

**Games for Charity Study Commission  
Meeting  
October 27, 2015  
05**

Present:

Mr. Larry Belair –Chairman  
Mr. Jim Rausch –Vice Chairman  
Senator Lou D’Allesandro - Member  
Representative Patrick Abrami -Member  
Mr. Timothy Connors -Member  
Major Russell Conte – Member  
Attorney John Kennedy – Member  
Mr. Lynn Presby - Member

In Attendance: Paul Kelley-Director RCGC, Sudhir Naik-Deputy Director RCGC, Valerie King-Procedures Administrator RCGC, Stephen Johnston-Supervisor Gaming Operations RCGC, Amir Alic-Gaming Audit Supervisor RCGC, Linda Darrow-Recording Secretary RCGC, Charles McIntyre-Executive Director-Lottery, Ryan Gloddy, Dick Bouley, Jan DiMarzio, Nick Bonardi and others

Chairman Belair called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

**Introduction of Members**

Chairman Belair asked each member of the commission to introduce themselves.

**General Ground Rules**

Chairman Belair noted that today’s meeting is more of a work session to go over the proposed draft report emailed to the members a few days ago.

**Approval of the minutes of 10/13/15**

On a motion by Representative Abrami, and seconded by Mr. Connors, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated 10/13/15.

**Discussion on the Proposed Draft Report**

Director Kelley handed out a worksheet outlining potential revenue projections from increased Lucky 7 license fees. Discussion ensued. Concern was expressed about whether increasing the tax would take the smaller charities out of the play.

Draft Report – page 1: discussion with no changes made.

Draft Report – page 2: discussion with the following change under **Limited Investigatory Options** - reword “The Study Commission finds. . .” to “The Study Commission *observed through visitation. . .*”.

Draft Report – page 3: discussion with the following change made under **Section (a)** – reword “Elimination of the Games of Chance system would wreak havoc. . .” to “Elimination of the Games of Chance system would *create a financial hardship. . .*”.

Also discussed:

- the changes to charitable gaming that have occurred in the last two years;
- fantasy draft games which have expanded dramatically and the possibility that they are drawing money away from charitable gaming
- developing a model to regulate charitable gaming
- the role demographics play in charitable gaming

Draft Report – page 4: discussion with the following change made under **Section (b)** – reword “...add no less than twenty (20) part-time inspectors...” to “...add *additional* part-time inspectors...”.

Draft Report – page 5: discussion with the following changes made under **Section (b)** – removing “Reliance on local Police Departments to take an interest in enforcement of state laws is not likely to happen.” Stressing the words “inconsistent enforcement” in the next sentence and adding the words “*by the local police*” after the words “Trying to get uniform enforcement of the myriad of gaming laws”.

Also discussed:

- Including specifics of how many inspections/audits need to be performed
- Use of part-time auxiliary state troopers
- The need of an attorney at AG’s office dedicated to gaming issues
- Surveillance requirements

Draft Report – page 6: discussion with the following change under **Section (c)** – insertion of Director Kelley’s worksheet into this section.

Also discussed:

- The need for updated technology
- The unanticipated revenue realized by Table Stakes Poker (HB169)
- Stressing that this department is self-funded
- Redirecting some of RCGC’s surplus revenue now going to Education Trust Fund
- Increasing fines and fees

Draft Report – page 6: discussion with no changes made under **Section (d)**.

Draft Report – page 7: discussion with the following change under **Section (e)** –add section regarding use of the website for helpful guidelines and instructional videos for the charities on their role in managing their activities

Draft Report – page 7: discussion with the following change under **Section (f)** – leaving the topic of problem gaming to be addressed by the legislature at a future date. This subject was not part of the original charge to the Commission.

Draft Report – page 7: discussion with the following change under **Section (g)** – reword this paragraph using Commissioner Rausch’s submission to Chairman Belair.

Also discussed:

- The need for updated technology to better monitor and control gaming
- Increasing betting limits
- Eliminating rent as a deduction from the charities 35%
- Shared Bingo

Chairman Belair asked the members to email him their assignments, which he will use to update the draft report for the next meeting. He extended an invitation to the Lottery Commission to attend the next meeting of this commission.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ms. Jan DiMarzio of Community Bingo Center expressed her concerns regarding the potential increase of the licensing fee for the Lucky 7 machines.

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m. location to be determined. Chairman Belair invited the usual support staff and any of the “regular audience members” to join the commission for some pizza and soft drinks at the conclusion of the next meeting.

At 12:12 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Rausch, and seconded by Representative Abrami, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.