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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



Caesars Windsor Plans July Reopening

Under new provincial guidelines, and pending required approvals, Caesars Entertainment [announced](#) plans to resume its operations at Caesars Windsor on Friday, July 23, 2021, at 10 a.m. While reservations at the casino will not be mandatory, capacity restrictions and social distancing guidelines will limit the initial reopening to slot machines and select dining outlets.

President of Caesars Windsor Kevin Laforet reported that the casino is “delighted to reopen . . . and welcome back [its] guests,” and that “the health and safety of [its] guests and [its] Team Members remain [its] top priority.”

In support of its safe reopening strategy, Caesars has developed health and safety protocols to enhance the casino’s existing compliance with all municipal, provincial, and federal public health guidelines. These procedures include enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and physical distancing measures. Also, during the initial reopening phase, guests will be required to register and answer health screening questions before entering the casino.

Caesars Windsor plans to open more amenities as operating restrictions ease and allow for expansion, and the casino will reopen table games on July 28, subject to regulatory approval. As the company anticipates its continued resurgence, Laforet commented, it is “optimistic for the future and look[s] forward to providing an exciting entertainment experience.”

Draft Fantasy Contests Rules Released by MGCB

On July 13, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) issued a [press release](#) announcing the promulgation of draft rules for Fantasy Contests. The draft rules can be found [here](#) on the MGCB website's Internet Gaming and Fantasy Contests page.

The MGCB has solicited feedback in the form of questions, comments, or suggestions, about the draft rules. The MGCB requests that all feedback be sent by Wednesday, August 4, 2021, to MGCB-Rules@michigan.gov. Please contact [RMC Legal](#) to assist with developing and submitting any comment.

FireKeepers and NYX Digital Authorized to Offer Internet Gaming and Sports Betting

In a July 12 [press release](#), the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) announced its authorization of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians' and their platform provider partner NYX Digital's launch of internet casino gaming and online sports betting. The online gaming and sports betting venture will operate under the FireKeepers Casino Hotel brand.

Commenting on the launch, MGCB Executive Director Henry Williams was excited to "welcome the addition of FireKeepers Casino and partner NYX Digital to Michigan's growing online gaming and sports wagering market."

After advocating for laws to enable federally recognized tribes in Michigan to seek licenses for internet casino gaming and online sports betting, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band, through FireKeepers casino, will be the thirteenth operator to provide both online gaming and sports betting in the state.

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band's participation,

according to Williams, "will generate revenue to support K-12 education, economic development and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band's tribal community."

Detroit Casinos Reported \$108.1 Million in June Aggregate Revenue while at Limited Capacity for 21 days

According to a [press release](#), the three Detroit casinos reported \$108.1 million in monthly aggregate revenue in June while continuing to operate at limited capacity for 21 of 30 days due to COVID-19 health concerns. Table games and slots generated \$105.8 million in revenue, and retail sports betting produced \$2.3 million in revenue. Capacity restrictions were lifted June 22.

The June market shares were:

- MGM, 44 percent
- MotorCity, 35 percent
- Greektown, 21 percent

During June, table games and slot revenue was down 2 percent compared with May results. Due to the pandemic the casinos were closed during June 2020. In June 2019, the three Detroit casinos recorded \$117.5 million in table games and slots revenue.

Gaming revenue by casino in June was:

- MGM, \$46.3 million
- MotorCity, \$37.2 million
- Greektown, \$22.3 million

The three Detroit casinos paid \$8.6 million in gaming taxes to the State of Michigan. The casinos also reported submitting \$12.6 million in wagering taxes and development agreement payments to the City of Detroit in June.

During the second quarter 2021, the three casinos paid \$26 million in gaming taxes to the State of Michigan. The three casinos were closed throughout the second quarter of 2020 due to

health-related concerns. Gaming Revenue for the second quarter of 2021 was: MGM, \$135.7 million; MotorCity, \$115.3 million; and Greektown, \$70.2 million.

The Detroit casinos reported retail sports betting total handle of \$24,378,686 during June. Total gross receipts were \$2,295,932. In qualified adjusted gross receipts, Greektown led the way with \$819,272, followed by MotorCity with \$796,206, and MGM with \$680,434. The State of Michigan received \$86,785 in retail sports betting taxes from all three Detroit casinos. The City of Detroit received \$106,071 in retail sports betting from the three Detroit casinos.

For the month of May, fantasy contest operators reported total adjusted revenues of \$1.3 million and paid \$105,859 in taxes. Through May 31, fantasy contest operators reported total aggregate adjusted revenues of \$7 million and paid \$586,938 in taxes.