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



## **MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD RELEASES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR MONDAY, MAY 7**

The Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") will hold a regular public meeting on Monday, **May 7, 2018**. The meeting will begin at **9:30 a.m.** with the staff briefing, followed immediately by the regular agenda items [Please click here for the full agenda.](#)

The purpose of the Board meeting is to conduct Board business regarding the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of the *Michigan Gaming Control & Revenue Act*, as amended, Public Act 69 of 1997, MCL 432.201, et seq ("the Act"), related to the licensing, regulation and conduct of casino gaming in the City of Detroit.

The meeting is open to the public and questions, comments and suggestions from the public, regarding Board business and the licensing, regulation and conduct of casino gaming in Detroit under the Act, are welcomed and encouraged during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The meeting will be located at the MGCB Detroit office, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit. The Cadillac Place is in Detroit's New Center Area near the John Lodge Freeway (M-10), between Second Avenue and Cass Avenue. The Fisher Building and the Albert Kahn Building are nearby landmarks.

## **GREEKTOWN'S NEW MONROE MARKET OPENS**

On May 1, Greektown Casino's Monroe Market, a new multi-cuisine food hall, opened. The market is part of a \$15 million renovation to the Greektown space and was formerly known as the Market District eatery. The 11,000 square foot market has six innovative food counters and a full

Japanese restaurant and bar called Noodle Art. The Market is located adjacent to the casino complex and is designed to be outwardly designed so that casino patrons and non-casino patrons (of all ages) can enjoy the food options.

**Noodle Art** has an enclosed seating area and bar that is separate from the rest of the food hall. It offers Japanese ramen dishes, dumplings, tuna sashimi, rice and noodle bowl dishes that are made in-house. There is a full bar with a focus on Asian spirits.

The six other food options are offered throughout the setting that is made to resemble an outdoor food court with communal seating. These restaurants are open daily, and officials say Monroe Market will have food options 24/7.

#### **Options will include:**

**American Burger Bar** serves a selection of burgers.

**Basil Leaf** serves Neapolitan pizza made to order and fired up in a 900-degree stone oven.

**Tia Loca** has customizable tacos and signature dishes.

**Pit Boss** serves barbecued fare like pulled pork, brisket, ribs, chicken and Polish sausage.

**Southern Fry** is billed as a spot where “Detroit meets the South” with fried chicken and southern favorites.

**Josephine Bakery**, serving sweets, gelato and specialty coffees. It was named after a longtime Greektown Casino employee.

“Each venue has its own look and feel, so we wanted to definitely offer variety, whereas nowhere else in the city are you going to get this in one location.” says Greektown Casino Hotel’s

chief executive officer Jason Gregorec. “Everything is made from scratch. We wanted something that was unique in quality and something that stands us apart.”

In early 2016 it was announced that Greektown Casino and Hotel would be rebranded as a JACK Entertainment property. Greektown Casino will transition to its new name – JACK Detroit Casino-Hotel – later this summer.

In addition to offering players comps at the casino restaurants, Jack Entertainment has relationships with 20 Greektown-area restaurants, so guest can enjoy rewards throughout the Greektown area. The casino is also part of the Greektown Preservation Society.

## **NORTHVILLE DOWNS MOVES 24 LIVE RACING DATES TO SUMMER UNDER GAMING CONTROL ORDER**

Per a MGCB [press release](#) dated May 1, Northville Downs will move 24 days of live racing this year from the fall to the summer months under an order approved by Executive Director Richard Kalm.

“The MGCB supports Northville Downs and the Michigan Harness Horsemen’s Association as they look for ways to keep live racing viable in Michigan,” Kalm said. “They believe the live racing calendar changes are in the best interests of the industry.”

Kalm issued an order April 26 allowing the track to offer live racing on Fridays and Saturdays from mid-June until the season’s conclusion on Sept. 22. The track originally planned a June 10-Sept. 1 summer break from live racing, which was to resume on Fridays and Saturdays from Sept. 7 through Dec. 15.

Northville Downs received approval for a 60-date schedule in 2018. The track’s 2018 live racing season began March 2. The track offers simulcast wagering throughout the year.

Live races typically are run Fridays and Saturdays. At the request of the track and the certified horsemen's organization, Kalm also approved an earlier order to permit live racing on the following Thursdays: May 3, May 17 and June 7. Northville Downs will not host live racing on the dates of the Triple Crown races: May 5, May 19 and June 9.

Click for the [2018 Racing Calendar](#).

## **SPORTS WAGERING IS PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE SOUTHERN GAMING SUMMIT**

The Mississippi Gaming and Hospitality Association ("MGHA") hosted the Southern Gaming Summit ("SGS") on May 2 and May 3 in Biloxi Mississippi. The conference featured AGA president Geoff Freeman giving the keynote address. Mr. Freeman primarily addressed sports betting issues with the anticipated release of the Supreme Court opinion in the next 45 days. He noted that the average age of a sports wagering customer is 32 years old, a customer demographic that existing brick and mortar casinos find extremely attractive. Mr. Freeman touched upon various issues including his belief that any state legislation enacted should not impose high taxes or integrity fees. He also expressed his opinion that mobile wagering will go hand-in-hand with the sports betting and cautioned against legislation that limits such wagering only within the casino walls. He noted that higher taxes and limitations on mobile wagering will only play into the hands of the existing illegal sports wagering market. He opined that the casino industry should attempt to partner with the legislators and other industry players, similar to the industry's approach to improving its AML compliance several years ago.

The SGS also hosted a President's Forum with Justin Carter, General Manager of Hollywood Casino Tunica, Resorts Casino Tunica and 1st Jackpot Casino Tunica, Chett Harrison, General Manager of the Golden Nugget, Duncan McKenzie General Manager of the IP Casino Resort and Dan Real, Regional President--South of Caesars

Entertainment. The panel discussed the state of their respective markets and echoed Mr. Freeman's comments about partnerships in that the overall market is large enough for everyone to experience success if casino properties partner with each other and regional Chambers of Commerce and attractions. They noted that the key is to make sure they grow the number of customers that are coming to their venues. They all agreed that the future for their markets are to provide new non-gaming activities whether directly or through other local tourism developments, to further attract customers.

The panel also discussed sports wagering and emphasized that while the revenue impact directly from the sports wagering may not be exceedingly large, they all envision incorporating it to the extent their respective legislatures authorize the betting.

During the conference, Roger Gros, Publisher of Global Gaming Business Magazine, told a local television station WXXV 25, "Each state will decide whether they want it in their state. I am sure Mississippi will decide they want it to be legalized. So, hopefully, we will see sports betting maybe by the Super Bowl next year."

Similarly, Larry Gregory, the MGHA Executive Director stated, "Everybody knows I think within a month, the Supreme Court will rule and Mississippi is ready to go when that decision comes."

Mr. Gros further stated, "It brings excitement to the casinos. It brings people to the casinos. In Las Vegas, when it's the Super Bowl or March Madness, there's thousands and thousands of people that come in and jam the sports books because it's just an exciting place to be."

"That's what we want. Visitors are going to stay here at the casinos. They are going to eat and most likely gamble when they are sports betting," added Gregory.

SGS also offered a variety of breakout sessions on market topics and featured Phyllis J. Anderson, Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as the Global Gaming Women keynote speaker at the luncheon.

The Summit concluded with the Mississippi Gaming Hall of Fame Gala, honoring an inaugural class of Lyle Berman, co-founder of Grand Casinos, Bernard Goldstein, founder of Isle of Capri Casinos, William S. Boyd, Executive Chairman of Boyd Gaming, Tommy Gollett, senator of the Mississippi State Senate District 50 - Harrison, Jack Binion, founder of Horseshoe Gaming Corporation, and Rick Carter and Terry Green, co-founders of Island View Casino Resort.