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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



OLYMPIA DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES DETROIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

n Tuesday, December 4, 2012, Olympia Development of Michigan ("Olympia"), operated by the Ilitch family, announced plans to pursue a partnership with state and local governments for a \$650 Million downtown Detroit development project. The project would consist of residential, retail, office, and entertainment space, the hallmark of which would be a multi-purpose events center. The multi-purpose event center would be the new home of the Detroit Red Wings.

Olympia has stated that the project would provide a new city district that would connect existing areas of downtown and would be located behind the Fox Theatre and near MotorCity Casino. A press release from the company notes that the project would strengthen "the link between Detroit's existing assets through a continuous, walkable environment connecting one district to the next and serving to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike."

Olympia expects the project to create approximately 8,300 total jobs and an overall economic impact of \$1.8 Billion from the establishment of the new district. The company has received support in the state legislature, where a house bill contains development incentives for the project. House Bill 5463, which would amend the Downtown Development Authority Act, would allow for tax revenue currently allocated to the School Aid Fund and local governments to be diverted to newly created development authorities for improvements or developments in a downtown district. In addition, the bill would allow for this diverted tax revenue to be utilized as security against bonds issued for the construction of a qualifying project.

A substituted version of the bill was passed in the Senate by a 27-11 vote on

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December 5, 2012, and has been referred back to the House for final approval from the legislature. If the Senate substitute passes the House, then the bill will be presented to Governor Snyder for approval.

Olympia Development is the real estate arm of the Ilitch family of companies. Additional companies include the Detroit Red Wings, Olympia Entertainment, MotorCity Casino, the Detroit Tigers, and Little Caesars Pizza.

MGCB RELEASES REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

n Wednesday, December 12, 2012, the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") will hold its Regular Public Meeting. The agenda includes the following items:

- A. Consider the Licensing Division's Recommendations Regarding Level 1 and Level 2 Occupational License Applications
- B. Consider the Licensing Division's Recommendations Regarding the Pending Transfers of Interest of:
 - 1. Spielo International USA, LLC, Board File Nos. SL000284-12-013 and SL000284-12-014
- C. Consider the Executive Director's Reports and Licensing Division's Recommendations Regarding the Pending Supplier License Application of:
 - 1. Burtco Enterprises, Inc., Board File No. SL005643-12-002
 - 2. Colasanti Construction Services, Inc., Board File No. SL006435-12-002
 - 3. ComSource, Inc., Board File No. SL000364-12-002
 - 4. Dumas Construction Services, Inc., Board File No. SL006424-12-001
 - 5. Greg-Mar Building Company, Inc., Board File No. SL001105-12-001
 - 6. International Pre-Cast Solutions, LLC, Board File No. SL006451-12-002
 - 7. Lorio, Ross Entertainment Agency, Inc. d/b/a Lorio, Ross Sterling

- Entertainment Agency, Inc., Board File No. SL001123-12-002
- 8. Multimedia Games, Inc., Board File No. SL006431-12-002
- 9. Pomponio Construction, Inc., Board File No. SL006478-12-002
- D. Consider the Executive Director's Reports and Licensing Division's Recommendations Regarding the Pending Supplier License Renewal Requests of:
 - 1. American Gaming & Electronics, Inc., Board File No. SL001568-12-002
 - 2. Guideline Mechanical, Inc., Board File No. SL000186-12-001
 - 3. IGT, Board File No. SL000002-12-003
 - 4. J.J.S.V. Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Pizzapapalis Taverna, Board File No. SL001287-12-002
 - 5. Master Craft Carpet Service, Inc., Board File No. SL004494-12-002
 - 6. Wing Construction, Inc., Board File No. SL000798-12-001
 - 7. Women's Economic Empowerment Group, Inc. d/b/a WEEG, Board File No. SL000600-12-002
- E. Consider the Executive Director's Report and Licensing Division's Recommendation Regarding the Supplemental and Confidential Background Regarding Suitability of New Key Person of Supplier Licensee Global Cash Access
 - 1. David Benjamin John Lopez, Board File No. SL006157-12-001
- F. Consider the Executive Director's Report and Licensing Division's Recommendation Regarding the Supplemental and Confidential Background Regarding Suitability of New Key Qualifier of Supplier Licensee Spielo International USA, LLC
 - 1. Blu Acquario Prima, S.p.A, Board File No. SL000284-12-012
- G. Consider Board Acceptance of Acknowledgment of Violation of Supplier Licensee; Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. SDA-2012-03

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The MGCB meeting will take place at the Detroit Office Hearing Room, located at Cadillac Place, 3062 W. Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit, Michigan at 9:30 a.m. on December 12th.

MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL LAUNCHES NEW OUTDOOR MARKETING CAMPAIGN

otorCity Casino Hotel has launched a new billboards campaign throughout metro Detroit to provide an updated look and new feel. The outdoor billboards will run in the metro Detroit area through spring 2013 and will highlight amenities including fine dining, live entertainment at the Sound Board, gaming options, and the hotel and spa.

"MotorCity has the widest variety of entertainment options for guests that are unmatched in the area," stated Jenny Holaday, senior vice president of operations as MotorCity Casino Hotel. "We want to drive that message in a fun, creative way to entice consumers to visit the one place in Detroit to escape for the best-in-class amenities all under one roof."

"The fresh, colorful new look for the boards is built around a compelling and entertaining way to entice consumers to visit," said Mark Simon, Chief Creative Officer of Campbell Ewald, the advertising company consulted on the new marketing campaign.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO OPENS HOTEL NEXT WEEK

he FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan, which is owned and operated by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) will open its new resort-style hotel next Wednesday, December 12, 2012. In addition, FireKeepers will open its *Smoke 'n Fire* restaurant, business center, and expanded gaming space.

The new expansion includes a 242 room resort-

style hotel with indoor pool, exercise facility, full service restaurant, and business center. Additionally, a functional multi-purpose event center has been added and is capable of seating up to 2,000 guests in a concert venue or configured to accommodate banquets, corporate meetings, trade shows, and other events. The concert venue is slated to open December 29, 2012 and will be headlined by country music group Rascal Flatts during its Grand Opening debut show.

"Our future burns bright," stated Homer A. Mandoka, NHBP Tribal Council Chairman. "This journey started with a spark and the opening of our resort-style hotel is a significant moment of our Tribal Elders and our Tribal Membership. As Potawatomi we are *'Keepers of the Fire'* and we are proud to keep the fire burning strong with FireKeepers Casino Hotel."

The expanded gaming space will bring FireKeepers gambling floor to 111,700 sq. ft., and include 2,900 slot machines. The new gaming area is located near the hotel lobby and will be designated as a smoke-free zone.

For more information, please visit www.FireKeepersCasinoHotel.com.

AGA ANNOUNCES FEDERAL POKER LEGISLATION ADVOCACY

n Monday, December 3, 2012, the American Gaming Association ("AGA") launched a campaign to advocate for federal legislation that would authorize and regulate online poker activity nationwide. The campaign seeks to encourage Congress to introduce and pass federal online poker legislation in the near future in order to set national minimum standards for online poker regulation and oversight.

The campaign comes after the U.S. Department of Justice issued an opinion last year stating that the agency interprets the federal Wire Act to prohibit only online sports wagering. This interpretation was a departure from past views of the agency, which previously had viewed the Wire Act as a prohibition against all forms of internet wagering. Since the opinion was issued, several states have

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passed or introduced legislation that would authorize forms of internet poker or other online wagering within state lines. According to a press release from the AGA, "[w]ithout Congressional action, the U.S. is poised to see widespread legalization of all types of online gambling and a state-by-state patchwork of regulations that puts gaming patrons, problem gamblers and minors at unnecessary risk."

In addition to advocating for increased awareness of the issues, the AGA currently supports the basic terms of a draft version of proposed federal legislation currently titled "The Internet Gambling Prohibition, Poker Consumer Protection and Strengthening UIGEA Act of 2012." This proposed legislation may be introduced at the end of the current Congressional session, though it is uncertain if any action will be taken. The bill has purportedly been proposed by Sen. John Kyl (R-AZ) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) and would include a licensing and regulatory system for online poker activity.

The AGA has stated that it will incorporate its existing online poker research and advocacy materials within the new campaign, including the resources available at the AGA's Online Poker Headquarters. For more information, please visit the AGA's Online Poker Headquarters, available at http://www.americangaming.org/government-affairs/aga-online-poker-headquarters.

The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to thank Scott Nuyttens for his contributions to this Newsletter.