage
24 gaming at our facility. I'm happy to report today is
25 number 639. We call that internally our security

1 defense streak and we actually publish it in the back
2 of the house.

3 The team is very proud of that record.
4 How did we get there? We do biannual training
5 programs with our security team. We have internal
6 training videos that were made using actual
7 confiscated IDs that can educate them on what was
8 wrong with that particular ID. We have annual casino
9 ID training program for all casino operating
10 departments and we utilize ID scanners at the door.

11 2011 we began a project where we're
12 referring attempted underage entry to the Pennsylvania
13 State Police. That program's been extremely
14 successful to date. We've pursued charges against
15 over 500 individuals attempting to enter. Rivers
16 Casino recently testified before the House Gaming
17 Oversight Committee. Among other topics we presented
18 our position on under 21 accessing the casino. We
19 will continue to urge the legislator to develop
20 stronger penalties for underage violators in
21 Pennsylvania.

22 Our casino offers additional training
23 for compulsive and problem gambling. We contribute
24 annually to the PA Council. We train all new hires at
25 the facility and annually thereafter in the corridor

1 in which you were hired. Responsible Alcohol
2 Management Program (RAMP) is the training program that
3 we use at the casino. RAMP requires 212 team members
4 at Rivers be certified.

5 Currently Rivers has 932 active team
6 members certified. In 2013 we included Poker, slot
7 operations, table games, VIP services to that list.
8 In 2015 we're adding cage team members to that list.
9 All training and related certification costs are paid
10 for by Rivers Casino. Rivers Casino has developed an
11 effective system of internal control to ensure
12 compliance with the Board's regulations and to protect
13 the assets of Rivers Casino.

14 Effective internal controls are those
15 that are designed in a manner that prevents or detects
16 irregularities in a process or a procedure. Our
17 record before you demonstrates both, the effectiveness
18 of our internal controls and our diligence in
19 self-reporting these matters to the Board. Thank you
20 for your time. With that I'll turn it over to Dr.
21 Rahmon Hart.

22 DR. HART:

23 Thank you, Rhonda, and good afternoon.
24 As a proud member of the Rivers leadership team, part
25 of my role is to cultivate relationships with local

1 businesses and non-profit organizations in the area.
2 This role was particularly special to me because I
3 work at a place that is located one mile from the
4 community and house that I grew up in, which is
5 Manchester on the North Side.

6 Today I'll be speaking briefly about
7 some of the strategic and intentional ways that we
8 engage the local community. Depicted here is a model
9 that guides our decisions and approach to community
10 engagement. There are numerous worthy causes and
11 local organizations doing wonderful things in the
12 community, so this helps us to focus our efforts and
13 engagement.

14 As you can see here, our focal areas are
15 public health, economic and community development,
16 public service, adult education and workforce
17 development.

18 Many organizations reach out to us and
19 present us with opportunities to partner with them.
20 Since we have opened our doors Rivers Casino has
21 reached back and has contributed over \$3.3 million to
22 help non-profit organizations with projects and events
23 that are in alignment with their mission. We also
24 have two additional charitable contribution programs
25 that feature a different non-profit organization each

1 month.

2 The Pittsburgh Proud Program is a
3 fundraising initiative in which guests place slot
4 vouchers in a donation box throughout the month to
5 support a particular non-profit organization. Over
6 \$35,000 has been donated since the program began in
7 October of 2013. We also partner with non-profit
8 organizations and allow them to raise funds at a
9 charitable donation table positioned near the entrance
10 of the casino.

11 We call this our Ten for Ten Program
12 because when guests \$10 cash to the organization they
13 receive \$10 back in free slot play from Rivers. It is
14 a win/win situation and organizations have received
15 over \$107,000 since February of 2012. And you can see
16 a snapshot of the type of organizations who benefit
17 from these two programs in particular.

18 Rivers Casino also gives back by serving
19 within the local community. In 2014 our executive
20 leadership team served on 13 non-profit boards and
21 committees aimed at making a difference in the
22 community. Examples of some of those organizations
23 are the Allegheny YMCA, the Bidwell Training Center,
24 the Center for Victims and the 3 Rivers Adoption
25 Council to name a few.

1 In addition we have the Rivers'
2 Community Champion Program. Each month we partner
3 with local non-profit organizations, engage in a day
4 of service to complete a project that the organization
5 deems important to them. Our monthly volunteer group
6 is comprised of approximately 20 team members and we
7 have volunteered over 3,500 hours in the local
8 community since April of 2012.

9 As I mentioned, it has been very
10 rewarding work and as you can see over the next few
11 slides, we have developed a wide range of community
12 partners in a short period of time. It is our plan to
13 cultivate those relationships that we have in place
14 while adding new community partners to the list as we
15 move into the future.

16 This concludes our presentation on
17 behalf of the Rivers leadership team and the entire
18 Rush Street Gaming family. I want to thank our team
19 members, I want to thank the community and I want to
20 thank the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for your
21 time and attention. At this time I want to turn it
22 over to our Gaming Attorney John Donnelly. Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

24 Well, Rahmon took my thunder away, but
25 I'll wait until after the BIE has Cross Examination to

1 move the exhibits and so on.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 So OEC?

4 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

5 Good afternoon, Director Lloyd, Chairman
6 Ryan and members of the Board. Beth Manifesto,
7 M-A-N-I-F-E-S-T-O, on behalf of the OEC. If I could
8 refer you to slide 16. In that slide you listed taxes
9 generated from 2010 through 2011 and on the chart it
10 showed that the taxes were rising. In 2013 and 2014
11 they began to decrease. Is there a factor or factors
12 that you attribute to this?

13 MR. FAJT:

14 Can we pull the slide up on the board
15 over there, please? Thank you.

16 MR. CLARK:

17 What you see from 2012 going forward is
18 the continued saturation of the Western Pennsylvania
19 markets and the emergence of states around us,
20 especially Ohio. At the time that I arrived at the
21 property four years ago this month, Ohio represented
22 eight percent of our gaming business in slots. Today
23 it represents less than three and a half percent of
24 our business.

25 So as facilities have opened from

1 Cleveland to Austintown and across Ohio they've
2 affected our business plan. Although we have been
3 extremely successful in our defense in the growing of
4 the market in which we exist.

5 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

6 Can you tell me, does Rivers have any
7 plan to increase or decrease the size of the gaming
8 floor?

9 MR. CLARK:

10 The gaming floor is well established in
11 its footprint and we do not expect to have square foot
12 increase. Although in the future we may be adding a
13 non-smoking table game pit to our gaming floor and
14 adjusting our slot count slightly by 57. Although as
15 we see the flow of guests around the facility we hope
16 to increase that number back to the current level with
17 the addition of the table games non-smoking pit, which
18 would be our second.

19 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

20 Other than any changes in the number of
21 slot machines, as you've just spoke about, should you
22 add a non-smoking table game area are there any other
23 plans to add or reduce the number of slot machines at
24 your facility?

25 MR. CLARK:

1 Not at the current time.

2 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

3 When you say that Rivers has spent \$12
4 million on new slot products since 2010, would that
5 amount include new slot machines and software?

6 MR. CLARK:

7 Yes, that amount would incur --- would
8 include both new gaming devices and cabinets as well
9 as what we refer to as conversion kits, which would
10 replace games that are on existing the boxes without
11 --- within the casino floor.

12 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

13 Can you tell us how frequently does
14 Rivers Casino replace the older slot machines with
15 newer slots?

16 MR. CLARK:

17 To date we have a --- from 2010 to the
18 current period we have purchased 664 new slot machines
19 and we've done 870 conversions. And when we've done
20 that 9.3 percent, or 62, have been real games and ---
21 I'm sorry, 602 or 90.7 percent have been video games.

22 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

23 Does Rivers Casino lease its slot
24 machines, own them or is there a combination?

25 MR. CLARK:

1 As many facilities operate we are very
2 similar. We actually have 2,820 that are owned by the
3 casino. 94.6 percent our leased products represents
4 5.4 percent of our gaming floor 161 games.

5 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

6 Are there any plans right now to add
7 different or new table game options to the casino?

8 MR. CLARK:

9 We're always looking for new gaming
10 choices to be offered to our customer. We have done
11 some very unique things and been first in the state.
12 We're adding table game progressives onto our gaming
13 floor and we continue to look at selections that are
14 approved by the Gaming Control Board to offer those to
15 our customer.

16 We've also done some very unique things
17 like creating a hot shooter's program with our craps
18 product, which has allowed us to bonus people on both
19 a daily basis, a monthly basis and a quarterly basis
20 based on the number of rolls that occur and slight
21 awards have been given in each of those different
22 scenarios. And that's allowed us to continue to have
23 a very good table game selection and to learn to
24 develop play.

25 We also have learn to play classes that

1 we hold seven days a week in the afternoon to allow
2 our guests to understand the game and be introduced to
3 the game. We also have created Thursday nights and
4 it's being expanded in the current month to be
5 Wednesday nights where we have a low limit pit for
6 table games to allow people to participate in table
7 game selections at a lower budget amount.

8 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

9 On slide eight of your presentation you
10 spoke of giveaways and promotions. I believe you said
11 there are more than eight in an annual time period.
12 Are there any safeguards in place to ensure that a
13 gift or a promotion is not given to somebody on the
14 self-exclusion list?

15 MR. CLARK:

16 We take the self-exclusion extremely
17 seriously and we compliment the Board on the
18 electronic version, it's now available to us and we
19 utilize our gaming software and anybody who is
20 receiving one of those gifts has to have a players
21 card.

22 They're swiped through our what we refer
23 to as our Konami gaming system and in that system if
24 somebody was self-excluded they would be flagged, and
25 our security department along with the State Police

1 would address the situation before the gift was given.
2 And those gift days are very high volume. They
3 generally range from \$3,000 to \$5,500 gifts on a gift
4 day.

5 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

6 Rivers Casino has been providing RAMP or
7 Responsible Alcohol Management Program training. Can
8 you tell us how often employees receive or undergo
9 this training?

10 MS. GILCHRIST:

11 RAMP training is given relatively
12 quickly after hire and the certification is actually a
13 --- the certification is handled by an outside vendor.
14 Certification in RAMP is good for two years, so at the
15 end of the two years when they would expire they would
16 renew.

17 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

18 And at this time is Rivers exclusively
19 an over 21 property?

20 MS. GILCHRIST:

21 Yes.

22 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

23 Can you inform the Board as to whether
24 there have been any Liquor Control violations at
25 Rivers between September of 2011 and today?

1 MR. CLARK:

2 There have not been.

3 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

4 In your PowerPoint presentation you
5 indicate that Rivers is contemplating the addition of
6 a hotel. Could you pull up the --- I believe it was a
7 Google Earth photograph and just point out where you
8 expect to locate the hotel?

9 MR. CLARK:

10 So this is where the property is located
11 today. We would establish the hotel along Casino
12 Drive. It would be back set from the river 85 feet.
13 It would have approximately 200 to 250 rooms. It
14 would be a rectangular building. It would attach on
15 both the second floor and the first floor of the
16 existing building.

17 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

18 And should that occur will you have in
19 place then, obviously, security personnel to prevent
20 any incidents or at that point will you open the area
21 that connects to the casino to under 21?

22 MR. CLARK:

23 Our current plans are exploring the
24 possibility, and we believe that it is possible, to
25 connect our parking garage on the second floor across

1 our facility, which is some back of the house area
2 that we have today, to the corridor that services our
3 second floor banquet area.

4 We would respectfully submit the
5 internal controls as well as the proper staffing of
6 our security department to ensure that we continue the
7 record that we've established in these 639 days that
8 Rhonda mentioned, to ensure that no underage would get
9 to our casino floor.

10 But our current concept is to have the
11 second floor be under 21 and to be able to better
12 utilize our banquet facility and also guests that come
13 from the parking garage to the hotel without having to
14 go near the gaming floor.

15 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

16 In your answer you said the second
17 floor. Would that then also open up the buffet area
18 to under 21?

19 MR. CLARK:

20 That would be our goal although
21 recognize that we're not looking to promote the
22 facility for under 21. We would only have those who
23 choose to come. Our advertising would not support
24 under 21 coming to the property.

25 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

1 Can you tell us, does Rivers Casino have
2 personnel who patrol the parking garage for children
3 who may have been left without an adult in a vehicle?

4 MR. CLARK:

5 I'm very proud of our security
6 department and the record that they have. Yes, we
7 have a category of security personnel that are defined
8 as outside officers and those officers patrol both
9 entrances that are along the Riverwalk as well as
10 actively engage in review of the parking garage to
11 ensure we do not have underage at our facility.

12 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

13 If one of the outside officers was
14 patrolling the garage and they found that there was a
15 child left alone in a vehicle, who would file charges
16 or take the appropriate action?

17 MS. GILCHRIST:

18 Rivers would notify either the
19 Pennsylvania State Police or Pittsburgh Police
20 Department depending on when it occurred and we would
21 follow their lead based on the age of the children and
22 circumstances.

23 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

24 During the renewal period can you tell
25 us, have any traffic concerns materialized in the area

1 surrounding Rivers?

2 MR. CLARK:

3 We're very proud of working with all of
4 our neighbors on the North Shore to ensure that
5 traffic is handled in the most efficient and effective
6 way. We have a series of meetings with our neighbors
7 to ensure that guests are able to come to the North
8 Shore as effectively as possible and that their
9 departure is as easy as possible.

10 We employ the Pittsburgh Police
11 Department to help us as well as incur a cost
12 associated with signage to support. We also actively
13 have videos within the elevators and often have
14 handouts for guests who are coming for events that are
15 outside of the casino operation, and it's one of our
16 very strong successes that we've had for the property
17 and how we're able to effectively manage our marketing
18 programs to our neighbors and the visitation to the
19 North Shore.

20 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

21 Regarding the number of underage
22 individuals who are turned away from the casino can
23 you tell us how your statistics are kept up to date
24 and accurate?

25 MS. GILCHRIST:

1 So the turnaway are recorded at the door
2 and all the entrances. The officers report those on a
3 per shift basis and they're accumulated on a gaming
4 day basis and forwarded to my office where I keep the
5 master record for reporting.

6 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

7 There's been an increase in the number
8 of active employees at Rivers from 2011 to 2015. Are
9 there specific positions or departments that would
10 account for this increase in employee numbers?

11 MR. PATENT:

12 We initially had a small bump in some of
13 our gaming areas and as a result of that there's been
14 a few positions added in most of the areas throughout
15 the property to support the additional volume through
16 the table gaming business.

17 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

18 Can you tell us what the percentage of
19 full time versus part time employees is?

20 MR. PATENT:

21 Our full time versus part time ratio has
22 changed since we last sat here. I believe we said
23 around 72 and a half percent full time to part time in
24 the past and we are now at 79.2 percent full time
25 versus part time.

1 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

2 And can you tell us what number of the
3 part-time employees work less than 30 hours?

4 MR. PATENT:

5 I don't have the specific number with me
6 today. I'd be happy to forward that to your
7 attention.

8 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

9 Thank you. Is there anything planned
10 for the future that would substantially increase or
11 decrease the number of full and part-time employees?

12 MR. PATENT:

13 If we're fortunate enough to build the
14 hotel we anticipate at least 100 career opportunities
15 to add to the property.

16 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

17 Is there a length of time --- I believe
18 you said was it a year that somebody had to work at
19 Rivers to receive benefits or is it something that's
20 given immediately?

21 MR. PATENT:

22 The what I'll call health and welfare
23 benefits are someone's eligible the 1st of the month
24 after 60 days. The 401(k) is the 1st of the month
25 after six months and tuition reimbursement program was

1 the one where you needed one year of service.

2 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

3 Thank you.

4 MR. PATENT:

5 You're welcome.

6 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

7 Are there any benefits provided for
8 those working under 30 hours a week?

9 MR. PATENT:

10 Yes. An example would be our
11 retirement, 401(k) plan. Each full time and part time
12 team member's eligible to participate in that program.

13 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

14 One of the slides in your presentation
15 display the total salaries, wages, taxes and benefits
16 including gratuities. Can you give us a figure from
17 the total exclusive of gratuities?

18 MR. CLARK:

19 Do you have a specific year that you
20 would like to reference?

21 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

22 How about 2012, '13 and '14?

23 MR. CLARK:

24 In 2012 the wages without gratuities
25 were just under \$52 million. In 2013 they were just

1 over \$56 million and last year, 2014, they were
2 \$58,631,000.

3 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

4 Can you give us an estimate of the
5 amount of money spent on an annual basis for employee
6 training to identify compulsive or problem gambling
7 issues?

8 MS. GILCHRIST:

9 I can get that exact number to you.

10 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

11 If an employee did believe that someone
12 had a gambling problem what steps would they take?

13 MS. GILCHRIST:

14 An employee would notify their
15 supervisor or security officer and we would refer them
16 to the CCRs on our property.

17 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

18 I have no additional questions. Thank
19 you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Mr. Donnelly, do you have any follow up
22 for your witnesses based on those questions?

23 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

24 No, no follow up based on Cross
25 Examination.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER:

2 Okay. Well, then we'll turn it over to
3 Board members and I will start down --- way down with
4 Mr. Jewell. Do you have any questions for any of the
5 Rivers' witnesses today?

6 MR. JEWELL:

7 No.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER:

9 Mr. Moscato?

10 MR. MOSCATO:

11 I do have two questions. I think that's
12 on now. The first question for Mr. Barnabei. You
13 mentioned the internship program.

14 MR. BARNABEI:

15 Uh-huh (yes).

16 MR. MOSCATO:

17 And certainly my ears perked up when you
18 said that and that you work with different
19 universities. When does the internship program start
20 normally and when does it end?

21 MR. BARNABEI:

22 Sure. In the past we've begun the
23 recruitment phase for that towards the end of the
24 calendar year. We actually go out to colleges and
25 universities to promote it. We will interview through

1 their career services offices onsite. Our selection
2 process is somewhere in the February to March time
3 frame.

4 From there we submit them for licensing
5 with the goal of starting them within a week or two of
6 graduation. In this case this year it would actually
7 be tomorrow. We are also looking at adding a fall and
8 spring internship program. We're having some
9 discussions with some of the colleges and universities
10 to understand if there's a need and if we're able to
11 do that.

12 You know, the beautiful thing is its
13 multiple departments, everything from slots to human
14 resources, finance, marketing, IT, audio visual.
15 They're meaningful opportunities.

16 MR. MOSCATO:

17 And you said graduation, so these are
18 students who have received their Baccalaureate degree
19 or their undergrads?

20 MR. BARNABEI:

21 I apologize. Can you repeat the
22 question?

23 MR. MOSCATO:

24 You had said that you try to start them
25 as close to graduation as possible, so these are

1 students who have matriculates?

2 MR. BARNABEI:

3 We've actually changed our focus over
4 the last year. In the past we looked for juniors and
5 seniors. Since we've expanded the program we actually
6 have some people that have completed their freshman
7 year and sophomore year that are entering the program
8 this year.

9 MR. MOSCATO:

10 Okay. Last question with regard to
11 this. What do you normally pay?

12 MR. BARNABEI:

13 The interns are paid --- I believe it's
14 \$10 an hour, which for an intern first when they come
15 in and find out it's paid they're very excited and ---

16 MR. MOSCATO:

17 Yeah, so is mom and dad.

18 MR. BARNABEI:

19 --- that it's paying.

20 MR. MOSCATO:

21 Thank you very much. I appreciate that.
22 I have one more question for Dr. Hart if possible. At
23 the bottom of page 37 you have listed Muscular
24 Dystrophy Association and in parenthesis ALS. I don't
25 believe they're one in the same. Do you give to both

1 or --- and maybe I'm wrong. Maybe they are ---

2 DR. HART:

3 Yes.

4 MR. MOSCATO:

5 --- one in the same.

6 DR. HART:

7 It's actually a program that was
8 featured through MDA, so the ALS, which is the ice
9 bucket challenge ---

10 MR. MOSCATO:

11 Right.

12 DR. HART:

13 --- is actually coordinated by MDA. So
14 we kind of --- that was a cause that we supported.

15 MR. MOSCATO:

16 So money did go to the Lou Gehrig's
17 disease research?

18 DR. HART:

19 Yes.

20 MR. MOSCATO:

21 Okay. Thank you very much. That's all.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 Ms. Kaiser?

25 MS. KAISER:

1 Just one quick question for Vice
2 President Gilchrist if she's available. First I just
3 wanted to applaud you for all your efforts to address
4 the issue of underage gaming and this is --- I'm just
5 more curious than anything. Of the minors that you
6 turn away, do most of those minors use someone else's
7 ID, a fraudulent ID or do they just roll the dice and
8 come in with their underage one?

9 MS. GILCHRIST:

10 I think it's pretty close to 50, 50 on
11 both. I know our security director gets really
12 excited when he gets a manufactured ID that's got some
13 real good points, you know, to put out there. So
14 using it as a learning experience, but I think it's
15 pretty close to 50, 50 what they're seeing.

16 MS. KAISER:

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER:

19 Mr. Fajt.

20 MR. FAJT:

21 Thank you, Linda. Quick question for
22 Mr. Clark. You had mentioned that you anticipate a
23 first and second floor connector from the hotel to the
24 casino. Are there any issues being raised by
25 Riverlife Task Force or anybody else about cutting off

1 access then to the river, you know, in front of the
2 casino?

3 I mean, obviously you could go around
4 the hotel then, but I --- you know, but I just queried
5 whether there were any access to river issues. I know
6 that's a --- that is an ongoing issue in Pittsburgh
7 with the riverfronts.

8 MR. CLARK:

9 It's a very important issue in
10 Pittsburgh and so what we've done to address this is,
11 number one, we have a strong working relationship with
12 Riverlife. We've had a meeting to discuss the hotel
13 development so we get their input as we develop the
14 ideas and the plans.

15 They were very impressed with the way
16 that we had designed it because we had featured a
17 glass area that would allow as you come into the valet
18 area to look through the first and second floor of the
19 hotel lobby area. And you could see the river and it
20 also allowed for doorway access to go through the
21 hotel to the Riverwalk.

22 We also are actively working with both
23 the Science Center and Riverlife on the experiences
24 that can be created and what I refer to as the great
25 lawn. Having different features that really promote

1 the environment of Pittsburgh and the river features
2 that we are next to with the Ohio River.

3 So we're taking their input into the
4 plan very early in the process and that's allowing us
5 to have good communication and having an effective
6 design to date. We're in the process of scheduling
7 our second meeting with our architects and engineers
8 to ensure that as we move forward with our design that
9 we are taking into account all of their concerns.

10 We also are working actively with groups
11 like the Beuhl Foundation on watershed issues on the
12 North Shore and how we can make Pittsburgh the most
13 beautiful place possible.

14 MR. FAJT:

15 Thank you. And I congratulate you on a
16 very impressive presentation.

17 MR. CLARK:

18 Thank you.

19 MR. MCCALL:

20 I don't know if --- it's on. There's
21 not a light. Can you tell me, is this on, what
22 efforts the casino employs to identify problem gamers?
23 And then maybe just once you identify that individual
24 what steps do you take?

25 MS. GILCHRIST:

1 Are you speaking to people that haven't
2 declared themselves?

3 MR. MCCALL:

4 Right, right. How do you identify them
5 if --- how do you train your employees to identify
6 them and then once they are identified what do you do?

7 MS. GILCHRIST:

8 So the training that they're given
9 has ---.

10 MR. MCCALL:

11 Right, right.

12 MS. GILCHRIST:

13 There are ten factors. Seven of them
14 you look for. It all comes to them in the training.
15 You know, if you see someone for a long period of time
16 or they haven't changed their clothing. The PA
17 Council has the program. They're the ones that
18 actually gives the training.

19 MR. MCCALL:

20 Do you use that as ---?

21 MS. GILCHRIST:

22 We use their training guideline, yes.

23 MR. MCCALL:

24 On the hotel, I know there's going to be
25 105 new jobs, but the financial --- all the finances,

1 the feasibility study on the finances and everything
2 has been concluded. And I take it you got the green
3 light as far as the feasibility study as well as the
4 financing?

5 MR. CLARK:

6 Yes. We have some administrative
7 processes that we're working through with the city.
8 We also will then go through a permitting process. We
9 worked with our existing lending institutions and this
10 would be a funded project by the casino owners and our
11 banks.

12 MR. MCCALL:

13 And best case scenario for shovel in the
14 ground?

15 MR. CLARK:

16 At the current time the best case
17 scenario is probably the first quarter of 2016.

18 MR. MCCALL:

19 And I want to certainly echo what
20 Chairman (sic) Fajt said. I want to congratulate you
21 on your community development and especially on your
22 community partnership. You know, I don't think the
23 people of the Commonwealth fully realize how much we
24 tax casinos and that money does, in fact, go to
25 reducing property taxes as much as people, you know,

1 say where's my tax reduction.

2 If they really take the time to look at
3 their bills they will see that they do, in fact, get
4 property tax reduction by virtue of the money that you
5 pay to the Commonwealth. And, you know, I thank you
6 for that, but I really thank you for your community
7 partnership as well because of the tax structure,
8 because of how much you're taxed you still give
9 generously. And you'd really need to be commended for
10 that giving generously. You know, keep it up.

11 MR. CLARK:

12 Thank you on behalf of 1,800 team
13 members almost and, obviously, the hundred behind me
14 there here today.

15 MR. WOODS:

16 Mr. Clark, I believe Rush Gaming
17 operates four casinos; is that correct?

18 MR. CLARK:

19 We currently have three operating
20 casinos and we've been awarded by the location
21 committee in New York, the Schenectady location, and
22 are currently under the background and licensing
23 process for that.

24 MR. WOODS:

25 Could you tell me how you compete for

1 capital with the other casinos? Are you awarded a
2 specific dollar amount per year that you can apply to
3 any project you see fit or is it on a budget by budget
4 basis?

5 MR. CLARK:

6 With the high taxation, the capital that
7 we have in place as well as the labor component we're
8 always looking at what kind of return can we get on
9 that investment. To date as long as the feasibility
10 is there to support the proper reinvestment for the
11 owners we have not had a capital constraint.

12 MR. WOODS:

13 Rush Gaming also has another facility in
14 Pennsylvania. Do you see any synergies with a casino
15 at the other end of the state?

16 MR. CLARK:

17 The synergies are things like Mary
18 Cheeks that you saw here today, really giving the
19 insight to both properties and the coordination. And
20 what we look at is opportunities for best practices
21 for development of our systems, and our procedures and
22 processes. And we do have some marketing efforts
23 between the two properties.

24 They generally revolve around sports
25 teams, believe it or not, being on the North Shore.

1 So we have had folks go to Philadelphia and Chicago
2 recently to see some baseball games and we have some
3 folks coming from Philadelphia and Chicago to come
4 here to see some of our great Pirate games.

5 So that's a lot of what we do as well as
6 partnerships with the three properties together allows
7 us to extend into other choices for our customers. We
8 have relationships in Las Vegas, we have relationships
9 in Atlantis, we have relationships with cruise
10 companies. We've just developed a program with an
11 airline where a player could use their points to get
12 airline opportunities.

13 So we're always exploring how can we as
14 three properties generate additional gaming
15 opportunities and vacation opportunities for our
16 customers.

17 MR. WOODS:

18 One of the synergies I hope that can be
19 expanded upon is the very impressive 639 days without
20 a violation for underage. I commend you on that. I'm
21 hopeful that that is something that others take notice
22 of. Could you tell me, is there a bonus program in
23 place for the security personnel or for all employees
24 if that streak continues? What recognition do you
25 give the employees for that achievement?

1 MR. CLARK:

2 The recognition that we've given to date
3 is what's most important is a thank you. Secondarily
4 we've created the entrance control officer position
5 that has a slightly higher salary associated with it,
6 and we also have celebrated both a hundred day
7 anniversaries as well as annual anniversaries where
8 the employees have been given different values of gift
9 cards.

10 And then we run that through our payroll
11 system to make sure the appropriate taxes are paid,
12 but we reward those on those anniversary dates and the
13 hundred day anniversaries as part of a celebration.

14 MR. WOODS:

15 Again, I commend you and your entire
16 team for that achievement and hope it goes for many,
17 many more days.

18 MR. CLARK:

19 So do we. It's a struggle each and
20 every day with the manufactured licenses that are out
21 there and the temptation. And we really --- I applaud
22 the officers as well as the entire team and being
23 focused on this, and I'm proud of their successful
24 record.

25 MR. WOODS:

1 As I recall just walking through the
2 back hallway there you have copies of either
3 passports, licenses from each of the states and you
4 keep track of the days right on that wall in the
5 employee entrance?

6 MR. CLARK:

7 Yeah, we celebrate every day that we
8 have one more success as well as continued awareness
9 of all the technologies that are advancing in our
10 world. Making these licenses extremely difficult and
11 making sure that we give the team members the
12 resources so they can succeed with technology to
13 offset the technology behind developing these fake
14 licenses.

15 MR. WOODS:

16 Thank you very much.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER:

18 Mr. Donnelly, any questions for your
19 witnesses?

20 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

21 No.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER:

23 Okay. Like to wrap up?

24 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

25 Yes, I'll just be very brief. Everybody

1 in this room I think knows that in 2008 this project
2 was dead as a doornail and was not going to happen.
3 So I think everybody in this room can take great pride
4 about what we heard today. I certainly do. I have
5 nothing to do with it at all, but you all did, this
6 Board did. I didn't, but this Board did. You all do.

7 I mean, it's a remarkable thing to take
8 this out of the ashes that it was in and do what this
9 team has done. So I thank you and I thank the Board
10 for doing that, and without the Board we couldn't have
11 done it either because it was truly dead. With that I
12 will move all the exhibits that we have put in today
13 subject to confidentiality provisions of the Act.

14 I reserve the right to add additional
15 information as everyone --- as the Board's certainly
16 aware there'll be another hearing on this matter later
17 on in the cycle. We recognize that continuing
18 suitability is a requirement under the Act. We
19 recognize that we will continue to be scrutinized by
20 the OEC, and the BIE, and everyone else and so on.
21 And I thank you very much for the opportunity to
22 present today and I understand there's a number of
23 speakers who have signed up. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 Yes. We will mark the PowerPoint as

1 Rivers Number One and the little --- a little
2 one-on-one booklet as Rivers Number Two.

3 (Rivers Exhibits Number One and Two
4 marked for identification.)

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Does OEC have any objection?

7 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

8 No, we do not.

9 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

10 The one letter I read into the record I
11 don't think I have a copy. I'll provide one later on.
12 And then ---

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Okay.

15 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

16 --- there were a couple of questions
17 that Ms. Manifesto asked and as we submit that
18 information we'll ask that those be marked as well.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER:

20 Okay. If you submit those to the Board
21 clerk, the answers to that as well when you forward
22 those to Ms. Manifesto we'll get those into the
23 record.

24 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

25 For the time being until we meet again,

1 we rest.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 And then we will move on to the OEC's
4 presentation.

5 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

6 Thank you. If I may address the matter
7 of stipulations before I begin? The OEC and Rivers
8 Casino have entered into several stipulations which
9 cover the exhibits contained within the binders
10 provided to the Board by OEC. Briefly the
11 stipulations include the Uniform Crime Reports, the
12 letter from the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement,
13 a letter from the Office of Compulsive and Problem
14 Gambling, and all Consent Agreements, compliance
15 conference memorandums and warning letters pertaining
16 to Rivers Casino from September 14th of 2011 to May
17 31st of 2015. A copy of the stipulations is contained
18 at Exhibit 11 in the binder provided and an executed
19 original has been provided to Director Lloyd. All
20 items are within OEC's exhibits and at this time I
21 would ask that Exhibits 1 through 11 be admitted and
22 made part of the record.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 Question. Are any of those to remain
25 confidential?

1 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

2 Yes, I believe that that would be --- I
3 believe it's from Exhibit Five onward. That would
4 include the compliance conference memorandums and the
5 warning letters that were issued by the OEC.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Okay.

8 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

9 So that would go up until Exhibit Ten.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 So with those remaining confidential,
12 Mr. Donnelly, do you have any objections to the OEC
13 Exhibits 1 through 11?

14 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

15 No objection although I would like to
16 --- I think that's right on the confidentiality, but I
17 would ask, as you normally do, that Counsel scrutinize
18 it for confidentiality to the full extent available.

19 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

20 We will. Okay. The OEC intends to call
21 several witnesses to testify regarding Rivers
22 suitability for renewal of its Slot Machine License.
23 You will hear from the Pennsylvania State Police, the
24 Bureau of Casino Compliance and the Bureau of
25 Investigations and Enforcement (BIE). If I may, I

1 would like to call Lieutenant Brooks.

2 -----

3 LIEUTENANT DANIEL BROOKS, HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY
4 SWORN, TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

5 -----

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

8 Q. Sir, please state your name and spell your last
9 name for the record.

10 A. My name is Lieutenant Daniel Brooks, B-R-O-O-K-S.

11 Q. And how many years have you been with PSP?

12 A. I'm in my 24th year.

13 Q. And what duties do you perform as Lieutenant?

14 A. I'm assigned to the Bureau of Gaming Enforcement.
15 I am the western section commander.

16 Q. And can you tell the Board what the
17 responsibilities are of PSP at Rivers Casino?

18 A. Yeah. Through the active legislation we
19 investigate any and all crimes that occur on the
20 casino floor.

21 Q. And is your jurisdiction limited to the casino
22 floor?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And who would have primary police jurisdiction
25 over the parking garage area?

- 1 A. That would be the Pittsburgh Police.
- 2 Q. Can you describe your working relationship with
3 Rivers Casino personnel?
- 4 A. It's a good relationship.
- 5 Q. And how would you describe the relationship with
6 the Board's Casino Compliance representatives?
- 7 A. Likewise. Very good relationship.
- 8 Q. If we can touch on the testimony regarding
9 Uniform Crime Reporting System, who monitors that
10 system?
- 11 A. That's the Pennsylvania State Police.
- 12 Q. And are you familiar with that?
- 13 A. Yes, I am.
- 14 Q. And can you tell us, is the Uniform Crime
15 Reporting System, is that an electronic format?
- 16 A. Yes, it is.
- 17 Q. And is it available to the public?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Can you tell us how frequently the information
20 contained within that program is updated?
- 21 A. It's updated monthly.
- 22 Q. Is there a certain time within the month that
23 that all information must be entered?
- 24 A. By the 10th of the month we'll enter the previous
25 month's statistics.

1 Q. Is the information contained in the database
2 subject to editing?

3 A. Yes, we can edit it.

4 Q. And what would cause you to do such a thing?

5 A. We could edit it if we investigated a criminal
6 offense and later on we determined that it didn't
7 occur, so we could go back and unfound the original
8 offense.

9 Q. And what type of information is contained within
10 the Uniform Crime Reporting System?

11 A. There's a multitude of information, offenses,
12 arrests, clearances, anything to do with any
13 investigation we would do criminal wise.

14 Q. And, obviously, and correct me if I'm wrong, the
15 criminal offenses occurring at Rivers Casino would be
16 entered into the UCR?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. Does the UCR list the number of actual offenses
19 that are prosecuted?

20 A. Yes and no. We have a clearance rate, so we
21 clear things. Sometimes there's an exceptional
22 clearance which means we know who did it. We don't
23 prosecute due to various reasons.

24 Q. What is the most common criminal offense based on
25 the UCR reports that you've reviewed for Rivers

1 Casino?

2 A. That would be forgeries.

3 Q. And when you say forgery would that basically
4 address counterfeiting issues?

5 A. Yes. That's one in the same. Forgery is just
6 the terminology we use, but it's a counterfeit bill
7 whether it's a \$50, \$100 or we've even seen \$10s and
8 \$1s.

9 Q. Is there a particular --- I'm sorry. Strike
10 that.

11 Would you say that it's more often counterfeiting
12 used with slots or is it table games?

13 A. No, we find it --- it's usually table games
14 and/or servers or cashiers. It's human error. The
15 machines are so sophisticated that they would read the
16 counterfeit and they'll reject them.

17 Q. And when you say machines you mean the slot
18 machines?

19 A. Yes. Or the NRTs, which are redeemable type
20 machines.

21 Q. Can you give the Board an average as to how many
22 thefts are reported any given month?

23 A. Yes, 2014 somewhere around 15 a month. If you go
24 back a year before that it was a little higher.
25 Somewhere around 30 a month.

1 Q. Would a theft by unlawful taking or receiving
2 stolen property, could that be filed based upon
3 voucher theft such as if somebody forgot to take their
4 voucher from the slot machine or if they dropped it on
5 the floor and somebody else picked that up, how would
6 that be reported?

7 A. It's reported to us usually through the person,
8 the victim, who loses their voucher. They contact
9 security, security contacts us, we contact
10 surveillance. We work in conjunction with
11 surveillance and security. A high percentage of them
12 we're able to identify who picks up the victim's
13 voucher and we approach that individual and try to
14 make the victim whole for their funds.

15 Q. And on the Uniform Crime Report what would the
16 heading be that such RSP or theft by unlawful taking,
17 what would that fall under?

18 A. I think it falls under theft of loss or mislaid
19 items.

20 Q. Can you tell us, is there a significant number of
21 violent crime occurring at Rivers Casino?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Are there a significant number of crimes
24 regarding individuals under the age of 21?

25 A. We get a lot of underage. Usually it's caught at

1 the door by the casino personnel. We do address that
2 with a summary citation most often. Sometimes it even
3 elevates to a misdemeanor arrest depending on the ID
4 that is presented, but very infrequently do we
5 actually have them on the floor.

6 Q. Has there been a noticeable increase in any
7 specific crime between September of 2011 and the
8 present?

9 A. No.

10 Q. After reviewing the Uniform Crime Reports do you
11 see a pattern in the type of actual offenses that have
12 occurred at the licensed facility?

13 A. As I previously mentioned, counterfeits we see a
14 lot of, we see thefts on a daily basis, we see
15 underage attempts to enter the casino and then some of
16 your more minor offenses whether they'd be alcohol
17 related or harassment, stuff like that.

18 Q. What is the last date that the UCR reports are
19 available for reported offenses at Rivers Casino and
20 would be included in the statistics presented today?

21 A. That would be April of 2015. We will be putting
22 May's in within the next week or so.

23 Q. Overall is PSP satisfied with the level of
24 cooperation between the staff of Rivers Casino and the
25 troopers stationed within the facility?

1 A. Yes, we are.

2 Q. And are there any issues or concerns that you
3 believe would negatively impact the suitability of
4 Rivers Casino in regard to the renewal of its license?

5 A. No.

6 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

7 I have no other questions.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER:

9 Mr. Donnelly, do you have any questions
10 for the witness?

11 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

12 Yes.

13 CROSS EXAMINATION

14 BY ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

15 Q. I would like to review one thing, Lieutenant.
16 You were asked --- was it your testimony that there
17 was not a problem with violent crime at that casino?

18 A. Pardon me, sir?

19 Q. Not a problem with violent crime at the casino?

20 A. Not a huge problem. Occasionally we have some
21 issues. It was violent crime I believe?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. We do have some issues where we make arrests for
24 assaults and stuff like that, yes.

25 Q. And the thefts, most of those thefts were --- am

1 I correct that you testified that most of the thefts
2 were people who have lost vouchers or they've fallen
3 on the floor and so on?

4 A. Most of them would be. We do, however, deal with
5 some type of --- sometimes we deal with wallets,
6 purses. We've even investigated thefts of jackets,
7 people leaving jackets at their machine and report
8 their jacket being stolen.

9 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

10 That's all I have. Thank you.

11 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

12 The OEC would now offer testimony from
13 Gerald Stoll, Director of the Bureau of Casino
14 Compliance. I don't think we're going to need to
15 worry about a microphone for Mr. Stoll.

16 -----
17 GERALD STOLL, HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY SWORN, TESTIFIED
18 AS FOLLOWS:

19 -----
20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

22 Q. Sir, for the record, please state your full name
23 and spell your last name.

24 A. Gerald Stoll, S-T-O-L-L.

25 Q. And how are you employed?

1 A. I'm the Director of Compliance for the Gaming
2 Board.

3 Q. And how long have you held that position?

4 A. I've been the Director since January of 2010.

5 Q. What did you do prior to that?

6 A. I was first hired in 2006 as a BIE agent.

7 Through 2006 and '07 I operated in the office of OPR
8 and when the Compliance Bureau was instituted I became
9 the investigative supervisor in the Bureau.

10 Prior to my employment with the Pennsylvania
11 Gaming Control Board I was a member of the New Jersey
12 State Police for 27 years, 19 of which I spent in the
13 casinos in Atlantic City. So I've been involved
14 intimately with regulations for some time.

15 Q. As the Director for the Bureau of Casino
16 Compliance can you describe your job duties?

17 A. Yes. As a Director of Compliance I'm responsible
18 for the 12 casinos in 12 locations, 24/7, 365 days a
19 year to make sure that they adhere to our regulations
20 as well as internal controls. We in the Compliance
21 Bureau are the conduit between many, many other
22 Bureaus and the Gaming Board.

23 We more or less operate as the boots on the
24 ground or the referees at the casino. When we do a
25 great job nobody even sees us. When we make a bad

1 call and then the spotlight comes upon us, but we're
2 there to really assure that the casinos, you know,
3 maintain the integrity that the patron, the casinos
4 and the Commonwealth all get a fair shake. So that's
5 basically what we do in a nutshell.

6 Q. Can you tell us, are there Casino Compliance
7 Representatives available at Rivers Casino 24 hours a
8 day?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. And do they also help to enforce the Board's
11 regulations and Rivers' own internal controls?

12 A. Yes. Yeah, actually --- what we actually do is
13 observe and then document and report. And when we see
14 something that is a deviation from the expectations
15 we'll let the casino know and give them an opportunity
16 to rectify that situation.

17 Q. As far as access within the casino does the
18 Bureau of Casino Compliance have access to the
19 surveillance room?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. The count room?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The central control computer room?

24 A. No, not without DOR approval.

25 Q. And do they interact with DOR?

1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. Are there any issues with the relationship
3 between the Bureau of Casino Compliance
4 Representatives and DOR?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do they also interact with patrons?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what do they do with casino patrons?

9 A. With casino patrons there's --- it's
10 multifaceted. There's a compulsive problem gaming
11 issues we conduct the intake for all those that have
12 identified gaming issues. We monitor the Clean Air
13 Act for the Department of Health and attempt to assist
14 the casino with their compliance. We make sure that
15 the casino has adequate staffing.

16 When it comes to security, surveillance, table
17 games we make sure that, you know, the signage is
18 appropriate and information is, you know, relayed from
19 Harrisburg from the Board to the casinos in the
20 shortest amount of time possible. We take care of
21 slot deliveries, table game equipment, slot
22 destruction. We maintain the voluntary credit
23 suspensions in the casino, we just --- and also the
24 State Exclusion List. So I'm sure I missed a few, but
25 that's all I can think of for right now.

1 Q. If a patron has a specific complaint would they
2 report that to a Casino Compliance Representative?

3 A. Yeah. We receive complaints in many, many ways.
4 We receive them by way of mail, by --- through our
5 website there's an automated complaint process. They
6 can physically, you know, approach one of our staff on
7 the floor and we will, you know, research their
8 complaint.

9 And, you know, if the casino has made something,
10 an oversight or a mistake we will, you know, try to
11 bring both parties together to, you know, identify a
12 solution, but we handle every complaint whether it's
13 anonymous, whether it's signed. And we do our best to
14 identify, you know, where things can be done better.

15 Q. Can you describe the relationship between Casino
16 Compliance and the State Police at the facility?

17 A. Yes. There's a professional relationship between
18 the State Police and I, our folks.

19 Q. Can you describe the relationship between Casino
20 Compliance and Rivers Casino staff?

21 A. Yes, there's also a cooperative, professional
22 relationship there.

23 Q. And when there's a compliance review do you find
24 that Rivers Casino staff is cooperative?

25 A. Yes, they're very attentive to issues that we

1 bring to their attention.

2 Q. What are the biggest or the most common
3 regulatory issues at Rivers Casino?

4 A. There really are no big issues. They're the
5 normal daily issues that occur in every casino. You
6 know, there's smoking complaints, there's, you know,
7 staffing --- it's really just the run of the mill.
8 There's nothing that's remarkable in my mind right
9 now.

10 Q. At Rivers?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. Thank you. Are there any issues or concerns that
13 you are aware of which would negatively impact Rivers
14 Casino's suitability for renewal of its Category 2
15 License?

16 A. No, ma'am.

17 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

18 I have no additional questions.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER:

20 Mr. Donnelly, do you have any questions
21 for ---

22 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

23 No.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 --- Mr. Stoll? Okay.

1 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

2 The last witness the OEC has to present
3 is Darcy Leezer who is the supervisor for the western
4 regional office of the BIE.

5 -----
6 DARCY LEEZER, HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY SWORN, TESTIFIED
7 AS FOLLOWS:

8 -----
9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

11 Q. Ms. Leezer, if you could please put on the record
12 your full name and spell your last name.

13 A. It's Darcy Leezer, L-E-E-Z-E-R.

14 Q. And as I mentioned you are the supervisor for the
15 agents in the western regional office; correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And how long have you held that position?

18 A. I've held that position since March of this year.

19 Q. And can you tell us prior to receiving the
20 supervisory position did you work with BIE?

21 A. Yes, I was an agent employed from January of
22 2006.

23 Q. And as an agent did you conduct investigations
24 that involve the licensure or the renewal of a
25 facility?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. As a supervisor can you describe your duties to
3 the Board?

4 A. Yes. I supervise a team of investigators, I
5 assign investigations, I help them to manage their
6 caseloads, I advise them on any issues that come up
7 during their investigations and I ultimately review
8 their investigative reports for accuracy and
9 completeness.

10 Q. In your professional capacity as a supervisor
11 have you been involved in the investigation of Rivers
12 Casino's renewal?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. And at this time are the investigations completed
15 regarding Rivers Casino, its associated entities and
16 the individuals?

17 A. They're not all completed. There's a few
18 outstanding cases. I anticipate their completion
19 probably mid to late June.

20 Q. Can you please describe the scope of a renewal
21 investigation?

22 A. Sure. Basically what we're looking for are any
23 issues concerning the Applicant's honesty, integrity
24 or character. So we're looking for things like
25 criminal history, any non-disclosure issues and we're

1 also conducting a pretty thorough financial
2 suitability review.

3 Q. Do you also review the applications filed by
4 Rivers Casino, its principals and affiliates as part
5 of the investigation into a renewal?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You mentioned that you've looked at the criminal
8 backgrounds, perhaps public records and the financial
9 background. Can you describe what tools you've used
10 when you do an examination of these areas?

11 A. Well, we do interviews with the applicants
12 themselves as well as personal and business
13 references. We also conduct numerous database
14 searches relating to the applicants and we also have
15 contact with a lot of different law enforcement
16 agencies as well as other gaming jurisdictions that
17 may have already conducted an investigation into the
18 applicant.

19 Q. Can you name a few of the databases that BIE
20 utilizes during its background investigation?

21 A. Sure. We use Pacer, we have one called
22 Inquiries. That's where we get our credit reports
23 from. We have Lexis Nexis, we use the Pennsylvania
24 Department of State campaign finance search website to
25 search for political contributions and then --- I'm

1 sorry. Which part did you want me to repeat? Okay.
2 I think that was Inquiries. That's for credit
3 reports. And the Pennsylvania Department of State
4 campaign finance website for political contributions.
5 And then anything else that would come up that we have
6 access to like certain counties have Prothonotary
7 websites and things like that, and we'll search those
8 as well.

9 Q. So far during the investigation that's been
10 completed regarding Rivers Casino have the individuals
11 that you've contacted been cooperative and open during
12 the course of the investigation?

13 A. Yes, they have.

14 Q. Once your investigation has concluded what is
15 BIE's next step as far as what they do with the
16 information?

17 A. Once the investigation is completed the report of
18 investigation is turned into me. I will review it for
19 accuracy and completeness to see if there's any issues
20 that require further investigation. It then goes to
21 my immediate supervisor. It eventually goes to OEC
22 and also to the Bureau of Licensing before it is
23 prepared for presentation before the Board.

24 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

25 With this the OEC's presentation would

1 be concluded. Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 Mr. Donnelly, any questions?

4 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

5 No.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Any questions from Board members or our
8 staff at this time? Okay. Then I have one exhibit
9 with multiple pages to move into the record. It is
10 labeled Hearing Exhibit Number One.

11 (Hearing Exhibit Number One marked for
12 identification.)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 It is the written comment that was
15 received by the Board for the Rivers License Renewal.
16 The first comment is from Representative John Payne
17 and I will read his into the record. I am writing
18 today to express my support of the upcoming license
19 extension for the Rivers Casino.

20 The Rivers Casino provides a significant
21 impact on the economic development due to its prime
22 location adjacent to Heinz Field, Carnegie Science
23 Center and the historic West End Bridge and offers its
24 patrons with a broad selection of new and classic
25 themed slot machines and a wide variety of table

1 games.

2 They also have a generous selection of
3 food and beverage venues, which when coupled with
4 their outside amphitheater provides patrons with a
5 unique recreational destination. And this was from
6 John Payne, the Majority Chairman in the House
7 Oversight Gaming Committee. We have a written comment
8 from the Chief of Police from the City of Pittsburgh.

9 And Mr. Cameron McLay says, it has been
10 the pleasure of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to
11 work with the staff of the Rivers Casino. Since the
12 opening of the casino on the North Shore we have built
13 a successful working relationship with the security
14 staff as well as the Pennsylvania State Police at the
15 facility.

16 Since April 2011 to April 2015 we have
17 realized no significant increase in part one and part
18 two crimes on the North Side, which is inclusive of
19 the North Shore. The Bureau has not realized any
20 adverse criminal complaints or activity in our
21 jurisdictional area of the casino or the North Shore
22 community.

23 The casino has increased the visitation
24 to the North Shore community and we will continue to
25 maintain this community as a safe and enjoyable

1 environment.

2 Third comment was received from
3 VisitPITTSBURGH from Craig T. Davis in support of the
4 License Renewal and the last comment was received from
5 Jay Sukernek, S-U-K-E-R-N-E-K, from the Riverlife also
6 in support of the renewal. Unless I hear any
7 objections from the Rivers or OEC Counsel I'll move
8 these into the record as Hearing Exhibit Number One.

9 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

10 No objection.

11 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

12 No objection.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Okay. Okay. Quick check. Anyone need
15 a break? Okay. We will then move to the public
16 comment portion of the hearing. And when I call your
17 name --- I have a lengthy list of people who have
18 registered. Please come up to the front to the podium
19 here with the microphone. If you have registered to
20 speak and you are in the room will you please stand
21 and raise your right hand to be sworn for our court
22 reporter to swear.

23 -----

24 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE:

25 -----

1 PRESIDING OFFICER:

2 Our first speaker will be Representative
3 Kirk Holbrook. And I will remind our government
4 representatives, they have ten minutes allotted to
5 speak and I will be running the time clock up here.
6 So if you get close I'll let you know.

7 MR. HOLBROOK:

8 I won't need that much time. Should I
9 spell my name out as well?

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 Please.

12 MR. HOLBROOK:

13 Okay. Kirk Holbrook, K-I-R-K,
14 H-O-L-B-R-O-O-K. Good afternoon. I'm here today
15 speaking on behalf of the People's Office served by
16 State Representative Jake Wheatley. Representative
17 Wheatley has served the citizens of the 19th
18 Legislative District since 2003.

19 His District has the honor of being home
20 --- be the actual home of the casino and since its
21 creation it also houses the two communities which were
22 chosen to be the Rivers Casino Community Partners both
23 the North Side and the Hill District. Our communities
24 have benefited and are still benefiting from that
25 partnership and I'm here today to convey our office's

1 continued support for the work that is being done at
2 Rivers.

3 Since its start the casino has stayed
4 true to their word to be responsive to our community's
5 needs and concerns. They have pledged to be an
6 economic engine that provides real opportunities for
7 our families to work, for our businesses to grow and
8 for our communities to thrive.

9 As with most new things, it has not been
10 perfect and there have been some learning challenges
11 and bumps along the way, but what we have appreciated
12 most is the willingness of the Rivers management and
13 its team to be true partners and their commitment to
14 this region, our city and our communities. We stand
15 here today to thank The Rivers Casino and their
16 management team for their ongoing commitment.

17 They are truly a value to our community
18 and we fully support the Pennsylvania Gaming Control
19 Board's favorable review and renewal of their License
20 Application. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER:

22 Thank you. And if I could ask any of
23 the speakers, if you're reading from a written
24 statement if you could --- if you're willing to give
25 that to our court reporter, she would appreciate that

1 later I'm sure. Our next speaker is Everett McElveen.
2 And if I mispronounce someone's name I apologize in
3 advance. There are a few that I know I'll stumble
4 over.

5 MR. MCELVEEN:

6 I am Everett McElveen, E-V-E-R-E-T-T.
7 McElveen is M-C, capital E-L, V like Victor, E-E-N. I
8 am the presidency of Life's Work of Western PA. We
9 have been founded in Pittsburgh in 1927. We also
10 recently merged underneath our banner, the North Shore
11 Community Alliance that was established on the
12 Pittsburgh North Shore in 1895.

13 So combined we have been community
14 activists, fellow helpers through our neighbors for
15 over 200 years. We are proud to support the renewal
16 license of the Rivers Casino primarily for their work
17 with people with disabilities and their willingness to
18 hire them. They have opened their doors for
19 interviews, their employment roles.

20 They have also hosted several seminars
21 including disability awareness month at the casino to
22 help other employers learn about the value of disabled
23 workers. Their stance in terms of employing people
24 with disabilities is truly unique.

25 They have not shied away at all from

1 hiring, from training and working as well with other
2 disability organizations. I applaud their efforts and
3 thoroughly along with our Board, support their renewal
4 application. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Thank you. Joseph D'Anna.

7 MR. D'ANNA:

8 My time might be up by now just by
9 walking up here.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 I didn't start it yet.

12 MR. D'ANNA:

13 I'm Joe Danna and that's spelled D
14 apostrophe A, capital A-N-N-A. And I'm a career
15 counselor with the Career Development Center of the
16 Jewish Family and Children's Service Agency of
17 Pittsburgh and I'd like to thank the Gaming Board for
18 having the opportunity to speak. I'm here in support
19 of the River City --- River City.

20 Rivers Casino whom we've had a really
21 strong working relationship for the past actually,
22 almost seven years. The time actually began when Mr.
23 Neil Bluhm of the Walton Street Capital first applied
24 for a license.

25 At that time in July of 2008 I decided

1 to write an article for the Post Gazette in support of
2 Mr. Bluhm's application because I was very familiar
3 with an organization that Mr. Bluhm had operated
4 before and that company was called JMB Realty for
5 which I served as an Executive recruiter as an
6 independent contractor. And at the time it was
7 considered to be one of the more prestigious real
8 estate organizations in this country, therefore it was
9 a terrific example of the management capability of Mr.
10 Bluhm and his team.

11 So consequently in noting at the article
12 that Pittsburgh would really benefit from having
13 someone like Mr. Bluhm come onboard in support of the
14 license. So that prophecy actually I think came true
15 based on everything that was said today in view of the
16 past six years of operation.

17 Now, for the past seven years our
18 organization has collaborated with the Rivers Casino
19 provide employment opportunities for displaced workers
20 including refugees. We have a large department that
21 handles refugees. These are, of course, legal as well
22 as legal immigrants. Latter representing really a
23 substantial percentage of the employees that make up
24 the 1,800 persons for the Rivers Casino.

25 Many of these individuals also been

1 given the opportunity to be elevated to a higher
2 position, so consequently that speaks well of the
3 Rivers Casino in terms of its opportunities that it
4 grants to employees. In addition during this period
5 Rivers Casino has been a real active participant in
6 our job fairs, consequently under the leadership of
7 Mr. Craig Clark, General Manager. We continue to
8 maintain a strong relationship.

9 So in summary, I think the Rivers Casino
10 has had a positive impact on this community. I think
11 it's proven itself in that regard and it provides a
12 special form of entertainment. And, obviously, most
13 significantly proving itself to be an outstanding
14 corporate neighbor and one that we fully support. And
15 I thank you for the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 Barney Oursler.

18 MR. OURSLER:

19 Good afternoon. My name is Barney
20 Oursler, O-U-R-S-L-E-R. I'm Executive Director of a
21 community coalition called Pittsburgh United. I'm
22 here today speaking on behalf of our partner coalition
23 members including the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact
24 Network, Action United of Western Pennsylvania, SCIU,
25 Local 32BJ, Just Harvest, the Hill District Consensus

1 Group, Steel Workers International Union, Sierra Club,
2 SCIU Healthcare PA, Clean Water Action, Food and
3 Commercial Workers Local 23 and the Group Against Smog
4 and Pollution.

5 As community partners we are very
6 concerned as taxpaying residents, as players at the
7 casino and as organizations that are concerned with
8 building a strong Pittsburgh. And by a strong
9 Pittsburgh we mean a community where workers are able
10 to support their families and they're able to support
11 their communities.

12 We bring our concern to you today
13 because it is our understanding that almost two-thirds
14 of the hourly workers, excluding the dealers and
15 security, have voiced a concern to the management of
16 the casino that they feel that their needs as workers
17 are not being met. In return for the profits that
18 this corporation takes from our community we expect
19 the corporation to be fair to its workers.

20 The casino workers make players feel
21 good about their experience at the casino, not just
22 when they win. The workers deserve the pay, benefits,
23 benefits like affordable healthcare and full-time
24 work, working conditions that allow them to support
25 their families and to pay their fair share of taxes to

1 support the community services we all rely upon.

2 Our coalition is working hard to raise
3 job standards in our region and have all employers
4 compensate workers so they can support their families.
5 We expect employers to respect their workers by
6 providing safe working conditions and fair
7 disciplinary processes. While other employers in our
8 region including employers of security workers,
9 janitors, hospital service workers, homecare workers,
10 our respecting workers' rights and playing fair we
11 believe that the management at Rivers Casino is not
12 doing so.

13 We are not opposed to renewing the
14 license of the casino, but we urge the Commission to
15 require that as one of the requirements to continue
16 that license or to renew that license that management
17 be directed to sit down with the 65 percent of the
18 hourly workers, again leaving out dealers and
19 security, who believe that their --- they have real
20 concerns with their employment. And we ask that
21 management be directed to sit down and negotiate.
22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER:

24 Jack Shea.

25 MR. SHEA:

1 Good afternoon. My name is Jack Shea.
2 I'm President of the Allegheny County Labor Council
3 AFL-CIO. Explain a little bit better, we are --- our
4 jurisdiction is Allegheny and Fayette County. We
5 represent about 125 union --- 125,000 union families
6 both working and retired. I'm here on behalf of the
7 Steel City Casino Workers Coalition, which is four
8 unions, Unite Here, Local 57, United Steelworkers,
9 Teamsters Local 211 and the Operating Engineers Local
10 95. They are interested in a fair process at the
11 Rivers Casino.

12 As you have heard and as I did, I've
13 been here since the beginning, 65 percent number has
14 been kicked around. I heard different figures about
15 that 65 percent. My understanding, it's 65 percent of
16 approximately 800 workers. They have signed a letter
17 and delivered it to management and asked for
18 management to sit down with them and their
19 representatives and to discuss a fair process so some
20 of this stuff will --- this union harassment as they
21 see it and as ---.

22 There's been several charges at the
23 National Labor Relations Board they have found. Some
24 of the other problems that the workers have told me
25 and I have --- we've all heard them from outside ---

1 inside. I heard them when I was standing back there.
2 You know, in general respect for workers, affordable
3 healthcare, a fair process so they can form their
4 union, a voice at work, a living wage, a real living
5 wage and a fair attendance policy seems to come up
6 quite often.

7 As I said, 65 percent of those workers
8 have signed a petition with their signature and
9 delivered it to management. As this date they have
10 not heard a word, have not had a response from
11 management about sitting down. I want to make it very
12 clear that all the workers, and I'm talking now the
13 800 schwaff (phonetic) are in absolutely support of
14 Rivers getting their license and these problems work
15 theirselves out.

16 I personally am a customer of Rivers
17 Casino and so is my family. Sometimes my wife thinks
18 I'm too good of a customer, but I'll get to that
19 later. Okay? But at any rate, let me just make it
20 very plain. We think that the only people that will
21 be able to convince the owners and the management at
22 Rivers is the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. It's
23 happened before.

24 There is precedent for it, not here but
25 in New York and just have them sit down with the

1 workers' representatives and the workers and I think
2 that they can come to a fair process. So I want to
3 make it clear that we appreciate you going through
4 this. I've been sitting here now for three hours and
5 it was pretty enlightening. I wish I would have known
6 that they were going to have a slideshow. I'd give
7 you a slideshow for about 14 hours and how many
8 slideshows, you know what I mean? But, no, let me
9 just make --- and, please, help them out. Nobody else
10 can.

11 You know, I've been in this position
12 about 17 years and I pride ourselves on the labor
13 management cooperation and relationship in this
14 community. I mean, with only a few exceptions we have
15 good labor management relations. We want that to
16 continue, we want the people to be able to speak for
17 theirself at the bargaining table as a group and that
18 way there they will get fair wages, benefits and they
19 will get the treatment they deserve. Thank you very
20 much.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER:

22 Bridgette Kennedy.

23 MS. KENNEDY:

24 Good afternoon. I'm Bridgette Kennedy.
25 That's B-R-I-D-G-E-T-T-E, K-E-N-N-E-D-Y. I'm here on

1 behalf of Bidwell Training Center. We are an
2 affiliate of Manchester Bidwell Corporation, a
3 non-profit on the North Side. We do arts education
4 for youth, career training for adults and jazz and I
5 bring greetings from Bill Strickland. He's the CEO of
6 Manchester Bidwell and Valerie Njie, the Executive
7 Director of Senior Vice President of Bidwell. They
8 are traveling today, but they both really wanted to be
9 here in support of the casino and to share the great
10 things the casino does for our organization.

11 So we feel that Rivers Casino is a true
12 partner to us. It's more than just donating money,
13 which they do, and it's bigger than just supporting
14 culinary arts, which they also do and seems to be a
15 good fit with the restaurants, but they are really
16 here.

17 They've made it clear that they're for
18 the whole entire organization and they're part of what
19 makes Bidwell a school of excellence because they're
20 not just a name on a list of supporters. They are
21 true partners. They want to be involved. From the
22 time they opened their doors they've hired our
23 graduates and all of our graduates who work at Rivers
24 are very happy there and they love their employer.

25 And in the fall of 2014 Rivers Casino

1 reached out to us and asked for extra ways that they
2 could engage with us and partner, and so from that
3 time on they have supported our events financially.
4 They've also attended our events, which means a lot to
5 us. They sit on the culinary arts Advisory Board.
6 They have made numerous donations to our culinary arts
7 program, they have made numerous donations to
8 Manchester Craftsmen Skilled and they have
9 partnerships with our jazz programs.

10 So whatever initiative we're involved
11 in, they're with us. We feel that financially and
12 otherwise and our mission is that we change lives and
13 we feel that they help us do that. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 Thank you. Kristee Cammack.

16 MS. CAMMACK:

17 Good afternoon. My name is Kristee
18 Cammack spelled K-R-I-S-T-E-E. Last name
19 C-A-M-M-A-C-K. I'm the Founder and owner of A Giving
20 Heart, which is a non-profit homeless shelter for
21 families and community center, and we are pleased and
22 honored to be community partners with the Rivers
23 Casino.

24 They actually helped us with our gym
25 floor removal, which is part of our after school

1 program and other programming at our facility. And
2 they also provided turkey dinners and other food items
3 for our families in our after school programs, so we
4 continue --- would like to continue to work with them
5 as far as being community partners. Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Thank you. Marlene Landrum.

8 MS. LANDRUM:

9 Good afternoon. My name is Marlene
10 Landrum. That's spelled M-A-R-L-E-N-E. The last name
11 is L-A-N-D-R-U-M. I'm the Business and Economic
12 Development Project Manager for the Hill Community
13 Development Corporation, which is a non-profit serving
14 the people of the Hill District.

15 I'm offering these comments on behalf of
16 the Hill Community Development Corporation's President
17 and CEO, Ms. Marimba Milliones. The Hill CDC is happy
18 to provide this endorsement of the relicensing of the
19 Rivers Casino. First we would like to recognize the
20 support that was shown to the Hill District community
21 by the late Mr. Don Barton.

22 Equally we are grateful that the Rivers
23 Casino upheld his early commitment and invested in the
24 Hill District community. This investment is paying
25 off. Rivers Casino has been a valued partner for the

1 past five years. The funding provided to the POISE
2 Foundation for the Hill District community growth fund
3 by the Rivers Casino has been instrumental in helping
4 the Hill CDC to implement and operate catalytic and
5 responsive programming for the residents of the Hill
6 District.

7 As you may know, the Hill District is
8 centrally located in the heart of Pittsburgh. Its
9 redevelopment is of the greatest importance to our
10 knowledge centers and Commerce centers. The support
11 provided to our organization has enabled us to respond
12 appropriately to communal and regional needs from
13 wealth creation, home ownership, business development
14 and land development programs the Hill CDC's work has
15 made a true difference.

16 As of today 48 home buyers are pipelined
17 into our home buyer program, 15 businesses have
18 benefited from one-on-one MWBE certification
19 counseling, four businesses have received technical
20 real estate development support to grow a business in
21 the Hill District.

22 And an entire development ---
23 redevelopment strategy for Centre Avenue has been
24 created and Centre Avenue journeys through the Hill
25 District and is the central artery for the City of

1 Pittsburgh connecting downtown to the East End. It is
2 through partnerships such as this that the renaissance
3 of this growing community can continue.

4 Because of this benefit to our city and
5 region, and more specifically the Hill District, the
6 Hill CDC stands on the side of relicensing the Rivers
7 Casino. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER:

9 Thank you. Fran Trimpey.

10 MS. TRIMPEY:

11 Good afternoon. Fran Trimpey, F-R-A-N,
12 T-R-I-M-P-E-Y. Thank you for this opportunity to be
13 here today and speak on behalf of Rivers Casino. It
14 is with the utmost respect and appreciation that I
15 deliver Center for Victims sentiments today on behalf
16 of Rivers.

17 I value our relationship with the casino
18 and its positive effect they've had in the City of
19 Pittsburgh and with its residents and employees who
20 live, work and play here. Center for Victims is the
21 most comprehensive, inclusive provider of services,
22 advocacy and education for victims of all crime across
23 Allegheny County and across the Commonwealth.

24 Each year 15,000 victims of domestic
25 violence, rape, sexual assault, child abuse, homicide

1 and other crimes and their loved ones receive our
2 services and programs. Centers for Victims is not
3 only a victim service organization, but also a
4 community mediation center and a crisis response team
5 providing immediate support when the community is
6 impacted by a large mass of violent crimes.

7 Another 30,000 individuals, including
8 teens and youth groups, are reached through our teen
9 dating violence prevention and education programs, and
10 receive training programs on trauma, conflict
11 resolution and mediation. For 40 years we have been
12 fortunate to connect and collaborate with many local,
13 county and state offices, other non-profit
14 organizations and businesses and corporations like
15 Rivers Casino, to create unique partnerships and share
16 opportunities whereas both parties can better the
17 community.

18 Rivers' community engagement, the
19 Pittsburgh Proud Program and the \$10 for \$10 tables
20 allow non-profit organizations to interact with the
21 casino's patrons in a fun and entertaining environment
22 and raise necessary funds to continue and grow
23 programs such as middle and high school prevention
24 programs. The connection between Rivers Casino and
25 Center for Victims is a true testament of community

1 partnerships and champions.

2 Their dedication to our mission has been
3 proven by team members who have volunteered at
4 October's domestic violence awareness month and the
5 participation in our MEN Challenge and Pledge, which
6 was launched in March of 2013. MEN standing for Men
7 Ending Violence.

8 Additionally, Rahmon Hart, along with
9 other key community leaders such as the District
10 Attorney, Stephen Zappala, Mr. Art Rooney and Roberto
11 Clemente, Jr. have joined the challenge and pledge.
12 To date we have had over 300 men who are being
13 proactive in the community and working with Center for
14 Victims to bring awareness to the issues of violence
15 of crime against women and girls.

16 These issues are not women's issues but
17 societal issues and need men like Rahmon and the
18 community partners like Rivers Casino to get involved
19 and support organizations who are providing critical
20 services. As Pittsburgh continues to grow, we must
21 keep partners and businesses in our region that
22 establish connections with all facets of the
23 community. Center for Victim 100 percent supports the
24 renewal of Rivers Casino getting licensed.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER:

1 Thank you. Karris Jackson.

2 MS. JACKSON:

3 I've been sitting for a long time. Good
4 afternoon. My name is Karris Jackson and that's
5 K-A-R-R-I-S. Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N. And I am here
6 on behalf of the POISE Foundation and specifically the
7 Greater Hill District Development Growth Fund to
8 express our support of Rivers Casino. The Rivers
9 Casino is a valuable asset to the Pittsburgh region
10 and the Hill District community in particular.

11 The initial \$3 million investment in the
12 POISE Foundation with the emphasis in the creation of
13 the Hill District Growth Fund. The fund provides
14 catalytic financial support to Hill District
15 businesses and organizations around business support
16 and entrepreneurship, commercial and residential
17 development and building stabilization throughout the
18 corridor on Centre Avenue in the Hill District.

19 These funds are instrumental to the
20 organizations being able to implement their work. The
21 Fund addresses critical issues in the community and
22 safeguards the development and the interests of Hill
23 --- excuse me, of Hill District residents. Rivers
24 Casino is an important community partner and we are in
25 full support of their license renewal. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER:

2 Nancy Angus.

3 MS. ANGUS:

4 Good afternoon. Nancy Angus, N-A-N-C-Y,
5 A-N-G-U-S. And I'm Executive Director of the Mario
6 Lemieux Foundation and here to endorse Rivers Casino
7 License Renewal. Since their first day in Pittsburgh
8 Rivers Casino has been a generous partner of the Mario
9 Lemieux Foundation and fully supported our mission.

10 We were so fortunate to have been
11 selected by Rivers as their original charitable
12 partner as the recipient of their table games test
13 night. And their commitment to the foundation has
14 been steadfast.

15 The Mario Lemieux Foundation is a
16 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds for cancer
17 research and patient care, as well as Austin's
18 Playroom Project, an initiative that creates playrooms
19 for children and families in medical facilities. And
20 to date we have 31 playrooms established and 3
21 additional either pending or under construction.

22 Rivers' support has also benefited two
23 of our other major programs, the Mario Lemieux Center
24 for Blood Cancers at the Hillman Cancer Center, as
25 well as the Mario Lemieux Lymphoma Center for Children

1 and Young Adults at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
2 of UPMC. We remain grateful to Rivers Casino as their
3 commitment to the Lemieux Foundation has continued
4 through the creation of an annual Mario Lemieux Poker
5 Tournament as well as donation of event space for our
6 annual Mario Lemieux Fantasy Hockey Camp.

7 And they're always very gracious to host
8 Mario himself when he's there at the Black Jack table
9 during their --- our events there. All of their
10 support to us is in the name of charity, and in our
11 case, helping to give others a chance to win. We're
12 fortunate to be associated with Rivers Casino.
13 They're an excellent community partner and we support
14 their bid to renew their Gaming License. Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER:

16 Noel Roach.

17 MR. ROACH:

18 Good afternoon. It's actually Noel
19 (corrects pronunciation) ---

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 Noel.

22 MR. ROACH:

23 --- spelled N-O-E-L. Last name is
24 R-O-A-C-H. My name is Noel Roach. I'm here to speak
25 on behalf of the Iota Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi

1 Fraternity, Incorporated. I actually serve as the
2 Treasurer for that organization. I'm also speaking on
3 behalf of our foundation, the Iota Phi Foundation.
4 The Iota Phi Chapter has been serving the Pittsburgh
5 community since 1925.

6 We are a graduate chapter that is
7 comprised of over 200 college educated men in the City
8 of Pittsburgh. We are dedicated to the --- to
9 providing uplift within the African-American
10 communities in general and the broader Pittsburgh
11 community. Our signature program include the Omega
12 Carter G. Woodson Academy, which is a partnership with
13 the Kingsley Association in East Liberty.

14 We also have the week long historically
15 black college tour, which we provide for high school
16 juniors as well as the Charles R. Drew Blood Drive,
17 the Soto (phonetic) Literacy Program, our Omega talent
18 hunt competition, an achievement awards dinner to
19 recognize contributions of community leaders and
20 professionals in the Pittsburgh area.

21 We also provide an annual Thanksgiving
22 food giveaway, which we give away whole Thanksgiving
23 dinners and an annual Christmas toy giveaway. Over
24 the past five years we've had the --- we've been able
25 to establish a great relationship with the Rivers

1 Casino and particularly in support of those last two
2 events that I named, the Thanksgiving program and our
3 Christmas toy giveaway program.

4 They have been one of the few
5 organizations that we can rely on each year to help us
6 carry out our mission. In addition, the venue in ---
7 the venue provides an upscale and safe environment for
8 young professionals such as myself and the other
9 members of our organization where we can relax and
10 enjoy various forms of entertainment.

11 In summary, we strongly support the
12 Rivers Casino Renewal Application and we wish them
13 best --- the best luck moving forward. Thank you all
14 for your time.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER:

16 Thank you. Ronald Baillie.

17 MR. BAILLIE:

18 My name is Ronald Baillie. That's
19 B-A-I-L-L-I-E. I'm the co-Director at Carnegie
20 Science Center and I've been in that position for the
21 last eight years. Carnegie Science Center is
22 literally the next door neighbor to Rivers Casino.

23 Our property adjoins theirs to our west
24 and frankly eight or nine years ago when we heard that
25 those empty warehouses and parking lots would soon be

1 occupied by a casino our organization that serves over
2 700,000 adults and children every year with science
3 education experiences, we had to wonder what would it
4 mean for a casino to be our neighbor.

5 And what we've learned is that any
6 concern we may have had were completely unfounded. We
7 have found Rivers Casino to be an organization and a
8 business that is just as concerned about many of the
9 same interests that we have, providing great
10 experiences for our visitors and for our guests.

11 And as a result of that we have worked
12 collaboratively on a number of fronts to resolve and
13 manage traffic issues on the North Shore, to resolve
14 issues around parking, our parking as well as their
15 own, and to do that in effective ways together. As we
16 have each looked to enhance our own riverfronts we
17 have worked with Riverlife, but together to be sure
18 that our plans and their plans are effectively
19 cohesive providing an even experience for visitors who
20 use that riverfront trail.

21 They've participated in some of our
22 programs, our adult programming that we do around
23 mathematics. We do programs for adults over 21 once a
24 month, we do programs on probability and statistics
25 and their team has helped us with that and frankly

1 they know their probability pretty well. We have
2 ultimately found them to be a great partner to work
3 with. You've heard of their hotel plans.

4 They have kept us abreast of those plans
5 along the way, have been eager to hear our input and
6 consider our thoughts and we have found them frankly a
7 very effective neighbor on the North Shore, all
8 dedicated to a much more vibrant community. So we
9 very much support the renewal of their license.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 Alexander Nichols.

12 MR. NICHOLS:

13 Hello. My name is Alexander Nichols.
14 Alexander, A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R. Nichols, N-I-C-H-O-L-S.
15 I am the Chief Operating Officer for the Eastern
16 Minority Supplier Development Council. Our mission is
17 advancing business opportunities by certifying and
18 connecting minority businesses, enterprises through
19 corporations and buying entities of which Rivers
20 Casino is one of those --- one of our members.

21 We stand on four pillars, we certify, we
22 develop, we connect and we advocate. EMSDC has been
23 helping certify minority business enterprise within
24 Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware
25 business community. We service as advocates for the

1 economic well-being and growth of EMSDC certified
2 MBEs. While also providing a direct connection for
3 corporations committed to purchasing products,
4 services and solutions from certified MBEs.

5 The Eastern Minority Supplier
6 Development Council is part of the National Minority
7 Supplier Development Council located in New York. It
8 includes --- it matches more than 12,000 certified
9 minority businesses and minority businesses in our
10 definition are Asian, black, Hispanic and Native
11 Americans, with more than 1,750 corporate members.

12 In Pittsburgh here --- I mean, in
13 Pennsylvania we service 400 MBEs, 100 corporations
14 including Rivers Casino. Rivers Casino has sponsored
15 several of our events for networking like our gala,
16 our scholarship golf outing and our opportunity fair.
17 As we noted on an earlier slide, Rivers Casino
18 volunteered on the Share 2015, which was a match
19 making event here in Western Pennsylvania.

20 They also hosted one of our quarterly
21 meetings at the casino. They have supported and have
22 been doing business with our MBEs. They sponsored how
23 to do business with Rivers Casino, they hosted a
24 diversity training for Rivers' employees using an MBE
25 firm. Rivers has --- in the past has held a Board

1 seat on our Board and served on the marketing
2 committee, and last year Rivers was nominated for
3 Corporation of the Year. So our organization strongly
4 support the licenses for Rivers Casino. Thank you
5 very much.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 LaShawn Burton-Faulk.

8 MS. BURTON-FAULK:

9 Good afternoon everyone and happy
10 Tuesday. Glad to be here to support the Rivers Casino
11 today. My name is LaShawn Burton-Faulk. That's L-A,
12 capital S-H-A-W-N. Last name is a mouthful,
13 Burton-Faulk. That's B-U-R, T as in Tom, O, N as in
14 Nancy, hyphen, Faulk, F as in Frank, A-U-L-K. I could
15 write my own book at this point.

16 I am the Executive Director of the
17 Manchester Citizens Corporation, otherwise known as
18 MCC. MCC was founded in 1965 and incorporated in 1971
19 and we are the community development corporation for
20 the Manchester community.

21 We're responsible for the revitalization
22 of the community and we have multiple collaborative
23 non-profits throughout the neighborhood. And while
24 the casino is not a non-profit, I can share with you
25 that they are a critical part of our neighborhood.

1 They are very much a valued partner and if I may share
2 a few examples of that valued partnership with you
3 here today. And I know I'm the last on the list, so
4 I'm going to try to do this relatively quickly.

5 Again, MCC is responsible for the
6 development in the community and our latest
7 development project, which was a Renaissance II was
8 supported and able to be completed by the Rivers
9 Casino Housing Grant through the North Side Leadership
10 Conference.

11 Because of their support and commitment
12 to community MCC was able to complete a \$1.4 million
13 development project, which sold this year and that was
14 the restoration of four residential units and two
15 commercial spaces. So we are forever grateful in our
16 own community that has restored taxes both back to the
17 city and the county, and the Pittsburg public schools.

18 Other ways that they have supported the
19 community have been in Community Days, which affects
20 the entire community. Everybody gets out for the day,
21 everyone from newborn to completely seasoned of a
22 hundred years old. We've got a few of those in the
23 neighborhood as well, are able to participate and,
24 again, thanks to their support.

25 We have a Manchester Historic housing

1 tour that happens every year through MHS, Manchester
2 Historic Society. I can tell you that the casino has
3 sent out some of their team literally to pick up
4 garbage throughout the community to make sure that we
5 present a wonderful home and garden tour. And that
6 means a lot more than just a check, knowing that
7 they're putting sweat equity into the community that's
8 immediately impacted not just by their presence in
9 positive ways, but by their presence physically, being
10 in the community.

11 Anyone in the community knows that they
12 can contact the casino and get some form of help.
13 Again, you know, I can say that they've offered space
14 for some of the non-profits to have an opportunity to
15 showcase events, and they're a critical part of the
16 fiber of Manchester specifically.

17 I also Chair the North Side Leadership
18 Conference of which the housing grants were disbursed
19 throughout 15 other neighborhoods within the North
20 Side and we also had the business grant that was also
21 given for start up or funding to be able to restore
22 buildings, to get businesses started. I think that
23 they have done a phenomenal job.

24 I think the community by my presence
25 here has supported them and, in fact, the room is full

1 here today. And if I may ask the room to stand up and
2 give the casino a round of applause and every one
3 thank them and I'll finish out. Thank you for your
4 time.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Well, she thinks she might have been
7 last on the list. We still have our individual
8 speakers who have signed up, so everybody sit down and
9 calm down. We're not done yet. I know.

10 It's the end of the school day and we
11 all want to get out of here, but now we're moving on
12 to the individuals that have so patiently waited.
13 William Brooks. And I will remind all the
14 individuals, you have about three minutes and if you
15 get close I will let you know you're getting close.

16 MR. BROOKS:

17 Good day. My name is Bill Brooks. I'm
18 the Business Manager of Labors Local 3. I'm President
19 of Pittsburgh Building Trades here in the city. I was
20 born and raised on that hillside that at one time said
21 that big wall would look ugly from up there. Well, I
22 lived there all my life and it don't look ugly. I'm
23 here short and sweet to tell you one thing.

24 Jobs are what will make all the bad
25 things in the world go away, good jobs, and in this

1 hotel --- well, I mean, we need a license to build a
2 hotel, so naturally we're here in favor of the
3 license. So hopefully we can build a hotel and
4 another hotel and whatever they build going up the
5 river. But the more jobs you put in this area, the
6 less killings you'll have, the less violence and crime
7 you'll have and I assure you that jobs, good jobs,
8 create less crime.

9 And that's all I'm going to say to you
10 today and I --- the people from the casino I think are
11 as ---. I don't think it gets any better from these
12 people and I had a brother that was sitting over there
13 talking to you earlier. And him and I talk about
14 because we work for these people, he works for these
15 people and it's a good nod from both of us. So
16 congratulations. I hope everything works out all
17 well, so we are in favor big time.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER:

19 Hannah Taleb.

20 MS. TALEB:

21 Hello. My name is Hannah Taleb. That's
22 H-A-N-N-A-H, T-A-L-E-B. I work at the Rivers Casino.
23 I've worked there for a little more than two and a
24 half years. I wanted to say first, I'm not opposing
25 the renewal of the license, obviously, because I work

1 there. I take pride in my job. I'm a Slot Attendant
2 at the casino. I actually --- I love my job.

3 When I came onto the team in slots they
4 told me that I was a part of the new face of the
5 Rivers Casino and I actually do carry that with me
6 every day. I make more money than I ever have in my
7 entire life and I'm very happy for that opportunity,
8 but I'm here to talk about today why I do support our
9 right to a fair process to organize.

10 And I want to say also that I believe
11 that the jobs at Rivers could be great jobs. Not just
12 good jobs, but great jobs. One of the richest men in
13 the country has brought a business opportunity to my
14 city that I've grown up in my entire life, so I want
15 great jobs to be there.

16 So what really got me involved was a
17 friend of mine who worked as a cage cashier who was a
18 strong and brave survivor of domestic abuse was
19 brought back to her job at the casino with few
20 delimiting attendance credits and was given the choice
21 between going to the emergency room with her daughter
22 or keeping her job at the Rivers Casino.

23 And it was that point that I realized
24 that these jobs are never going to be good unless we
25 have the security to keep them and to support our

1 families. So I am fighting for a fair process to
2 organize because I think that without job security
3 these --- and without the opportunity for mothers and
4 fathers to support their families on these jobs for a
5 long time they'll never be good jobs.

6 A lot of the people that were outside
7 today, nearly a hundred of us, that were outside, they
8 all have different reasons to be fighting. Some of
9 them worked all last night and stayed up to be here
10 today and we're all fighting for respect, for more pay
11 or for job security because we want these to be great
12 jobs for our city. Thank you very much.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Thank you. Derrick Wilson. Mr. Wilson?

15 MR. WILSON:

16 Good afternoon. My name is Derek
17 Wilson. That's D-E-R-R-I-C-K, Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.
18 I'm here on behalf of the Rivers Casino in support of
19 them and there's multiple reasons and I'll just touch
20 on a couple. First is I was raised on the North Side
21 in Manchester. I know LaShawn and I know a lot of the
22 people that are affiliated with the Rivers Casino as
23 it pertains to the not for profit world.

24 And I know that they've given multitude
25 of time, and effort, and sweat and tears just as

1 LaShawn said. I also know that I was on a board for
2 North Shore Community Alliance and the Rivers Casino
3 gave a multitude of time and monies to the
4 organization to make sure that it did what it needed
5 to do in the community. And then most of all is the
6 employment side of it. I'm the owner and President of
7 the Wilson Group, which is a minority and woman owned
8 business on the North Side.

9 And if it's not for entities such as the
10 Rivers Casino supporting my business we wouldn't be
11 here today. And we've grown from 3 people to 28
12 people and with that, obviously, comes jobs for the
13 people that I employ with on the North Side community.
14 So when you look at everything and put it all into the
15 funnel I believe that all they do is positive for the
16 North Side as well as the City of Pittsburgh. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER:

19 Felix Diaz.

20 MR. DIAZ:

21 Good afternoon. Felix Diaz, F-E-L-I-X,
22 D-I-A-Z. I spoke on the last hearing. Part of my
23 purpose of moving to Pittsburgh was not only to work
24 at the Rivers Casino, but to be closer to my daughter.
25 Since then my family has grown. I've been able to

1 provide for them and the casino has offered countless
2 opportunities for me to do that, not only for my
3 family. My son was just born almost a year ago.

4 The benefit plan, my future retirement
5 plan all coming from the hard work and commitment
6 they've made to me and, again, I made to them. In
7 addition to that the countless relationships that I've
8 had since opening in 2009 with the people I've worked
9 with, the people I've worked for. The people that
10 have worked for me and I truly hope and appreciate
11 your consideration for the future of the casino.
12 Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Carol Philp.

15 MS. PHILP:

16 Hello. It's Carol Philp, C-A-R-O-L,
17 P-H-I-L-P. Hello. Good afternoon. I am the Founder
18 and President of CPI Creative, a branded merchandise
19 and graphic design company and we're located in
20 Aspinwall. And I came today to speak from my heart
21 about Rivers Casino's commitment to local minority and
22 women-owned businesses.

23 Our partnership with Rivers began with a
24 conversation that I had with Craig Clark, and during
25 that conversation I explained the challenges that we

1 were having in becoming a vendor for Rivers and I
2 opened his eyes to what I believe was the value that
3 we could add as a woman-owned creative service agency
4 locally. And the outcome from that conversation was
5 transformative for my company.

6 Craig and his Administrative Assistant
7 came for a site visit and they met my team, and they
8 went over years of the Gaming industry, casino
9 business and they were open to our capabilities
10 because many times when people think small business
11 they think there's no way that they can scale. So
12 what impressed us so much was that he came, he saw and
13 he began to believe that we had the ability to work
14 with Rivers.

15 We continue to work with Craig and his
16 team today designing, creating and supplying, engaging
17 promotions, those giveaways. And but in working with
18 us you're also working with our local strategic
19 partners, so our major warehouse in Blawnox, our
20 screen printing and embroidery family business in
21 Millvale, our fulfillment partners in Leetsdale.

22 So it just goes on and on, and we have
23 as a company an American made initiative and we're
24 working throughout the United States with
25 manufacturers who are going to scale to provide large

1 volume. And when I shared this with Craig and his
2 team they became very excited and so we've done many
3 promotions that were made right here in the U.S.

4 And on July 4th the giveaway will be
5 something that's proudly made in the United States. I
6 am very active as a woman-owned business with WE Bank,
7 the Women's Business Enterprise National Council and I
8 was appointed to the National Forum, which is just
9 over all the country.

10 There are 14 regions and the National
11 Forum just helps us as a group on how we can grow our
12 businesses, and I use this partnership story as a
13 model to share with other women and minorities who are
14 trying to build their business and run into obstacles
15 of how they can get that opportunity.

16 So I want to read this so I don't
17 eliminate something, but when leadership at the top is
18 committed to providing opportunity to a diverse group
19 of suppliers and they foster this mission throughout
20 their organization the economic growth and empowerment
21 becomes a reality. And I know this to be true. I've
22 experienced it and we love working with Rivers Casino.
23 Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER:

25 Matthew Harvey.

1 MR. HARVEY:

2 My first name is Matthew, M-A-T-T-H-E-W
3 and last name is Harvey, H-A-R-V-E-Y. Good afternoon
4 members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and
5 all those in attendance today. I am very proud and
6 very honored to stand before you today in support of
7 the Rivers Casino renewing its license. I am a proud
8 team member that has been onboard with the casino for
9 over six years now.

10 In 2009 I had a family member call me
11 and say, Matt, you need to apply to the Rivers Casino.
12 It's you. And I said, what are you talking about it's
13 me? And they said, the Rivers Casino values their
14 employees and they call them team members. I have to
15 admit it piqued my interest and guess what? That
16 night I went home, I read everything I could about it,
17 I applied, I was interviewed and I started in an entry
18 level management position as a Supervisor of the
19 Winning Day Cafe in --- on May 4th of 2009.

20 Throughout opening I was given many
21 challenges and I met those challenges, and before the
22 casino was even open I was promoted to Manager of the
23 Winning Day Café in July of 2009. In November of 2009
24 I suffered a very bad car accident and when I awoke at
25 the hospital I was told I would probably not walk

1 again, but if I did it would be by listening to my
2 doctors and lots of supportive people. I looked
3 around the hospital room and there sat my wife, my
4 children, my family and many of my fellow team members
5 that sit in this room today.

6 I got back to walking again by the
7 support of them in the hospital, in a nursing home and
8 at home. And I proudly returned to work back and
9 walking again in May of 2010. In May of 2010 I was
10 promoted to the Training Specialist for the Rivers
11 Casino.

12 The Training Specialist is in charge of
13 running all the new hire orientation, overseeing that
14 Responsible Gaming is done, done correctly for all
15 those that are brand new and recertifying, overseeing
16 the Ramp Training Program, the Responsible Alcohol
17 Management Program and also any other assignments that
18 were given to me. I have to admit in those two years
19 I truly missed working with our guests each and every
20 day, and so I applied to move back into operations and
21 I became the Manager.

22 I was promoted to the Manager of the
23 Wheelhouse and I was proud and honored to work with
24 our team members every day to serve our guests. In
25 December 2012 I was promoted again to the Operations

1 Manager for food and beverage. I finally had an
2 opportunity to be in leadership of the department and
3 I had the opportunity to work with my fellow team
4 members to improve operations every day.

5 How do you do that? You have to sit
6 down and listen to each other, you have to talk, you
7 have to come up with plans and have discussions and
8 then put those plans into effect. And that has worked
9 very well for us and we continue this to this day I'm
10 proud to say. In December of 2014 I was promoted to
11 Director of Food and Beverage at the Rivers Casino.

12 I now serve, of course, as a leader in
13 food and beverage, but also a leader of the casino as
14 well, which I take great pride in. I sit before you,
15 stand before you today as somebody that was born in
16 Manchester and takes great pride in having the casino
17 in my home area. I sit before --- I'm sorry, stand
18 before you as somebody who didn't graduate college. I
19 had to leave college to earn money and I never made it
20 back again.

21 I stand before you as a proud
22 Pittsburgher that is so proud that you brought the
23 Rivers Casino to Pittsburgh, and I truly thank you for
24 the opportunity to stand before you today. And I
25 fully support the relicensing of the Rivers Casino.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 Sydeny Portis. Sorry, Sydeny. You got
4 in just a little too late on the sign up of Mr. Harvey
5 there.

6 MR. HARVEY:

7 It's all good, Sydeny.

8 MS. PORTIS:

9 Let's hope so. Let's hope so. My name
10 is Sydeny Portis. That's S-Y-D-E-N-Y. Last name is
11 P-O-R-T-I-S. I've worked with the casino since 2012.
12 Started out as an hourly team member, worked in the
13 garage. I'm a security team member. Worked in the
14 garage, helping out with parking and making sure the
15 casino was safe. Came in as a security guard on the
16 floor and throughout that time I always told them that
17 I wanted to do more.

18 Said I wanted to do more, wanted to
19 excel from first interview to me getting on the gaming
20 floor and the Rivers Casino never told me no. I stand
21 before you today as a full-time salaried Supervisor.
22 I'll be at the casino two and a half years. The
23 casino provides opportunity for everybody who wants to
24 do the work and by relicensing the casino you're
25 providing others the opportunity that I received. And

1 at that point if we're able to do that for more it
2 definitely benefits the community. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER:

4 Donald Locke.

5 MR. LOCKE:

6 Good afternoon. First want to say thank
7 you for the opportunity for the Pittsburgh Gaming
8 Control Board for me to stand before you today. My
9 story starts at I was living in Detroit in 2009. Had
10 the opportunity to come back to Pittsburgh. I applied
11 at the Rivers Casino as a security officer. I then
12 worked for security for one year, which I met a bunch
13 of great friends in security.

14 Transferred in the facilities
15 department, started out as an Engineer III. I got
16 promoted then again to an Engineer II and as I worked
17 hard and put my diligence to to do the best thing that
18 I possibly could do for the Rivers Casino I now stand
19 before you as a Rivers Casino Shift Supervisor. And I
20 just want to also say thank you to my team members for
21 supporting us as we work hard and the management at
22 Rivers Casino.

23 They have never denied anyone the
24 opportunity that put forth the work to do what they
25 need to do to advance in the Rivers Casino with the

1 correct training. Training is always offered for them
2 to make advancement in any direction if they choose to
3 move in throughout the Rivers Casino. I thank you
4 again for the opportunity, I thank the management and
5 my team members to stand before you today. Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Krishna Subedi. Let's see how close I
8 got with that name.

9 MR. SUBEDI:

10 Good afternoon everyone. Good afternoon
11 everyone. Thank you for letting me speak in front of
12 you all. So at first let me introduce myself. I'm
13 Krishna Subedi and I travel to the United States from
14 Poland 2009. I was living in Alaska and I started to
15 work for the Refugee Organization. I worked as a
16 refugee assisting anyone who came from other
17 countries. I moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in
18 2010.

19 I worked as a Line Operator for a few
20 years prior to starting in the Rivers Casino in 2012.
21 In 2012 I was hired as an EVS Attendant and I worked
22 there until 2015. Then I was promoted to the Players
23 Club as a representative. I was given the opportunity
24 to learn other areas in the casino. I can say
25 honestly that working here gives me a wow feeling. I

1 honestly feel that the Rivers Casino is the best place
2 to work.

3 The Rivers Casino is the best place to
4 work because the management and administration are
5 wonderful. They give equal opportunity to everyone.
6 I love to work here. I am proud to be a part of the
7 Rivers Casino as a team. Thank you again. Thank you
8 very much.

9 PRESINDING OFFICER:

10 James Myers. Mr. Myers? Okay. Clarice
11 Johnson? Ms. Johnson? Daniel Pultz. Okay. No
12 Daniel Pultz. And Tim McNulty.

13 MR. MCNULTY:

14 Good afternoon. Thank you for your
15 service to the Commonwealth. My name is Tim McNulty,
16 M-C, capital N-U-L-T-Y. I am the Associate Vice
17 President for Government Relations at Carnegie Mellon
18 University and I'm actually here to express
19 university's deep appreciation for the opportunity to
20 partner with Rivers Casino and the tremendous
21 community spirit they brought to that partnership.

22 In the competition that took place in
23 spring that was described earlier Rivers joined with
24 Carnegie Mellon, with Microsoft to launch a first in
25 the world ever no limit Texas Hold 'Em competition

1 between four of the best players in the world and
2 Claudico, which is a computer system developed by
3 researchers at Carnegie Mellon.

4 What Rivers Casino made possible by
5 opening up and joining with a university was a chance
6 to really advance to the frontier of computer science.

7 Among its many positive attributes Poker
8 it turns out is an ideal game to advance artificial
9 intelligence because it pushes computers to learn to
10 operate in situations with strategic uncertainty, and
11 how to reason in cases with strategic uncertainty.
12 Far more advanced --- requires far more advanced
13 capability than Chess or Jeopardy, which are two areas
14 where computers have been advanced at Carnegie Mellon
15 before.

16 The long term benefits of this
17 competition will be felt in areas such as preventing
18 terrorist attacks or providing better care for senior
19 citizens or people with disabilities. The Rivers
20 Casino really made this competition possible. They
21 provided the stage that brought worldwide attention
22 and excitement, and they made the world aware that,
23 once again --- once again aware that Pittsburgh and
24 Pennsylvania are a center for innovation.

25 And that is something very worthwhile in

1 and of itself. I think if you were to talk to our
2 faculty and students of what they find exciting about
3 going to Carnegie Mellon one of the key things they
4 would mention is that this community is very
5 supportive of their research and their education. And
6 we're very pleased to have been part of that great
7 chapter that Rivers has added to that history.

8 I would close by expressing our deep
9 appreciation and our hope that you will take their
10 community spirit in mind in renewing their license
11 application. Thank you again and thank you for your
12 service.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 That is the end of my list. Is there
15 anyone in the room who believed they registered and I
16 did not call your name? If so, raise your hands.
17 Okay. Seeing no hands we'll move on. At this point,
18 Mr. Donnelly, do you have any closing remarks you'd
19 like to make on Rivers' behalf?

20 ATTORNEY DONNELLY:

21 Just a couple. I think it was --- I
22 thank all the speakers who came. I'm a cynical kind
23 of an old guy and I was moved by that, so my applause
24 to all the people. Thank you very much.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER:

1 OEC Counsel, any closing remarks?

2 ATTORNEY MANIFESTO:

3 No. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER:

5 Okay. A few housekeeping matters. If
6 the parties have the fire or desire to file any brief
7 or written memorandum you may do so before the close
8 of business next Tuesday. The record will remain open
9 until the Board hears the matter at a later public
10 Board meeting.

11 I'll prepare a report based upon today's
12 hearing and the evidence entered into the record and
13 the suitability report when it is filed with Hearings
14 and Appeals. That report and all of the documents and
15 transcripts will be submitted to the Board and at its
16 convenience it will schedule this matter to be heard
17 at a future public Board meeting in Harrisburg.

18 I once again want to thank the staff of
19 the county courthouse here, and the Sheriff's office
20 and the Pittsburgh Police Departments. And I would
21 thank you all for coming today and your cooperation
22 and sitting patiently through this hearing. The
23 hearing is now concluded. Thank you.

24 * * * * *

25 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 4:00 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,
hearing held before Officer Lloyd was reported by me
on 06/02/2015 and that I Juliette Hoffman read this
transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Juliette Hoffman

Court Reporter
Juliette Hoffman