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Editor in Chief

David D. Waddell, Esq.

Phone: 517.507.3859

waddell@rmclegal.com

Senior Gaming Analyst & Editor

Robert R. Russell, II

Phone: 517.507.3858

russell@rmclegal.com

Reporter and Associate Editor

Dustin M. Ford

Phone: 517.999.5414

dford@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Douglas L. Minke

Phone: 313.221.9380

minke@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Blaine R. DeGracia

Phone: 517.507.3857

degracia@rmclegal.com

Subscription information:

info@michigangaming.com

A publication of

RMC Ventures, LLC

Asher Court

321 W. Lake Lansing Rd.

East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: 517.507.3860

Fax: 517.908.0235

www.rmclegal.com

The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



DETROIT CITY COUNCIL APPROVES LAND TRANSFER AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP NEW ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

On February 4, 2014, the Detroit City Council approved a land transfer agreement to further development efforts of a new \$650-million entertainment district in Detroit. The project is led by Olympia Entertainment, Inc. ("Olympia") and includes a new hockey arena for the Detroit Red Wings.

The agreement, approved on Tuesday, authorizes the city to sell 39 parcels of land along an approximately 45-block area for \$1 to the Detroit Downtown Development Authority, which will own the arena and lease it to the Ilitch family's Olympia Development of Michigan.

The \$450-million multipurpose arena is planned to be an approximately 650,000 sq. ft. facility with 18,000 seats that can accommodate Red Wings hockey games, as well as other sports and entertainment events year-round.

The entertainment district site is just north of Interstate-75 and east of the Lodge Freeway. This location is within close proximity to MGM Grand Detroit Casino and MotorCity Casino.

"This will be the epicenter of sports and entertainment in Michigan and it's a difference maker," stated Mr. Tom Wilson, president and CEO of Olympia Entertainment, Inc. "We have a once in a generation opportunity here to make downtown Detroit a magnet for jobs and people and businesses to be around us," he said.

The new development is anticipated to create approximately 5,500 jobs for the events center alone and approximately 8,300 jobs for the entire residential and commercial mixed-use district.

AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION TEAMS WITH PROMINENT GAMING OPERATORS IN ONLINE GAMING ADVOCACY EFFORT

The American Gaming Association (“AGA”), MGM Resorts International (“MGM”), and others have partnered to form the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection (“CCOP”), an organization to advocate for responsible online gaming reform.

The Washington, D.C. based group is seeking to fight proposed bans on Internet gaming in favor of responsible and effective regulation of the activity. It has been reported that the CCOP will be joined by a wide variety of former policy makers and experts, including former Rep. Mike Oxley (R-Ohio), former Rep. Mary Bono (R-CA), and Democratic strategist Jim Messina.

The group opposes the Coalition to Stop Internet Gambling (“CSIG”), a lobbying organization that seeks to prevent expansion of online gaming activity and is backed by Las Vegas Sands owner Sheldon Adelson. CSIG recently helped in organizing a letter signed by 15 state attorneys general stating their opposition to the 2011 reinterpretation of the Wire Act that allows for limited Internet wagering, as well as any additional expansion of the activity.

AGA President and CEO Geoff Freeman has made his views on the benefits of authorizing and regulating online gaming activity clear over the past months. In December, in his testimony to the US House Committee on Energy and Commerce to consider a bill introduced by Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX 6th), he stated that “[w]e appreciate such leadership on this issue—and the opportunity to discuss the important need for consistent and effective regulatory standards that protects consumers, ensures the integrity of online games, gives law enforcement agencies the tools they need to combat illegal operators and provides Americans with access to an online gaming

marketplace they unquestionably desire.”

MICHIGAN LOTTERY ANNOUNCES FIRST \$30 INSTANT GAME

On Monday, February 3, 2014, the Michigan Lottery (“Lottery”) announced that, as of Tuesday, February 4, 2013, the Lottery began offering a new \$30 instant scratch-off game. The game, called “\$2,000,000 Cash,” offers players the chance to win a top prize of \$2,000,000.

According to the announcement, the Lottery has launched the new game due to the success of its \$10 and \$20 instant games, which both offer prizes of up to \$1,000,000. In addition to the chance of winning up to \$2,000,000 with the new game, players have a 1-in-25 odds of winning \$200.

In its 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Lottery noted that its total revenues for all activities in the past year increased by 1.6% to \$38.2 Million. Income from the Lottery is deposited into the state’s School Aid Fund or the General Fund.

iGAMING NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 19-21, 2014 IN LAS VEGAS

On March 19-21, 2014, iGaming North America will be hosting its fourth industry event at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference will focus specifically on issues in the iGaming industry and is supported by Reed Exhibitions, the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers, the Canadian Gaming Association, the Gaming Standards Association, the International Masters of Gaming Law, the Remote Gambling Association, and the Interactive Gaming Council.

The conference will include educational seminars presented by industry experts on a variety of iGaming-related topics, including US federal and state policy, the relationship between iGaming and brick-and-mortar operations, presentations by established European operators, game design, tribal and commercial operations, and other issues.

In addition to these educational events, there will be numerous networking and social programs throughout the 3-day event.

For more information on the 2014 iGaming North America conference, or to register for the event, please visit the conference's website at: <http://www.igamingnorthamerica.com/>

SIGN UP FOR RMC'S DAILY GAMING NEWS FEED

Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C. (RMC Legal), authors of *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, would like to extend an invitation to sign up for the complimentary *RMC Daily Gaming News Feed*. The Daily News Feed delivers Michigan and gaming-industry specific news links directly to you each morning.

To sign up to receive the RMC Daily Gaming News Feed, simply visit: <http://rmclegal.com/media-publications> and complete the form.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Blaine DeGracia at 517-507-3857 or degracia@rmclegal.com.