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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## MGCB TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING RELATED TO PROPOSED TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN GREEKTOWN CASINO

At 1:00pm on Monday, June 28, 2010, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) will hold a special Board meeting at the MGCB's Detroit offices, located at Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the approval of a proposed transfer of interest in Greektown Casino, L.L.C.

The special Board meeting will discuss the regulatory approvals necessary for Greektown Casino to emerge from bankruptcy. If all legal and regulatory approvals are obtained, Greektown Casino's exit from bankruptcy is currently set to occur by June 30, 2010. Greektown Casino has been under bankruptcy court protection since May, 2008.

## MAYOR BING ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE RELOCATION TO OLD MGM GRAND DETROIT CASINO

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing is seeking to have the city purchase the old MGM Grand Detroit Casino and transform it into the new Detroit police and fire department headquarters. Mayor Bing has asked the Detroit City Council to decide upon approval of the plan by June 25th.

The proposed \$53 million dollar deal would allow for the purchase of the building on a two-year land contract totaling \$6.32 million. The remaining \$47 million would be used to renovate the existing facilities. Under the land contract agreement, the city would not have to begin making payments until 2012. The city would have two years to pay back the \$6.32 million.

"I am glad to finally be able to move our officers into a safe, sound and functional structure that is also citizen friendly and accessible," Mayor Bing said in a statement. "This represents an important step in making our city more operationally efficient ... and safe."

The 400,000 square foot building would also encompass the city's new crime lab, which was shut down in 2008 after an audit revealed processing errors.

From 1999 to 2007, the site formerly served as MGM Grand Detroit's temporary casino facility before the gaming operation was relocated to its permanent location in Detroit.

## **GROUP SEEKS TO BOYCOTT KENO TO PROTEST STATE SMOKING BAN**

In an attempt to protest Michigan's state-wide smoking ban, "Protect Private Property Rights in Michigan," a Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=201889528790>) is asking Michigan bars to refuse the sale of Michigan Keno lottery games tomorrow, Saturday, June 19, 2010.

The ban, which went into effect May 1, 2010, prohibits smoking in most public places and establishments where food or drink are served. The group currently has over 2,700 members.

## **POLL: MICHIGAN RESIDENTS SHOW LACK OF SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED GAMING**

On June 10, 2010, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that a recent poll of 616 potential Michigan voters conducted by a firm retained by a group opposed to expansion indicated that 34% of those surveyed support a casino gaming expansion ballot proposal, 47% oppose such a measure, and 19% are undecided.

The poll was conducted by Washington, D.C. based Mellman Group and comes in response to a ballot proposal submitted earlier this year that

seeks to amend Michigan's Constitution to authorize eight new casino gaming venues in the state. The poll was sponsored by the organization, *Protect MI Vote*, which is opposed to gaming expansion, and was conducted from January 19-21, 2010.

The organization sponsoring the gaming expansion proposal, *Racing to Save Michigan*, is headed by Hazel Park Harness Raceway CEO Dan Adkins. The group must collect 386,000 signatures from registered voters by July 5th in order to be included on the November state-wide ballot.

## **GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT NAMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER**

Yesterday, June 17, 2010, the Economic Development Corporation of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians ("Grand Traverse Band") announced the hiring of Donald Ponniah as President & General Manager of Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. As the former general manager of the Hilton North in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Ponniah has over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry and holds a hotel management and business administration degree from the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut. According to the press release, Mr. Ponniah will begin acting as general manager on Monday, June 21.

Mr. Ponniah will be filling a position left vacant by former manager and president Grant Channing, who stepped down in January to become the vice president at another Native-American owned resort north of San Diego.

"We're pleased to have someone with Mr. Ponniah's past experience and we are looking forward to him joining our resort team," Grand Traverse Band Tribal Chairman Derek Bailey told the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

The 900-acre Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, located in Acme, Michigan, just six miles Northeast of Traverse city, offers over 600 rooms, suites, and condominiums along with 54 holes of

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golf. Other features include an array of indoor and outdoor swimming pools, as well as a wide selection of restaurants and lounges along Lake Michigan. To learn more about the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa please visit: <http://www.grandtraverseresort.com/>

## NEW TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTED

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) announced today the results of its election for Tribal Council. Three seats on the five-member Tribal Council were up for election on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Tribal members voted to re-elect RoAnn Beebe-Mohr of West Olive to the Tribal Council along with newcomers Dorie Rios of Battle Creek and Nathaniel W. Spurr of Grosse Pointe. The positions are three-year terms. The Tribal election board certified the votes last month.

Beebe-Mohr, Rios and Spurr will join Homer A. Mandoka of Bronson, Michigan, and Jamie Stuck of Scotts, Michigan, who were re-elected to the Tribal Council last year.

Following the ‘swearing in of the new Council Members’, the Tribal Council voted to appoint Council members to the follow officers positions:

- Homer A. Mandoka - Chairperson
- Jamie P. Stuck - Vice-Chairperson
- RoAnn Beebe-Mohr - Secretary
- Dorie Rios - Treasurer
- Nat W. Spurr – Sergeant-at-Arms

“With the next election two years away, the Tribal Council will be able to roll up our sleeves and strive to accomplish our long-term goals and objectives” said Homer A. Mandoka, Chairperson of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi. “One of the Tribal Council’s main goals is the implementation of our Land Use Master Plan, which identifies land use for program and service expansion, including educational and recreational use, along with safe and affordable housing while preserving open spaces.”

The NHBP tribe owns the \$300 million

FireKeepers Casino, located near I-94 in Battle Creek, Michigan. FireKeepers Casino features a 107,000 square foot gaming floor with over 2,600 slot machines and 78 table games. It opened in January of 2009 and is managed by Gaming Entertainment, LLC, a joint venture between Las Vegas-based Full House Resorts, Inc., and RAM Entertainment, LLC, a privately owned investment company.

*The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to thank Colin Cody for his contributions to this Newsletter.*