

# CASINO REVENUE FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 7, 2016

## MINUTES OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission was held on Friday, October 7, 2016 at the State House Annex. Those in attendance were:

Jim Thebery, Chair  
Maureen Bergeron, Seniors  
James Carney, Seniors  
Derek DeLuca, Asm. Chris Brown  
Tina Zsenak, Vice Chair – DHS/DOAS  
Marshall Spevak, Asm. Mazzeo & Sen. J. Whelan

### Guest:

Sharon Harrington, NJ CCC  
Lisa Tulley, NJ Transit  
David Scanlan, NJ CCC

### Support:

Desmond Webb, Treasury  
Karen Storcella, Fiscal Support

The meeting was called to order, at 10:45am, by James Thebery followed by the Flag salute by Tina Zsenak. James Thebery welcomed commission members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes of August 26, 2016 were approved.

### Minutes:

**Jim Thebery:** Mentioned a few articles:

**“Horsemen ask high court to rule on Sports Betting:** New Jersey’s thoroughbred horsemen have filed an appeal asking the U.S. Supreme court to take up the long-running battle they have been waging alongside Governor Christie to bring legal sports betting to the state’s horse tracks and Atlantic City’s casinos. Monmouth Park, home to the vast majority of the state’s thoroughbred horse races, is missing out on gross revenues of \$1 million a week, according to Ron Riccio, a

lawyer representing the State's horse racing industry. Dennis Drazin, who operates the track for the horsemen, said sports betting could produce a net subsidy for racing purses of about \$25 million annually before the state's other racetracks and Atlantic City's casinos eventually came aboard as competition, should the betting be legalized. The appeal also references what it calls the "enormous profits" from daily fantasy sports that the NJFL and other pro sports leagues have reaped through partnerships with that burgeoning industry. The horsemen say that daily fantasy sports may be illegal based on the same law that the leagues are using to prevent the state from allowing sports betting."

**"Casino expansion unlikely now and in future, easing uncertainty:** The campaign to expand casino gambling to North Jersey seems to have collapsed. A Stockton University poll showed 68 percent of those surveyed oppose casino expansion, while 27 percent support it. The public will vote on the referendum November 8<sup>th</sup>."

**Sharon Harrington:**

Jimmy Buffet's concert was a great success. Unfortunately, due to the storm warnings, the Labor Day concerts were cancelled. AC is looking to building a stage on the beach in the future.

Miss America Pageant was also a big success.

The owner of Showboat purchased the pier near Caesars.

The remaining casinos are generating good revenue.

Stockton University will be breaking ground soon in Atlantic City.

Taj may be used as parking garage for other casino's (?) No solid information.

South Jersey Industries is returning their headquarters to Atlantic City. They will keep a satellite operation in Hammonton, NJ.

**Desmond Webb:** Internet gains – 40% online poker & 60% online slots/black jack. Decrease in casino revenue has not been as high this year as in past years.

**Open discussion** regarding Governor appointing senior/disabled to be involved in Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission. Jim Thebery will present 1<sup>st</sup> resume to Governor's office today.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00. Next meeting will be December 9, 2016 at the State House Annex in Trenton, NJ Room 1.