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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michigangaming.com](http://www.michigangaming.com)

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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## PURE MICHIGAN GAMING SUMMIT 2015

On April 30, 2015, Pure Michigan Business Connect will be hosting Michigan's first matchmaking summit for those interested in participating in the gaming industry at Ford Field in Detroit. The event is designed to allow individuals and businesses interested in doing business with the Detroit casinos to network with casino representatives and to learn more about the state's licensing requirements directly from the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB").

The event will be held in partnership with the three Detroit casinos – Greektown Casino Hotel, MGM Grand Detroit, and MotorCity Casino Hotel. In addition to the casino operators, the event will also include a panel featuring Mr. Kurt Steinkamp, MGCB Manager of Enterprise Licensing, to provide guidance on the agency's licensing process and requirements. The MGCB will also have staff available onsite to address questions from attendees.

"The Pure Michigan Gaming Summit is an excellent way to help potential Detroit casino suppliers learn directly from the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) about Michigan regulatory requirements," said Richard Kalm, Executive Director of the MGCB. "The event offers both good educational and networking opportunities."

Please note that the event is invite-only, but those interested may apply to Pure Michigan for be selected to participate by visiting the Pure Michigan website at: [www.michiganbusiness.org](http://www.michiganbusiness.org)

## **SOUTH BEND COUNCIL ISSUES SUPPORT FOR POKAGON PROJECT**

On Monday, April 13, 2015, the South Bend Common Council voted unanimously on Bill No. 15-22, a resolution to support the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' ("Tribe") federal proposal to take certain land in Northern Indiana into trust for the benefit of the Tribe. In its description of the resolution, the council noted the importance of continued cooperation between the Tribe and the municipality, the potential for 1400 construction and 200 permanent jobs in the community, and the ability for the Tribe to offer increased services for its membership.

The Tribe is seeking to place 18 parcels of land totaling over 165 acres into trust with the BIA in order to improve access to governmental services, provide land for housing projects, to increase economic development opportunities, and to begin development of a Class III casino with hotel, restaurants, and other amenities. The Tribe currently holds the land in fee, and placing the land into trust with the BIA is a necessary step in allowing the land to be eligible for certain tribal gaming activity under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Regarding its interactions with the Tribe, Councilman Oliver Davis noted that "we want to show that we welcome them, so therefore we have put together a resolution [to welcome the Tribe]." The resolution is non-binding on the city, which is currently working with the Tribe to negotiate its future development plans. Community members also expressed a desire to welcome the Tribe to the community, as well as the possibility for a future tribal casino to create jobs and economic growth, praising the Tribe for its tradition of community outreach efforts and cooperation with local groups. Other public comments noted support for tribal developments, but expressed concerns that were focused solely on the possibility of a tribal casino, such as potential social harms associated with expanded gaming.

The Tribe has approximately 5,000 members, as well as over 2,800 acres of land in Michigan held in trust by the BIA for the benefit of the Tribe. The Tribe also owns the Four Winds casino brand, which includes three successful casino properties

located in southwest Michigan. To review reports and documents related to the Tribe's request, please visit the project's website at: <http://pokagonsouthbendeis.com/>.

### **LETTER: AGA PRESIDENT AND CEO GEOFF FREEMAN ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING**

*Dear Gaming Colleagues:*

*Earlier this week, I had the privilege of delivering a keynote address at the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Presidential Initiative Summit. My remarks focused on the problem of illegal gambling in the United States, which preys on the vulnerable, siphons tax dollars away from important community services and poisons gaming's reputation. We outlined four-specific areas of concern:*

- *Illegal Sports Betting;*
- *Black Market Machines;*
- *Internet Sweepstakes Cafes; and*
- *Illegal Online Operators.*

*Further, we called on our nation's Attorneys General to join the AGA in drawing a bright line between these harmful, illegal activities and our highly regulated and mainstream, legal gaming industry.*

*To punctuate our industry's deep commitment to combatting illegal gaming as a top priority of our strategic plan, the AGA announced the launch of the "Stop Illegal Gambling – Play it Safe" initiative. This is a key asset in an aggressive perception campaign aimed at clearly and definitively distinguishing our industry from the illegal, multi-billion dollar enterprises that fund underground, criminal activities and tarnish our reputation worldwide. The Associated Press and FOX News were among the media outlets covering the announcement.*

*Mississippi Attorney General and NAAG President Jim Hood is extremely supportive of these efforts and subsequently exploring the creation of a committee on illegal gambling. Other AGs expressed commitment as well. We look forward to*

*working with NAAG, the National District Attorneys Association, policymakers and other key stakeholders in addressing this problem and protecting the reputation of the legal gaming industry.*

*Announcement of the new initiative is the first step in working to build partnerships with likeminded allies, develop authoritative research that exposes the depth and breadth of the problem and coalesce the industry and other stakeholders in developing solutions that protect consumers and restore the revenue and jobs lost to illegal gambling operations.*

*Sincerely,*

*Geoff Freeman, President and CEO*

## **NEVADA PROBLEM GAMBLING CONFERENCE SET FOR NEXT WEEK**

On April 23-24, 2015, the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling will be hosting its 9th annual Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling. The event will feature a number of problem gambling research and policy professionals to provide attendees with information on trends, best practices, and research findings related to problem gambling mitigation and prevention.

The conference is being sponsored by the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers, the nation's leading industry group for gaming suppliers, Konami, IGT, and Caesars Entertainment. Attendees will hear about the leading trends in problem gambling research while having the opportunity to network with the nation's leading problem gambling experts. The event will also provide insight into topics to be explored at the National Conference on Problem Gambling, which is scheduled for July 8-11, 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland.

For more information on the event, including links to register, please visit the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling's website at: <http://www.nevadacouncil.org/>

## **FIREKEEPERS ARCHITECT AWARDED BY WOMEN BUILDERS COUNCIL**

FireKeepers Casino Hotel has announced that Angela O'Byrne, a key architect for the FireKeepers Casino, was recently chosen as a recipient of the Women Builders Council Outstanding Women of 2015.

Ms. O'Byrne is the President of Perez, APC, an architecture and design firm based in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is registered as an architect in 12 states and has been repeatedly recognized for her outstanding achievements by a variety of organizations. In addition to her commercial projects, Ms. O'Byrne is the founder of CityWorks, a non-profit organized to revitalize and rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina with a sustainable, long-term focus.

In a press release on the matter, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Tribal Council Chairman Homer A. Mandoka stated that "O'Byrne is a great asset to society and FireKeepers is proud to have had her as one of our lead architects. She is active in a number of civic, industry, and trade associations including the Women's Professional Council, Commercial Real Estate Women, American Institute of Architects and the New Orleans regional Leadership Institute."

The FireKeepers Casino Hotel has been repeatedly recognized for its facilities, including being named a Four Diamond Hotel by AAA in March 2015. The facility is located off of Interstate 94 in Battle Creek and features over 111,000 square feet of gaming space, a multi-purpose event center, six dining outlets, and various entertainment venues.