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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD RELEASES DETROIT CASINO REVENUES FOR DECEMBER 2007

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) has recently released the December, 2007 total adjusted revenue figures for the three Detroit casinos: MGM Grand Detroit Casino, MotorCity Casino and Greektown Casino.

Month in 2007	Total Adjusted Revenue 2007		
	MGM Grand Detroit	MotorCity Casino	Greektown Casino
January	\$40,503,320.38	\$40,452,401.96	\$28,439,733.74
February	\$36,771,280.82	\$39,208,228.16	\$28,998,669.02
March	\$47,402,120.22	\$42,894,972.21	\$33,427,503.33
April	\$41,040,958.48	\$39,345,925.30	\$30,060,692.80
May	\$41,417,910.37	\$36,787,442.36	\$27,394,026.36
June	\$38,562,158.58	\$42,333,206.56	\$28,490,060.73
July	\$41,334,381.05	\$42,676,452.96	\$29,281,394.59
August	\$42,750,887.02	\$41,091,884.90	\$27,795,698.55
September	\$35,279,291.62	\$39,884,824.57	\$26,308,063.80
October	\$54,888,849.43	\$37,709,923.79	\$25,633,602.69
November	\$46,783,708.09	\$38,306,560.95	\$28,115,302.02
December	\$46,746,114.32	\$39,522,591.73	\$27,375,747.95
Total	<b>\$513,480,980.38</b>	<b>\$480,214,415.45</b>	<b>\$341,320,495.58</b>

The figures released by the MGCB are the gross receipts less winnings paid to wagerers. The figures do not include: 1) the 12.1% state share of the wagering tax; 2) the 11.9% City of Detroit portion of the wagering tax; 3) any fees or other relevant city, state or federal taxes; 4) wages and benefits paid to casino employees; and 5) payments to suppliers, service providers or vendors.

As MGM Grand Detroit has received a tax base reduction certification as a result of its facilities being declared "fully operational" by the MGCB in December, 2007, it is now subject to a wagering tax of 19%, with 10.9% of this levy to go to the City of Detroit and 8.1% to be paid to the State of Michigan.

The three Detroit casinos' 2007 Total Adjusted Gross Receipts totaled \$1,335,015,891.41, and represent a 2.4% increase over the 2006 Total Adjusted Gross Receipts.

## **GOVERNOR JENNIFER GRANHOLM APPOINTS SCOTT BOWEN AS LOTTERY COMMISSIONER**

Today, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Scott Bowen as the new State Lottery Commissioner, replacing Gary Peters, who resigned from that position in August, 2007. Mr. Bowen will be the State's eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Lottery Commissioner. To announce the appointment, the Governor's Office issued a press release this afternoon, which stated:

"Scott's outstanding leadership abilities and enthusiasm for Michigan will ensure that the lottery continues to be a major contributor to funding public education in the state of Michigan...Scott has been an asset to the state in his tenure as the State Employer, and I have no doubt he will continue his successful track record at the lottery. I'm proud to appoint him today."

The lottery commissioner is responsible for the overall management and operation of the bureau, including development of long-range plans, formulation of policy, assuring the accountability and integrity of the lottery, and establishing and maintaining contact with state legislators to research, evaluate, and gauge the impact of lottery-related legislation. The Michigan lottery generates over \$600 million each year for the state School Aid Fund, which supports K-12 public education in the state of Michigan.

Bowen, 43, of Grand Rapids, most recently served as the director of the Office of the State Employer, a position he will resign. Prior to this appointment, Bowen was a practicing attorney and served as judge of the 62-A District Court in Wyoming until July 2005. Prior to his judicial appointment, Bowen was a partner at McInerney & Bowen and was a founder and partner of Bowen, Distel & Haynes P.L.C.

In addition to Bowen's appointment as the director of the Office of the State Employer and his judicial appointment, Bowen's previous government experience includes two terms on the Grand Rapids City Council, serving as president in 1999. Bowen was also a special assistant attorney general for the Michigan Department of Transportation."

Mr. Bowen is a graduate of Michigan State University and holds a law degree from the University of Detroit Law School. His tenure as Lottery Commissioner will begin on January 13, 2008.

## **SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE OPENS SAGANING EAGLES LANDING CASINO**

On December 31, 2007, and less than one year after breaking ground, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe opened its Saganing Eagles Landing Casino in Standish, Michigan. Though the casino's opening was not highly publicized, the facility was nevertheless crowded during its first two days of operation, and even reached capacity, according to reports in *The Bay City Times*.

The Saganing Eagles Landing Casino sits on over 350 acres of land in Arenac County, approximately 30 miles north of Bay City, Michigan. The Casino features a 32,000 square foot gaming floor with over 700 slot machines and 40 electronic table games. The opening of the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino brings the number of tribal casinos within the State of Michigan to 19, in addition to the three commercial casinos in the City of Detroit.

Area leaders hope that the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino will be an economic boost to Arenac County, an area currently suffering from high unemployment. The Casino is expected to create 300 jobs for area residents. More information about Saganing Eagles Landing Casino may be found at <http://www.saganing-eagleslanding.com/casino.htm>.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **TEAMSTERS UNION TURNED DOWN BY SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT EMPLOYEES**

On December 21, 2007, the housekeeping staff at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort voted against membership in the Teamsters union in an election run by the National Labor Relations Board. The unionization proposal was soundly defeated by a vote of 192 (no) to 88 (yes).

In response to the vote, business agent for Teamsters Local 486, Ed Morin, told the Mount Pleasant *Morning Sun* that, though the current union proposal was defeated, the Teamsters would monitor management's response to employees' concerns and would consider another union organizing effort in the future.

The union vote was in response to a year-long effort to have casino workers organize and join the Teamsters and is the first time Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort workers have voted on union issues.

*RMC Ventures, LLC would like to thank Blaine DeGracia for his contributions to this Newsletter.*