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CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, July 15, 2020
Atlantic City Commission Offices
Joseph P. Lordi Public Meeting Room - First Floor
Tennessee Avenue and Boardwalk
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
10:31 a.m. to 4:26 p.m.

Certified Court Reporter: M. Darlene Engel

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Public Meeting No. 20-07-15 July 15, 2020

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B E F O R E :
CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
TERESA M. PIMPINELLI, SENIOR COUNSEL
DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BRIAN C. BISCIEGLIA, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
JORDAN HOLLANDER, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
CAMILA MENDES-FERREIRA, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Public Meeting No. 20-07-15 July 15, 2020
A P P E A R A N C E S :
ITEM NO. 11 TERESA M. PIMPINELLI, SENIOR COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
PATRICK W. MADAMBA, JR., LEGAL COUNSEL FOR: MARINA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC, AND MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL

ITEM NO. 12 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK PACIFICO AGNELLINI, ESQ. FOR: HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, BOARDWALK REGENCY CORPORATION, LLC, AND BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC
ITEM NO. 13 DIANNA $W$. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK PACIFICO AGNELLINI, ESQ.
FOR: CAESARS INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT, LLC
ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
FOR: CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION, CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC, CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC., AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.

Public Meeting No. 20-07-15 July 15, 2020

AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15 JULY 15, 2020, 10:31 a.m.
ITEM
PAGE VOTE
1 Ratification of the minutes of the June 1112 10, 2020, public meeting
2 Applications for initial casino key employee licenses:
a) William S. Kosturko 1213
b) Kayla M. O'Connor
c) Eileen G. O'Pray

3 Consideration of the initial application 1416 of Andre E. Harvey for a casino key employee license (20-0013-CK)
4 Consideration of the initial application 1618 of Edward Machinski for a casino key employee license (20-0014-CK)
5 Consideration of the initial application 1820 of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license (209-0016-CK)
6 Consideration of the initial application 2021
of Ryan M. Rothstein for a casino key employee license (19-0046-CK)
7 Consideration of the initial application 2223
of Robert $H$. Pattillo, Jr., for a casino key employee license (20-2015-CK)
8 Consideration of the initial application 2325
of the initial application of Sadia
Rasifzaman (a/k/a Sadia Khald) for a
casino key employee license
(DDT 20-0008-CK)
9 Stipulation of settlement in the initial 2527
application of Joanna Martinez for a
casino key employee license
(DKT 19-0043-CK)
10 Consideration of the initial application 2729
of Nelson Velez for a casino key employee license (DKT 19-0051-CK)
11 Joint petition of Marina District 2931
Development Company, LLC, and MGM Resorts International requesting permission for Scott Wessel to assume the duties and exercise the powers of Senior vice President, Technology \& Digital Solutions of MGM Resorts International pending plenary qualification (PRN 1902002)

Public Meeting No. 20-07-15 July 15, 2020

CONTINUED AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
JULY 15, 2020, 10:31 a.m.
ITEM
PAGE VOTE
12 Consideration of the initial casino key
32
employee licensure and plenary
qualification of Jennifer L. Galle to serve as Regional Vice President of Marketing, Corporate for Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC; Boardwalk Regency Corporation, LLC, and Bally's Park Place, LLC (PRN 283190)
13 Consideration of the initial casino key 3437 employee licensure and plenary qualification of Melanie R. Gross to serve as Vice President, Online Casino and Sports of Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC (PRN 3251902)
14 Joint petition of Caesars Entertainment 38 Corporation, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts
Collections, Caesars Interactive
Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger Sub, Inc., for approval of: (I) The merger of Caesars
Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., and (II) The qualification of the New Entity and Natural Person Qualifiers and (III) other declaratory relief pursuant to NJSA 5:12-2, et seq. (PRN 2481902)

Thomas R. Regg, sworn
Anthony L. Carano, sworn 125
Bret D. Yunker, sworn 156
Stephen Callender, sworn 205
stephanie Lepori, sworn 230


|  | 10 |  | 12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | telephonically by calling the telephone number | 1 | ITEM NO. 2 |
| 2 | and access number provided on the Commission's | 2 | for counsel? |
| 3 | website as well as through your YouTube | 3 | (No response.) |
| 4 | channel. | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 5 | We will accept public comment via | 5 | motion? |
| 6 | e-mail. Public comment can be sent to | 6 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 7 | public.comments@ccc.state.nj.us beginning now | 7 | move to ratify the minutes of the June 10th, |
| 8 | and any time throughout the meeting, ending at | 8 | 2020, meeting. |
| 9 | the time of adjournment. This meeting is being | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 10 | transcribed as well as recorded, and the | 10 | Any further discussion? |
| 11 | minutes will be available on our website in due | 11 | (No response.) |
| 12 | course. | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 13 | To all callers, if you experience | 13 | favor, say aye? |
| 14 | technical issues during the meeting, please | 14 | (Ayes.) |
| 15 | disconnect and call back. There are two | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 16 | telephone numbers on our website you can call. | 16 | (No response.) |
| 17 | If this does not resolve your issue, please | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. |
| 18 | send an e-mail to public.comments@ | 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 2 are |
| 19 | ccc.state.nj.us with your contact information, | 19 | applications for casino key employee licenses. |
| 20 | and someone from the Commission staff will | 20 | They include 2a, William S. Kosturko, b, |
| 21 | contact you. | 21 | Kayla M. O'Connor, and, c, Eileen G. O'Pray. |
| 22 | To meeting participants, callers, I ask | 22 | With respect to Mr. Kosturko and Miss |
| 23 | that you follow the instructions provided with | 23 | O'Connor, there are no objections that have |
| 24 | the web link or audio call and place your | 24 | been raised with respect to those matters. |
| 25 | phones on mute until your matter is called. | 25 | The Division has reviewed. Staff has as |
|  | 11 |  | 13 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 1 | 1 | ITEM NO. 2 |
| 2 | Also, please identify yourself before speaking. | 2 | well, and recommend that those initial casino |
| 3 | Finally I would like to thank the | 3 | key employee licenses be granted. |
| 4 | Commission staff for making this meeting | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for |
| 5 | possible today with the additional video | 5 | counsel? |
| 6 | component. I also want to thank the Division | 6 | (No response.) |
| 7 | of Gaming Enforcement and all the meeting | 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 8 | participants for their willingness to be | 8 | motion? |
| 9 | flexible in advance so this meeting could can | 9 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 10 | move forward today. | 10 | move to grant the two initial casino key |
| 11 | Dianna? | 11 | employee licenses. |
| 12 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Good morning, Mr. | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 13 | Chairman. | 13 | Any further discussion? |
| 14 | Please answer when I call your name for | 14 | (No response.) |
| 15 | the roll, please. | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 16 | Commissioner Cooper? | 16 | favor, say aye? |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Here. | 17 | (Ayes.) |
| 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Here. | 19 | (No response.) |
| 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: There was no closed | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. |
| 21 | session held this meeting. | 21 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: With respect to Miss |
| 22 | The first item on the agenda for your | 22 | O'Pray, an objection has been raised by the |
| 23 | consideration is the ratification of the | 23 | Division. Staff has reviewed that matter and |
| 24 | minutes of the June 10, 2020, meeting. | 24 | concurs. They recommend it be remanded to the |
| 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions | 25 | contested case process. |


|  | 14 |  | 16 |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 3 | 1 | ITEM NO. 4 |
| 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions | 2 | the initial application of Andre E. Harvey for |
| 3 | for counsel? | 3 | a casino key employee license subject to the |
| 4 | (No response.) | 4 | compliance with the terms and conditions as |
| 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 5 | provided for in the stipulation. |
| 6 | motion? | 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to remand | 7 | Any further discussion? |
| 8 | for a hearing the initial casino key employee | 8 | (No response.) |
| 9 | license application of Eileen G. O'Pray. | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. | 10 | favor, say aye? |
| 11 | Any further discussion? | 11 | (Ayes.) |
| 12 | (No response.) | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in | 13 | (No response.) |
| 14 | favor, say aye? | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. |
| 15 | (Ayes.) | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 4 is |
| 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? | 16 | consideration of the initial application of |
| 17 | (No response.) | 17 | Edward Machinski for a casino key employee |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 18 | license. |
| 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 19 | Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli will be |
| 20 | Item No. 3 is the consideration of the | 20 | addressing that matter with you. |
| 21 | initial application of Andre E. Harvey for a | 21 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and |
| 22 | casino key employee license. | 22 | Commissioner Cooper, Teresa Pimpinelli here |
| 23 | Senior Counsel Pimpinelli is on the line | 23 | again today your consideration is the |
| 24 | to address that matter with you. | 24 | stipulation of settlement for Edward |
| 25 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Good morning, Chairman | 25 | Machinski's initial key employee license. |
|  | 15 |  | 17 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 3 | 1 | ITEM NO. 4 |
| 2 | and Commissioner Cooper. Teresa Pimpinelli, | 2 | You have staff's memo on this matter. |
| 3 | Senior Counsel, for the Commission this | 3 | And Jordan Hollander is appearing again |
| 4 | hearing. | 4 | on behalf of the Division. |
| 5 | For your consideration is the | 5 | MR. HOLLANDER: Good morning, Chairman |
| 6 | stipulation of settlement for the initial | 6 | and Commissioner Cooper. Again, Jordan |
| 7 | casino key employee license application of | 7 | Hollander for the Division. |
| 8 | Andre Harvey. | 8 | We have -- as Senior Counsel Pimpinelli |
| 9 | You have staff's memo on this matter. | 9 | has stated, we have reached a stipulation of |
| 10 | Jordan Hollander is appearing on behalf | 10 | settlement in this matter, and we would ask |
| 11 | of the Division. | 11 | that the stipulation be approved as submitted. |
| 12 | MR. HOLLANDER: Good morning, Chairman | 12 | Thank you. |
| 13 | and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander on | 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for |
| 14 | behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement. | 14 | counsel? |
| 15 | The Division would ask that the | 15 | (No response.) |
| 16 | stipulation be submitted as approved. | 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 17 | Thank you very much. | 17 | motion? |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for | 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 19 | counsel? | 19 | move to approve the stipulation of settlement |
| 20 | (No response.) | 20 | between the Division and the Applicant and |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 21 | grant the initial application of Edward |
| 22 | motion? | 22 | Machinski for a casino key employee license |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I | 23 | subject to compliance with the terms and |
| 24 | move to approve the stipulation of settlement | 24 | conditions as provided for in the stipulation. |
| 25 | between the Division and Applicant and grant | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |


|  | 18 |  | 20 |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 5 | 1 | ITEM NO. 6 |
| 2 | Any further discussion? | 2 | (Ayes.) |
| 3 | (No response.) | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in | 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | favor, say aye? | 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. |
| 6 | (Ayes.) | 6 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. |
| 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? | 7 | Item No. 6 is consideration of the |
| 8 | (No response.) | 8 | initial application of Ryan M. Rothstein for a |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 9 | casino key employee license. |
| 10 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 5 is | 10 | Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli will |
| 11 | consideration of the initial application of | 11 | review that with you. |
| 12 | Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee | 12 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and |
| 13 | license. | 13 | Commissioner, before you is the initial |
| 14 | Again, Senior Counsel Teresa Pimpinelli | 14 | application of Ryan Rothstein for a casino key |
| 15 | will address that. | 15 | employee license. |
| 16 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and | 16 | Staff has provided you with a memo on |
| 17 | Commissioner, Teresa Pimpinelli here again. | 17 | this matter. |
| 18 | Before you is a stipulation of | 18 | I note for the record that Mr. Rothstein |
| 19 | settlement for Mr. Madensky's initial casino | 19 | was notified of today's meeting. |
| 20 | key employee license application. | 20 | Brian Biscieglia is appearing on behalf |
| 21 | Again, you have staff's memo on this | 21 | of the Division. |
| 22 | matter. | 22 | MR. BISCIEGLIA: Good morning, Chairman |
| 23 | Jordan Hollander is again appearing on | 23 | and Commissioner. Brian C. Biscieglia on |
| 24 | behalf of the Division. | 24 | behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement. |
| 25 | MR. HOLLANDER: Good morning, Chairman | 25 | Mr. Rothstein, as outlined in the memo, |
|  | 19 |  | 21 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 5 | 1 | ITEM NO. 6 |
| 2 | and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for | 2 | has failed to attend the last two scheduled |
| 3 | the Division. | 3 | conferences and generally showed no interest in |
| 4 | As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has | 4 | the contested case process. |
| 5 | outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of | 5 | Therefore, at this point we at the |
| 6 | settlement in this matter, and we request that | 6 | Division must ask that this application be |
| 7 | the stipulation be approved as submitted. | 7 | denied. |
| 8 | Thank you. | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for | 9 | counsel? |
| 10 | counsel? | 10 | (No response.) |
| 11 | (No response.) | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 12 | motion? |
| 13 | motion? | 13 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve | 14 | move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein |
| 15 | the stipulation of settlement between the | 15 | disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, |
| 16 | Division and Applicant and grant the initial | 16 | and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, |
| 17 | application of Matthew Madensky for a casino | 17 | deny his initial application for a casino key |
| 18 | key employee license subject to compliance with | 18 | employee license. |
| 19 | the terms and conditions as provided for in the | 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 20 | stipulation. | 20 | Any further discussion? |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. | 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | Any further discussion? | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 23 | (No response.) | 23 | favor, say aye? |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in | 24 | (Ayes.) |
| 25 | favor, say aye? | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |


|  | 22 |  | 24 |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 7 | 1 | ITEM NO. 8 |
| 2 | (No response.) | 2 | Again, here is Senior Counsel |
| 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 3 | Pimpinelli. |
| 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 7 is | 4 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and Commission |
| 5 | consideration of the initial application of | 5 | Cooper, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli here. |
| 6 | Robert H. Pattillo, Jr., for a casino key | 6 | For your consideration is the initial |
| 7 | employee license. | 7 | application of Miss Rasifzaman for her initial |
| 8 | Again, this is Senior Counsel | 8 | casino key employee license. |
| 9 | Pimpinelli's matter to review with you. | 9 | Staff has provided you with their memo |
| 10 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and | 10 | for this matter. |
| 11 | Commissioner, for your consideration is the | 11 | Brian Biscieglia is appearing on behalf |
| 12 | stipulation of settlement for Mr. Pattillo's | 12 | of the Division. |
| 13 | casino key employee license application. | 13 | MR. BISCIEGLIA: Thank you. |
| 14 | You have staff's memo for this matter. | 14 | Commissioners, the Commission is in |
| 15 | Jordan Hollander is appearing on behalf | 15 | receipt of the Division's June 24th, 2020, |
| 16 | of the Division. | 16 | supplemental letter report which now recommends |
| 17 | MR. HOLLANDER: Good morning, Chairman | 17 | grant. The letter explained how Miss |
| 18 | and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for | 18 | Rasifzaman address the issues that originally |
| 19 | the Division. | 19 | called the Division to bring her into the |
| 20 | We have reached a stipulation of | 20 | conference process. |
| 21 | settlement in this matter, and we would ask | 21 | And the Division will answer any |
| 22 | that the stipulation be approved as submitted. | 22 | questions you have. |
| 23 | Thank you very much. | 23 | Thank you. |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions |
| 25 | counsel? | 25 | for counsel? |
|  | 23 |  | 25 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 8 | 1 | ITEM NO. 9 |
| 2 | (No response.) | 2 | (No response.) |
| 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 4 | motion? | 4 | motion? |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I | 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 6 | move to approve the stipulation of settlement | 6 | move to grant the initial application of Sadia |
| 7 | between the Division and Applicant and grant | 7 | Rasifzaman for a casino key employee license. |
| 8 | the initial application of Robert H. Pattillo, | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |
| 9 | Jr., for a casino key employee license subject | 9 | Any further discussion? |
| 10 | to compliance with the terms and conditions as | 10 | (No response.) |
| 11 | provided for in the stipulation. | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. | 12 | favor, say aye? |
| 13 | Any further discussion? | 13 | (Ayes.) |
| 14 | (No response.) | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in | 15 | (No response.) |
| 16 | favor, say aye? | 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: The ayes have it. |
| 17 | (Ayes.) | 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? | 18 | Item No. 9 is the stipulation of |
| 19 | (No response.) | 19 | settlement in the initial application of Joanna |
| 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 20 | Martinez for a casino key employee license. |
| 21 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 21 | Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli? |
| 22 | Item No. 8 is the consideration of the | 22 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Hello again, Chairman |
| 23 | initial application of Sadia Rasifzaman, also | 23 | and Commissioners. Teresa Pimpinelli, Senior |
| 24 | known as Sadia Khald, for a casino key employee | 24 | Counsel, here. |
| 25 | license. | 25 | For your consideration is the initial |


|  | 26 |  | 28 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 9 | 1 | ITEM NO. 10 |
| 2 | application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key | 2 | And Brian Biscieglia is appearing on |
| 3 | employee license. | 3 | behalf of Division. |
| 4 | A supplemental letter report was filed. | 4 | MR. BISCIEGLIA: Thank you. |
| 5 | You have staff's memo for this matter. | 5 | Yes. The Division filed a supplemental |
| 6 | Brian Biscieglia is appearing on behalf | 6 | letter report on June 24th, 2020, outlining how |
| 7 | of the Division. | 7 | Mr. Velez has satisfied the tax issues that had |
| 8 | MR. BISCIEGLIA: Thank you. | 8 | led to the Division bringing it to the |
| 9 | The Division has nothing further on this | 9 | conference process. The new letter now |
| 10 | matter and would ask that the Commission | 10 | recommends grant. |
| 11 | approve the stipulation as submitted with the | 11 | And I'll answer any questions you may |
| 12 | conditions contained therein. | 12 | have. |
| 13 | Thank you. | 13 | Thank you. |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions |
| 15 | for counsel? | 15 | for counsel? |
| 16 | (No response.) | 16 | (No response.) |
| 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 18 | motion? | 18 | motion? |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I | 19 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 20 | move to approve the stipulation of settlement | 20 | move to grant the initial application of Nelson |
| 21 | between the Division and Applicant and grant | 21 | Velez for a casino key employee license. |
| 22 | the initial application of Joanna Martinez for | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 23 | a casino key employee license subject to | 23 | Any additional discussion? |
| 24 | compliance with the terms and conditions as | 24 | (No response.) |
| 25 | provided for in the stipulation. | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
|  | 27 |  | 29 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 10 | 1 | ITEM NO. 11 |
| 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. | 2 | favor, say aye? |
| 3 | Any further discussion? | 3 | (Ayes.) |
| 4 | (No response.) | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in | 5 | (No response.) |
| 6 | favor, say aye? | 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. |
| 7 | (Ayes.) | 7 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 11 is the |
| 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? | 8 | Joint Petition of Marina District Development |
| 9 | (No response.) | 9 | Company, LLC, and MGM Resorts International |
| 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 10 | requesting permission for Scott Wessel to |
| 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 11 | assume the duties and exercise the powers of |
| 12 | Item No. 10 is consideration of the | 12 | Senior Vice President, Technology and digital |
| 13 | initial application of Nelson Velez for a | 13 | Solutions of MGM Resorts International pending |
| 14 | casino key employee license. | 14 | his plenary qualification. |
| 15 | Again, that's Senior Counsel | 15 | Again, that's Senior Counsel |
| 16 | Pimpinelli's matter. | 16 | Pimpinelli's matter. |
| 17 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and | 17 | MS. PIMPINELLI: Chairman and |
| 18 | Commissioner Cooper, Teresa Pimpinelli, Senior | 18 | Commissioner, Teresa Pimpinelli, Senior Counsel |
| 19 | Counsel, here. | 19 | for the Commission. |
| 20 | The last casino key employee license for | 20 | For your consideration is the petition |
| 21 | the morning is that of Mr. Velez's initial | 21 | for temporary qualification of Scott Wessel. |
| 22 | application for his casino key employee | 22 | You have been provided with staff's |
| 23 | license. | 23 | memo. The draft resolution has been circulated |
| 24 | A supplemental letter report was filed. | 24 | to the parties. |
| 25 | You have a staff memo for the matter. | 25 | I believe Pat Madamba is here on behalf |


|  | 30 |  | 32 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 11 | 1 | ITEM NO. 12 |
| 2 | of the Petitioners and Tracy Richardson here on | 2 | Thank you. |
| 3 | behalf of the Division. | 3 | Item No. 12 is consideration of the |
| 4 | MR. MADAMBA: Good morning, Chair, | 4 | initial casino key employee licensure and |
| 5 | members of the Commission. Pat Madamba on | 5 | plenary qualification of Jennifer L. Galle to |
| 6 | behalf of Marina District Development Company, | 6 | serve as Regional Vice President of Marketing, |
| 7 | MGM, and Mr. Wessel. | 7 | Corporate, for Harrah's Atlantic City Operating |
| 8 | We've reviewed the resolution, and it's | 8 | Company, LLC, Boardwalk Regency Corporation, |
| 9 | acceptable in form and substance. | 9 | LLC, and Bally's Park Place, LLC. |
| 10 | Thank you very much. | 10 | And this matter was originally brought |
| 11 | MS. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. | 11 | to the Commission by way of petition on October |
| 12 | Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. Tracy | 12 | 10, 2019, seeking temporary qualification. You |
| 13 | Richardson for the Division of Gaming | 13 | granted that temporary qualification at your |
| 14 | Enforcement. | 14 | November 13, 2019, public meeting. The matter |
| 15 | You have our letter of July 10th with no | 15 | is now before you for plenary consideration. |
| 16 | objection to the temporary qualification of Mr. | 16 | Counsel is here, and I ask that they |
| 17 | Wessel. | 17 | enter their appearance for the record. |
| 18 | We've also reviewed the draft resolution | 18 | MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chair, |
| 19 | and have no objections. | 19 | Commissioner Cooper, Pacifico Agnellini from |
| 20 | Thank you. | 20 | Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber \& Schreck on behalf |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions | 21 | of the Petitioners. |
| 22 | for counsel? | 22 | As indicated, before you is a petition |
| 23 | (No response.) | 23 | seeking plenary qualification for initial |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a | 24 | casino key employee license for Miss Galle. |
| 25 | motion? | 25 | We have reviewed the resolution, have no |
|  | 31 |  | 33 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 11 | 1 | ITEM NO. 12 |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I | 2 | comments, and would ask that you grant -- the |
| 3 | move to adopt the draft resolution and | 3 | relief requested be granted. |
| 4 | authorize Scott Wessel on a temporary basis and | 4 | Thank you. |
| 5 | prior to his plenary qualification to assume | 5 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: Good morning, |
| 6 | the duties and exercise the powers of Senior | 6 | Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. Camila |
| 7 | Vice President, Technology and Digital | 7 | Mendes-Ferreira on behalf of Division of Gaming |
| 8 | Solutions of MGM Resorts International subject | 8 | Enforcement. |
| 9 | to the conditions contained in NJSA 5:12-85.1c | 9 | The Division has filed its letter report |
| 10 | and NJAC 13:69C-2.7. | 10 | dated June 3rd, 2020, recommending plenary |
| 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. | 11 | casino key employee license -- qualification |
| 12 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, I forgot | 12 | and licensure for Miss Galle to serve in her |
| 13 | to note. This is a roll call. | 13 | position for the AC licensee and MCE, |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any further discussion? | 14 | multi-casino endorsement, and a waiver of the |
| 15 | (No response.) | 15 | residency requirement. |
| 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call, | 16 | We have also reviewed the draft |
| 17 | please? | 17 | resolution, and we have no objections. |
| 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? | 18 | Thank you. |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions |
| 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 20 | for counsel? |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 23 | I would make mention that if you are not | 23 | motion? |
| 24 | speaking, please put your phone or your mic on | 24 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 25 | mute, please? We're getting some reverb. | 25 | move to adopt the draft resolution and: A, |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 13 | 1 | ITEM NO. 13 |
| 2 | grant an initial casino key employee license to | 2 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: There you go. |
| 3 | Jennifer L. Galle with a multi-casino | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. |
| 4 | endorsement pursuant to NJSA 5:12-89e, NJSA | 4 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: Did it work? |
| 5 | 5:12-89b(4) NJAC 19:41A-5.3, and NJSA | 5 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. |
| 6 | 5:12-91.1; and, B, find Miss Galle qualified to | 6 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: So good morning |
| 7 | serve as Regional Vice President of Marketing, | 7 | again, Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. |
| 8 | Corporate, for Harrah's Atlantic City Operating | 8 | Camila Mendes-Ferreira on behalf of Division of |
| 9 | Company, LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, and | 9 | Gaming Enforcement. |
| 10 | Bally's Park Place, LLC, in accordance with | 10 | You have our letter report dated June |
| 11 | NJSA 5:12-85.1c; NJSA 5:12-89b (1) and (2), and | 11 | 3 rd , 2020, recommending the plenary casino key |
| 12 | NJAC 13:69C-2.6 and 2.7. | 12 | employee licensure and plenary qualification |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. | 13 | for Miss Gross to serve as Vice President of |
| 14 | Any additional discussion? | 14 | Online Casino and Sports for CIE and CIE New |
| 15 | (No response.) | 15 | Jersey. |
| 16 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: This is also a roll | 16 | The Division has also reviewed the draft |
| 17 | call, Mr. Chairman. | 17 | resolution, and we have no objections at this |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call, | 18 | time. |
| 19 | then? | 19 | Thank you. |
| 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 21 | counsel? |
| 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 22 | (No response.) |
| 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 24 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 13 is the | 24 | motion? |
| 25 | consideration of the initial casino key | 25 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
|  | 35 |  | 37 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 13 | 1 | ITEM NO. 13 |
| 2 | employee licensure and plenary qualification of | 2 | move to adopt the draft resolution and: A, |
| 3 | Melanie R. Gross to serve as Vice President, | 3 | grant an initial casino key employee license to |
| 4 | Online Casino and Sports of Caesars Interactive | 4 | Melanie R. Gross pursuant to NJSA 5:12-89e, |
| 5 | Entertainment. | 5 | NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, |
| 6 | In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was | 6 | find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice |
| 7 | filed by way of a petition on November 20, | 7 | President of Online Casino and Sports for |
| 8 | 2019, requesting temporary qualification and | 8 | Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and |
| 9 | licensure which you considered at your December | 9 | Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, |
| 10 | 11, 2019, meeting and granted. | 10 | LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA |
| 11 | Counsel is here, and I ask that they | 11 | 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7. |
| 12 | enter their appearance and proceed. | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
| 13 | MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, | 13 | Any further discussion? |
| 14 | Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, | 14 | (No response.) |
| 15 | Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber \& Schreck on behalf | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call |
| 16 | of the petitioners. | 16 | vote? |
| 17 | As indicated, before you is a petition | 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? |
| 18 | for the plenary qualification and initial | 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 19 | casino key employee license for Melanie Gross. | 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? |
| 20 | We have reviewed the resolution, have no | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 21 | comment, and would ask that you grant the | 21 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Mr. Chairman, |
| 22 | relief requested. | 22 | the remaining matters, 14 through 18, will be |
| 23 | Thank you. | 23 | addressed as a part of and after the hearing in |
| 24 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Camila? We can't hear | 24 | the matter of the Caesars/Eldorado merger. So |
| 25 | you. Unmic. Unmute yourself. | 25 | pursuant to discussions preceding this hearing, |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | we are asking for a $20-\mathrm{minute}$ recess -- | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: All right. | 3 | Counsel could you please enter your name |
| 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: -- to reset and prepare | 4 | into the record for -- in regard to this |
| 5 | for those proceedings. | 5 | matter |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: So it's approximately | 6 | MR. SCHRIER: Chairman, Stephen D. |
| 7 | 11:00 now. We'll reconvene at 11:20 today. So | 7 | Schrier with the law firm of Blank Rome, and I |
| 8 | thank you. | 8 | am here on behalf of Co-Petitioner, Eldorado |
| 9 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 9 | Resorts, Inc. And with me, also on our Zoom is |
| 10 | (A recess was taken from 11:00 to 11:25 | 10 | my partner, Holly Eicher. |
| 11 | a.m.) | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 12 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Agenda Item 14 is the | 12 | MR. O'GARA: Mr. Chairman, it's Paul |
| 13 | Joint Petition of Caesars Entertainment | 13 | O'Gara, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber Schreck on |
| 14 | Corporation, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth | 14 | behalf of Caesars tenant corporation and its |
| 15 | Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, | 15 | subsidiaries and affiliates. And my partner, |
| 16 | Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, | 16 | Pat Agnellini. |
| 17 | LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, | 17 | MR. FABIUS: Mr. Chairman, this is |
| 18 | LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk | 18 | Michael Fabius at Ballard Spahr, with |
| 19 | Regency, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt | 19 | co-counsel Lloyd Levenson and Lynne Kaufman, |
| 20 | Merger Sub, Inc., for approval of, (I) the | 20 | representing the properties will, LLC, and the |
| 21 | merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation | 21 | Agenda Item 15. |
| 22 | with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., and (II), the | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: For the Division? |
| 23 | qualification of the new entity and natural | 23 | MS. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. |
| 24 | persons qualifiers and (III), other declaratory | 24 | Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. Tracy |
| 25 | relief pursuant to NJSA 5:12-1, et seq. | 25 | Richardson, Deputy Attorney General for the |
|  | 39 |  | 41 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | There also been will be related | 2 | Division of Gaming Enforcement. |
| 3 | testimony, with respect to that matter relative | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 4 | Agenda Item 15, 16, 17, and 18, but I will call | 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, before we |
| 5 | 16, 17, and 18 separately. | 5 | proceed I believe there was an anticipated |
| 6 | I'm calling for the Joint Petition of | 6 | representation with respect to Mr. Levenson |
| 7 | Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Bally's Park Place, | 7 | and -- his representation. |
| 8 | LLC, Harrah's Operating Company, LLC, A, | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 9 | Eldorado Resorts, Inc., VICI Properties, LLC, | 9 | Mr. LEVENSON: Yes. Yes. Thank you. |
| 10 | Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, Caesars Atlantic | 10 | Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper, |
| 11 | City, LLC, and Bally's Atlantic City, LLC, for | 11 | everyone else. The representation is that our |
| 12 | a declaratory ruling pursuant to NJAC | 12 | law firm, Cooper Levenson, Lynne Kaufman and I |
| 13 | 10:40A-3.7 to determine the licensing status of | 13 | both represent VICI and Twin River. And we |
| 14 | Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, to serve as the | 14 | represent that we have notified both clients of |
| 15 | landlord of Harrah's Atlantic City Operating | 15 | our joint representation, and we have followed |
| 16 | Company, LLC, approval of the sale of certain | 16 | all the rules of professional responsibility in |
| 17 | parcels of real property and the buildings and | 17 | that regard. |
| 18 | other improvements constructed thereon, an | 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 19 | approval of the lease as amended by and among | 19 | Today we are here to consider the joint |
| 20 | Harrah's Atlantic City, Caesars Atlantic City, | 20 | petition of Caesars entities and Eldorado |
| 21 | LLC, and Bally's Atlantic City, LLC, as | 21 | Resorts incorporated for the approval of a |
| 22 | landlords, and Harrah's OPCO, Boardwalk | 22 | merger and for other related relief. We will |
| 23 | Regency, LLC and Bally's Park Place, LLC, as | 23 | also be considering a related merger |
| 24 | tenants and for additional relief. | 24 | transaction between Caesars and Eldorado |
| 25 | Mr. Chairman? | 25 | entities and V C REIT involving the sale and |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | lease back of Harrah's AC and a determination | 2 | P-3, the New Jersey Casino Control |
| 3 | regarding the licensing status of its landlord. | 3 | Commission Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy |
| 4 | The remaining items on our agenda also involve | 4 | Watts, PhD. |
| 5 | the same parties and we will address them after | 5 | $\mathrm{P}-4$ is a slide presentation. |
| 6 | the conclusion of this hearing. To properly | 6 | And P-5 is a Trust Agreement between |
| 7 | evaluate the raised in these matters we will | 7 | Eldorado, Inc., a Nevada corporation, to be |
| 8 | take testimony and consider the presentations | 8 | renamed Caesars Entertainment, Inc., and |
| 9 | by counsel. Before we begin, I understand | 9 | convert to a Delaware limited liability |
| 10 | there are several exhibits that have been | 10 | company, Caesars Resort Collections, LLC, a |
| 11 | premarked for identification. I understand | 11 | Delaware limited liability company, and John J. |
| 12 | that there are also some sealing requests | 12 | Farmer, Jr., as trustee. |
| 13 | pending for both and those items are. | 13 | These are the exhibits. |
| 14 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, we have | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 15 | Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure | 15 | I understand that there are sealing |
| 16 | that we all have clarity and we're all on the | 16 | requests pending for both P-5 and D-1 and D-2. |
| 17 | same page. | 17 | Does counsel want to be heard? |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, before we |
| 19 | Daryl? | 19 | address the redaction requests, may I just |
| 20 | MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The | 20 | please correct the record regarding D-1? I |
| 21 | premarked exhibits are as follows: | 21 | believe Mr. Nance referenced the plenary |
| 22 | The Division of Gaming Enforcement | 22 | qualification report that the Division filed |
| 23 | commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 | 23 | regarding Eldorado Resorts when it acquired |
| 24 | to D-4. | 24 | Tropicana. The exhibit for D-1 is the Division |
| 25 | D-1 is a report of the Division of | 25 | report on the merger relief petition, which is |
|  | 43 |  | 45 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the | 2 | PRN 2481902. |
| 3 | plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, | 3 | Thank you. |
| 4 | Inc., as parent owning company of casino | 4 | (Conferring.) |
| 5 | licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. | 5 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. And that is dated |
| 6 | D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report | 6 | June 20, 2020. That was a typo, Miss |
| 7 | on undue economic concentration analysis | 7 | Richardson. |
| 8 | related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and | 8 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Thank you. |
| 9 | Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. | 9 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: You want us to read the |
| 10 | D-3 public redacted executive report to | 10 | full report in? You want the full title in the |
| 11 | Indiana Racing Commission. | 11 | record? |
| 12 | D-4, the Division of Gaming Enforcement | 12 | MS. RICHARDSON: Sure. Please go ahead. |
| 13 | recommended conditions. | 13 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Go ahead, Daryl. |
| 14 | The Petitioners submitted five exhibits | 14 | MR. NANCE: D-1, Report to the Casino |
| 15 | premarked as P-1 to P-5: | 15 | Control Commission on the Petition of Caesars |
| 16 | P-1, Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, | 16 | Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars Growth |
| 17 | Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of | 17 | Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, |
| 18 | the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment | 18 | LLC, Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, |
| 19 | Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic | 19 | Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk Regency, |
| 20 | City Casino Operations. | 20 | LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, |
| 21 | P-2, Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, | 21 | LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, |
| 22 | Analysis of the Proposed Merger of Caesars | 22 | Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of |
| 23 | Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, | 23 | Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt |
| 24 | Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First | 24 | Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN |
| 25 | Amendment to Analysis of September 6, 2019. | 25 | 2481902. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier, did you | 2 | For any pending any granting petitioners |
| 3 | have any adjustments, or you're there with your | 3 | sealing request with respect to P-5 and D-1 and |
| 4 | exhibits? | 4 | the Division's sealing request for -- with |
| 5 | MR. SCHRIER: Those are the exhibits | 5 | respect to D-2; is that correct? |
| 6 | that we intend to introduce, Mr. Chairman. I | 6 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: I would just make a |
| 7 | will add that we filed a request to seal | 7 | notation, Mr. Chairman, subject to a |
| 8 | certain of those documents, and we've | 8 | reservation with respect to a final review of |
| 9 | communicated with the Division about that | 9 | P-5 per the Division's request. So the |
| 10 | request. | 10 | clarification would be that the exhibits being |
| 11 | That request involves what is marked as | 11 | moved would be P-1 through five, D-1 through |
| 12 | D-1, which is the Division's report that we | 12 | $\mathrm{D}-4$ with a sealing request with respect to $\mathrm{P}-5$ |
| 13 | just spoke about and also P-5, which is the | 13 | and D-1 and D-2 with a reservation for further |
| 14 | Trust Agreement. And as part of our request to | 14 | review of P-5. |
| 15 | seal, we have indicated that the Division has | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 16 | consented to the redactions that we've | 16 | Any further clarification by counsel? |
| 17 | requested with regard to those two, and we do | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 18 | not seek any redactions to any of the other | 18 | motion? |
| 19 | documents that we are introducing in this | 19 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll make that |
| 20 | proceeding. | 20 | motion. |
| 21 | MR. SCHRIER: | 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |
| 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 22 | Any further discussion? |
| 23 | Commissioners, are there any questions | 23 | (No response.) |
| 24 | regarding the sealing request? | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. -- the Division, | 25 | favor, say aye? |
|  | 47 |  | 49 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | Mr. Chairman. | 2 | (Ayes.) |
| 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Oh, I'm sorry. Tracy? | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any other |
| 4 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. | 4 | procedural matters that should be brought to |
| 5 | Chairman. | 5 | our attention at this time? |
| 6 | Regarding D-1, the Division consents to | 6 | MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, |
| 7 | the reactions that were requested. Regarding | 7 | Mr. Chairman. |
| 8 | P-5, I believe that the Division also does | 8 | MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr. |
| 9 | consent to those redactions, which are minimal, | 9 | Chairman. |
| 10 | to protect the trustee's compensation amounts. | 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, we are set |
| 11 | I would just note for the record that | 11 | for opening statement, which the parties may |
| 12 | that document is still being reviewed as of | 12 | waive and elect instead to proceed directly to |
| 13 | this morning. So while I believe there is no | 13 | testimony. |
| 14 | objection to the redactions, I just would like | 14 | Counsel, what is your preference, Mr . |
| 15 | to reserve if we need to make any corrections | 15 | Schrier? |
| 16 | to that, please. | 16 | MR. SCHRIER: I'd like to have a short |
| 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Okay. Commissioners any | 17 | opening statement, Mr. Chairman. So I will |
| 18 | questions regarding the sealing request? | 18 | proceed with that if that's okay. |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: It is fine. Thank | 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Continue. |
| 20 | you. | 20 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. Good morning. |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, if there's | 21 | We appreciate the opportunity to be with you |
| 22 | nothing further, I move exhibits P-3 through | 22 | today, and we're thankful that all of us are |
| 23 | P-5 and D-1 through D-4. | 23 | healthy and able to participate remotely. |
| 24 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: P-1 through P-5. | 24 | I'd like to introduce the Eldorado |
| 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Enter into evidence. | 25 | Resorts representatives who are on this zoom |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | with us today, many of whom will testify before | 2 | companies by the Commission. |
| 3 | you. I understand that Gary Carano is with us. | 3 | Once the merger is completed, Caesars |
| 4 | He is the Chairman of the Board of Eldorado | 4 | Entertainment Corporation will remain a |
| 5 | Resorts. Tom Reeg, who is the Chief Executive | 5 | qualified holding company of three of the |
| 6 | Officer. Bret Yunker, who is the Chief | 6 | Atlantic City casino licensees and Caesars |
| 7 | Financial Officer, Anthony Carano, who is | 7 | Interactive. Further to that end, Eldorado, |
| 8 | President and Chief Operating Officer. | 8 | which is a Nevada corporation, will convert to |
| 9 | Stephanie Lepori, who is the Chief | 9 | a Delaware corporation and will adopt the name |
| 10 | Administrative and Accounting Officer, and | 10 | Caesars Entertainment, Incorporated, which we |
| 11 | Steve Callender, who is the Regional President | 11 | are calling New Caesars. As a result, New |
| 12 | of Eldorado Resorts. | 12 | Caesars will become the ultimate parent holding |
| 13 | Also part of our group will be Dr. | 13 | company of casino licensees Harrah's, Boardwalk |
| 14 | Timothy Watts, who is the Managing Director of | 14 | Regency known as Caesars, Bally's, Caesars |
| 15 | the National Economic Research Associates, and | 15 | Interactive, and Tropicana Atlantic City. |
| 16 | we will be hearing from him tomorrow. | 16 | Another critical component of how this |
| 17 | And I also would note that John J. | 17 | merger will take place involves a second |
| 18 | Farmer, Jr., is the proposed trustee for the | 18 | agreement that was entered into on the same |
| 19 | capital expenditures trust that you will hear | 19 | day, June 24th, 2019, between Eldorado and |
| 20 | about in the testimony. | 20 | VICI. That is a real estate investment trust. |
| 21 | So we're here today on behalf of two | 21 | That agreement called the Master Transaction |
| 22 | very well-known publicly traded companies in | 22 | Agreement provides for a series of transactions |
| 23 | the gaming industry, Eldorado Resorts and | 23 | whereby VICI will exercise rights that it has |
| 24 | Caesars Entertainment Corporation Corp. Both | 24 | with Caesars to acquire the underlying assets |
| 25 | of these copies are known to the Commission and | 25 | of Harrah's Atlantic City, Harrah's Laughlin, |
|  | 51 |  | 53 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | Atlantic City and both are fully qualified as | 2 | Nevada, and Harrah's, New Orleans, and lease |
| 3 | holding companies of Atlantic City casino | 3 | that property back to New Caesars under triple |
| 4 | licensees. | 4 | net leases. The master lease will be amended |
| 5 | Eldorado as you know, owns Tropicana. | 5 | to add these properties, assuming that the |
| 6 | And Caesars Entertainment Corp. owns Harrah's, | 6 | Commission approves the sale and lease back, |
| 7 | Caesars, and Bally's. Caesars also owns a | 7 | and will contain exactly the same required |
| 8 | company known as Caesars Interactive | 8 | provisions of the Act that pertain currently to |
| 9 | Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, which is a | 9 | Bally's and Caesars in the Atlantic City which |
| 10 | casino licensee as well and is involved in | 10 | were approved after the Caesars bankruptcy by |
| 11 | internet gaming. | 11 | this Commission. |
| 12 | A little over a year ago, on June 24th, | 12 | The purchase price for the Harrah's |
| 13 | 2019, Eldorado and Caesars entered into an | 13 | Atlantic City land is approximately \$600 |
| 14 | Agreement and Plan of Merger. And pursuant to | 14 | million. With the other lease modifications |
| 15 | that, Eldorado will acquire Caesars | 15 | outlined in that master transaction agreement |
| 16 | Entertainment Corporation through a special | 16 | with VICI and the proceeds from the sale of |
| 17 | purpose entity called Colt Merger Sub, which | 17 | Harrah's, approximately $\$ 3.2$ billion will be |
| 18 | will be merged out of existence resulting in | 18 | generated to fund the merger. As set forth in |
| 19 | Caesars Entertainment Corporation becoming a | 19 | our petition, co-petitioners Caesars and |
| 20 | wholly owned subsidiary of Eldorado. There | 20 | Eldorado are about before you today to seek |
| 21 | will be a series of additional steps and | 21 | approval of this merger. The parties have |
| 22 | restructuring of the intermediary Caesars | 22 | obtained approval of over 20 gaming boards |
| 23 | entities in order to complete the merger, and | 23 | since the deal was announced. And this is the |
| 24 | the Caesars entities that will be restructured | 24 | last approval that they need to obtain. |
| 25 | are all currently qualified as holding | 25 | The Division of Gaming Enforcement has |


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| 2 | put in enormous time and effort and generated a | 2 | referred to as Caesars or CEC, to approve a |
| 3 | substantial report on the transaction. We | 3 | merger. ERI and CEC have also submitted |
| 4 | greatly appreciate their efforts and their | 4 | requests for other relief which may be needed |
| 5 | insights, and we have tried very hard to | 5 | in connection with or as a result of the merger |
| 6 | address their issues and concerns raised in | 6 | if it is approved. The merger transactions -- |
| 7 | their report. | 7 | if you determine they should be approved will |
| 8 | We are in unusual times and as you all | 8 | result in the largest United States gaming |
| 9 | know there are still uncertainties in our | 9 | company relative to the number of properties |
| 10 | future. But I submit to you that when you hear | 10 | owned, operated, and managed. |
| 11 | the testimony and review the evidence that we | 11 | Since the merger was announced in late |
| 12 | will present to you, one thing will seem | 12 | June 2019, the Division has undertaken |
| 13 | certain. Which is that the combination of | 13 | extraordinary efforts to complete its |
| 14 | these two unique companies will create a | 14 | investigation of these matters resulting in a |
| 15 | stronger and more resilient company than they | 15 | comprehensive 118 page report dated June 30th, |
| 16 | would be alone and with the commitments being | 16 | 2020, which has been filed with the Commission |
| 17 | made and solidly backstopped by New Caesars, | 17 | and is now D-1 in evidence. |
| 18 | benefits to Atlantic City will be very | 18 | The Division also retained an expert, |
| 19 | substantial and will allow Atlantic City to | 19 | Dr. Martin K. Perry, to conduct an undue |
| 20 | remain a highly competitive and desirable | 20 | economic concentration analysis and to complete |
| 21 | gaming destination. | 21 | a report. And Dr. Perry's May 27, 2020, report |
| 22 | You have heard from Ms. Fauntleroy that | 22 | has also been filed with the Commission and is |
| 23 | there are five petitions pending and relating | 23 | now D-2 in evidence. Dr. Perry will further |
| 24 | to this transaction, and they are noted on your | 24 | provide testimony regarding his report. |
| 25 | agenda as Items 14 through 18. | 25 | The Division's report does not include a |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | We have several witnesses who will | 2 | recommendation regarding whether the merger |
| 3 | provide testimony in support of this | 3 | should be approved but rather highlight its |
| 4 | transaction. The goals of their testimony are | 4 | critical areas of concern that the Division |
| 5 | fourfold: First to explain the transaction | 5 | submits the Commission must consider in |
| 6 | itself and the details of that process; second, | 6 | evaluating whether the merger relief should be |
| 7 | to give you an overview of New Caesars and its | 7 | granted. |
| 8 | operating expectations; third, to address the | 8 | In particular, the Division has |
| 9 | questions raised by the Division of Gaming | 9 | addressed undue economic concentration, capital |
| 10 | Enforcement in its report, including the issue | 10 | expenditure commitments, the potential impact |
| 11 | of economic concentration under Section 82 of | 11 | of proposed cost can you tell us and |
| 12 | the Casino Control Act; and, fourth, to confirm | 12 | consolidation measures, staffing levels at the |
| 13 | the very substantial commitments that have been | 13 | Atlantic City properties, restrictive |
| 14 | made by New Caesars in order to assure the | 14 | covenants, and the operating and ownership |
| 15 | Commission and the Division that this merger is | 15 | structures of the CEC Atlantic City properties |
| 16 | appropriate and beneficial to Atlantic City | 16 | of Bally's, Caesars, and Harrah's. |
| 17 | both from a business perspective and a legal | 17 | Most importantly, the Division's report |
| 18 | perspective. | 18 | includes a thorough and detailed financial |
| 19 | Thank you. | 19 | review and analysis setting forth not only its |
| 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? | 20 | evaluation of the above critical areas in the |
| 21 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. | 21 | context of size and scope of this merger, but |
| 22 | As you said, today the Commission is | 22 | also of a primary criterion that must be |
| 23 | considering the request of Eldorado Resorts | 23 | satisfied, financial stability. |
| 24 | Inc., which I'll refer to as either Eldorado or | 24 | At no time has the Division evaluated a |
| 25 | ERI, and Caesars Entertainment Corporation | 25 | transaction like this in the history of gaming |


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| 2 | in Atlantic City. | 2 | MR. SCHRIER: Yeah. For some reason I'm |
| 3 | The usual evaluation and analysis points | 3 | not able to pin the larger screen up. Ah. |
| 4 | of reviewing historical operating results, key | 4 | There with go. |
| 5 | assumptions and capital expenditure plans, | 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, can you swear |
| 6 | available financial flexibility in the event | 6 | in Mr. Reeg, please. |
| 7 | that cash flows fall short of expectations | 7 | THOMAS R. REE G, having been first duly |
| 8 | simply could not be undertaken in this matter | 8 | sworn remotely, testified as follows: |
| 9 | with any degree of certainty or confidence. | 9 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for |
| 10 | The current environment created circumstances | 10 | the record. |
| 11 | surrounding the financial results of this | 11 | THE WITNESS: Thomas Robert Reeg. |
| 12 | proposed merger that cannot be accurately | 12 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. |
| 13 | predicted at this time. | 13 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: |
| 14 | On all of these noted critical areas, | 14 | Q. Good morning, Mr. Reeg. |
| 15 | the Division looks toward testimony from | 15 | A. Good morning. |
| 16 | Eldorado to address these matters. Pending the | 16 | Q. Will you tell the Commission what your |
| 17 | presentation of that testimony, for the | 17 | title is with Eldorado Resorts? |
| 18 | Commission's reference the Division has | 18 | A. I'm the Chief Executive Officer of |
| 19 | prepared a list of conditions which have been | 19 | Eldorado and would continue in that role with New |
| 20 | marked in evidence as Exhibit D-4. If the | 20 | Caesars. |
| 21 | Commission, after receiving and reviewing all | 21 | Q. So once the merger is completed, you |
| 22 | of the information which will be presented, | 22 | will be the CEO of New Caesars? |
| 23 | determines that the merger should be approved, | 23 | A. Correct. |
| 24 | the Division's list of conditions presents what | 24 | Q. Can you please provide some background |
| 25 | it believes are the requirements, which at a | 25 | on yourself and your responsibilities as the CEO? |
|  | 59 |  | 61 |
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| 2 | minimum, must be imposed in order to ensure | 2 | A. Absolutely. And I'd start by echoing |
| 3 | close and continued financial monitoring of the | 3 | Mr. Schrier's comments thanking you for considering |
| 4 | proposed new entity, Caesars Entertainment, | 4 | this matter today and for all of the work that the DGE |
| 5 | Inc., which will be referred to as New Caesars, | 5 | put in and staff. It's been an extraordinary period |
| 6 | ensure robust capital investment in Atlantic | 6 | of time. |
| 7 | City, monitor staffing levels, evaluate the | 7 | My background is financial. I graduated |
| 8 | impact of any proposed cost cuts and | 8 | college in 1993 from Notre Dame, went into the |
| 9 | consolidation measures in relation to the | 9 | financial services business, worked on the sales side |
| 10 | Atlantic City properties, remove barriers to | 10 | of that business from 1993 until 2002. And then went |
| 11 | entry to maintain competition, and require | 11 | into the investment management business from 2002 to |
| 12 | Eldorado as New Caesars to adhere to certain | 12 | 2010. During that time I had coverage of the gaming |
| 13 | commitments that have been made. | 13 | sector throughout. So go back to the early '90s in |
| 14 | Thank you. | 14 | the gaming sector both from a banking perspective and |
| 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier, please call | 15 | from an investment perspective. |
| 16 | your first witness. | 16 | In 1996, I met the Carano family when we |
| 17 | MR. SCHRIER: I was on mute. Apologies, | 17 | were raising senior subordinated debt issuance for |
| 18 | Mr. Chairman. | 18 | em while I was at Bank of America. And that |
| 19 | Eldorado will call Thomas Reeg. | 19 | relationship -- maintained that relationship from that |
| 20 | And I just want to make sure our slide | 20 | time in 2005. I was a distressed investor at AIG. |
| 21 | deck is able to be loaded if we could try that. | 21 | And orchestrated an auction process for an asset in |
| 22 | Mr. Reeg are you able to see that? | 22 | Shreveport, Louisiana, which became Eldorado's first |
| 23 | MR. REEG: It's very small, but I spent | 23 | asset outside of the state of Nevada and outside of |
| 24 | enough time with it that I think I can speak to | 24 | Reno as a market. |
| 25 | it. | 25 | And then in late 2010, I |



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| 2 have been -- have done, as I said, a number of | 2 to add throughout the company, we -- we acquire their |
| 3 transactions. And we believe that the casino business | 3 negatives as well. And the performance in Atlantic |
| 4 is best managed in a decentralized fashion where the | 4 City, we were -- we were viewing from afar was not |
| 5 operating teams closest to your customers are making | 5 keeping up with the rest of the market. We think |
| 6 most of the operating decisions based on framework | 6 there is opportunity, and we are willing to invest |
| 7 that you set out for them rather than a command and | 7 capital that will be discussed in greater detail |
| 8 control structure from a centralized organization | 8 later, to bring these properties back to where they |
| 9 that, in many cases, is thousands of miles away from | 9 need to be from a competitive standpoint. |
| 10 the customer. So that has been a theme of what we | $10 \quad$ But Atlantic City is going to be a |
| 11 have done over the years in terms of putting companies | 11 significant piece of this combined company. On an |
| 12 together. | 12 EBITDAR basis, Atlantic City should be north of \$200 |
| 13 Caesars had developed over the last | 13 million of EBITDAR in a company that will do, you |
| 14 several years a -- the opposite structure, a highly | 14 know, approaching 4 billion. But that's across over |
| 15 centralized structure, based in Nevada that, in our | 1550 properties across the country. So New Jersey will |
| 16 view, led to inefficiencies cease in operations, | 16 be an important market for us. And we're excited to |
| 17 excess costs in the business that are kind of what I | 17 become more involved through this acquisition. |
| 18 would call traditional focus of M\&A. | 18 Q. Mr. Reeg, when this deal was announced |
| 19 The unique piece of Caesars is they have | 19 in June, things were a bit different than they are |
| 20 a history as a legendary brand in the business in any | 20 today. How do you see the transaction today in light |
| 21 number of areas. But kind of the gold standard in the | 21 of some of the events that are occurring with the |
| 22 past from a brand standpoint. The fact that they were | 22 pandemic, for example? Is it still an attractive |
| 23 potentially available and the Caesars Rewards program | 23 proposition? |
| 24 for customer retention and development is unmatched in | 24 A. And that was a key question for us in |
| 25 the business. We had long admired it from afar. All | 25 the -- over the last several months. This -- this |
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| 2 of us in this sector have players club programs that | 2 crisis has been -- I don't know have to tell members |
| 3 link properties throughout their system. We are among | 3 of the Commissioner that this crisis has been |
| 4 them. Nobody in this business has the cross market | 4 extraordinary. But from a business standpoint, this |
| 5 play that Caesars has generated and demonstrated over | 5 has been the most trying time to run a casino company |
| 6 the years. | 6 in the over 25 years that I've been involved around |
| 7 So those were the key pieces that were | 7 this business. |
| 8 appealing to us in the transaction and remain | 8 We were making decisions that you never |
| 9 appealing to us today. | 9 dreamed you would make. If -- you know, when you talk |
| 10 Q. And as part of that transaction, how did | 10 about the size of this company, this combined company |
| 11 you view Atlantic City fitting into that rationale? | 11 has closed and then reopened 50 properties -- more |
| 12 A. As the Commission notes, we came into | 12 than 50 properties over the past three months. We |
| 13 Atlantic City at a time when others were questioning, | 13 furloughed close to 95 percent of employees during |
| 14 is this a market that you would like to come into, | 14 those closings. We made decisions on how you would |
| 15 given all the competition that opened on the Eastern | 15 treat employees in terms of pay that, while they were |
| 16 Seaboard? But we look to the history and the strength | 16 out of work, bringing them back, dealing with |
| 17 of Atlantic City as positive. And we've had a | 17 benefits. And at the same time, we were close to |
| 18 positive experience with Tropicana since we've opened, | 18 closing this acquisition. This -- we were likely a |
| 19 despite the additional competition added by Hard Rock | 19 month from being in front of most of the commissions |
| 20 and the reopening of Ocean, we've been able to hold | 20 that we've been in front of recently to reach final |
| 21 our own through that. | 21 approvals as COVID spread across the country. |
| 22 And, you know, we think that -- we know | 22 And it was clear to us at that time that |
| 23 that when we acquire Caesars, in addition to the | 23 all of the opportunity that we saw within Caesars when |
| 24 positive attributes that I was talking about earlier | 24 we underwrote the transaction was still there, and it |
| 25 and the fantastic management talent that we're going | 25 became a question of, can you get to that point? And |

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| 2 the key to that was can you bridge that financially? | 2 And then finally, we had to reopen these |
| 3 And how long is that bridge? | 3 properties across the country with varying |
| 4 When we put forth our April 30th | 4 restrictions, develop a health and safety program with |
| 5 projections that are a part of the record now, we | 5 the help of medical experts that were on our payroll |
| 6 were, as it turned out, conservative relative to what | 6 on both sides. And with all of that going on, we've |
| 7 has happened since reopening. But it was important to | 7 generated results on a consolidated basis on the |
| 8 us to put numbers in that reflected a scenario that | 8 year-over-year comparison from reopening to now that's |
| 9 was clearly a test but represented what could happen | 9 effectively flat to the prior year's results. So it's |
| 10 as we went through reopening. We're pleased to report | 10 an extraordinary testament to the combined management |
| 11 that we've out performed those numbers. But as we | 11 team that's coming together here that we're able to |
| 12 looked at the numbers and looked at what we could do | 12 work through this and get to this point today. |
| 13 financially, it was clear that we needed to continue | 13 Q. Yeah. So, as was noted, this is the |
| 14 forward with this transaction, with the expectation | 14 largest gaming company transaction in history. Could |
| 15 that the benefits may be shifted out a few months, but | 15 you describe to the Commission the basic terms of the |
| 16 that they were still available to us. | 16 transaction? |
| 17 But again on the that, the point of | 17 A. Yes. So we are acquiring Caesars for a |
| 18 management, we had a lot of wood to chop after that | 18 combination of cash and stock, \$8.40 per share in |
| 19 decision was made. We had -- we still had to get | 19 cash. The remainder in stock. There has been some |
| 20 through the FTC process. And we had to sell a | 20 ticking -- ticking fee, I'm sorry -- that has accrued |
| 21 particular asset in Lake Tahoe effectively three | 21 in the interim that will be paid in cash in closing as |
| 22 different times through this process. We had a buyer | 22 well. |
| 23 who at the eleventh hour walked away. We had another | 23 The combined -- excuse me for a minute. |
| 24 buyer that the FTC raised doubts about. And we | 24 I'm going to pull this up on my screen so I can see |
| 25 ultimately moved to Twin River as a buyer of that | 25 the numbers in front of me. I apologize. So it's |
| 71 | 73 |
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| 2 asset. That transaction was struck when there was not | 28.70 of cash, 3.60 per share of equity, the aggregate |
| 3 a casino open in this country. So to sell an asset in | 3 cash consideration is approximately seven and-a-half |
| 4 that time was an extraordinary effort by this | 4 billion dollars. $\$ 3.2$ billion of that cash is part of |
| 5 management team. | 5 the master transaction agreement in connection with -- |
| 6 We then had to start to reopen these | 6 I'm sorry -- it's in connection with the VICI master |
| 7 properties. We had to reopen more than 50 properties | 7 transaction agreement. We will issue over 77 million |
| 8 across the two companies. We were doing this when | 8 shares of stock to Caesars investors. That's over \$3 |
| 9 we're dealing with COVID from a business perspective, | 9 billion of equity value. Coupled with our \$800 |
| 10 and there are members of the senior management team | 10 million equity offering that was priced and closed in |
| 11 that were dealing with COVID in their homes at this | 11 June. That's nearly \$4 billion of equity coming into |
| 12 time. So this was an extraordinary lift on both | 12 this transaction. That's the largest equity issuance |
| 13 sides. | 13 in connection with any previous gaming merger by a |
| 14 We then had to go to the financial | 14 wide margin. |
| 15 markets. And we had put forward financial structure | 15 You know, Bret and I come from the fixed |
| 16 in June of 2019 that obviously did not contemplate a | 16 income background in investing and banking. We |
| 17 three-month shut down between signing and closing. We | 17 understand the importance of balance sheet. And |
| 18 were able, through the efforts of the entire | 18 there's going to be a great deal of discussion of that |
| 19 management team, but particular efforts of Mr. Yunker, | 19 in the testimony. And there is understandably a great |
| 20 who the Commission will hear from shortly, to raise | 20 deal of focus in the DGE report there. But we feel |
| 21 over \$8 million of financing in a period of time when | 21 we've built a balance sheet that has proven can |
| 22 assets had been opened for a handful of weeks. And to | 22 withstand a crisis but is built to withstand a further |
| 23 put us in a financial position that looks very similar | 23 crisis should one arise. |
| 24 to what was presented to this Commission and presented | 24 Eldorado is expected to own 56 percent |
| 25 to the investment community in June of '19. | 25 of the merged company, and we will change our name, as |


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| 2 was disclosed before, to Caesars Entertainment which | 2 fact, they are exceptional in that area. And you can |
| 3 is a clear indication of our view of the power of the | 3 see there are areas of the company where -- for the |
| 4 Caesars brand. | 4 Commissioners benefit the blue colored boxes are |
| 5 Q. All right. So as of today, where is the | 5 Caesars employees that are filling those management |
| 6 company in respect for closing and approvals of this | 6 positions. And the black boxes are existing Eldorado. |
| 7 transaction? | 7 So you can see that we are bringing a lot of |
| 8 MR. SCHRIER: If you could put up the | 8 management talent in from Caesars. |
| 9 slide, please. | 9 Particularly in key areas where they are |
| 10 A. Yes. From an approval standpoint, we | 10 extraordinary strong. I also mentioned Caesars |
| 11 received Nevada approval last week, Indiana Gaming | 11 Rewards. Their program there is unmatched in the |
| 12 Commission approval last week as well. And Indiana | 12 space. We're bringing that team into our |
| 13 Horse Racing Commission this past Monday. So that the | 13 organization. Caesars has a very well developed |
| 14 only required regulatory approval that remains in | 14 compliance and AML function that we are going to go |
| 15 front of us is the hearings this week in front of the | 15 with as we move forward as a combined company. |
| 16 New Jersey Casino Control Commission. All of the | 16 Caesars has a very well developed |
| 17 financing is in place. All of the cash, both the cash | 17 corporate social responsibility area that was headed |
| 18 on our side and the cash that VICI will fund as part | 18 by Jan Jones Blackhurst the who is now a member of the |
| 19 of the transaction, is currently in escrow. The | 19 Caesars board and will be a member of the combined |
| 20 leadership team and the new board of directors are | 20 board. And Jan will chair a new corporate |
| 21 confirmed. There are at least six board members from | 21 responsibility committee at the board level. Miss |
| 22 Eldorado, five members from the Caesars side. | 22 Lepori's testimony will go into greater detail here. |
| 23 Operating integration that Anthony will go through as | 23 You know, I am pleased personally to |
| 24 well ahead of prior transactions. That's a silver | 24 report that Tony Rodio, the existing CEO of Caesars |
| 25 lining of the extra time that we've had, is we've had | 25 Entertainment and former CEO of Tropicana |
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| 2 a lot of time to put forth or put together plans to | 2 Entertainment is going to remain with the company in a |
| 3 hit the ground running on day one. | 3 strategic advisory role to me. And chief among his |
| 4 As I said, cash flows are well in excess | 4 responsibilities is going to be to develop and |
| 5 of what was presented to the Board -- to the | 5 implement the capital expenditure program that we're |
| 6 Commission and the DGE on April 30th. We have an | 6 going through here today. |
| 7 agreement in place -- or Caesars has an agreement in | 7 Tony's experience in the Atlantic City |
| 8 place to sell Bally's to Twin River. Twin River is | 8 market is substantial. I know that he's very familiar |
| 9 working through the regulatory process in New Jersey. | 9 to both the DGE and the Commission. And we are |
| 10 And we're hopeful that will close by year end. | 10 thrilled that he will be involved and will be a chief |
| 11 And Miss Richardson spoke of the | 11 principal in developing and implementing our program |
| 12 conditions that were noted in the DGE report, and | 12 in Atlantic City from a capital perspective as we move |
| 13 we -- we are prepared to agree to all of the | 13 forward. |
| 14 conditions that are listed in that report. | 14 Q. Thank you, Mr. Reeg. |
| 15 Q. Mr. Reeg, if I could just refer you back | 15 And just to confirm what I think you |
| 16 to the corporate leadership team? | 16 said previously, you've read all of the 40 conditions |
| 17 MR. SCHRIER: If we can flip she's | 17 that have been marked into evidence in this matter by |
| 18 slides to the back two pages, 38 and 39 for the | 18 the Division and on behalf of Eldorado and New |
| 19 Commission to review. | 19 Caesars, of which you will be the CEO, you agree to |
| 20 Q. Can you just briefly describe what this | 20 abide by those conditions? |
| 21 structure looks like and how it was created for New | 21 A. Absolutely. As I said, I -- we |
| 22 Caesars? | 22 understand that we acquire the positives and negatives |
| 23 A. Yes. As in our prior acquisitions, we | 23 of Caesars. And we know that Atlantic City and New |
| 24 expect to find significant management talent in the | 24 Jersey have had some difficulties with a lack of |
| 25 target company. And Caesars was no exception. In | 25 investment from Caesars chiefly in the past. And, you |



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| 2 cetera? | 2 approval is being sought now? |
| 3 A. Yes. I think that's the argument for | 3 A. |
| 4 diversification. We have our own destination markets | 4 Q. And there's a value of 600 million in |
| 5 in Atlantic City at the Trop currently and in Reno. | 5 proceeds that's attributable to Harrah's Atlantic City |
| 6 And what we're experiencing today is the weekend | 6 in connection with the overall sale of other three |
| 7 activity is robust but midweek activity is soft. And | 7 Harrah's properties, real estate assets, to VICI; is |
| 8 that's true of Caesars in Las Vegas as well. On a | 8 that correct? |
| 9 combined basis, we'll have about 60 percent regional | 9 A. That is correct. |
| 10 operations, about 40 percent Las Vegas. And what's | 10 Q. And that 600 million is vital to the |
| 11 happening now is the performance of the regional | 11 funds required to complete the merger process? |
| 12 destin -- or the regional properties are far stronger | 12 A. Correct. |
| 13 than anyone anticipated, including us. And the | 13 Q. Aside from using the sale proceeds from |
| 14 strength in those regional properties are offsetting | 14 Harrah's Atlantic City potentially as a funding source |
| 15 the weakness in Las Vegas Strip, Reno, New Orleans, | 15 to complete these transaction if they are approved by |
| 16 and Atlantic City that is seen throughout the two | 16 the Commission, how does that sale benefit operations |
| 17 portfolios. And we're ending up in a position where | 17 or the Atlantic City market? |
| 18 the operating results are, from a cash flow | 18 A. So, we view REITs as -- REIT financing |
| 19 perspective, is almost flat in a year-over-year basis. | 19 as just another financing tool. We don't operate or |
| 20 And, you know, you have projections in front of us | 20 invest in properties differently relative to whether |
| 21 that for this current quarter I think we're showings | 21 they are leased or wholly owned. You can -- the |
| 2260 percent drop in EBIDTA. So the diversification | 22 Caesars side in particular recently, you've had |
| 23 that has -- that this transaction brings, you're | 23 Caesars spent well over \$50 million in Southern |
| 24 seeing the benefits in real time today. | 24 Indiana on an expansion there. Caesars Palace, |
| 25 Q. And turning to others here, you're aware | 25 Harrah's Las Vegas, they've spent hundreds of millions |
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| 2 that subsidiaries of CEC are parties to a master lease | 2 of dollars since the bankruptcy, investing in assets |
| 3 with subsidiaries of the two properties; is that | 3 that are subject to the lease. We are a hundred |
| 4 correct? | 4 percent aware that they have not invested in the |
| 5 A. Correct. | 5 Atlantic City assets, but that's not tied to them |
| Q. And VICI Properties is a real estate | 6 being leased. |
| 7 investment trust, or a REIT as it's commonly known? | 7 So the 600 million that comes in from |
| 8 A. That's correct. | 8 Harrah's Atlantic City -- the sale to VICI is \$600 |
| 9 Q. And Bally's and Caesars in Atlantic City | 9 million that we did not have to have an underwritten |
| 10 are subject to that lease and under the REIT | 10 financing commitment for the past 13 months and pay |
| 11 arrangement? | 11 fees that would just benefit bankers, who I can assure |
| 12 A. Correct. | 12 you have benefitted substantially from this |
| 13 Q. And are you aware that this Commission | 13 transaction, without that additional -- the additional |
| 14 approved the bankruptcy construction and REIT | 14 fees on the 600 million. |
| 15 arrangement when Caesars Entertainment Operating | 15 But from our standpoint -- and the way |
| 16 Company completed its reorganization? | 16 that we are evaluated, that lease is treated as debt |
| 17 A. I'm aware. | 17 on our balance sheet and by investors. So we don't |
| 18 Q. And are you also aware that at that time | 18 differentiate from an operating investment perspective |
| 19 a condition was imposed that the call right applicable | 19 whether a property is leased or owned. And as |
| 20 to Harrah's Atlantic City could not be exercised | 20 evidence of that, we're making substantial capital |
| 21 through a sales process without regulatory approvals? | 21 expenditure commitments here that are actually funding |
| 22 A. Correct. | 22 into escrow for the benefit of these New Jersey |
| 23 Q. And as part of this merger, CEC has | 23 assets. And we would intend when those are exhausted, |
| 24 entered into an agreement for the sale of Harrah's | 24 we'll be spending, you know, five percent of revenues |
| 25 real estate assets to VICI REIT, and that sale | 25 on maintenance capital going forward, which in the |


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| 2 Atlantic City market, is north of \$50 million a year. | 2 expenditure requirements that are through the lease; |
| 3 Q. That capital expenditure fund is | 3 correct? |
| 4 separate and apart from anything having to do with the | 4 A. Correct. |
| 5 potential sale of the Harrah's Atlantic City real | 5 Q. And there's also a request pending to |
| 6 estate assets; correct? | 6 amend the master lease between CEC and VICI before the |
| 7 A. That's correct. | 7 Commission; is that correct? |
| 8 Q. How much is the annual rent under the | 8 A. Correct. |
| 9 existing master lease that the CEC subsidiaries have | 9 Q. What's the nature of the proposed |
| 10 with VICI? | 10 amendment? |
| 11 A. Hm. I don't have that off the top of my | 11 A. So it's -- there's multiple pieces, and |
| 12 head. I know that Mr. Yunker will. | 12 Mr . Yunker can get into more specifics. But we bring |
| 13 Q. Do you know how much the annual rent is | 13 Harrah's Atlantic City, Tropicana Laughlin, Harrah's |
| 14 expected to increase if the three Harrah's property, | 14 New Orleans into that master lease. Those are the |
| 15 real estate asset sales, are approved and added to the | 15 call option assets that are a piece of this. There |
| 16 master lease? | 16 are other more technical changes, but that's the |
| 17 A. It's $\$ 3.2$ billion of proceeds that will | 17 biggest piece of the amendment. |
| 18 increase our lease expense by \$200-odd million a year. | 18 Q. And outside of the Harrah's |
| 19 Q. And are you aware of what the annual | 19 transactions, there is also a request to the |
| 20 capital expenditure requirements will be under the | 20 Commission to amend that lease for immediate relief; |
| 21 amended lease if those new properties are included? | 21 is that correct? |
| 22 A. I don't have that off the top of my | 22 A. Correct. |
| 23 head. But it's -- it's substantial. It's more | 23 Q. And what is that for? |
| 24 than -- the capex requirements in the VICI lease are | 24 A. We have to -- there are agreements we |
| 25 higher than the capex requirements in the GLPI lease | 25 have to enter into at closing, including the master |
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| 2 as an example. But if we spend the typical five | 2 transaction agreement with VICI. And we need to have |
| 3 percent of maintenance that we spend across all of our | 3 all of the approvals in place in order to enter into |
| 4 properties, we would meet the capital expenditure | 4 those agreements at closing. |
| 5 requirement. | $5 \quad$ Q. And is there not also a pending request |
| 6 Q. You're not aware of the number, but you | 6 from CEC to amend the master lease seeking some relief |
| 7 are aware generally that under the terms of the lease, | 7 based on COVID-19 conditions and meeting specific |
| 8 the minimum capital expenditure requirements in that | 8 minimum capital expenditure requirements? |
| 9 lease do not require any particular amount to be spent | 9 A. There's been a re -- yes. There's been |
| 10 on any particular property; correct? | 10 a recalculation -- or an amendment that allows for a |
| 11 A. Correct. | 11 recalculation of the three-year rolling capex |
| 12 Q. So absent any other requirements, the | 12 requirement as -- because of the COVID situation over |
| 13 master lease would not require any particular amount | 13 the past three months. |
| 14 to be spent at Harrah's Atlantic City if it's added to | 14 Q. Can you explain that proposed amendment |
| 15 that lease? | 15 for the Commission? |
| 16 A. That's correct. Master lease is a | 16 A. It effectively -- it -- there's a |
| 17 unitary document dictated by the entire company. So | 17 minimum annual requirement, and there's a three-year |
| 18 the operations of the entire company support those -- | 18 rolling requirement in the lease. In the COVID |
| 19 that master lease. It's not as if Atlantic City is on | 19 environment with liquidity in a premium, most capital |
| 20 its own. But to your point, in addition, the capital | 20 was stopped in the entire space. And so there's an |
| 21 requirements are across the entire portfolio, not | 21 easing of the requirement in terms of how the -- the |
| 22 specific to any asset. | 22 three-year calculation is done. You basically get a |
| 23 Q. So to your statement that, for that | 23 mulligan, as a golf term, where your -- you're not |
| 24 matter, Bally's Atlantic City and Caesars Atlantic | 24 penalized for the freeze during COVID. |
| 25 City similarly don't have specific directed capital | 25 Q. You mentioned earlier that there is a |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - REEG <br> pending sale agreement for Bally's Atlantic City to Twin River; correct? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. And that sale will not include the Wild <br> Wild West portion of the casino or the sportsbook? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And there's also separate agreement <br> since Bally's is in the REIT with VICI that there is an agreement for the sale of those real estate assets as well; correct? <br> A. Right. There's a split of the proceeds, and it will come out of the master lease. <br> Q. So the total sale price is 25 million. <br> And can you explain the split for the Commission? <br> A. The VICI will get the vast majority of the proceeds, as the value is deemed to be primarily real estate operations, not casino operations. And I would tell the Commission that that transaction was in process on the Caesars side, and it was entered into and executed by Caesars. So we were not directly involved in those negotiations. We ultimately had to approve the transaction, but we were not a party to it being put together. <br> Q. And understanding that, that Eldorado | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG <br> discussing to amend the master lease between CEC and VICI, there's also a pending request related to the Tropicana lease for the COVID relief? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. Can you tell the Commission about that amendment? <br> A. So the chief pieces of the GLPI <br> amendment were related to the divestiture requirements in Indiana. What we wanted to do was be able to sell the Evansville asset as a wholly owned asset rather than as a leasehold interest. So there's an ability to swap existing owned Eldorado assets into the lease to substitute for the cash flow that will leave from Evansville and to extricate Evansville from a lease, sell it as a HOLDCO. <br> In addition, there was a -- there's a variable rent component of the GLPI lease where a portion of their rent is tied to a percentage of revenue. And because of the closures in COVID, there was going to be a fairly significant reduction in that variable rent piece. We agreed to fix that at a higher level, not at the prior -- the pre-COVID level, but higher than if you had run that calculation with a three-month closure in the interim. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - REEG <br> did not negotiate that deal but Caesars is to receive approximately six million from that sale, what's your view on the disposition of that property where there's really a minimal gain to Caesars? <br> A. I think it allows us to focus on <br> Caesars, Harrah's, and Tropicana and direct our capital to where -- if you spread it across an additional property, it would likely not have the same impact. You know, we were mindful that there were concentration concerns from the DGE and that we -- we had an opportunity to reduce our concentration in the market, focus our efforts on the assets that we most wanted to invest in. And so we think it was a good outcome for New Caesars and for the state. <br> Q. And Tropicana is also part of a REIT with a subsidiary of gaming and leisure properties; correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And similar to the VICI REIT, there is a minimum capital expenditure requirement but not any requirement that an amount is spent at any particular property subject to that lease? <br> A. That is correct. <br> Q. And similar to the request that we were | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG <br> In addition, we have the ability to <br> remove some smaller assets from that lease as a part of the amendment. <br> Q. And does that proposed amendment seek relief similar to the VICI amendment for COVID relief related to capital expenditure requirements under the lease? <br> A. I believe so. But it's a different -- <br> there isn't the three-year rolling average requirement <br> there. So you -- it's more of a waiver until we get <br> to -- or once we got through the crisis and should be back to normal quickly. <br> Q. And as you're aware and you've addressed earlier, the Division has raised serious concerns about the need for capital expenditures, or capex, at the CEC Atlantic City properties; correct? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. And you mentioned this as well. But after several discussions with the Division, Eldorado has committed to establish a pre-funded account of $\$ 400$ million to be held in trust for capital expenditures in Atlantic City over a three-year period? <br> A. That's correct. |



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| 2 a corporate guaranty or something that's akin to a | 2 with, frankly, a lease-versus-owned decision. It was |
| 3 corporate guaranty that gives them the support of the | 3 a capital owned allocation decision of senior |
| 4 cash flows of the entire organization assets that are | 4 management of the former Caesars. |
| 5 in their lease and assets that are not in their lease. | 5 Q. And if the sale of Harrah's land to VICI |
| 6 And they are unitary in that the collection of assets | 6 is approved by the Commission as we have requested, |
| 7 in the lease support the lease payments but also the | 7 Harrah's -- Harrah's Operating Company will be subject |
| 8 capital requirements that are a part of the lease are | 8 to basically this same kind of lease that currently |
| 9 not required to go to any individual asset as long as | 9 exists on Caesars and Bally's; correct? |
| 10 you meet the aggregate number that's in the lease. | 10 A. Correct. It comes into the same lease. |
| 11 That's similar to what you would find in | 11 Q. And the decision of whether or not to |
| 12 MGP's lease -- or MGM's lease, Penn's lease, Boyd's | 12 expend capital is going to be a decision that would be |
| 13 lease, any lease that you're looking at in this space. | 13 made by New Caesars; correct? |
| 14 Q. And I think you testified that the | 14 A. Correct. We're making the capital |
| 15 master lease that covers the properties in Atlantic | 15 commitment described by Miss Richardson and listed in |
| 16 City of Bally's and Caesars is similar; right? There | 16 the conditions. But how that capital is spent and in |
| 17 was no requirement of a specific capital expenditure | 17 which buildings is subject to the limitations |
| 18 in that lease that currently exists; correct? | 18 described in the conditions is our decision. |
| 19 A. For those particular assets. That's | 19 Q. So the proposed conditions you've agreed |
| 20 correct. | 20 to, the sale of the Harrah's property to VICI, will |
| 21 Q. Right. So under these master leases, | 21 result notwithstanding whatever the term of the lease |
| 22 and as an operator who has some properties with REITs, | 22 in terms of the lease are regarding capital |
| 23 who does determine specifically what the capital | 23 expenditure, will result in a $\$ 400$ million fund that |
| 24 expenditure should be for a particular property? | 24 you will expend in conjunction with approvals for that |
| 25 A. That's entirely the operator's decision. | 25 capital budget with the Division of Gaming |
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| 2 So long as you stay within the guardrails of your | 2 Enforcement; right? |
| 3 requirements in the lease, all capital and operating | 3 A. That's correct. If you look at that 400 |
| 4 decisions sit with the operator. Us in this case. | 4 million, that's fairly close to the 600 million we'll |
| 5 Q. So the landlord, so to speak, can't make | 5 receive for the sale of the real estate. So most of |
| 6 that decision for you or force you to make that | 6 that will come right back into Atlantic City. |
| 7 decision? | 7 Q. Okay. So you'll get 600 million, but we |
| 8 A. No. | 8 promised to put 400 million and potentially $\$ 525$ |
| 9 Q. And we've heard some testimony and some | 9 million if Bally's is not sold timely into a fund to |
| 10 questions from Miss Richardson about the fact that | 10 be used to improve those properties. |
| 11 there have been sort of under capital amounts spent on | 11 A. That is correct. |
| 12 these properties in Atlantic City under the Bally's | 12 Q. Thank you? |
| 13 and Caesars lease. Did that have anything to do with | 13 MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have. |
| 14 the real estate investment trust to your knowledge? | 14 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ms. Richardson? |
| 15 A. No. As I said, the -- the Caesars | 15 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 16 management team made the decision to invest in other | 16 Just a couple of questions. |
| 17 markets. As I pointed out, they spent significant | 17 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: |
| 18 dollars in Southern Indiana, moved to a land-based | 18 Q. Mr. Reeg, you indicated to me and to Mr. |
| 19 property. That property is in the same lease that | 19 Schrier that decisions regarding capital expenditures |
| 20 we're discussing here. And then they have a separate | 20 are made by the operator alone, not the landlord? |
| 21 lease for Las Vegas assets. And they spend | 21 A. Correct. |
| 22 considerable dollars on Caesars Palace and Harrah's. | 22 Q. And we've also discussed the 400 million |
| 23 At the same time they were not spending money in | 23 fund that Eldorado has committed to set up in the |
| 24 Atlantic City. So it was not a -- it was not -- had | 24 event that the Commission approves the transaction and |
| 25 nothing to do with the landlord and had nothing to do | 25 also incorporates the Division's proposed conditions? |


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| 2 A. Correct. | 2 | thank you for being here, participating with |
| Q. Absent that fund, there would be no | 3 | us, all of us. I do have a couple questions |
| 4 requirements for capital expenditures on the Atlantic | 4 | for you. |
| 5 City properties operated by CEC currently; correct? | 5 | When I -- when I, we, anybody mentions |
| 6 A. That is correct. No individual | 6 | the word "COVID," "coronavirus," the world has |
| 7 requirements. It would be the aggregate requirement | 7 | been impacted. In, let's say, the past four |
| 8 under the lease. | 8 | months, let's say, what financial -- and again, |
| Q. And as we've discussed, the lease | 9 | we've got all the documents. I've read all the |
| 10 doesn't require any particular amounts to be devoted | 10 | documents. How has this coronavirus impacted |
| 11 to this market or any property in particular; correct? | 11 | Eldorado, Caesars, this project, this merger? |
| 12 A. Correct. | 12 | I know -- and again, I've read -- I've heard, |
| 13 Q. And generally, operating -- the operator | 13 | but in your words. Specifically -- |
| 14 will make decisions based on capex when analyzing a | 14 | THE WITNESS: Sure. |
| 15 return on investment; correct? | 15 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: And with no |
| 16 A. That's correct. | 16 | disrespect, layman's words. |
| 17 Q. So following that theory, if you have a | 17 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. |
| 18 property that has not been adequately maintained, and | 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: How this has |
| 19 its performance as suffered as a result, would not the | 19 | impacted? What's happened? What's been put on |
| 20 return on investment analysis just perpetuate those | 20 | hold? And part two to that, I know we're |
| 21 issues? | 21 | looking at big, big numbers. Even bringing it |
| 22 A. That's kind of a sweeping statement. It | 22 | down to a very, I'm going to say a general |
| 23 would -- the weakening of the competitive situation in | 23 | level, let's say, marketing, promotions, |
| 24 the Caesars assets, regardless of how it happens, | 24 | employees, conventions, entertainment. I'm |
| 25 certainly -- how it happened -- certainly would go | 25 | going to say the whole spectrum. How has this |
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| 2 into the calculation of what kind of return you can | 2 | COVID affected you? |
| 3 expect from incremental capital into those assets or | 3 | THE WITNESS: Sure. |
| 4 any assets under a similar situation. But it doesn't | 4 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. |
| 5 necessarily follow that it would lead you to make a | 5 | THE WITNESS: To put it simply, on a |
| 6 decision not to invest. | 6 | personal level, I'm one of the households that |
| 7 I think in terms of how Caesars got to | 7 | dealt with COVID personally through this |
| 8 where it is today, I think there was a scarcity of | 8 | process. So that was an additional twist that |
| 9 capital that existed in that company, obviously, | 9 | I didn't need. But from a professional |
| 10 heading into the bankruptcy and even coming out that | 10 | perspective, the business perspective, and to |
| 11 isn't anything like what this company looks like | 11 | put it simply, we were operating 50-plus |
| 12 coming out of this. So I think part of it was there | 12 | properties across this company -- this combined |
| 13 was a limit on capital dollars in total that worked | 13 | company on March 1st. By March 19th, we were |
| 14 out to the detriment of Atlantic City when Caesars | 14 | operating zero. So each of those individual |
| 15 prioritized where they would spend that money. | 15 | properties is a series of decisions of -- this |
| 16 Q. Okay. Thank you. | 16 | was all in real time. What -- what do you do |
| 17 MS. RICHARDSON: I have nothing further. | 17 | to protect your customers, your employees? |
| 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 18 | What is the State going to do? The states were |
| 19 Commissioner Cooper? Do you have any | 19 | acting in -- on different timelines with |
| 20 questions for Mr. Reeg? | 20 | different requirements. And so it was like |
| 21 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes, I do. Yes, I | 21 | being a fireman with 55 fires starting at the |
| 22 do. Thank you, Chairman. | 22 | same time. And so you were running from one to |
| 23 Good morning, Mr. Reeg. | 23 | another to put them out. |
| 24 THE WITNESS: Good morning. | 24 | So now you get to the point of, okay, |
| 25 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Good morning and | 25 | we've closed all of our assets. You're next |


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| 2 | decision is, how do you treat your employees? | 2 | know -- and leaving aside this deal, this is |
| 3 | I grew up in a household where my father was a | 3 | just operating the companies. So, you know, to |
| 4 | union carpenter. And I remember the pain of | 4 | put it in layman's terms, we burned a billion |
| 5 | being laid off and worrying about, well, how | 5 | dollars of cash in the second quarter. So a |
| 6 | will you pay for this? How will you pay for | 6 | billion dollars of cash was gone. So now we've |
| 7 | that when you have children at home. That was | 7 | got to fill the hole in this transaction and |
| 8 | seared into me as at a young age. So you know | 8 | hope that the financial markets open and are |
| 9 | you're making that decision now for people that | 9 | receptive to us. And, thankfully, properties |
| 10 | are just like you were. And it's agonizing. | 10 | started to open. |
| 11 | You know, we -- we paid our employees | 11 | But then your thought is -- again, can |
| 12 | for over a month with -- on the Eldorado | 12 | we implement this in a safe fashion? You know, |
| 13 | side -- with no revenue coming in the door. We | 13 | we have lost employees to COVID. Caesars has |
| 14 | have extended our -- paying the benefits on | 14 | lost employees to COVID. It's awful. And you |
| 15 | both sides through August 31st whether you're | 15 | want to protect your employees. So we opened |
| 16 | furloughed or not. But you reach the end of | 16 | subject to state regulations across the board, |
| 17 | that point. You wanted to get to, can I bridge | 17 | which were all over the map. But it -- and we |
| 18 | my employees to where the Federal Government -- | 18 | required our employees to have temperatures |
| 19 | the aid from the Federal Government will then | 19 | taken as they came into the properties and wear |
| 20 | be their lifeline? And that was very important | 20 | masks. But then you realize as you start |
| 21 | to us on both sides. And I think a | 21 | operating that there's -- how does that work |
| 22 | responsibility of companies that were in | 22 | for our employees where they're wearing masks |
| 23 | position to do that, like both of us were, you | 23 | but the customers are not? So on both sides we |
| 24 | should be looking to support your employees | 24 | made a decision to, regardless of whether a |
| 25 | through that. And, thankfully, we were able to | 25 | state required it or not, to any customer, |
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| 2 | do that. But then we've got a furlough 95 | 2 | employee, vendor on the property has to wear a |
| 3 | percent of employees on both sides, which was | 3 | mask. We thought that was the best way to |
| 4 | just gut-wrenching. | 4 | ensure safety with customers and employees. |
| 5 | And so there was a day where -- I think | 5 | But now it's about bringing people back. |
| 6 | it was May 11th on our side -- where you've got | 6 | And as you know in New Jersey, we have |
| 7 | to tell 95 percent of your people that they -- | 7 | limitations on -- we can't offer food and |
| 8 | they're not coming to work and not getting paid | 8 | beverage. We can't offer alcohol on the floor. |
| 9 | anymore. We're continuing to cover your | 9 | And we can only utilize 25 percent of our |
| 10 | benefits. We're hopeful that we can reopen | 10 | capacity. And all of that has impact in -- on |
| 11 | quickly, but we don't know because we're -- | 11 | how many employees you bring back. I'm pleased |
| 12 | we're working through this with the states. We | 12 | to report that, despite those limitations, |
| 13 | hired medical experts. I never would have | 13 | we're over 50 percent of employees back in New |
| 14 | thought I would be on a weekly call, or now -- | 14 | Jersey. But we want that number to keep |
| 15 | but more than -- more often than that in the | 15 | climbing. But we understand it can only climb |
| 16 | height of the crisis with an epidemiologist | 16 | as the public health situation gets better. So |
| 17 | that's telling us, you know, here's what you | 17 | those are very long answer, but. |
| 18 | should be doing and developing health and | 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: No. That's -- |
| 19 | safety protocols and procuring all of this | 19 | THE WITNESS: An extraordinary three |
| 20 | equipment that you need to keep your employees | 20 | months, four months, and it continues to be |
| 21 | and your customers safe. And there is no | 21 | extraordinary times. |
| 22 | playbook. This is -- you're figuring this out | 22 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: It's -- a very |
| 23 | one decision at a time as this is moving | 23 | scary time. It's uncertain. It's fragile. |
| 24 | forward. | 24 | And just what -- just how you elaborated has |
| 25 | And now you're -- you're moving to, you | 25 | given me some -- some reassurance. |

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| 2 | Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask another | 2 | benefit from those incremental players coming |
| 3 | question? | 3 | to the system and getting into our programs and |
| 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 4 | going to use their points. And for New Jersey |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Going to | 5 | in particular, Caesars operates plane programs |
| 6 | another topic, so to speak. You mentioned | 6 | where they charter planes that operate in New |
| 7 | early on that Caesars is very well-known for | 7 | Jersey on a seasonal basis. They operate in |
| 8 | their cross marketing. And I agree with you a | 8 | Laughlin and New Orleans and Lake Tahoe as |
| 9 | hundred percent. They are well-known for that. | 9 | well. We think that entire program can be |
| 10 | Once the merger, god willing, takes place, I'm | 10 | expanded. We have more customers to feed into |
| 11 | going to say roughly, do you have any amount -- | 11 | it. So we can have more planes coming to |
| 12 | do you have an amount of names and numbers, | 12 | Atlantic City as a destination market primarily |
| 13 | let's say, that you will have in your database | 13 | for east of the Mississippi. But that's a lot |
| 14 | with all your properties? And are you able to | 14 | of properties that will feed into Atlantic City |
| 15 | share anything with us today? Let's say, what | 15 | as their destination. So we're quite excited |
| 16 | you will be doing with -- with the merger but | 16 | about the possibilities as we put these |
| 17 | with regard to customer retention, customer | 17 | programs together. |
| 18 | development? Because, as we know, you're going | 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Sounds awesome. |
| 19 | to have this huge database. What can we | 19 | One final question, and this might be a |
| 20 | expect? | 20 | little bit on the personal note to you, let's |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. I'm happy to do | 21 | say. I've heard your testimony this morning |
| 22 | that. So Caesars' database has about 50 | 22 | about all your properties. I've read the |
| 23 | million people in it. We had about 12. So | 23 | documents about all the properties. And |
| 24 | you'll be north of 60 million people in the | 24 | there's no -- there's no question in my mind |
| 25 | database. But one of the -- when we announced | 25 | that you and Eldorado and Caesars believes in |
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| 2 | the transaction, and as we went to meet the | 2 | Atlantic City. This makes me personally -- |
| 3 | local leadership teams and they presented their | 3 | makes me personally very happy. I'm born and |
| 4 | properties to us, what was striking to us is | 4 | raised in Atlantic City. |
| 5 | the amount of business that feeds from | 5 | What I would like to ask you is -- and |
| 6 | properties into the Caesars network. I would | 6 | almost like saying to a parent, who's your |
| 7 | tell you that the -- you know, it was routine | 7 | favorite child? But what makes -- of all your |
| 8 | to hear properties that were exporting 50, 75 , | 8 | jurisdictions and all your properties, what |
| 9 | \$100 million into other Caesars assets in their | 9 | makes it Atlantic City special to you? What's |
| 10 | system. | 10 | different about Atlantic City than all your |
| 11 | We bring markets that Caesars did not | 11 | other properties that you can say, you know, |
| 12 | have exposure to. We bring the Denver market. | 12 | that surely you might be able to say, come to |
| 13 | We bring the South Florida market. We bring | 13 | Atlantic City. Our other properties are |
| 14 | the Houston market. Columbus, Ohio, St. Louis. | 14 | fantastic, but Atlantic City has -- fill in the |
| 15 | Big markets that are not in the system. | 15 | blanks -- to offer? What makes us so special? |
| 16 | Caesars operates -- and we think that in our | 16 | What makes us different? And as I said, I know |
| 17 | portfolio, we think that the addition of | 17 | it's like saying who's your favorite child. |
| 18 | Caesars Rewards will lead to incremental play | 18 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. Look, what I tell |
| 19 | in our existing portfolio. In our synergy | 19 | you, Atlantic City is -- you know, locationally |
| 20 | number we put a five percent revenue list on | 20 | is spectacular. You're in the middle of an |
| 21 | the Eldorado side, which is about half of what | 21 | extraordinary -- extraordinary amount of |
| 22 | Caesars has historically experienced in prior | 22 | population that's within driving distance of |
| 23 | acquisitions or divestitures. | 23 | the property. |
| 24 | And then we also -- which is not in our | 24 | So if you look at similar properties in |
| 25 | numbers -- we expect destination markets to | 25 | our portfolio, you've got -- in terms of full |

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| 2 | service, you know, full-on casinos like you see | 2 | synergies are going to capture that kind of |
| 3 | in Atlantic City, we've got Atlantic City. | 3 | money? |
| 4 | We've got Reno, we've got Las Vegas Strip. You | 4 | THE WITNESS: So the first hundred |
| 5 | know, Las Vegas Strip is heavily dependent on | 5 | million is the incremental play that I |
| 6 | fly-in traffic. It doesn't have a big | 6 | described to Commissioner Cooper in her -- my |
| 7 | population center around it. Reno has the | 7 | prior answer. So that's the first hundred. |
| 8 | drive-to from the Bay Area but relies on a lot | 8 | There is -- big pieces are the centralized |
| 9 | of fly-in as well. Atlantic City, where it | 9 | corporate decision-making at Caesars is -- has |
| 10 | sits, is in the middle of a gigantic population | 10 | led to a lot of concentration of employment in |
| 11 | center. And it's our job to make our | 11 | that centralized group. A lot of those changes |
| 12 | properties attractive enough for people to get | 12 | have started to be made by Caesars prior to the |
| 13 | in the car or get on that charter plane to want | 13 | transaction. But that's a couple hundred |
| 14 | to use their points in Atlantic City. | 14 | million dollars. |
| 15 | And it's a shame that the Caesars | 15 | You've got -- we have a different |
| 16 | properties have been allowed to deteriorate | 16 | philosophy on slot lease expense than Caesars. |
| 17 | competitively, because we have seen in the | 17 | Caesars used quite a bit of it. That's pretty |
| 18 | Tropicana what happens if you make the | 18 | expensive. It tends to be a substitute for |
| 19 | investment to pursue this market. As we said | 19 | capital investment for buying slot machines. |
| 20 | to you when we were in front of you for our | 20 | But we think there's 50 million of savings |
| 21 | Tropicana licensing, we view this as an | 21 | there, a lot of which Caesars has already |
| 22 | opportunity. We've shown you with what we've | 22 | started to realize. |
| 23 | done with the Tropicana that if you make the | 23 | You've got purchasing savings across the |
| 24 | appropriate investments, you know, the | 24 | organization. Just as you get bigger, you find |
| 25 | combination of the beach and the entertainment | 25 | you can buy things better. That benefits every |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG |
| 2 | and the food and beverage and the collection of | 2 | property. That's another $\$ 50$ million plus. |
| 3 | properties that are within, you know, a | 3 | You've got IT became just a beast under |
| 4 | five-minute cab ride at the most of each other, | 4 | Caesars. It kind of grew like a weed without |
| 5 | is unique on the Eastern Seaboard. And if the | 5 | much supervision. It was a place where it was |
| 6 | assets are such that the necessary investment | 6 | kind of Nirvana for an IT person. You could |
| 7 | has been made, we are quite certain that they | 7 | just chase any butterfly that you like. So |
| 8 | can compete with all of the additional capacity | 8 | just to be focused on what the business needs |
| 9 | that's come into the Eastern Seaboard. We | 9 | and focus on IT requests from the bottoms-up |
| 10 | wouldn't be doing this transaction if we | 10 | rather than the top-down, that's a big piece. |
| 11 | weren't a believer in Atlantic City because | 11 | The most recent piece is $\$ 400$ million |
| 12 | it's so important to Caesars as it sits today. | 12 | that we've seen in a post-COVID environment, as |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: What you just | 13 | I discussed, you know, this has flipped from a |
| 14 | said, you're a believer in Atlantic City. And | 14 | synergy analysis as you've got these full |
| 15 | that's makes me -- as I said, that makes me | 15 | complements on both sides, and what are you |
| 16 | very happy. And I'm going to thank you for | 16 | going to cut? Now it becomes more of a, what |
| 17 | your answers. | 17 | do you bring back? And there are pieces of the |
| 18 | Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much again. | 18 | business that from a regulatory perspective or |
| 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner | 19 | an economic perspective I think are unlikely to |
| 20 | Cooper. | 20 | come back any time soon. |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. | 21 | The buffets being a primary example |
| 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Reeg, in the | 22 | where customers are reaching into th same food |
| 23 | Division's report it says that you are | 23 | of tray of food to take back to their table. |
| 24 | projecting synergies to save approximately \$900 | 24 | We think that is unlikely to be allowed any |
| 25 | million over three years. What kind of | 25 | time soon. The average buffet in the network |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG |
| 2 | loses about \$3 million a year on a cash basis. | 2 | THE WITNESS: Yes. |
| 3 | So if there's $50-$ - neighborhood of 55 | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: All right. And I have |
| 4 | properties and only 45 or $50-$-- only five or | 4 | one last question, Mr. Reeg. |
| 5 | ten come back, you're look talking about a 125, | 5 | Do you have any capital expenditure |
| 6 | 150 million savings there. | 6 | plans for the Atlantic City market at the |
| 7 | But what I want to stress is we've | 7 | moment? |
| 8 | agreed to -- we have told the DGE that New | 8 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. We're -- we're |
| 9 | Jersey was never a real piece of our synergy | 9 | developing them as we speak today. But I can |
| 10 | analysis. Most of it was what I've described | 10 | tell you that there will be significant -- the |
| 11 | to you prior to this. You know, we are -- and | 11 | room product at Caesars is -- subpar. I'll say |
| 12 | as I said in the questioning from Miss | 12 | politely. Needs capital. You should expect us |
| 13 | Richardson, we're open to -- or we are | 13 | to touch every room at Caesars that has not |
| 14 | agreeable to all of the conditions that are | 14 | been touched in recent history. You should |
| 15 | contained in the DGE report -- report, | 15 | expect us to touch the West Tower in Chelsea at |
| 16 | importantly in this instance relative to | 16 | Tropicana. |
| 17 | employment. And the reason we're comfortable | 17 | Caesars -- we need to work on the |
| 18 | making those commitments is New Jersey Atlantic | 18 | feeling of arrival at Caesars. It appears to |
| 19 | City was never a material piece of our synergy | 19 | me that -- you know, I wasn't here to witness |
| 20 | targets here. | 20 | it, but it seems like they just removed things |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Well, I'm glad you say | 21 | from the property as revenues declined. And |
| 22 | that, because my followup question was | 22 | there's big blank spaces in places where they |
| 23 | historically the Caesars properties have | 23 | shouldn't be. So I think you're going to see |
| 24 | reduced staff at a disproportionate rate | 24 | extensive work on the floor, optimizing the |
| 25 | compared to the industry standard. As you | 25 | layout so that when you arrive, you're not |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG |
| 2 | said, you know, you're buying the good and the | 2 | turning to your left and seeing a bar that used |
| 3 | bad of this company, and that's part of the | 3 | to be open that's now used for storage with a |
| 4 | legacy of the company, that they were tougher | 4 | curtain in front of what's stored in there. |
| 5 | on the employees staffing compared to the | 5 | You're going to see a sense of excitement and |
| 6 | industry itself. | 6 | activity that makes you want to keep going and |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: We fully understand that, | 7 | come in rather than makes you want to turn |
| 8 | and we'll work to remedy that situation. | 8 | around and go somewhere else. |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Also, in the Division | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. |
| 10 | report it recommends prohibiting the closing of | 10 | And one final question. One -- what |
| 11 | any properties within five years of the merger | 11 | uniqueness do you think you're bringing to this |
| 12 | closing date. Are you aware of that, sir? | 12 | market that's going to expand -- you know, I |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: I am aware of that. | 13 | ask this of everybody who comes in front of me |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Also, lifting deed | 14 | for a license. One property said, you know, we |
| 15 | restrictions currently in place by Caesars? | 15 | focus on entertainment. We're bringing a |
| 16 | You are were you aware of that one as well? | 16 | higher level of entertainment here. Other |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: I'm aware of that one as | 17 | property saying, well, we're going to invest in |
| 18 | well. | 18 | Top Golf. That's going to bring new people. |
| 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: So prohibiting New | 19 | What -- what would you say to me that's going |
| 20 | Caesars from imposing new deed restrictions on | 20 | to expand this market, get new people here? |
| 21 | properties. | 21 | THE WITNESS: I'd say a key |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: Correct. | 22 | differentiator of us is we are -- we started as |
| 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: And last, requiring New | 23 | a family-owned company, and we were a |
| 24 | Caesars to report all land parcels it owns or | 24 | family-owned private company not very long ago. |
| 25 | leases outside the footprint of its properties. | 25 | And the Carano family is still heavily |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG |
| 2 | involved. And Gary is the Executive Chairman. | 2 | next witness. So we'll be back at five of two? |
| 3 | Anthony is the Chief Operating Officer. We are | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Just make it 2:00. |
| 4 | submit committed to that family-style service | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: 2:00? Okay. So we'll |
| 5 | and the relationship with customers and | 5 | reconvene at 2:00 with our next witness. |
| 6 | employees on a personal level, at senior levels | 6 | Thank you. |
| 7 | of local leadership, where it still feels like | 7 | (A recess was taken from 1:23 to 2:03 |
| 8 | a family-owned business. It doesn't feel like | 8 | p.m.) |
| 9 | a giant corporation. Even though clearly now | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? Schrier? |
| 10 | it is going to be a giant corporation. | 10 | Your next witness? |
| 11 | The capital that we're going invest here | 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Make sure the Division |
| 12 | is going to revitalize properties that have | 12 | is on, Mr. Chairman. |
| 13 | been historically leaders in this market. I | 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Okay. There's the |
| 14 | remember as an analyst covering these | 14 | Division. |
| 15 | properties in the '90s that the level of | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Tracy is on. |
| 16 | business that Caesars and Harrah's did at that | 16 | MS. RICHARDSON: I'm here. |
| 17 | point versus what they do today is sad. And we | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 18 | can bring the -- we can put the investment | 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. And there's |
| 19 | capital in to revitalize these properties. | 19 | Steve Schrier. |
| 20 | But you've also got a leadership team at | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier, your next |
| 21 | the local level led by Steve Callender, who | 21 | witness, please? |
| 22 | you'll hear from later, who are lifetime | 22 | MR. SCHRIER: I want to make sure |
| 23 | Atlantic City career guys and know the | 23 | everybody that we need is on. Hang on one |
| 24 | customers and, you know, are excited to | 24 | moment. |
| 25 | interact with them. | 25 | Can I ask that the slide deck be put up |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - REEG | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 | When we were closed, you know, I joked | 2 | again, please? |
| 3 | with Steve when Ohio is a part of his region as | 3 | Thank you. May I proceed, Mr. Chairman? |
| 4 | well. And it looks like Ohio was going to open | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, please. |
| 5 | before New Jersey. I joked with Steve I bet | 5 | MR. SCHRIER: Eldorado calls Anthony |
| 6 | you're excited to just leave your house and run | 6 | Carano. |
| 7 | straight to Ohio. That level of enthusiasm and | 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, can you swear |
| 8 | customer engagement, along with this capital | 8 | in Mr. Carano. |
| 9 | that's coming in, should be a good combination | 9 | ANTHONYL. CARANO, having been first |
| 10 | for this market to rebuild properties that have | 10 | duly sworn remotely, testified as follows: |
| 11 | a proud history in the market and get back | 11 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for |
| 12 | towards those levels. | 12 | the record. |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 13 | THE WITNESS: Anthony Louis Carano. |
| 14 | At this time we're at 1:30. | 14 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. |
| 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: If counsel want to ask | 15 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: |
| 16 | any followup. | 16 | Q. Mr. Carano? |
| 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'm sorry. | 17 | A. Hello. |
| 18 | Is there any followup from counsel? Mr. | 18 | Q. Are we getting a little echo here? |
| 19 | Schrier or Miss Richardson? | 19 | A. Is that better? |
| 20 | MS. RICHARDSON: No, Chairman. Thank | 20 | Q. Keep going. |
| 21 | you. | 21 | Mr. Carano, what is your current title |
| 22 | MR. SCHRIER: None for me. Thank you, | 22 | with Eldorado? |
| 23 | Chairman. | 23 | A. I'm President and Chief Operating |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: We're going to recess | 24 | Officer of Eldorado. |
| 25 | for a half hour and then come back with the | 25 | Q. Would you please provide some background |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> to the Commission about yourself and your employment, your education history? <br> A. Certainly. So I grew up in the gaming business. My grandfather founded this company in 1972. I grew up working throughout our properties. Once I turned 21 I moved to the casino floor. I began as a slot mechanic at the Eldorado in Reno. I moved through the cage, dealt the games, and worked throughout the casino. <br> I then went to law school and practiced <br> law for around five years before moving back to our gaming company. I became our General Counsel in 2014 when we acquired MTR Gaming and went public. And then 2015 I added operation to my responsibilities and was named Chief Operating Officer in 2008. <br> Q. How long have you been President and Chief Operating Officer? <br> A. I've been Chief Operating Officer since 2018. <br> Q. Can you tell the Commission what your role is in that capacity? <br> A. Yes. I oversee all the operations of the company. I work very closely with our regional presidents who directly oversee the general managers | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> would be the Atlantic City casinos? <br> A. Yeah. So Atlantic City would really be <br> a seamless transition for us in the New Caesars. The regional president would be Steve Callender, who has a long, very successful full history in Atlantic City. <br> And as Tom spoke to, just an incredible passion and energy for the business and for Atlantic City in particular. <br> Q. And have you met or do you know the GMs for the properties that you will be acquiring? <br> A. Absolutely. We have tremendous talent throughout the city. At the Caesars properties, along with Tropicana, Ron Baumann is going to stay on with us. Ron's been a tremendous leader and new energy for the Caesars properties in this last year in the market. Jason Gregorec, our tremendous general manager at Tropicana, and Karie Hall at Bally's, I'm excited to say they are all staying on and are tremendous leaders in the market. <br> Q. I'm sure on the operations front, things have been difficult regarding the COVID crisis. Can you describe to the Commission how you've been handling that? <br> A. Yeah. Absolutely. So we've been |
| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> of the properties. In addition to the regional presidents, I have responsibilities over marketing, <br> sales, entertainment, and revenue management. In each of these positions, we have incredible talent, men and women for both Caesars and Eldorado for the New Caesars. <br> Q. And how does that -- how does that team report to you? Do you have regular meetings? Or how do you work with your management team at the various properties? <br> A. Yeah. We're on -- I'm either on a <br> property or on the phone every day with my direct reports. With the regional presidents in daily conversations with them. We have a group call every week with all regional presidents. I speak to our general managers regularly. And along with the rest of my reports throughout the company. <br> We also have a regional quarterly <br> meetings where we meet at the properties with all the general managers from the region, the regional presidents, the leadership team for the region to really do a deep dive into each property that we operate. <br> Q. Is there a regional president, that | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> obviously laser focused on providing the best --best-in-class safety measures for COVID. We've been working nonstop with Caesars, with medical professionals. With the DGE and local officials to ensure we have a safe and secure workplace for our team members and a safe place for our guests to come and play. As you know and can imagine, it's constantly evolving. So we're making sure we have the best practices in place at all times and reacting accordingly as quickly as we can. <br> Q. One of the things that has arisen in the Division's review and has been spoken about by Mr. Reeg, and there were questions from DAG Richardson involve staffing levels at the Caesars casinos in Atlantic City over the years and how that has declined. How does New Caesars plan to address that? <br> A. Yeah. As Tom spoke to, we fully understand the negative history around staffing at the Caesars properties. And as such we're going remedy that. We've worked with the Division and to come up with the following commitments that are in the report. We are going to return to pre-COVID employment levels within 12 months or when net revenues return to 90 percent of pre-COVID levels. We're not planning on |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> any reductions of force in the Atlantic City casinos. <br> But if there were any reductions of FTEs or part-time employees of more than 50 , then we will first obtain the Division's approval before making any moves. <br> Q. So you understand that New Caesars and you as the Chief Operating Officer of that company has committed to those staffing requirements and preapproval of any reduction in force that might arise? <br> A. Absolutely. <br> Q. What kind of a role have you been <br> playing in the merger that's the subject of our hearing today? <br> A. Yeah. So in the transaction I've -MR. SCHRIER: One more slide? One more slide, please? <br> Q. Story to interrupt. <br> A. That's okay. <br> During the transaction, I've led our <br> integration team for both companies. Integration began in June of 2019, which really seems like an eternity ago now. But once we announced a deal, myself and the rest of the team, the leadership team, traveled to all the Caesars properties around the | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> Q. So it sounds like the integration so far has gone well. <br> A. It has. <br> Q. Are you confident that you'll be able to integrate the Caesars companies into your corporate portfolio on an ongoing basis successfully? <br> A. Yeah. We've had, as you're aware, a lot of history in integrating numerous companies recently in the past five or six years. We've learned great lessons through each integration. And it's led us to this -- this larger integration, and we feel very good. Again, from the talent that we're getting from Caesars and the talent that we have at ERI, we're just in a great position in the integration front. Better than we've been on prior transactions. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have at this time, Mr. Chairman. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Miss Richardson? <br> MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. <br> CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: <br> Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Carano. <br> A. Good afternoon. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> country. We met with the local management teams. Got a great overview of their properties, including all the teams and properties in Atlantic City. <br> The team at Caesars led by Tony Rodio and Tom Jenkin have been incredible to work with since day one and has allowed us to be in a great position for day one of the New Caesars. <br> In January of this year, we were at a -we were at a position where we were able to announce the new senior leadership team that Tom walked through earlier. It's made up of just incredible men and women for both Caesars and Eldorado, as you saw. It's a team with immense talent and experience in the gaming sector. <br> And then once we announced that, we continued with integration. And then COVID hit in March. While all of our properties were shut down, I'm pleased to say that integration did not shut down. We selected leaders in each department across both companies, and they did just an incredible job during the shutdown in moving the integration forward, really combining these two companies, and have us in a really incredible position now to hit the ground running on day one. | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO <br> Q. You mentioned that the general managers at the CEC Atlantic City properties are expected to remain in place, Karie Hall and Ron Baumann specifically. <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Outside of the general managers, there <br> hasn't yet been a plan submitted for lower-level <br> management at the CEC properties if they are acquired <br> through this proceeding; is that correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. You've already mentioned with Mr. <br> Schrier that you reviewed our proposed conditions that we've provided to the Commission. And if the merger is approved, are you aware of the proposed requirement that New Caesars would be required to submit an organizational plan to the Division within 30 days of any closing for its review and approval? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Do you recall following Eldorado's grant of interim casino authorization, or ICA, that there were some regulatory concerns addressed with you by the Division? <br> A. I do. <br> Q. And they were primarily related to a few |


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| 2 areas, one of which was staffing change notifications? | 2 missteps won't happen again. We've learned a |
| 3 A. Yes. | 3 tremendous amount of lessons. We've had great |
| 4 Q. Another was proposed consolidations of | 4 communication since, starting with those weekly phone |
| 5 functions for the -- a help desk in Nevada? | 5 calls. And we have great resources coming to us from |
| 6 A. Yes. | 6 Caesars in Atlantic City that we feel very confidant |
| $7 \quad$ Q. A third was the appointment of | 7 that well not repeat the negative history with |
| 8 executives with Tropicana Atlantic City titles without | 8 those -- those missteps that we had prior. |
| 9 having advance discussion with the Division as to | 9 Q. And you've touched on that, you've had |
| 10 credentials which might be required to acquire those | 10 team of resources and expertise of staff already in |
| 11 titles? | 11 Atlantic City. Do you believe overall that you have |
| 12 A. Yes. | 12 the adequate staff and expertise to properly integrate |
| 13 Q. And also appointment of directors to the | 13 the Atlantic City operations of CEC to remain in |
| 14 casino licensee entity of Tropicana Atlantic City? | 14 compliance with regulatory requirements, not only here |
| 15 A. Yes. | 15 but also the other jurisdiction acquisitions for CEC |
| 16 Q. And the last area had to do with a | 16 across the country? |
| 17 submission of a table of organization that didn't | 17 A. Absolutely. And in particular, in |
| 18 contain an explanation or context for what was | 18 Atlantic City, we're very excited about the addition |
| 19 depicted as 32 positions being eliminated, including | 19 of Lynne Hughes from Caesars to help us in this |
| 20 the mandatory position of information security | 20 regulatory environment. And then in addition, across |
| 21 officer? | 21 the country, Jeff Hendricks who heads up our |
| 22 A. I do. | 22 compliance is adding tremendous talent to his |
| 23 Q. So regarding those concerns, the | 23 organization to ensure that we remain in compliance in |
| 24 Division sent a letter to your attention; is that | 24 all of our jurisdictions. |
| 25 correct? | 25 Q. And it was mentioned earlier that |
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| 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 A. Correct. | 2 Eldorado was recently before the Indiana regulatory |
| 3 Q. And you had responded with further | 3 authorities. That included the Indiana Horse Racing |
| 4 information and apologies regarding certain failures | 4 Commission; is that correct? |
| 5 to adhere to the regulatory requirements; is that | 5 A. That is correct. |
| 6 correct? | 6 Q. And in materials that were provided by |
| 7 A. That is correct. | 7 that Commission staff to its executive director, they |
| 8 Q. And in that response, you had also | 8 had raised some concerns about Eldorado's management |
| 9 proposed weekly conference calls with the Division to | 9 of racing operations; is that correct? |
| 10 ensure our concerns were properly addressed; is that | 10 A. That is correct. |
| 11 right? | 11 Q. And, in fact, they specifically |
| 12 A. That is correct. | 12 commented that they found it difficult to come away |
| 13 Q. And you recall that those calls were | 13 with any optimism regarding ERI's history of managing |
| 14 held with the Division for about a six-month period | 14 their racing properties? |
| 15 after that? | 15 A. That is correct. |
| 16 A. That's correct. | 16 I would say, though, that during the |
| 17 Q. So given these errors that occurred | 17 hearing, which they approved us unanimously, they were |
| 18 after Eldorado was granted ICA, how would you plan to | 18 also -- they also mentioned that their concerns have |
| 19 avoid such failures if the merger is granted and the | 19 turned to optimism and each of the horsemen |
| 20 massive operations of CEC need to be integrated into a | 20 organizations got up and spoke at the hearing and were |
| 21 new company? | 21 all optimistic about ERI or the New Caesars as |
| 22 A. Yeah. I certainly agree we had some | 22 operators in the racing arena. |
| 23 missteps early on after the Tropicana approval. We | 23 Q. I understand then that they ultimately |
| 24 have a tremendous amount of senior leadership team | 24 came to an approval, but during the process, it seemed |
| 25 coming to us from Caesars to ensure that these same | 25 that they had some bumps in the road, so to speak, |


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| 2 that caused them to use terms such as they weren't | 2 the boardwalk, we believe a lot of people wanted to go |
| 3 clear that ERI offered capable leadership needed for | 3 try the new companies in town. Once business started |
| 4 the future of Indiana racing. And also that at times | 4 to improve later in the year, and we think the way |
| 5 there was indications that ERI was even disinterested | 52020 started out, there's going to be a lot more back |
| 6 in horse racing since it entered that industry in | 6 to normal. And we were very encouraged about the |
| 7 2014; is that correct? | 7 business heading into 2020 pre-COVID. |
| 8 A. That is. And I'd say, as we said at the | 8 Q. So what plans for operational |
| 9 meeting, we certainly made mistakes as we got into the | 9 improvements do you have to reestablish the |
| 10 racing industry. We were new to that industry. But | 10 prominence, of Tropicana in particular, going forward |
| 11 it serves as a great example of how we react as a | 11 where in the results that we're talking about 2018 |
| 12 company. We learned from those mistakes very quickly. | 12 versus 2019 Tropicana was second 2018 and went to |
| 13 We staffed up. We hired Joe Morris, who is Senior | 13 fourth in 2019 for the factors that, in your view, |
| 14 Vice President of Racing. He's done an incredible | 14 applied? |
| 15 job. And to show that the improvements that we made, | 15 A. Yeah. So Caesars Rewards is going to be |
| 16 the head of the Ohio Racing Association sent a letter | 16 incredibly important for this property. We've done a |
| 17 of support to Indiana, outlining the improvements that | 17 great job at the property, investing in it, and it's |
| 18 Eldorado has made in the company and how optimistic | 18 going to allow Caesars Rewards members from all over |
| 19 they are of us operating and acting into the future as | 19 the country to come see another property in Atlantic |
| 20 well. | 20 City. |
| 21 Q. So is there anything else that you would | 21 We've recently added a lot of technology |
| 22 add to the concerns we've discussed? Initially that | 22 on the gaming floor with Pulse Arena, with different |
| 23 the Division has about the size and scope of the | 23 systems to really improve the customer experience. |
| 24 transaction and integration issues that may occur | 24 We've added a beautiful new sportsbook. Once sports |
| 25 since we're also discussing another regulator's | 25 are back up and operating. We've got a new escalator |
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| 2 concerns in that similar area? | 2 that goes down to the boardwalk. Just a tremendous |
| 3 A. No. All I would say is, you know, | 3 amount of the improvements throughout the property |
| 4 integration and success of this company is going to | 4 that we believe will be well received with the, you |
| 5 start and end with the talent level that we have as | 5 know, 65 million new customers that will be able to |
| 6 employees. And I can just say from top to bottom, we | 6 visit this property. |
| 7 have put together, bar none, the best team in gaming. | $7 \quad$ Q. Mr. Reeg touched on this a little bit in |
| 8 We have the absolutely best frontline employees who | 8 his testimony, but what operational improvements do |
| 9 are going to have a renowned sense of pride in the | 9 you think are required at the Caesars Atlantic City |
| 10 company that they work for. As Tom said, it's a | 10 property if Eldorado is granted approval for the |
| 11 family-run business. We treat it as such. We care | 11 merger? |
| 12 about our team members as such. And the service | 12 A. Yeah. We take a little bit different |
| 13 levels that they're going to give to the customers in | 13 approach in operations. We're very in the weeds in |
| 14 Atlantic City and all over the country is going to be | 14 operations. As Tom said, we give the power back to |
| 15 superb and it's going to be a differentiator for us as | 15 the local operators. With that said, we've set the |
| 16 a company and the success that we're going to have. | 16 framework for them. Myself and the rest of our senior |
| 17 Q. Are you aware that for 2019, which was | 17 leadership team is very involved, looking at -- at all |
| 18 Eldorado's first year of operations for Tropicana | 18 the numbers throughout the organization. So there's |
| 19 Atlantic City that Tropicana's casino win was down | 19 going to be a renewed sense of an attention to detail. |
| $20 \quad 10.8$ percent in comparison to 2018 ? | 20 There's going to be a great focus on marketing |
| 21 A. I am. | 21 throughout the organization. Getting the best |
| 22 Q. And that was the largest decline in the | 22 customers from around the country to Caesars and to |
| 23 industry or that year? | 23 the other properties throughout the city. And then |
| 24 A. I am. And I believe, you know, we had | 24 again, it's just -- it's empowering Steve and his |
| 25 two new entrants into the market. And particularly on | 25 leadership team in Atlantic City who knows what's |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 going on on the ground. No one knows what's going on | 2 | THE WITNESS: Sure. So I oversee |
| 3 in Atlantic City better than Steve, along with this | 3 | operations of the company. That includes the |
| 4 management team. And it's empowering them, giving him | 4 | regional presidents. We chop up the country |
| 5 resources. Giving him the capital, as has been | 5 | in -- it will be nine regions in the New |
| 6 discussed, to give him the best properties in Atlantic | 6 | Caesars. I'm the regional president over each |
| 7 City. And that's where the success is really going to | 7 | one of those. In addition to operations at the |
| 8 come. | 8 | property, oversee marketing, sales, |
| Q. And you discussed with Mr. Schrier as | 9 | entertainment. Who am I missing? I think |
| 10 part of your testimony the employment and staffing | 10 | that's -- that's the main. |
| 11 level issues that have been encountered at the CEC | 11 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. That sounds |
| 12 Atlantic City properties; correct? | 12 | good. That sounds great. |
| 13 A. Correct. | 13 | If you would, two areas of your |
| 14 Q. And you've mentioned that you were aware | 14 | responsibilities that you -- I would just if |
| 15 of the drastic reductions in staffing levels that had | 15 | you would, could you elaborate a little bit |
| 16 occurred at the -- those properties. | 16 | more on -- and even a moment ago you mentioned |
| 17 A. Correct. | 17 | that there's going to be an emphasis on |
| 18 Q. Would you agree that employment levels | 18 | marketing. And I'm very, very pleased to hear |
| 19 are important regarding operating performance and | 19 | that. I know Mr. Reeg talked about cross |
| 20 maintenance of a first-class facility? | 20 | marketing. I'm guessing the two are |
| 21 A. Absolutely. | 21 | intertwined, interchanged. But with that being |
| 22 Q. And you've already confirmed that you | 22 | said, could you just -- as I said, would you |
| 23 reviewed the Division's proposed conditions and | 23 | please elaborate a little bit more on the |
| 24 particularly the conditions related to this area? | 24 | marketing that you're planning? And also about |
| 25 A. Yes. | 25 | the entertainment. That's very near and dear |
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| ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| Q. And this was proposed by the | 2 | to my heart. I was in the entertainment |
| Commission -- sorry. Excuse me. | 3 | business here for over 35 years. I'm always |
| This was proposed by the Division and | 4 | concerned and curious and very, very much aware |
| 5 Eldorado is agreeing to it. They did not craft this | 5 | of what is being done for the visitor, for the |
| 6 requirement; correct? | 6 | tourists, for the gambler, with regard to the |
| 7 A. Correct. | 7 | entertainment that you'll be providing. So |
| Q. That's all I have. Thank you. | 8 | with that. |
| A. Thank you. | 9 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. As far as |
| 10 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? | 10 | marketing, we continue to strive to find the |
| 11 MR. SCHRIER: I have nothing further, | 11 | best mix of marketing at all of our properties. |
| 12 Mr. Chairman. | 12 | It's different for each customer that comes in |
| 13 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Commissioner Cooper, do | 13 | the door. The reason why they come and visit |
| 14 you have any questions? | 14 | us in Atlantic City differs for each person. |
| 15 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes, I do. All | 15 | Some people it's the great service, the great |
| 16 right. | 16 | food. Entertainment, as you mentioned. Others |
| 17 Good afternoon, Mr. Carano. And I'm | 17 | it's a free hotel room or free play on the slot |
| 18 looking here. Thank you again for being here | 18 | floor. So we have a tremendous amount of data. |
| 19 today or participating with us. Couple | 19 | In one area that we're extremely excited about |
| 20 questions for you. | 20 | at Caesars, is the data analytics team we are |
| 21 Just to moment ago, if you would, would | 21 | getting. And so we are going to have a |
| 22 go back to -- the question was what were your | 22 | tremendous amount of data to really understand |
| 23 responsibilities. Would you just repeat that | 23 | what best to send in offers to customers. It's |
| 24 again? Because I was jotting them down, but I | 24 | not increasing every area. It's not decreasing |
| 25 think I missed a couple if you would. | 25 | every area. It's finding the mix that is going |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 | to entice that person to make a trip to | 2 | mattresses and TVs. If that's the answer, |
| 3 | Atlantic City. So it's improving in all of | 3 | fine. I'm fine. And I'm satisfied with that. |
| 4 | those areas. | 4 | But on a deal as large as this and with what -- |
| 5 | In terms of entertainment, I'm very | 5 | you know, what we're listening to, again, |
| 6 | excited about that area as well. From Caesars, | 6 | generally at all properties, and then if you |
| 7 | Jason Gastwirth is President of Entertainment. | 7 | can elaborate what specifics at some of your |
| 8 | He reports to me. As you are aware, Caesars is | 8 | other properties Atlantic-City-wise. |
| 9 | founded on entertainment. They have incredible | 9 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. And I'll preface it |
| 10 | talent throughout the organization and talent | 10 | with we're just getting into these plans with |
| 11 | that comes to play at all their properties, and | 11 | Caesars on what we're going to do. So there's |
| 12 | Atlantic City will be no different. | 12 | some exciting things that I can hit on that we |
| 13 | We've got -- as an industry, we've got | 13 | certainly don't have our plan fully built out |
| 14 | to find more ways than just -- the casino floor | 14 | yet. But one area that is going to be |
| 15 | to bring customers to Atlantic City. And that | 15 | extremely important, and may not be seen, the |
| 16 | will be a major part of our focus with Tony | 16 | front of the house, but it's the back of the |
| 17 | Rodio and with the rest of the team when we | 17 | house for all of our team members. This year |
| 18 | come up with our capital plan, is finding ways | 18 | we made a major initiative at Trop and all of |
| 19 | to invest in these properties to increase the | 19 | our properties around the country to put |
| 20 | visitation. And entertainment is certainly one | 20 | substantial capital dollars in the back of the |
| 21 | of those large areas that we can do that with. | 21 | house. We want the back of the house to look |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. My next | 22 | as good as our front of the house so our team |
| 23 | question. And again, Mr. Reeg touched on it a | 23 | members have a great place to come in to work |
| 24 | little bit. And I would just like to hear your | 24 | on a daily basis. |
| 25 | view on it as well. | 25 | As far as front of the house, just |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 | And I preface it -- it's with regard to | 2 | overall -- Tom obviously hit on the remodel of |
| 3 | capital expenditures. And as I've said, I've | 3 | the hotel rooms. I'm tell you from the casino |
| 4 | read the documents. I've read the | 4 | standpoint, refreshing the slot floors, having |
| 5 | presentations. I've read the reports. I've | 5 | new games and having -- upgrading the |
| 6 | looked at the number, et cetera, et cetera. If | 6 | technology on the slot floor. That's a major |
| 7 | you would be so kind to just bring it down, if | 7 | area of improvement that we need to make across |
| 8 | you could, I'm going to say to layman's terms. | 8 | the Caesars properties that will be not only a |
| 9 | And I hope you're at liberty to discuss some of | 9 | competitive advantage but also a major upgrade |
| 10 | this. But what are you planning at -- let's -- | 10 | for the customers. That's at all properties. |
| 11 | let me do this under two parts. | 11 | We've started that at Trop and will continue |
| 12 | What are you planning with regard to | 12 | that at the Caesars properties. |
| 13 | capital expenditures for all of the properties? | 13 | We will look at all the gaming |
| 14 | And then the second part, maybe some of the | 14 | amenities. Harrah's has done a nice job in the |
| 15 | individual properties. By that, I'm sure you | 15 | Caesars portfolio with the restaurants. We've |
| 16 | know it's, like, certain properties need a | 16 | remodeled some restaurants at Tropicana |
| 17 | little more work than some of the other | 17 | recently. We'll continue to look at nongaming |
| 18 | properties. You know which ones I'm referring | 18 | offerings, again, to drive increased visitation |
| 19 | to. But as I said, generally speaking, what | 19 | to the city, whether it be restaurants, |
| 20 | are we looking at or what are you looking at? | 20 | entertainment venues, new bars. There's a lot |
| 21 | And then individually -- | 21 | of opportunity there to take advantage of the |
| 22 | Again, I'm not -- I don't mean to be | 22 | beautiful beaches and sceneries and views that |
| 23 | disrespectful. I don't want to -- you might | 23 | we have at all the properties. So we're |
| 24 | say, we're going to paint, new mattress -- | 24 | excited about that. |
| 25 | we're going to paint, new carpet, new | 25 | And again, hotel rooms. It's important |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 | to us for us to have the nicest hotel rooms in | 2 | across the country. And in particularly in |
| 3 | the market. We're going to remodel all the | 3 | Atlantic City, we have industry veterans that |
| 4 | hotel rooms that hasn't been remodeled | 4 | are leading the team in Atlantic City led by |
| 5 | recently, again to give us that competitive | 5 | Steve Callender. |
| 6 | advantage. | 6 | As Tom said, Atlantic City is a major |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Sounds very, very | 7 | focus of ours. It's of major importance to our |
| 8 | nice. | 8 | new company, and as such, will have a |
| 9 | I have one final question for you. And | 9 | tremendous amount of eyes and dedication to the |
| 10 | actually, looking back to when you gave your | 10 | city. But it comes down to the team, the |
| 11 | opening remarks, I was very -- you explained | 11 | resources we're putting towards it, our |
| 12 | that, you know, this is a family -- you're a | 12 | commitment to spend the capital that we've |
| 13 | family -- that you -- you're beginnings with | 13 | committed to you today, and to keeping these |
| 14 | your father and brothers and grandfathers and, | 14 | properties fresh and vibrant to attract the new |
| 15 | what was it? 19 -- 1970. | 15 | visitation and it's -- it's just the incredible |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: 1972. | 16 | amount of talent, the service level, the |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: '72. So this is-- | 17 | service by our frontline employees that has us |
| 18 | well, it's a good 48, 50 years. And I think | 18 | so excited and so confident that we will be |
| 19 | that is -- I think that's beautiful. | 19 | successful for years to come in the city. |
| 20 | Beautiful, the family operation. I love it. | 20 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I want to thank |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. | 21 | you very, very much. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: But moving up, if | 22 | THE WITNESS: You're welcome. |
| 23 | you would, to 2018 when, I'm going to say, the | 23 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: You convinced me, |
| 24 | name Eldorado first appeared in Atlantic City. | 24 | and you gave some reassurance. Seriously, I |
| 25 | And it was a name that, quite honestly, I | 25 | thank you. Seriously, I appreciate your |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO |
| 2 | had -- I wasn't familiar with. When you | 2 | answers. Thank you very, very much. |
| 3 | acquired Eldorado -- pardon me -- when you | 3 | THE WITNESS: Thank you, Commissioner. |
| 4 | acquired Tropicana in 2018. And you were | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner |
| 5 | beginning to branch into larger markets. | 5 | Cooper. |
| 6 | In less than a year after acquiring the | 6 | Sir, did Eldorado or Caesars access the |
| 7 | Tropicana, you entered into a merger agreement | 7 | Federal Cares Act during this COVID emergency? |
| 8 | with the plan to becoming the biggest gaming | 8 | THE WITNESS: I do not believe so. |
| 9 | company in the world. I ask this question, and | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Okay. My next question |
| 10 | I emphasize this is with no disrespect, but | 10 | is the Caesars data -- databank in regards to |
| 11 | given your short period of time in Atlantic | 11 | customers, did that lose value with the COVID |
| 12 | City with you and your family, we're really | 12 | now that we're looking at 25 percent occupancy |
| 13 | just like getting ready to know you as an | 13 | in the buildings so we're looking more at |
| 14 | operator and owner. Can you convince me, | 14 | quality rather than quantity of the customers? |
| 15 | reassure me -- and I said convince me and | 15 | THE WITNESS: You know, maybe in the |
| 16 | reassure me. Actually, let me change that. | 16 | short run, we are limited to the 25 percent. |
| 17 | Convince us, reassure us that you and your | 17 | But I can tell you where we don't have the 25 |
| 18 | company and all the parts, that you are ready | 18 | percent restrictions, business has been |
| 19 | to handle a -- the magnitude of this commitment | 19 | incredible. So I think the database is -- |
| 20 | and merger. | 20 | is -- it's been incredible from a Caesars and |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Absolutely. And we're | 21 | an Eldorado standpoint. So the power of the |
| 22 | humbled by the opportunity. And I can tell | 22 | database is apparent to us even in these trying |
| 23 | you, as I said earlier, it all starts with the | 23 | times. |
| 24 | team that we have. We have put together an | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: What is your |
| 25 | incredible team of talented men and women from | 25 | guesstimate? How long do you think it will |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER |
| 2 | take -- take the industry to bounce back from | 2 | swear in Mr. Yunker, please. |
| 3 | this COVID-19 situation? | 3 | BRET D. Y UNKER, having been first duly |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: That's -- that's a | 4 | sworn remotely, testified as follows: |
| 5 | difficult question. It was very encouraging | 5 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for |
| 6 | news on the vaccine front this morning. I | 6 | the recor |
| 7 | think that's an important part. Once we get | 7 | THE WITNESS: Bret Yunker. |
| 8 | past this medical -- once we get past this area | 8 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. |
| 9 | that we're in right now, I think there's going | 9 | MR. SCHRIER: May I proceed? |
| 10 | to be incredible pent-up demand for people | 10 | MR. NANCE: Yes. |
| 11 | wanting to get out and enjoy themselves and | 11 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. |
| 12 | make a trip to Atlantic City and stay in a | 12 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: |
| 13 | hotel and see entertainment that they haven't | 13 | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Yunker. |
| 14 | been able to see by that time for over a year. | 14 | A. Good afternoon. |
| 15 | So I think there's going to be incredible | 15 | Q. What is your current title with |
| 16 | pent-up demand, and I think the industry, as it | 16 | Eldorado? |
| 17 | has in prior crises, will recover very quickly. | 17 | A. I'm the Chief Financial Officer of |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. | 18 | Eldorado Resorts. |
| 19 | Counsel? Counsel, do you have any | 19 | Q. Can you please provide some background |
| 20 | followup? | 20 | the Commissioners on yourself, your employment, |
| 21 | Steve? Or Mr. Schrier? | 21 | your history, your education? |
| 22 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you Mr. Chairman. | 22 | A. Absolutely. And very nice to be with |
| 23 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: | 23 | erybody this afternoon digitally. And thank you |
| 24 | Q. Mr. Carano, I think you were asked about | 24 | ry much for hosting us. And off the top, I want to |
| 25 | the Cares Act and whether that was -- a question that | 25 | thank the Division staff for their hard work on this |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER |
| 2 | the Chairman had, whether that had been accessed; is | 2 | unprecedented situation. We wouldn't be here without |
| 3 | that correct? | 3 | all of their support in navigating us through what was |
| 4 | A. That is correct. And I'd like to revise | 4 | an unprecedented situation. |
| 5 | my statement and maybe ask Miss Lepori when she's | 5 | In terms of my background, I'm |
| 6 | questioned to address that. | 6 | originally from Southern California. I started my |
| 7 | Q. Okay. Yeah. I know there was -- there | 7 | banking career in 1998 with Bank of America, covering |
| 8 | was some activity regarding it. Are you the best | 8 | entertainment, media, and gaming industries. That |
| 9 | person to answer that question? | 9 | quickly developed into a focus on the gaming industry |
| 10 | A. I believe Miss Lepori would be the best | 10 | in the early 2000s. So I got to work on a wide |
| 11 | person to answer that. | 11 | variety of transaction across the corporate and tribal |
| 12 | Q. Okay. | 12 | gaming space throughout the 2000s, including some |
| 13 | MR. SCHRIER: All right. With that, Mr. | 13 | eadline consolidation transactions not unlike this |
| 14 | Chairman, I have nothing further. | 14 | one. And so I had a front row seat to what went down |
| 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 15 | with the great financial crisis for this industry. |
| 16 | Miss Richardson? | 16 | That helped shape the financing that we executed as |
| 17 | MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing else from the | 17 | part of this merger, which we'll talk about. And I |
| 18 | Division, Chairman. Thank you. | 18 | think also helped us get through this unprecedented |
| 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 19 |  |
| 20 | Thank you. And we'll call the next | 20 | I spent 14 years with Bank of America. |
| 21 | witness. | 21 | I moved to New York in March 2000 of -- March 2009. |
| 22 | MR. SCHRIER: Very good. Eldorado will | 22 | Dow 6,000. Everything was in chaos, and we managed to |
| 23 | call Bret Yunker. | 23 | save a number of the large industry players at that |
| 24 | MR. YUNKER: Good afternoon. |  | time that were having severe difficulties and got |
| 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, will you | 25 | through a very difficult period. |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> I finished my career after 14 years with <br> B of A. I spent six more years as a banker with <br> JPMorgan, leading their gaming efforts in the country. When I got to JPMorgan, fortuitously, I had been <br> spending time throughout my career with the Eldorado team and the Caranos and Mr. Reeg. They were just starting to do their go-public transaction where they did a reverse merger with a company called MTR Gaming. Luckily, we were able to lead the financing in connection with putting those two companies together and effectively taking Eldorado public. <br> Since that time, obviously it's been <br> very active with Eldorado in terms after series of acquisitions, both independent assets and companies, including Isle of Capri and the Tropicana acquisition that we've talked about. I was always intrigued about working with them. Obviously a great growth story in the industry. You know, it was different. Ten years ago with Eldorado and the Carano family would use equity in transactions. During the 2000s, they were always cash-fueled acquisitions. This was different, where the Caranos continued to say they're happy to get diluted as long as they're growing a company strategically and creating value. So that's what's | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> IT, strategic analytics, finance IR and treasury and <br> tax. It's a great team of leaders from both Eldorado <br> and Caesars, $50 / 50$. And we can't wait to get going <br> assuming we get approval for the merger. <br> Q. Thank you. Is that Slide 39? <br> A. Yup. <br> Q. Is that what you were referring to Mr . <br> Yunker? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Okay. And what role will you be playing with the merger, which is the subject of our hearing today? <br> A. Okay. In terms of the role for the merger, again answering upfront was a very heavy lift, and we designed it with, you know, downsized scenarios in mind, which we'll talk about. We spent a lot of time going across the country visiting all the properties, meeting the leadership, teams there across all functions. Spending a lot of time in Las Vegas with the corporate teams, thinking through how best to integrate both the Las Vegas corporate infrastructure that exists at Caesars today alongside our Reno corporate infrastructure at Eldorado. <br> Q. In working with the Division of Gaming |
| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> been going on with the Eldorado story to this point. <br> When Gary became Executive Chairman in <br> late 2018 and Tom was elevated to CEO, that left the CFO vacant. I was happy to get that phone call from Tom. I know a lot of people were interested in joining the team. And $\mathrm{I}-$ - it was a perfect fit for me. It got me back to the West Coast from New York. We had a great ten years there. But I'm now based in Nevada. <br> And my first day on the job was -- with <br> Eldorado was May 2nd of last year. So as you can imagine, from day one I was very busy. Eldorado and Caesars at that time were deep into diligence and negotiations around this merger. So I spent the balance of the first two months up to June 24th diligencing the company and really arranging the financing that we'll talk about in much more detail, $\$ 7.2$ million in committed financing from our bank group and 3.2 million in VICI. <br> In terms of the go-forward organization, we've got a chart at the very back of the presentation that shows who will be reporting to me. It's some great leaders across design and construction, procurement, sourcing, strategic business services and | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> Enforcement's Financial Unit on this merger? <br> A. Yeah. We've obviously been through a series of approvals across the country. And I've spent a great deal of time with the Division staff, particularly Mr. Glaum, who is the financial expert in terms of reviewing this transaction, analyzing the models, and getting that into this terrific report that was assembled that has an extreme amount of detail around the merger. <br> Q. Regarding the financial information and the forecasts that are outlined in the report of the Division of Gaming Enforcement, did you have input into those? <br> A. Yes, I did. <br> Q. And who prepared the forecasts that were outlined there? <br> A. We prepared them at a consolidated level. We do rely, to some degree, on the property level management teams to assemble their bottoms-up projections for the properties. But we consolidate them on a corporate level. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Referring back to slide seven, please? <br> Thank you. |

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| 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER | 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER |
| 2 Q . During the course of this transaction, | 2 approximately 20 percent stake in standalone Eldorado |
| 3 we have all touched upon the fact that a pandemic has | 3 and priced the transaction at a premium at last close, |
| 4 hit us, and we were all affected, but particularly the | 4 which rarely happens on equity offering, and it was |
| 5 gaming industry. How did the company manage that in | 5 the largest equity offering to price at a premium |
| 6 regard to keeping the merger on track? | 6 post-COVID-19. And trust me, no one is happier than |
| 7 A. So, yes. The gaming industry, leisure | 7 me that the April modeling scenario that was outlined |
| 8 industries, and many industries beyond, you would | 8 in the report did not play out in reality. As that |
| 9 never expect a full national shutdown and zero-revenue | 9 report notes repeatedly, we would have been in |
| 10 environment. Luckily, both Eldorado and Caesars came | 10 precarious liquidity position. And alongside the rest |
| 11 down into the shutdown with moderate leverage on a | 11 of the transactions that we'll talk about, we're just |
| 12 standalone basis. For example, Eldorado was leveraged | 12 in a very different place given what we executed in |
| 13 just over four times as of December 31st, 2019. And | 13 June. |
| 14 we had ample liquidity from cash on hand and our | 14 Q. And what would you say was the basis for |
| 15 revolvers that we both funded alongside many of other | 15 being able to price this offering at a premium? |
| 16 industry participants as the shutdown began. | 16 A. Well, yeah. We had casinos reopened. |
| 17 What was great about, you know, being | 17 We put out those initial Resorts -- results -- |
| 18 somewhat lowered levered and having tons of liquidity | 18 operating results in mid-June for the reopened |
| 19 available to us was, it allowed us to be patient with | 19 properties that had opened in May in Louisiana and |
| 20 respect to capital raising and allowing properties to | 20 Mississippi. I think the investors were very |
| 21 naturally reopen coming out of the crisis. | 21 surprised at what those showed in terms of modest |
| 22 Q. Can you talk a little bit about some of | 22 revenue declines but nothing near what, you know, |
| 23 the things that you accomplished in response to the | 23 people were probably thinking when you think about a |
| 24 COVID-19? | 24 building operating at 50 percent capacity. I think |
| 25 A. Yep. So looking at the models that | 25 most people were thinking revenues would be down in |
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| 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER | 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER |
| 2 we've been running, you know, consistently since | 2 line with that capacity reduction. In fact, they |
| 3 summer of last year, given the billion dollars of | 3 were, you know, barely down for Eldorado and/or up for |
| 4 losses that Mr. Reeg discussed and are outlined in the | 4 Caesars in the regional properties. |
| 5 report from the shutdown, we recognized that our debt | 5 Alongside that EBITDA was, you know, up. |
| 6 levels would be elevated relative to our original | 6 So I don't think we had ever modeled it that way. |
| 7 underwriting, and liquidity would be tight if we | 7 Certainly that wasn't what we had modeled in April. |
| 8 didn't raise any other capital beyond what we | 8 So I think that started to allow investors to see that |
| 9 committed from our banks. So in April we began | 9 we could ramp out of this maybe quicker than most |
| 10 exploring various means of raising capital. As the | 10 people thought. Alongside that, just providing |
| 11 market began to heal, alongside the casino reopenings | 11 liquidity, I think everybody thought that was a good |
| 12 that began in May, we settled on a strategic of | 12 side from both an equity and debt perspective. |
| 13 executing a significant equity raise alongside other | 13 The strategic rationale of this merger, |
| 14 liquidity and other transactions that I'll discuss in | 14 we've talked about a lot already today, so I don't |
| 15 more detail. Importantly, both the Eldorado and | 15 need to go into it again, but I think investors see |
| 16 Caesars boards supported this strategy. | 16 that. I think they also see a long track record from |
| 17 Even though no one was forcing us to do | 17 Eldorado being able to temporarily take on some more |
| 18 equity, we knew it was the right thing to do. Again, | 18 debt to close an acquisition and then quickly pay it |
| 19 the equity raise we were effectively giving up | 19 down. So I think that track record also helped us |
| 20 shareholder upside in order to protect near term | 20 significantly, and all of that led to that transaction |
| 21 downside. Again, this is something the Carano family | 21 pricing at a premium. |
| 22 has consistently done throughout its history in this | 22 MR. SCHRIER: Put up Slide 8. |
| 23 space and one of the many reasons I took this job. | 23 Q. Go back to the equity offering that you |
| 24 The equity offering that we executed in | 24 mentioned. Where does -- where does that offering put |
| 25 mid -- in mid-June was historic. We sold an | 25 the company in comparison to other publicly traded |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> gaming companies? <br> A. Yeah. As of this morning, if you look at the pro forma share count for the company and multiply it by our share price, our market cap is well north of $\$ 7$ billion, making us the most value gaming company in this space. Equity investors think long-term, and this graph simply points to our ability to manage the company through the other side of this health crisis. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to Slide 9, please. <br> Q. In addition to the -- push ahead if you would, two slides? <br> A. Yeah. I'm happy to hit No. 9 here <br> quickly. Just a couple highlights. <br> On the heels of the equity offering, we executed Part II of our financing plan, which was to place $\$ 7.2$ billion of committed financing into the capital markets and upsize in order to ensure we had full access to our revolving credit facilities, plus additional cash on hand. <br> Given Eldorado's willingness to execute <br> equity, coupled with that track record of <br> de-leveraging, we again encountered extremely high | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> Q. If we go to Slide 10, what does that slide depict? <br> A. Yeah. This is where we expect to close in terms of liquidity with cash and revolvers available to us at $\$ 3.3$ billion. We've got these VICI transactions and incremental revolver commitments which are subject to regulatory approval. We expect to get those done, hopefully, by the end of third quarter taking us to four billion. <br> One further note, we've talked about already today that, as everyone's aware, we've agreed to divest three assets in Indiana. In order to lessen market concentrations. So we expect these sales to be executed in the coming months and announced, and those will just further enhance our liquidity position as we get into 2021. <br> Q. So now that you've completed the financing, and I've heard that the funds are in escrow, can you describe what the total capital structure will look like? <br> MR. SCHRIER: If you could flip to Slide 11, please. <br> A. Yeah. Slide 11 this chart ties together our final financing package, which is largely in line |
| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> demand for our offering which allowed us to price the new debt, which was just over six percent. Which was right in line with our original pricing expectations for the summer. So that allowed us to upside the debt by $\$ 800$ million and provided additional liquidity. <br> Alongside that, we also announced a $\$ 500$ million transaction with VICI centered on Las Vegas based assets. And an incremental $\$ 210$ million of revolving credit facility from a national bank group. <br> So in totality, as you look at the <br> report from April -- the April model and the report <br> was delivered in June -- it does a great job <br> summarizing what's called the subsequent events, which are these transactions that I just walked through. <br> In totality, the equity incremental <br> debt, VICI transactions, and revolving commitments <br> totaling $\$ 3.2$ billion of incremental liquidity across <br> these transactions, leaving us with approximately $\$ 4$ <br> billion of total liquidity, which is outlined in table format on Slide 10. <br> Q. The issued liquidity was one of the topics that the Division raised questions about in their report initially; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> with what we underwrote last summer in terms of where we land on a net debt basis. We'll be just inside of $\$ 13$ million of traditional total net debt. That's just a bit higher than last summer but highly manageable in light of our pro forma liquidity situation. And most importantly, the runway to the first debt maturity, which would be in December of 2024. So we have four years to work through integration, manage near-term instability stemming from the health crisis, de-leverage our business, and optimize our asset base, as we have done in many precedent transactions. <br> Q. So does the fact that your earliest debt maturity doesn't arise for four years, what does that -- what does that give you in terms of sort of the runway you're talking about? <br> A. It gives us a lot of flexibility. <br> Again, ten years ago, with a different transaction in the space and others, we learned a lesson that having debt maturity right in front of you after you close a merger is not a good idea. So we saw this as a great opportunity, putting these companies together and debt structures together, to not have a maturity until <br> 25 December of 2024 and have well over $\$ 4$ billion of |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> liquidity on hand means that the operating expectations, which we all know are going to be volatile, you know, it takes some of the heat off of having to stick the landing on every single projection given there's no debt maturity until the end of ' 24 . <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to slide 12, please. <br> Q. So the company provided updated <br> forecasts to the Division of Gaming Enforcement at the end of April; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And how has the company's performance been compared to those forecasts? We've heard a little bit about it, but I think that's your bailiwick, so can you explain that in a little bit more detail? <br> A. Absolutely. I think everyone will see that we announced preliminary results from the reopened properties for both Eldorado and Caesars through June 30th this morning. Very happy to report that the regional properties for Eldorado and Caesars are performing really well in both revenue and EBITDA and well beyond, you know, any expectation that we had | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> you may be taking in order to achieve those synergies and how that might impact Atlantic City. Can you address that? <br> A. Absolutely. And I know Tom had already hit this, so I'll try to be somewhat brief here given we've already covered this. But first of all, the original synergies that we underwrote, the 500 million, including 100 million of revenue-related synergies, which given what we've learned since the merger may prove to be conservative. That being said, we won't know for certain, you know, how we're doing against this hundred-million revenue synergies until we start seeing the results of putting Eldorado properties into the Caesars Rewards network post-closing merger. And vice versa, you know, we're hoping to see some upside where we can market Eldorado's database in new major metropolitan areas to help support Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and other destinations. <br> With respect to the 400 million of announced expense savings, these represent only five percent of the combined companies' $\$ 8$ billion of 2019's operating expenses. So we believe a five percent reduction is achievable. And the focus has |
| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> when we were doing the April 30th model. <br> The destination properties, largely Las <br> Vegas oriented are soft for all the reasons we've gone about -- talked about earlier this morning. But even as soft as they are, with, you know, revenue down 30, 40, 50 percent, an EBITDA in line with those declines, you know, we had modeled 60-percent-plus declines on ebb today for the third quarter. So despite that softness and the destination properties, we're actually still performing ahead of those. If you look specifically at just comparing the 2Q EBITDA performance in the April 30th model against where we're coming in on a preliminary basis for both companies, we're roughly $\$ 100$ dollars ahead just for 2Q alone. So we're very cautiously optimistic that we can carry this through and effectively be free cash flow positive over the next 12 months. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to the next slide, please? <br> Q. In the Division of Gaming Enforcement's report, one of the things that they focused on were the synergies that you expected to achieve in the transaction, and Mr. Reeg commented on that as well. But the Division was concerned with the measures that | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> always been on achieving the vast majority of those savings at the corporate level through payroll and non-payroll reductions across the enterprise. <br> Mr. Tony Rodio, he became the new CEO alongside when we were doing our initial diligence in early 2019. He saw many of the same opportunities that we did during that time. And to that end, his operating philosophy and actions taken pre and post the merger have resulted in significant expense reductions to date, with revenues in January and February of 2020 when Caesars reported record monthly results. <br> With respect to Atlantic City, we're <br> well aware of the cost reductions that have taken place over the past 12 years, and the Division's report highlights those in many areas. As such, it has not been a focus of us in terms if generating material cost savings for the merged entity. <br> When we engaged specifically with the Division in terms of employment conditions, we quickly came to the agreement as to how to ensure employment levels returned, pre-crisis levels. And we're eager to see where they go from there once our capital investments begin at the end of the year. |

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| Q. Thank you. | 2 and Las Vegas portfolio. At Eldorado we make |
| MR. SCHRIER: And can we flip to Slide | 3 corporate decisions on where best to invest capital |
| 14, please. | 4 regardless of the assets' leases, and that's certainly |
| 5 Q. This is a recurring theme, of course, | 5 been the case with Tropicana portfolio where we make |
| 6 that we've heard so far in the testimony and from the | 6 substantial investments in those assets since our late |
| 7 Division in its report, was the chronic lack of | 72018 acquisition. During my time at Eldorado, we've |
| 8 capital investment in the Caesars properties Atlantic | 8 never had any discussion around when we allocate |
| 9 City. Can you briefly describe to the Commission how | 9 capex, is that asset in lease or not? We just -- we |
| 10 you prepare to address that? | 10 put money where we think it's going to get the best |
| 11 A. Yes, I can. We're well aware of the | 11 return. |
| 12 back of investment that stemmed from the ownership | 12 So in any event, in order to address the |
| 13 over the past decade, plus in consultation with our | 13 Division's concerns, we are making a commitment as |
| 14 property level leaders in Atlantic City and | 14 previously stated to escrow $\$ 400$ million for purposes |
| 15 discussions with the Division, we formulated a major | 15 of investment across all the leased assets in Atlantic |
| 16 capital reinvestment plan for the Atlantic City | 16 City, assuming that the real estate is approved |
| 17 properties, assuming our merger is approved. These | 17 through the VICI. |
| 18 encompassed a $\$ 400$ million investment over the first | 18 Q. So is the \$400 million escrow account |
| 19 three years post-closing across Caesars. Harrah's and | 19 linked in some way to the Atlantic City land sale? |
| 20 Tropicana with at least 150 million of that earmarked | 20 A. That's how we've been thinking about it |
| 21 for Caesars. The investment will also be front-loaded | 21 at Eldorado. |
| 22 and dollars put into escrow at closing of merger. | 22 Q. I think this might be a good spot to |
| 23 Beyond the three-year investment | 23 also talk about a trust agreement that will be created |
| 24 horizon, we've also committed to invest at least five | 24 to fulfill this commitment that we're talking about |
| 25 percent of our revenues annually into the Atlantic | 25 regarding the $\$ 400$ million and potentially adding |
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| 2 City properties. | 2 another $\$ 125$ million. If the Bally's transaction does |
| Q. Thank you. | 3 not go through with within a specific period of time, |
| 4 MR. SCHRIER: And can we flip to Slide | 4 you're aware that there is a trust agreement that has |
| 5 15, please. | 5 been circulating that, hopefully, will be agreed to |
| 6 Q. Another significant part of this merger | 6 today? |
| 7 transaction involves the sale and the lease back of | 7 A. Yes, I am. |
| 8 the land under Harrah's Atlantic City to VICI. You've | 8 Q. And do you understand that the Trust |
| 9 heard a bit about that, and the Division has raised | 9 Agreement requires that the company put up the \$400 |
| 10 some concern about that, as did Professor Perry, that | 10 million into an account to be managed by the Trust on |
| 11 the ownership of casinos by real estate investment | 11 day one of this merger? |
| 12 trusts may not encourage the expenditure of capital on | 12 A. Yes, I do. |
| 13 the casino facility itself by the operator. Do you | 13 Q. Do you understand that the Trust will be |
| 14 agree with that viewpoint? | 14 managed by an independent trustee and not by New |
| 15 A. Yeah. I think Tom touched on this a | 15 Caesars once those funds are placed into the account? |
| 16 little bit earlier, but I'd like to reiterate, you | 16 A. Yes, I do. |
| 17 know, our position. We understand that the Division | 17 Q. So once the trust is set up and your |
| 18 has concerns about the impact of REIT ownership on an | 18 capital expenditure budget is submitted and approved |
| 19 operator's decision-making process with respect to | 19 by the Division, do you understand that you'll have to |
| 20 allocating capital expenditures. At Eldorado we | 20 execute on that budget? You go to the Trustee to get |
| 21 believe that Caesars' lack of spend on its Atlantic | 21 the funds to pay contractors as that work is |
| 22 City leased assets has been driven by a corporate | 22 performed? |
| 23 decision related to capital allocation, especially | 23 A. Yes, I do. |
| 24 when you look at what Caesars has currently been | 24 Q. And are you clear on the fact that this |
| 25 investing in leased assets elsewhere in its regional | 25 money that will be set aside is not money that's |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> generally available to New Caesars for any other use? <br> A. Absolutely. <br> Q. If you fail to fulfill your obligations <br> and don't cure that failure to expend the capex according to the terms of the Trust, the Trustee can execute the improvements and use the funds until you are permitted to restore your efforts to do so by the Division and the Commission. Do you understand that? <br> A. I do. <br> Q. And if you never do get your privileges, <br> so to speak, to restore the capex, do you understand that the Trustee will then have the right to execute on the capital expenditure budget as opposed to the company making those decisions? <br> A. Yes, I do. <br> Q. Okay. And you also understand from the Trust that it won't be terminated until all the approved funds have been expended and all the expenses of the Trust have been paid? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Mr. Yunker, is it fair to say that you and New Caesars agree to this and the capital expenditure fund, the three-year program, the deed restrictions, and all of the other 40 proposed | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> approved to take over Bally's. They bring a very <br> large East Coast database into play and have a very <br> talent the management team. <br> Q. So it sound like Twin River could be a very formidable competitor in this market? <br> A. From my perspective, yes. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip the Slide to <br> 17, please? <br> Q. Mr. Yunker, on Slide 17 there is a chart <br> that has been put together. Was that a chart that you put together? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And it runs for three pages, 17,18 , and <br> 19. And what it appears to address, and one of the concerns that were raised by the Division in its report and the company's response. What was the purpose of putting this chart together? <br> A. Yeah. Again, having, you know, spending a lot of time with the report and the Division, you know, during this review process, I just wanted to reiterate that we understand the conditions, summarize the actions that we are taking in order to get merger approval from the Commission. And just wanted to put it all in one place so we could have it summarized. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> conditions so that the Commission and Division would be comfortable with approving the merger, the sale of Harrah's land, the amendments to the master lease which are contained in the petitions that are currently before the Commission? <br> A. Yes. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to Slide 16, please? <br> Q. We just touched on it, but one area that the Commission has to consider in its evaluation of this merger is what the impact of this transaction will have on economic concentration and competition in the city of Atlantic City among the casinos. Excuse me. Can you describe -- <br> A. Yeah. Go ahead. Sorry. <br> Q. -- steps you are taking in this regard? <br> A. Yes. In order to address the recommendations from the Division's economic expert, we've agreed to the following conditions that we expect will foster competition and further development in Atlantic City, all of which are listed here on the slide. Importantly, with respect to Twin River, they're a significant regional competitor that's going to bring significant competition when they are | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> Q. So what this represents is a chart that <br> you prepared that actually talks about each of the <br> concerns, company's response, and effectively how that <br> response will be executed potentially by agreement to certain conditions upon approval of the merger and the other petitions that are pending? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. Okay. And I just want to ask you as <br> well. You've read all the conditions that have been <br> submitted to the Commission by Eldorado, Caesars, and the Division. There's about 40 of them, and they've been marked in evidence. On behalf of New Caesars, as the incoming CFO of that company, do you agree to abide by these conditions if this merger and the other petitions are approved? <br> A. Yes. I'm familiar with all 40 , and I support them. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. SCHRIER: I have nothing further. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Miss Richardson? <br> MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. <br> CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: <br> Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Yunker. |


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| 2 A. Good afternoon. | 2 assumption around when properties would reopen. And |
| 3 Q. You've addressed the liquidity measures | 3 we're happy to report that in large part, you know, |
| 4 that you took within the last -- within June of 2020 | 4 bulk of the properties opened along -- alongside the |
| 5 to increase their -- the liquidity availability; | 5 schedule that we had laid out in April. Which was |
| 6 correct? | 6 great news. There was a couple -- as you know, |
| 7 A. Yes. | 7 obviously Atlantic City was a little bit behind and |
| 8 Q. And overall, there was an almost a 2.3 | 8 Illinois. The flip side of that is a couple were |
| 9 billion increase in liquidity; is that right? | 9 ahead in Las Vegas. So largely just from the timing |
| 10 A. That's correct. | 10 perspective, we almost stuck the landing perfectly |
| 11 Q. And with the cash burn rate that you | 11 from April to what has actually occurred. |
| 12 described in the second quarter, that was essential to | 12 In terms of performance, Caesars for |
| 13 maintaining a liquidity level going forward in these | 13 their core regional properties for the reopened period |
| 14 uncertain conditions? | 14 through June 30th, they reported this morning that |
| 15 A. Yeah. We -- you know, we, like many | 15 their revenues were actually up 9 to 11 percent, which |
| 16 others -- not only in the gaming industry but again, | 16 is pretty incredible with this 50 percent operating |
| 17 across many industries, domestically, you know, we | 17 limitation across that portfolio. |
| 18 learned that the value of liquidity. Again, we came | 18 Again, destination properties are down |
| 19 into this with quite a bit of liquidity. So even | 19 meaningfully at roughly 50 percent of the top line. |
| 20 though we suffered a billion dollars of cash outflows | 20 EBITDA for Caesars core regional properties was up 70 |
| 21 during the second quarter, we were able to get to the | 21 to 80 percent. That's seven-zero to eight-zero |
| 22 mid to back half of June given built-in liquidity that | 22 percent for a through June 30th. Again, we had been |
| 23 we built in upfront for a rainy day. So that served | 23 modelling revenues down and EBITDA down at greater |
| 24 us well. And then we were able to right-size the | 24 percentages than the revenue declines. So pretty |
| 25 liquidity and leverage situation by the other | 25 incredible statistic there. Obviously benefitting |
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| 2 offerings we executed in June. | 2 somewhat from pent-up demand an other factors. But I |
| 3 Q. And essentially, you forecasted a | 3 don't think anyone would have had that in their models |
| 4 gradually -- a gradual return to normal operating | 4 in April. Certainly we did not. |
| 5 results projected by the year end of 2021; is that | 5 The destination properties, again, |
| 6 correct? | 6 weaker, given the challenges that Las Vegas is having |
| 7 A. That's correct. | 7 alongside Caesars New Orleans asset. But still down |
| 8 Q. Including in that is an assumption or | 855 to 65 percent on EBITDA through June 30th. That's |
| 9 projection that operating limitations of capacity | 9 roughly in line with what we were modeling for the |
| 10 would be at 70 percent; is that correct? | 10 whole company for the third quarter. So we're well |
| 11 A. Yes. | 11 ahead when you put those two together. |
| 12 Q. In fact, though, presently -- and you | 12 And Eldorado, net revenues for our |
| 13 know, for the foreseeable future of an unknown | 13 regional properties decreased only nine percent |
| 14 duration -- they are quite lower than that; is that | 14 through June 30th. Again, much less than we had |
| 15 right? | 15 modeled in April. |
| 16 A. That's right. | 16 And for destination properties, which is |
| 17 Q. You still have confidence in your | 17 our Reno property, down approximately 40 percent |
| 18 forecast in that approximate return to normalcy by | 18 through June 30th. Again, in sight of what we |
| 19 around the fourth quarter of 2021? | 19 projected in April. EBITDA actually up 16 percent for |
| 20 A. Yes, we do. | 20 the core Eldorado regional properties. EBITDA down |
| 21 Q. And explain that. | 21 approximately 30 percent for Reno. |
| 22 A. Yep. So again, I'll list some | 22 When you roll all of that together, what |
| 23 statistics that we put out publicly this morning for | 23 it means is that we do have confidence that we're |
| 24 reopened properties. And again, I think there were | 24 actually within spitting distance of what -- what the |
| 25 two pieces to this in our modelling. One was an | 25 company did in 2019, especially when you think about |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> the incremental measures being taken as part of the merger. So we do feel very confident that we are going to be free cash flow positive over the next 12 months. <br> Q. And in addition to the liquidity steps that you've already discussed that Eldorado took in June 2020, what are their -- what other options does Eldorado, which would be New Caesars if the merger is granted, if there are shortfalls from forecasting -forecasted operating results. <br> A. Yeah. Great question. So yeah. We pulled four levers in June in terms of different options. You know, across equity and debt capital markets, bank financing, and then the transaction with VICI where we actually sold some land. In addition to those options, we always have access to capital markets. There are some capital markets that we didn't access that remain available to us, notably the equity-linked market. <br> We will be conducting asset sales, as we discussed in connection with the Indiana requirements, so that's going to provide additional liquidity in the next 12 to 18 months. We have -- we own roughly half of our assets outside of the leases. So we have | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> combined into a higher-growth vehicle that the public markets can see and value at a higher multiple than what we get valued at today. So those businesses would continue to thrive. Especially if they're combined in the right way with sports betting where you could do cross marketing cross wallets and channels, which would be more revenue, which would benefit the State of New Jersey. <br> Q. And this has been touched upon some previously. But you're aware that our report addresses how the CEC properties in Atlantic City have had dramatic reductions in EBITDA since 2008 while other casinos during that time period have realized positive increases during that time. You're aware of that? <br> A. Yes, I am. <br> Q. What plans that have not previously mentioned does Eldorado have for the CEC properties if the merger is approved to affect an impact operating results? <br> A. Yeah. I think both Tom and Anthony hit it, and I know Mr. Callender is going to go into more detail given he's more occupational than I am. But obviously, you know, from my perspective, reinvesting |
| ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> wholly owned assets that are significant that we can monetize through additional sale lease backs or outright sales. We've talked in the past about selling a Las Vegas Strip asset. So that's something we'll be looking at in the next 12 to 18 months as well. <br> We have this great growing opportunity <br> in the sports and online gaming space where, you know, working together with our partner, William Hill, there may be a monetization opportunity off of those assets in the next 12 to 18 months, and additional assets that we can monetize if and when needed. <br> Q. And related to the potential <br> monetization of sports wagering or internet gaming assets with William Hill or otherwise, how does that potential source of flexibility align with any potential plans you may have for Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey? <br> A. Yep. So these high-growth assets that are stuck in the consolidated company and not being valued appropriated from our view, those interactive assets of both Eldorado and Caesars that are performing admirably in the State of New Jersey, we would like to see those, you know, potentially | ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER <br> in these assets that have been starved of capital for the last 12 years, you know, that's where I come into play as the CFO. So we've arranged an abundance of capital to make that happen day one. <br> Q. And with regard to Harrah's Atlantic City, what's your view of why that casino's operational results had a decline also over the last ten years while their capex investment was at an industry-leading level? <br> A. Honestly, you know, I wasn't part of the Caesars management team operating those assets. I do think the Harrah's Atlantic City asset, you know, benefited from the convention center and some room remodels and wasn't as starved as the odd ones. You know, the market in general, the last 12 years just has had a hard time just because of all the additional competition that's come in in the Northeast. But individual property level trends over last 10 to 12 years, I'd probably defer that a little bit to Steve Callender just given his expertise in the market and everything he did to grow Tropicana during that time. <br> Q. And you've addressed somewhat with Mr. <br> Schrier capex commitments, proposals from the Division to have condition requirements to that effect. |


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| 2 Specifically, Bally's and Caesars from 2008 through | 2 A. Yes |
| 32009 had the lowest total capex of other properties -- | 3 Q. And you also indicated that Eldorado |
| 4 in comparison to other properties that were opened | 4 would commit to increasing the capex budget for the |
| 5 during that period; is that correct? | 5 CEC Atlantic City properties to \$100 million per year |
| 6 A. Yes. | 6 in 2021 and 2022; is that right? |
| 7 Q. And viewing that data through 2019, that | 7 A. Yes. |
| 8 included from 2017 on after CEOC exited their | 8 Q. And Mr. Glaum thereafter explained to |
| 9 bankruptcy reorganization; is that correct? | 9 you the issues with the quarterly capex plan |
| 10 A. Yes. | 10 submissions by CEC, did he not? |
| 11 Q. And because this is such a critical area | 11 A. Yes, he did. |
| 12 of concern for the Division, information about | 12 Q. And that explanation noted that there |
| 13 Eldorado's capex plans for the CEC Atlantic City | 13 were continual deferrals of projects in those reports |
| 14 properties was requested early on after the merger was | 14 to future years, rendering it inadequate to support a |
| 15 announced; is that correct? | 15 near-term investment commitment; is that correct? |
| 16 A. Yes. | 16 A. Yes. |
| 17 Q. And that would have been approximately | 17 Q. And following that explanation, you |
| 18 August 2019? | 18 submitted Eldorado's commitment to 325 million for |
| 19 A. I believe that's correct. | 19 capex at the CEC Atlantic City properties and also |
| 20 Q. And in September 2019, ERI responded | 20 included Tropicana in that figure for a three-year |
| 21 that since the FTC approval was pending, it was | 21 period? |
| 22 precluded from completing extensive operational | 22 A. Yes. |
| 23 reviews. But once they were so permitted, they would | 23 Q. And you also expressed a willingness to |
| 24 hold meetings and conduct those reviews to lead to | 24 impose an escrow arrangement or front -- upfront |
| 25 specific capex plans; is that correct? | 25 funding requirement for any capex funds? |
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| 2 A. Yes. | 2 A. Yes, I did. |
| 3 Q. The Division advised you at that time | 3 Q. And then following additional |
| 4 that, notwithstanding further in-depth reviews that | 4 discussions with the Division, Eldorado ultimately |
| 5 would be done at a minimum, a preliminary plan was | 5 committed to dedicate $\$ 400$ million in capex funds to |
| 6 required at that point; correct? | 6 be expended over a three-year period? |
| 7 A. Yes. | 7 A. That's correct. |
| 8 Q. And you responded to that request and | 8 Q. And you've addressed this, so I just |
| 9 included general areas of potential capital investment | 9 want to touch upon again the breakdown of the |
| 10 at the three Atlantic City companies operated by CEC; | 10 particular arrangement. If the Commission approved |
| 11 is that right? | 11 the merger, the Division has proposed conditions to |
| 12 A. We did. | 12 memorialize that condition; is that correct? |
| 13 Q. But notwithstanding that response, no | 13 A. Yes. |
| 14 specific commitments to projects was included in any | 14 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't mean "condition." |
| 15 responses to the Division through January 2020, was | 15 I meant "commitment." |
| 16 it ? | 16 A. Yes. |
| 17 A. That's correct. | 17 Q. And given the critical need for spending |
| 18 Q. Again, in February 2020 the Division | 18 in the near term since previous expenditures have been |
| 19 reached out to you through Deputy Chief Chris Glaum to | 19 inadequate at the CEC properties, the spending |
| 20 discuss its capex concerns; correct? | 20 commitment would require at least 200 million to be |
| 21 A. Yes. | 21 expended in the first year and a the total of 325 |
| 22 Q. And after that contact, you submitted | 22 million having been spent by the end of year two; is |
| 23 your support for the initial CEC capex plan, which | 23 that correct? |
| 24 they had been required to submit on a quarterly basis | $24$ <br> A. Yes. |
| 25 under their restructuring conditions; is that correct? | 25 Q. And to Caesars Atlantic City in |


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| 2 particular in its need for a dramatic initiative as to | 2 | release the deed restrictions on the Atlantic Club |
| 3 capex, a minimum of $\$ 150$ million from the total 400 | 3 | property and non-Showboat only; is that correct? |
| 4 million is to be spent at Caesars over three years; is | 4 | A. Ye |
| 5 that correct? | 5 | Q. And you are aware that -- I believe |
| 6 A. Yes, it is. | 6 | you've confirmed this already, but I just would like |
| 7 Q. And in addition, there are timing | 7 | to discuss it again. You're aware that the Division |
| 8 thresholds of 75 million to have been spent by the end | 8 | if the merger is approved has proposed a condition |
| 9 of year one, and a total of 125 million having been | 9 | that would require a removal of all three deed |
| 10 spent by the end of year two for Caesars. Is that | 10 | restrictions? |
| 11 also correct? | 11 | A. Yes, I am. |
| 12 A. Yes, it is. | 12 | Q. And Eldorado is prepared to comply with |
| 13 Q. And although a sale of Bally's is | 13 | that condition if it is imposed? |
| 14 pending, the Division has additionally proposed that | 14 | A. Yes, we are. |
| 15 another 125 million would need to be added to address | 15 | Q. And overall just to reconfirm, you have |
| 16 capex for Bally's Atlantic City over a three-year | 16 | reviewed in total the conditions proposed by the |
| 17 period if that sale is not completed; is that correct? | 17 | Division on its list that's been admitted into |
| 18 A. Yes. | 18 | evidence today. |
| 19 Q. And Eldorado also commits to do that if | 19 | A. Yes, I have. |
| 20 it obtains approval for the merger? | 20 | Q. And New Caesars, if it's permitted to be |
| 21 A. Yes, we do. | 21 | the combined new entity, will fully comply with those |
| 22 Q. And Eldorado also understands that an | 22 | conditions if this merger is approved? |
| 23 ongoing commitment and requirement for capex is needed | 23 | A. Yes, we will. |
| 24 to set forth ongoing expectations; is that correct? | 24 | Q. Thank you. |
| 25 A. Yes, we do. | 25 | MS. RICHARDSON: I have no other |
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| Q. And with regard to that point, the | 2 | questions. |
| 3 Division has proposed a condition that would require | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Miss |
| 4 after the initial three-year period with the trust | 4 | Richardson. |
| 5 account funds that at least five percent of each | 5 | Commissioner Cooper? |
| 6 properties net revenue be dedicated annually to capex? | 6 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I have a couple |
| 7 A. Yes. We understand. | 7 | questions. |
| 8 Q. And you'd also commit to that | 8 | Once again, Mr. Yunker, thank you for |
| 9 requirement as well? | 9 | participating today. I'm actually going to go |
| 10 A. We do. We commit to it. | 10 | back to a question that I posed to Mr. Reeg, |
| 11 Q. You did also touch upon the existence of | 11 | but I would like to ask it of you as well, |
| 12 deed restrictions on certain sites in Atlantic City. | 12 | particularly since you're the Chief Financial |
| 13 Those specifically are on the Claridge, the former | 13 | Officer. And that was a question with |
| 14 Atlantic Club, and on the Showboat; is that correct? | 14 | regard -- and I know in bits and pieces, we've |
| 15 A. Yes. | 15 | been hearing COVID and how it's been -- how |
| 16 Q. And although these present obvious | 16 | it's affected you know, the whole -- just how |
| 17 barriers to entry for new operators in the market | 17 | it's affected. Is there anything that you |
| 18 which necessarily reduced competition, Eldorado | 18 | would like to add with regard to the COVID, to |
| 19 advises the Division in January of 2020 that it had no | 19 | the coronavirus as the Chief Financial Officer? |
| 20 intention of making any changes regarding the deed | 20 | And I suppose the original question, you know, |
| 21 restrictions if the merger was approved; isn't that | 21 | when everything happened in mid-March, where, |
| 22 correct? | 22 | you know, the casino industry shutdown. I know |
| 23 A. Yes. | 23 | Mr. Reeg had mentioned that there was a loss of |
| 24 Q. Then in later responses in February and | 24 | a billion dollars. Part of me wanted to say |
| 25 April, you indicated that Eldorado would be willing to | 25 | well, how do you recoup that? I mean, a |


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| 2 | billion dollars. And he was explaining that it | 2 | operating environments across the country, |
| 3 | went from -- you know, all your properties | 3 | we're going to be fine to get through this will |
| 4 | open. Then they were shutting. I know what we | 4 | no matter what. |
| 5 | were going through here in Atlantic City. So | 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. When you |
| 6 | what I would like to just ask you as an aside | 6 | said "liquidity fortress," I haven't heard it. |
| 7 | as the CFO, can you discuss or add anything | 7 | Again, who knows -- as you say, it's |
| 8 | from your viewpoint about, you know, the impact | 8 | devastating what has happened. Who knows what |
| 9 | of the coronavirus, the COVID, on the upcoming | 9 | the Fall is going to be, the Winter. |
| 10 | merger? How it's affected or -- you know, is | 10 | Hopefully, it's -- hopefully, it's better but |
| 11 | there anything you'd like to add? | 11 | who knows? It's very -- as you said, it's you |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think I think, | 12 | know concern at this time. |
| 13 | you know, from my perspective as the CFO and | 13 | Let me -- there's another question I |
| 14 | having been around this industry for so long, | 14 | have for you. In one of the documents I saw |
| 15 | it was heartbreaking for the industry to, you | 15 | the words with Eldorado, with Caesars, |
| 16 | know, have to go through yet another crisis. | 16 | "decentralized" operating model and a |
| 17 | It's been through 9-11, the Great Financial | 17 | "centralized" model. Operating model. |
| 18 | Crisis, the terrible shooting in Las Vegas, and | 18 | Decentralized and centralized. Could you |
| 19 | a lot of uncertain, quite frankly, specific to | 19 | elaborate on that, on what those are? |
| 20 | Caesars employees. So from my perspective, | 20 | THE WITNESS: Yes. Yeah. I'll trying |
| 21 | what I wanted to do and what I believe we have | 21 | to give one example. You know, and again, I |
| 22 | successfully done, is create a fortress of | 22 | think Tom and Anthony have talked to this, and |
| 23 | liquidity so that people can rest easier at | 23 | feel free to ask Mr. Callender as well with his |
| 24 | night knowing that this company is going to get | 24 | experience with Eldorado. But one example |
| 25 | through, however long this crisis is. We don't | 25 | would just be where are marketing decisions |
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| 2 | need to, you know, constantly be reading about | 2 | made in terms of, you know, customers' offers? |
| 3 | ourselves in the newspapers, and are they | 3 | Is that a centralized function done in Las |
| 4 | stable, et cetera? You know, from a -- beyond | 4 | Vegas, or is it done closer to the properties |
| 5 | a shadow of a doubt, I think we've put | 5 | with the GMs and the local managers? So it's |
| 6 | ourselves in that position. So I'm hoping | 6 | really just -- you know, it's one of many |
| 7 | that, you know, allows, this great company with | 7 | examples. Where is the decision being made, |
| 8 | 70-thousand plus pro forma employees to rest | 8 | centrally, or is it being made at the property |
| 9 | easier at night. | 9 | level. |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: And could you say | 10 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And let's |
| 11 | the name of the company again? What you've put | 11 | say if the merger goes through, what will you |
| 12 | together? | 12 | be looking at? What type of model. |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: Oh, well, the name of the | 13 | THE WITNESS: We're trying to take the |
| 14 | company -- Caesars. | 14 | best of both worlds, bot, you know, what |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: No. You said the | 15 | Caesars has excelled at historically in terms |
| 16 | fund. What you just -- it didn't come too | 16 | of, you know, generating the database, keeping |
| 17 | clearly. I'm sorry. | 17 | customers highly engaged. We think they do a |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. No. No problem. | 18 | great job using mobile technology and the |
| 19 | All the capital that we assembled in terms of | 19 | Caesars app. Revenue management functions, et |
| 20 | being able to have full access to our | 20 | cetera. You know, we're preserving the best of |
| 21 | revolvers, you know, and almost \$2 billion in | 21 | those pieces that we saw through a year of due |
| 22 | cash on the balance sheet, to me, that's a | 22 | diligence. And then we're taking the best of |
| 23 | liquidity fortress is what I'm calling it. In | 23 | with Eldorado's, you know, property level |
| 24 | the sense that through thick and thin, even if | 24 | approach where they can make decisions quicker, |
| 25 | we have hotspots and some tough, you know, | 25 | get mail offers out quicker, et cetera. So |


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| 2 | it's really marrying and blend of the best of | 2 | number, especially given the process that Mr. |
| 3 | both worlds from my perspective. | 3 | Rodio has achieved to date. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: But again, you agree |
| 5 | very much. Thank you. | 5 | that there would be no downsizing of employees. |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner | 6 | You know, you just said there were going to be |
| 7 | Cooper. | 7 | efficiencies there, merging different |
| 8 | Mr. Yunker, I asked this question | 8 | operations. I just see that's ambitious if |
| 9 | earlier. Did Eldorado or Caesars use any of | 9 | you're not going to lay off employees, which is |
| 10 | the Care Act? | 10 | traditionally your highest cost. Correct? |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: So we didn't access any | 11 | THE WITNESS: Yes. Yeah. So again, our |
| 12 | loans. You know, the airlines and some others, | 12 | numbers do envision and there has been employee |
| 13 | you know, took direct money from the Federal | 13 | reductions in Las Vegas at the corporate side |
| 14 | Government. We didn't need to access any loan | 14 | for Caesars. So you're looking at, you know, a |
| 15 | capital from the Government. We did benefit | 15 | population of roughly 3500 combined corporate |
| 16 | from employee retention tax credits where you | 16 | essentially managed employees in Las Vegas. |
| 17 | received a tax credit in connection with paying | 17 | And there has been significant attrition over |
| 18 | people full wages while they were not working. | 18 | the last 12 months, as well as some volunteer |
| 19 | And we also got a deferred payroll tax credit | 19 | severance programs. But again, this is all |
| 20 | that is payable at the end of 2021. | 20 | away from Atlantic City and does not touch New |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I asked this question | 21 | Jersey. And to the extent that there is going |
| 22 | earlier of Mr. Reeg, too. The Division in | 22 | to be anything that happens in New Jersey, we |
| 23 | their document said that you're forecasting a | 23 | fully understand the conditions that we will be |
| 24 | synergy of a savings of approximately \$900 | 24 | speaking actively with the Division about any |
| 25 | million over the next three years. That seems | 25 | reductions. |
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| 2 | very ambitious when I read this. And Mr. Reeg | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Great. Thank you. |
| 3 | touched on a few efficiencies they were talking | 3 | You've answered it. |
| 4 | about. Maybe you could just elaborate a little | 4 | Mr. Schrier? Did you have any followup? |
| 5 | more. That seems like a lot of money to be | 5 | MR. SCHRIER: I have nothing further for |
| 6 | able to capture in savings. | 6 | this witness, Mr. Chairman. |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. I don't have that | 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? |
| 8 | specific been table in front of me, but I think | 8 | MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing further from |
| 9 | 900 million aggregates across three years. So | 9 | the Division. Thank you. |
| 10 | actually the annual amount is more like 400 | 10 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. |
| 11 | million of synergies on an annual basis in that | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier, can you |
| 12 | April model. | 12 | call your next witness? |
| 13 | In terms of where that comes from, again | 13 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Eldorado calls Steve |
| 14 | Tom talked about it. A little under \$200 | 14 | Callender. |
| 15 | million of corporate overhead savings of | 15 | MR. CALLENDER: Good afternoon, Mr. |
| 16 | combining companies, 75 million in professional | 16 | Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. |
| 17 | services. Mr. Rodio had already taken out 10 | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Callender? |
| 18 | million to date. The remaining 65 comes from | 18 | Mr. Nance, will you swear in Mr. |
| 19 | audit, duplicative board of directors, outside | 19 | Callender, please? |
| 20 | counsel, and redundant IT. Another 50 million | 20 | STEPHEN CALLENDER, having been first |
| 21 | of slot lease expense, which again, Caesars | 21 | duly sworn remotely, testified as follows: |
| 22 | already have taken a good chunk out to date for | 22 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for |
| 23 | that piece. And 50 million by contracts | 23 | the record. |
| 24 | combining insurance programs, purchasing, et | 24 | THE WITNESS: Stephen Callender. |
| 25 | cetera. So we feel good about achieving that | 25 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. |



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| 2 Commission what benefits you would foresee from this | 2 Borgata only. And it was a great -- great thing to |
| 3 capital being expended and how? | 3 have happen. You know, the projects had a huge effect |
| 4 MR. SCHRIER: If we could put up the | 4 on team member morale, I think more than anything |
| 5 slides please? For -- Slide 20. | 5 else. You know, people wanted to be proud of where |
| 6 A. Sure. I'd be happy to. When Anthony | 6 they worked. And as we started to invest money in the |
| 7 told me how much money we were going to spend, I was | 7 property and fix it up, team members got more engaged. |
| 8 very excited, frankly. It was interesting to me. | 8 Service levels got better. The customers were |
| 9 It's -- the similarities between what's happening here | 9 happier. They started to come more and play more. |
| 10 and what happened in 2010 when I came to this property | 10 And it gave us, you know, great -- great momentum that |
| 11 shortly after the Columbia Sussex left. Since 2000 -- | 11 we've carried all the way through. |
| 12 you know, it's a great brand and it's a great | 12 Q . There are some pictures there from the |
| 13 property, history. They'd just been neglected during | 13 capital expenditure case study that you are referring |
| 14 bankruptcy and they lost business. You know, in poor | 14 to regarding Tropicana recently. What are those |
| 15 condition and had poor morale. So at least here in | 15 photographs? |
| 16 Tropicana in 2011 when Tony Rodio came on board, we | 16 A. Yeah. Just the different projects that |
| 17 spent \$300 million through 2019 improving the | 17 we've worked on our floors. It's probably the most |
| 18 experience, which I think really needs to happen in | 18 modern casino floor in the city. We did a project |
| 19 those properties as well. | 19 just this year, our electronic table games and Pulse |
| 20 Just looking at this case study, I | 20 Arena. It's doing very well, particularly with the |
| 21 dropped it down to 2014 to 2019, which is when we | 21 change in COVID, things are happening. Our sports |
| 22 started to do big projects, large growth projects. | 22 book's in here. Our high-limit slot room. Chelsea |
| 23 And we did -- you know, we renovated three hotel | 23 pool and some restaurants. It's a great story. |
| 24 towers, North, South, and Havana. We did a complete | 24 Q. Yes. So furthering the story and as we |
| 25 casino floor renovation with a beautiful high-limit | 25 look toward the future, there have been questions, |
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| 2 slot room and our sportsbook that Eldorado was part | 2 obviously, about what does New Caesars intend to do at |
| 3 of, along with escalators going down to the boardwalk. | 3 the new properties that it will acquire with the |
| $4 \quad$ At a time when we only had seven casinos | 4 capital expenditure fund that will be created? And, |
| 5 in town and we were short on room occupancy, we had -- | 5 obviously, we have to put together a budget for that. |
| 6 we purchased the Chelsea Hotel and built a connector | 6 That has to be approved by the Division as to what the |
| 7 to the main building and fixed that up, and it looks | 7 capital expenditure would be. But have you looked |
| 8 great now. | 8 into some of the areas that you think might be |
| 9 We added nongaming amenities and some -- | 9 worthwhile in terms of capital expenditure at Caesars? |
| 10 some underutilized space, including a state-of-the-art | 10 A. Yeah. Of course. And it needs a lot of |
| 11 fitness center that was in an extra ballroom and an | 11 work. Caesars needs a lot of work. So and I think |
| 12 escape room, which came from back of the house space. | 12 the key is the rooms. You have to start there. |
| 13 New concepts such as Chickie's \& Pete's and Jose | 13 There's some renderings here to look at, because |
| 14 Garces. We refurbished all the food and beverage | 14 they've already started to, you know, do a little bit |
| 15 outlets and it was a great result for us. | 15 of research and work on that. |
| 16 Q. Flip to Page 21. Your example of a case | 16 But I don't think you can overlook the |
| 17 study that you've provided here to the Commission | 17 gaming floor in the sense of an arrival that Tom and |
| 18 talks about how much money was spent at Tropicana, and | 18 Anthony talked about a little bit. You know, people |
| 19 what was the outcome of those expenditures, in your | 19 want to be wowed when they come to these properties. |
| 20 view? | 20 And some nongaming amenities would certainly help to |
| 21 A. Well, as a capex went up, our net | 21 drive traffic. You know, we've had success here in |
| 22 revenues grew and our EBITDA grew quite a bit. When | 22 Tropicana bringing customers in from Scioto Downs in |
| 23 we started the projects, we were generally seventh or | 23 Columbus and from Pompano, plans that we set up, and |
| 24 eighth in town each month in gaming revenue. And by | 24 they love the property. So we want to be able to show |
| 25 2017, we were a solid number two in town and behind | 25 off Caesars and Harrah's the same way. So I think the |



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| 2 | Callender's cross-examination and he's done as | 2 | A. That's correct. |
| 3 | a witness this evening, then that's -- | 3 | Q. And on the same sheet with the net |
| 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: We'll do that then. | 4 | revenue and the EBITDA to predict the increases over |
| 5 | We'll break for ten minutes. It's five -- |  | the -- that time period, it necessarily wasn't a |
| 6 | we'll resume back at 4:10. | 6 | straight upshoot to the 2019 levels. Isn't it correct |
| 7 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Does that work for the | 7 | that 2018, both net revenue and EBITDA were higher |
| 8 | attorneys? | 8 | than they were in 2019? |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Does that work for the | 9 | A. Yes, they were. |
| 10 | attorneys? | 10 | Q. And again, 2019 had those decreases, and |
| 11 | MS. RICHARDSON: Yes. | 11 | that was the first full year of Eldorado's operations. |
| 12 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. | 12 | I shouldn't say ownership. It's operations? |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: For the parties. | 13 | A. Yes. |
| 14 | MR. SCHRIER: Just so you're aware, Mr. | 14 | Q. Thank you. |
| 15 | Chairman, in terms of the fact witnesses we | 15 | You mentioned the employees and that the |
| 16 | have, we only have one additional witness, and | 16 | staff is happy to be back to work under the recent |
| 17 | I don't think that she'll take that long. But | 17 | reopening. What percentage would you say of employees |
| 18 | I will leave to you, you know, the schedule for | 18 | at Tropicana are back to work right now? |
| 19 | today. | 19 | A. We're just a little under 50 percent. |
| 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. | 20 | Q. And do you know the percentage of |
| 21 | Then we'll wee convene at 4:10. | 21 | employees back at the Caesars properties either |
| 22 | THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. | 22 | collectively or individually? |
| 23 | (A recess was taken from 3:56 to 4:10 | 23 | A. I think collectively they are a little |
| 24 | p.m.) | 24 | bit over 50 percent. |
| 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 25 | Q. And there's been other testimony and -- |
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| 2 | I think we're ready to reconvene. |  | and from you as well about staffing and employee |
| 3 | Miss Richardson? Your witness. | 3 | levels. You're aware of the condition that the |
| 4 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. | 4 | Division has recommended if the merger is approved |
| 5 | CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: | 5 | that the staffing levels would be maintained to |
| 6 | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Callender. | 6 | pre-COVID levels. Do you have any -- anything |
| 7 | A. Good afternoon. | 7 | additional to add regarding any staffing level or |
| 8 | Q. I just want to clarify a couple things |  | overall changes in staff that you envision at the |
| 9 | on the slide charts, the graphs that you were looking | 9 | Atlantic City properties if all four properties are |
| 10 | at with Mr. Schrier. The project capex case study on | 10 | integrated? |
| 11 | Slide 21 shows the graphical representation of the | 11 | A. No. Not yet I don't. I mean, I have to |
| 12 | capex expended from 2014 to 2019; correct? | 12 | look at what happens and figure out the different |
| 13 | A. That was just on large projects. |  | properties. As we get more capacity and more |
| 14 | Q. Right. And so of 168 million that was | 14 | amenities, we'll be able to bring more people back. |
| 15 | sent in those -- over the six years that are depicted | 15 | Q. And you've expressed excitement at the |
| 16 | there, 152 million of that was expended between 2014 | 16 | capital expenditure fund that would be available if |
| 17 | and 2018; is that correct? |  | the merger is approved and the condition is imposed |
| 18 | A. Yes. That's correct. |  | and being able to take measures to implement that. |
| 19 | Q. And during that period, the -- Mr. |  | Just to be clear, that fund that will be subject to a |
| 20 | Icahn's affiliated companies controlled Tropicana |  | trust overseen by a trustee, that fund will be |
| 21 | Entertainment that ran Tropicana AC; is that correct? |  | established only due to a Division-proposed condition |
| 22 | A. That's correct. |  | if the Commission elects to impose it; is that |
| 23 | Q. So in 2019, under Eldorado's ownership, |  | correct? |
| 24 | there was only 16 million in capital expenditures for | 24 | A. That's correct. |
| 25 | Trop AC; is that right? |  | Q. And related to -- |



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| 2 | Casino Association with Trop, with everything. | 2 | say especially with these very fragile times. |
| 3 | And that's from me personally. | 3 | That's good for me, Mr. Chairman. |
| 4 | But with Eldorado, how would you be | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner |
| 5 | involved in the community? And I'm going to | 5 | Cooper. |
| 6 | say a part two to that, if Eldorado has a | 6 | I just want to get it again. Mr. |
| 7 | community involvement plan or program in other | 7 | Callender, you'll be stationed here. Your main |
| 8 | jurisdictions, if you would like to share that | 8 | location will be in Atlantic City when -- if |
| 9 | with us, that would be great. | 9 | this merger goes through and you get promoted? |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: Sure. I think it's part | 10 | THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I live in |
| 11 | of the culture of both companies, actually, to | 11 | Brigantine. I can walk to Harrah's from there. |
| 12 | be involved in the community. And as you know, | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Okay. Well, we want to |
| 13 | I'm on the board of United Way and President of | 13 | keep you in the area. So I'll just -- want to |
| 14 | 200 Club of Atlantic/Cape May Counties. But I | 14 | get that in on the record. |
| 15 | reached out to Anthony a month after we were | 15 | THE WITNESS: The majority of my time |
| 16 | part of Eldorado and told him that Boys \& Girls | 16 | will be in Atlantic City. That's where Anthony |
| 17 | Club had a project that we thought was | 17 | wants me. And like I said, I will travel, you |
| 18 | important, and would he be willing to let us | 18 | know, once or twice a month to one of the other |
| 19 | make a donation to that? And we put a hundred | 19 | properties, which is what I've been doing in |
| 20 | thousand dollars in. So that's -- that's | 20 | Scioto. But, you know, I'm here. I'm here six |
| 21 | pretty dynamic. And he's very supportive of | 21 | days a week for the most part. |
| 22 | what we do. | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. |
| 23 | The executive team here at Tropicana sit | 23 | Also along that line, I know you're head |
| 24 | on boards of Boys \& Girl Club, South Jersey | 24 | of the Casino Association. I know you've |
| 25 | Food Bank, Atlantic/Cape Community College, | 25 | worked nonstop with the Division as well as the |
|  | 227 |  | 229 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER |
| 2 | American Red Cross. You know, we do a lot and | 2 | Commission in regards to reopening. I was at |
| 3 | we'll continue to do that. And I think how we | 3 | your property on July 2nd when we opened it. |
| 4 | sync up with Caesars and what they do, we think | 4 | It was the first property. I was there. |
| 5 | will be a project that we can get behind. | 5 | And anybody who's listening out there, |
| 6 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And I'm | 6 | the properties are clean. We're following all |
| 7 | going to -- I said Eldorado. I neglected -- I | 7 | the protocols, we worked it out with the Health |
| 8 | didn't say Caesars. But with the properties | 8 | Department, AtlantiCare, as well as the Casino |
| 9 | and the future, are you able to -- is there | 9 | Association and the Division and the |
| 10 | anything you would like to add or can add with | 10 | Commission. So I'm proud to say -- and your |
| 11 | Eldorado's involvement in their jurisdictions | 11 | leadership was very critical there -- that I |
| 12 | or community involvement. You just | 12 | think that we are providing as clean and as |
| 13 | mentioned -- | 13 | safe location in all the properties in Atlantic |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. Actually, in Scioto | 14 | City that you could get anywhere in the |
| 15 | Downs, my General Manager there sits on the | 15 | country. And I want to thank you for your |
| 16 | United Way board as well. So each one of the | 16 | leadership on that there, Mr. Callender. |
| 17 | executive directors has a role somewhere in the | 17 | THE WITNESS: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 18 | community supporting, you know, what's going | 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: And on one final note in |
| 19 | on. | 19 | regard to community involvement. As |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. | 20 | Commissioner Cooper asked you, I know Tropicana |
| 21 | And again, thank you for all that you do for | 21 | has been very active, and I know you do a lot |
| 22 | Atlantic City and the areas. Greatly | 22 | for veterans. I know you've sponsored the |
| 23 | appreciated. | 23 | Atlantic City STAND DOWN, and Tropicana last |
| 24 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. | 24 | year was honored by the American Legion, won a |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: And I'm going to | 25 | national award for that effort so. I wanted to |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |
| 2 | put that on the record that you have been there | 2 | Eldorado and have been with the company ever since. |
| 3 | for charitable organizations in the community, | 3 | So currently I've over 20 years of experience within |
| 4 | and I know that will continue under your | 4 | the gaming industry and clearly have a passion for it. |
| 5 | leadership. | 5 | Q. How long have you been the Chief |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. | 6 | Administrative and Accounting Officer? |
| 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: That's all I had. | 7 | A. So when we went in public in 2014, I |
| 8 | Does counsel have any followup? | 8 | went over to the corporate officers, corporate |
| 9 | MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further from me, |  | function, with Gary Carano and Tom Reeg. In 2000 -- |
| 10 | Mr. Chairman. | 10 | the beginning of last year, 2019, I started in the |
| 11 | MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing for the | 11 | chief accounting administrative officer position when |
| 12 | Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. | 12 | Bret Yunker came on. And expanded my role to oversee, |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Your next witness, Mr. | 13 | I'll call it the back of the house areas, including HR |
| 14 | Schrier? | 14 | and IT and accounting. |
| 15 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. I will call | 15 | Q. Okay. Yeah. I was going to ask you. |
| 16 | Stephanie Lepori. | 16 | It sounds like sort of two hats that you wear. Can |
| 17 | MS. LEPORI: Good afternoon. | 17 | you explain what your responsibilities are in the |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, could you | 18 | capacities regarding accounting and administration? |
| 19 | swear her in, please. | 19 | A. Yes. Today I over -- I'm the principal |
| 20 | STEPHANIELEPORI, having been first | 20 | accounting officer. So oversee the financial |
| 21 | duly remotely sworn, testified as follows: | 21 | reporting functions, working directly closely with the |
| 22 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for | 22 | properties, and then for external and reporting with |
| 23 | the record. | 23 | Bret. Also with our SBP -- with HR's departure |
| 24 | THE WITNESS: Stephanie Lepori. | 24 | recently pre-merger, we were on the cusp of the |
| 25 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. | 25 | Caesars transaction. I had HR under my purview with |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |  | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |
| 2 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: |  | that as well but continued to do that. In the |
| 3 | Q. Good afternoon, Miss Lepori. |  | go-forward company, I will have that same role but |
| 4 | Can you tell the Commission what your |  | Keith Causey, who is the Chief Accounting Officer for |
| 5 | current title is with Eldorado? |  | Caesars today is staying on with the company. We're |
| 6 | A. I'm the Chief Administrative and |  | going to take an approach with the business services |
| 7 | Accounting Officer for Eldorado Resorts. |  | model where there an accounting group that he will |
| 8 | Q. And can you provide some background | 8 | oversee. I'll have more the external financial |
| 9 | about your history with the company or your prior |  | reporting, budgeting side of things. So it's not the |
| 10 | employment, education history? | 10 | entire business, obviously, as everyone knows, a |
| 11 | A. Sure. Born and raised in Reno. Went to | 11 | significant role within one of the largest gaming |
| 12 | University of Southern California and graduated in |  | companies. But I think it's a great strategy as we |
| 13 | 1992 and then began my career straight out of college | 13 | have a cross-functional approach to the back of house |
| 14 | with Arthur Anderson in Las Vegas. That was, as you | 14 | support and services that we'll provide, including IT. |
| 15 | well know, when gaming was first becoming legal across | 15 | Keith will oversee IT, and that is the Caesars |
| 16 | the country, so got thrown into the fire and spent a | 16 | business services center, is what it's called today. |
| 17 | lot of time in a lot of different jurisdictions as | 17 | So he will continue to oversee that, and so we'll |
| 18 | gaming first became regulated and legal everywhere | 18 | complement each other in the those roles. |
| 19 | else outside the Reno and Las Vegas. Got my CPA | 19 | Q. Thank you. We have Slide 32 up. |
| 20 | there. | 20 | A. Yes. |
| 21 | When Silver Lake opened in 1995, which | 21 | Q. Caesars has been recognized as an |
| 22 | is a joint venture between Eldorado Resorts and Circus |  | industry leader in its social responsibility and |
| 23 | Circus and Mandalay and MGM, but at the time Circus |  | diversity programs. Would you agree with that? |
| 24 | Circus, I returned back to Reno to open the property | 24 | A. I do. And we're really excited to work |
| 25 | and started -- that was my first entrance with |  | with Jan Jones who was -- you know, did lead it and |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> was one of the founders and pioneers of one of the great programs that Caesars has today. She's staying on -- she's a current board member and staying on with the New Caesars board. We will form a board committee that she'll chair that will have governance over our corporate social responsibility and environmental ESG programs as well. I'm very excited to expand the foundation that she's built. Tom and Gary and Anthony and Bret definitely are vested and interested in building on that foundation and not just, you know, checking a box or getting good press but really living it. And many across the portfolio, both at the corporate and the property level. <br> Q. So I see a couple photographs here that you've noted. Can you explain those? <br> A. Yes. So we've -- we've got -- we're one of our day-one initiatives will be to conduct unconscious bias training. In today's environment we think diverse -- not just diversity from a gender perspective but diversity including critical, not just for -- because it's important and it's what we should do. But I think it's a good investment in the property and that by grooming and mentoring and identifying diversified leaders and talent across the | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> As far as the Planet component is the <br> environmental impact green initiatives both internally and with suppliers. <br> Then the Play component is really about having world-class venues, world-class customer service, as Anthony spoke to. And then a real focus on responsible gaming. Making sure that our advertising and marketing is appropriate. That we train our employees to identify issues and be aware. And also to have policies in place that also promote responsible gaming. <br> Q. I think if we flip to Slide 30, the concept the responsible gaming? <br> A. Uh-hum. <br> Q. And again, are those programs that you are intending to integrate between the two companies? <br> A. That's correct. We currently have responsible gaming, problem gaming strategies at Eldorado. But again, Caesars has been a pioneer in their approach. They have ambassadors identified at the properties who are both front and back of house team members who really understand what to look for and can be -- have an approach with customers in the event that there's something, either intervention or |
| ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> enterprise will benefit the company and our industry as a whole as we move forward. <br> Caesars also has some programs. They've got the People, Planet, Play. You'll see that their website. And it's really the three prongs of the initiatives that they've been very successful in building and executing. And we think there's a lot of opportunity to expand on that. <br> These are also fundamental values that <br> Eldorado has had, but has been a little more organic whereas Caesars in their culture has been strategic and really implementing it in a way that I think we will complement each other again. <br> And the People function is really about diversity. Listening to our employees, growth and development. Volunteering. Community involvement as Steve mentioned. We also are, you know -- Gary Carano came to me many times supporting and asking me to be on different boards. As Steve said, I'm currently on the -- he's on boards. I'm on the Boys \& Girls Club in Nevada. We also think that, you know, investing our community in our children is critical and our schools. And we'll partner with the university, also, who identify talent. | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> just awareness that needs to be. So we will certainly deploy that. It's -- you know, we had some restrictions on day, one but as soon as we can get in there, we will -- we have a timeline and a game plan to implement. We will have policies in day one as well and then work with responsible gaming team who is continuing to stay on with us from the Caesars program. <br> And I should reiterate in addition to <br> Jan Jones, Gwen Migita and others in the responsibility function that will be staying on with us. <br> Another item I should address is there's <br> a Caesars Care Foundation that was established during <br> COVID that we will also continue to deploy. We had a <br> version of that at Eldorado as well, but it's been <br> important as our team members have been impacted by <br> furloughs and COVID and reduced hours and those <br> things. And then also the Caesars Foundation will be <br> further expanded across the Eldorado portfolio. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> I heard the Chairman talk about <br> community involvement. Is that what the Caesars <br> Foundation does? |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> A. The Caesars Foundation doesn't identify. <br> It has resources, and it will deploy them both at the corporate level and then also at the property level. <br> As Steve mentioned and Anthony spoke to, we really want the properties to be empowered in their leadership within their communities because they know better than, you know, someone sitting in Reno or Las Vegas what the community needs are. So there's funds that are available to them as well that get allocated. <br> And then corporate fund for the initiatives such as the Food Bank, United Way, you know, some of those other initiatives that are -- are brought forward to request funds. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> You are our last witness today. And is there anything else that you would like to add? <br> A. I would. In closing, we would love to thank the Director of the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement and his staff and the Commission and its staff. As Chairman and Commissioner Cooper know, we love -- we love Atlantic City. We would love to be there. It's challenging to do those things virtually, so we appreciate the opportunity to do it amidst what we're all going through these days. | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> Q. Good afternoon, Miss Lepori. <br> A. Good afternoon. <br> Q. Related to your duties that Mr. Schrier <br> was discussing with you about HR related matters, are <br> you aware of the requirements specific to New Jersey <br> that casino licensees have to have equal employment opportunity -- business opportunity plans in effect? <br> A. I do. We went through this when we acquired Tropicana. And we -- I'm aware of the plan that we have in place. I know that Steve is a champion of it and enforcing it. I do think it's worthwhile, and I know we need to review and make sure we're consistent across the portfolio with the new assets, and we want to address that. And I think it's an opportunity to take fresh eyes and look at it, but yes, I'm aware of that. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> And that touches on my other question <br> then. So you're familiar in our report that a -- and <br> the list of conditions that we've proposed that would require that review so that you establish the consistency among all the Atlantic City licensees as to the plans for policies and procedures if the merger is approved? |
| ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> I know -- as Bret and Tom talked about, this is a very long process, and it's a very complicated transaction and unprecedented, really, in our industry. And then you throw COVID on top it. So I think we've exhibited the ability to execute in one of most challenging environments possible. And we appreciate working with you and the opportunity to still be here in front of you here today. <br> We also understand and respect the importance of these assets to the State of New Jersey and specifically Atlantic City. Our team has committed investing, not only in these assets as we've discussed, but our team members as well. And the community in which we operate. <br> So we respectfully request your approval of the transaction and welcome any other questions that you might have for me. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Miss Richardson? <br> MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. <br> CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI <br> A. Yes. I believe there is a 60 -day <br> requirement submitted to you, and we will -- we're <br> fully committed to making sure we make that deadline. <br> Q. That's correct. Thank you. <br> MS. RICHARDSON: I have no other questions. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Commissioner Cooper? <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. <br> Thank you, Miss Lepori -- I hope I'm saying that correctly -- again for participating. <br> You mentioned cross-functional and back of the house. And I'm familiar with both of those, but would you just elaborate on. You said that early on in your presentation you were working on cross-functional and back of the house. Just elaborate a little what that entails. <br> THE WITNESS: Yeah. As you know today, systems -- IT systems are such a critical function, whether it's customer facing for Caesars Rewards or if it's, you know, getting |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |
| 2 | your financials and your data out timely and | 2 | THE WITNESS: Yes. We -- there's a |
| 3 | accurately. I view those as a service that we | 3 | program called Heros that Caesars has claimed |
| 4 | provide to our internal customers, being the | 4 | and Eldorado has our own versions of it. So |
| 5 | general managers, Anthony, Tom. And so they | 5 | not only is it dollars that we give to our |
| 6 | can be the best position to really execute on | 6 | communities, but it's resources and times. So |
| 7 | their strategies and have the data and | 7 | we really support and want our team members to |
| 8 | understanding. So whether it's accounting or | 8 | be very active in the communities with their |
| 9 | IT or HR, really to support team members, I | 9 | volunteer hours. And that's throughout the -- |
| 10 | believe that there has to be a very | 10 | across the country. Like I mentioned, the |
| 11 | collaborative approach to doing that to make it | 11 | Caesars Foundation, we will continue to grow |
| 12 | efficient. And I think that's one of the | 12 | and strategically deploy that also across the |
| 13 | attributes that Eldorado brings to the table. | 13 | country, and they give significant dollars. |
| 14 | We don't work in silos. We may not all agree | 14 | And I'm sure I can get you more information on |
| 15 | every day, but at the end of the day, we all | 15 | actual dollars that are provided, but Eldorado |
| 16 | have the same goal, which is to be profitable | 16 | does the same. I'm very involved in all areas |
| 17 | and successful and take pride in the services | 17 | in giving both dollars and resources. |
| 18 | that we're providing and that we are, you know, | 18 | There's also business impact groups that |
| 19 | meeting the commitments that we make to our | 19 | has more of a diversity side of it, but whether |
| 20 | regulators in the communities we operate in. | 20 | it's veterans or women or the LB -- LGBTQ, |
| 21 | So I think if you have that efficiency and | 21 | Hispanic, African descent, there's a lot of |
| 22 | automation and a collaborative approach to | 22 | business groups that we work as well that may |
| 23 | those areas, you can further support the | 23 | not have the charitable side of it, but |
| 24 | customer facing areas, which is where we | 24 | understanding where can we be helpful in those |
| 25 | generate our tax revenues. | 25 | different segments of our community and make |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. | 2 | sure that we are active and involved in |
| 3 | And one other, I'll say, brief question. Right | 3 | listening to them, the diversified voices as |
| 4 | before you came on, I had asked Mr. Callender | 4 | well. |
| 5 | about community involvement. And we were | 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: That was great. |
| 6 | basically talking about Atlantic City as well | 6 | And as you have said it can be the charitable, |
| 7 | as the future with the merger and everything. | 7 | it can be the community. You just mentioned |
| 8 | And I asked him -- we talked about Atlantic | 8 | some other pieces. And that's very |
| 9 | City. Pretty much Atlantic City. And I said, | 9 | commendable. Thank you. |
| 10 | was he able to elaborate on anything with | 10 | That's my -- thank you again. |
| 11 | Eldorado's community involvement? And I know | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 12 | just now you started to talk about different | 12 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you again, |
| 13 | projects and involvement with Eldorado. And | 13 | Mr. Chairman. |
| 14 | I'm very happy to hear that, whether it's | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner |
| 15 | Atlantic City, Las Vegas, wherever. I just | 15 | Cooper. |
| 16 | love when an agency a casino, whatever, is | 16 | Miss Lepori, you're stationed in Reno or |
| 17 | involved in the community. And now more than | 17 | where are you headquartered? |
| 18 | ever with the COVID and coronavirus. | 18 | THE WITNESS: I'm in Reno. But |
| 19 | With that being said, is there any -- | 19 | pre-COVID I felt like I lived in Las Vegas. So |
| 20 | maybe you started to talk about it, but is | 20 | we will spend the majority of my time down |
| 21 | there anything additional that you would like | 21 | there, but based in Reno. |
| 22 | to add with -- you know, with Eldorado's | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: And how much time would |
| 23 | involvement in the community and -- and I was | 23 | you be spending in Atlantic City if the merger |
| 24 | going to say with the community, not Atlantic | 24 | goes through? |
| 25 | City, but in other jurisdictions. | 25 | THE WITNESS: Steve knows this is one of |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI |
| 2 | the my favorite places to come to, and I got | 2 | Caesars and Eldorado did take advantage of |
| 3 | the opportunity to meet with Chairman Cooper -- | 3 | that. |
| 4 | and speak -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Cooper to | 4 | We have committed, as Tom said early on, |
| 5 | speak at an engagement. And I typically would | 5 | to honor benefits through August 31st for those |
| 6 | get out there about once a quarter or, you | 6 | that are not furloughed. So that tax credit |
| 7 | know, two to three times a year I would make it | 7 | will carry through that period. It's -- and |
| 8 | out to Atlantic City. Depending on -- you | 8 | then there's a FICA deferral that Bret |
| 9 | know, the integration kind of slowed some of | 9 | mentioned. So we are both deferring our -- the |
| 10 | our -- integration activity slowed down a | 10 | FICA credit or the social security taxes that |
| 11 | little bit. But now even more reason, having | 11 | you have to pay through December 31st of this |
| 12 | more properties located there, I think all of | 12 | year. And then they are allowing you to pay |
| 13 | our philosophy, like Anthony alluded to is, you | 13 | half of it as of 12-31-21 and then half |
| 14 | know, where you take a very hands-on approach. | 14 | 12-31-22. So that's really more of a deferral |
| 15 | And I think you need to know and see your | 15 | of payment versus a true credit. |
| 16 | assets and your team members and have a | 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. You answered |
| 17 | presence and be accessible. And while we have | 17 | my question there. |
| 18 | to do this virtually right now, I think | 18 | Counsel? Counselors, do you have any |
| 19 | face-to-face is the most meaningful way to do | 19 | other followups? |
| 20 | that. | 20 | MR. SCHRIER: I have nothing. Thank |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 21 | you, Chairman. |
| 22 | That's all I have. | 22 | MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing for me, |
| 23 | Counsels, do you have any further | 23 | Chairman. Thank you. |
| 24 | questions? | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: I didn't hear that | 25 | Well, on that note, we will adjourn now |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI | 1 |  |
| 2 | question. The witness that can answer any | 2 | and then -- pardon me? |
| 3 | questions. | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Recess. |
| 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Oh, excellent. | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Recess. I'm sorry. We |
| 5 | Excellent. | 5 | will recess now and come back tomorrow morning |
| 6 | Yes. There was one followup in regards | 6 | at 10--10 a.m. And our first witness |
| 7 | to Miss Lepori. | 7 | tomorrow morning will be Dr. Timothy Watts. |
| 8 | Did Caesars or Eldorado utilize the Care | 8 | So everybody have a good evening, and |
| 9 | Act provision? | 9 | I'll see everybody tomorrow at 10:00. Thank |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: We didn't -- as Bret said, | 10 | you. |
| 11 | so we did not utilize any loans. But we did | 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: We'll have the -- the |
| 12 | take advantage of -- not take advantage. We | 12 | Zoom will be life by 9:30 but we have -- of |
| 13 | utilized the retention credits. So both | 13 | course, we won't begin until 10. |
| 14 | Caesars and Eldorado -- and I can speak more to | 14 | MR. SCHRIER: Okay. Same dial in; |
| 15 | what Eldorado has done, but Caesars was very | 15 | right? Same info? |
| 16 | similar. We paid our employees after we were | 16 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Same info. |
| 17 | shut down, but before we were shut down because | 17 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. |
| 18 | business levels dropped off the cliff. So we | 18 | Long day. Appreciate it. |
| 19 | paid our employees the eight-week average of | 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. |
| 20 | what they were making pre-COVID including tips | 20 | (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was recessed at |
| 21 | and tokes. So the cares Act allowed for a | 21 | 4:26 p.m.) |
| 22 | retention tax credit, it's called, whereby you | 22 |  |
| 23 | can take a credit for the amount of payroll and | 23 |  |
| 24 | benefits that you paid to your team members | 24 |  |
| 25 | that they were not working. And both -- both | 25 |  |


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| 2 CERTIFICATE |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 I, M. DARLENE ENGEL, a Certified Court |  |
| Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, |  |
| certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate |  |
| transcript of the proceedings via remote technology. |  |
| I further certify that I am neither |  |
| attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed |  |
| 10 by any of the parties to the action; further that I am |  |
| 11 not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel |  |
| 12 employed in this case; nor am I financially interested |  |
| 13 in the action. |  |
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| 17 Doulere Engel |  |
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| 23 My Notary Commission Expires |  |
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Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

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2 B E F O R E :
3 CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

1
2 A P P E A R A N C E S :

ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ. FOR: CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION, CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC, CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC., AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.

BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK PAUL M. O'GARA, ESQ.
FOR: CO-PETITIONERS, CAESARS

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

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CONTINUED AGENDA PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15 JULY 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

PAGE VOTE
CONTINUED
14 Joint petition of Caesars Entertainment 7 Corporation, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, Caesars Interactive
Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger Sub, Inc., for approval of: (I) The merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., and (II) The qualification of the New Entity and Natural Person Qualifiers and (III) other declaratory relief pursuant to NJSA 5:12-2, et seq. (PRN 2481902)

Dr. Timothy Watts, sworn 7
Dr. Martin K. Perry, sworn 67

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

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ITEM NO. 14
PETITIONER EXHIBITS
DESCRIPTION
EVD

Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic
City Casino Operations: First
Amendment to Analysis of September 6, 2019

New Jersey Casino Control Commission Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy Watts, PhD

Slide Deck Presentation X
Trust Agreement between Eldorado X Resorts, Inc., a Nevada Corporation (to be renamed Caesars Entertainment, Inc., and converted to a Delaware Limited Liability Company), Caesars Resort Collection, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company and John J. Farmer, Jr., as Trustee (Redacted)

| 6 | 8 |
| :---: | :---: |
| ITEM NO. 14 <br> DIVISION EXHIBITS <br> NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD <br> D-1 Report to the Casino Control Commission X on the Petition of Caesars Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, LLC, Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, Bally's Park Place, <br> 8 LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt <br> Merger, Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN 2481902 <br> (Redacted) <br> D-2 Dr. Martin K. Perry's May 2020 Report on Undue Economic Concentration Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey <br> D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission <br> D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement Recommended Conditions | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Economic Research Associates or NERA for short. <br> Q. And what is NERA? <br> A. NERA is a firm of economists that <br> conduct research on a range of areas, including <br> competition economics, regulatory economics, financial economics, and other areas. <br> Q. What is your role at NERA? <br> A. I'm a managing director and a partner at <br> NERA where I've worked for 12 years. At NERA I <br> conduct economic research in the field of antitrust <br> and economics. And in particular my work at NERA is <br> focused on the evaluating the competitive effects of <br> mergers and acquisitions, I regularly present the <br> results of my research to business leaders and <br> government agencies, including competition authorities. <br> Q. Can you summarize your education for the Commission? <br> A. Sure. I received a bachelor's degree in economics from Vanderbilt University and a PhD in economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And while I was a student at MIT, I also taught courses in microeconomics. <br> Q. You are here today for a hearing |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was reconvened at 10:00 a.m. via remote technology.) <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. We'll continue testimony here. <br> Mr. Schrier, your next witness, please. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Good morning, Chairman, <br> Commissioner Cooper, happy Thursday to you. <br> My next witness is Timothy Watts. <br> MR. WATTS: Hello. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Mr. Watts -- Mr. Nance, could you swear <br> in Mr. Watts, please. <br> TIMOTHY WATTS, PhD, having been first <br> duly sworn remotely, testified as follows: <br> MR. NANCE: Please state your name for the record. <br> THE WITNESS: My name is Timothy Watts. <br> MR. NANCE: Thank you. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Please proceed. <br> EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: <br> Q. Dr. Watts, can you describe your current occupation, please? <br> A. Sure. I'm an economist with National | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> regarding a merger in the gaming industry. Have you had any experience with mergers in the gaming industry? <br> A. Yes. I've studied competitive effects of several mergers in the gaming industry. So in 2013 <br> I worked as a consultant to the Federal Trade <br> Commission to assess the competitive effects of <br> Pinnacle Entertainment's acquisition of Ameristar <br> Casinos. In 2017 and 2018, I was engaged by Penn <br> National Gaming to assess the competitive acquisition <br> of Pinnacle. Later in 2018, I was engaged by Penn for <br> two additional transactions. So first it's <br> acquisition of the Greektown Casino in Detroit, and <br> second, its acquisition of Margaritaville Casino in <br> Bossier City, Louisiana. And last year I was engaged <br> by Eldorado to assess the competitive effects of its merger with Caesars Entertainment. And that engagement included assessing competitive effects in Atlantic City as well as several other areas around the US. <br> Q. So you actually have experience working on behalf of the Federal Trade Commission in assessing a major casino merger? <br> A. That's correct. |


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| 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 Q. So you just noted your engagement with | A. Yes. So the Commission has considered |
| 3 Eldorado. Have you researched the competitive effects | 3 undue economic concentration in its review of the |
| 4 of this merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic | 4 Harrah's/Caesars merger in 2005 and its review of the |
| 5 City? | 5 Trump Taj Mahal restructuring in 2015. And I |
| 6 A. Yes, I have. And I've prepared two | 6 considered the Commission's decisions and the evidence |
| 7 reports summarizing my research on this topic. My | 7 that was presented to the Commission in those |
| 8 first report was submitted in September of last year, | 8 proceedings as part of my research. |
| 9 and my second report was submitted in May of this | 9 Q. In your opinion has there been any |
| 10 year. | 10 significant changes affecting casino gaming in |
| 11 Q. Can you tell us what your instructions | 11 Atlantic City since those precedents occurred? |
| 12 were in preparation of these reports? | 12 A. Yes. There have. Since 2005 there have |
| 13 A. Sure. I was asked to conduct an | 13 been -- first, you know, major changes to casino |
| 14 economic analysis to determine whether the merger of | 14 gaming regulations in many states. Those regulatory |
| 15 Eldorado and Caesars would result in undue economic | 15 changes have allowed new casinos to enter an area |
| 16 concentration in the Atlantic City casino industry as | 16 served by Atlantic City. Those include the |
| 17 defined in New Jerseys Casino Control Act. | 17 Philadelphia area, Eastern Pennsylvania. Eastern |
| 18 For this analysis I considered the | 18 Maryland and the New York City area. And this can be |
| 19 criteria that are explicitly laid out in the Act, and | 19 seen on -- there's a map, I think on Page 1 of my |
| 20 I also considered the criteria horizon merger | 20 slides, that shows current casino landscape in |
| 21 guidelines. The guidelines described the framework | 21 Atlantic City and the surrounding states. |
| 22 used by the US Department of Justice and the US | 22 Aside from expansion of gaming in |
| 23 Federal Trade Commission to determine whether a | 23 several states, there have also been casino industry |
| 24 horizontal merger based on less competition. | 24 exit and events in Atlantic City. So most recently in |
| 25 Q. And for the Commissioners, can you tell | 25 2018, the Hard Rock Casino and the Ocean Casino opened |
| 11 | 13 |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 us what a horizontal merger is? | 2 in locations that were formerly occupied by the Trump |
| 3 A. Sure. A horizontal merger is a merger | 3 Taj Mahal and the Revel. |
| 4 between companies that are actually competitors or | 4 Q. What factors did you consider when |
| 5 potential competitors in a given line of business and | 5 deciding whether the proposed merger would result in |
| 6 geographic area. So the merger between Eldorado and | 6 undue economic concentration? |
| 7 Caesars would be a horizon merger because they both | 7 A. So I considered the 11 factors that are |
| 8 compete in the gaming industry in Atlantic City and in | 8 laid out in the Casino Control Act. Page 2 of my |
| 9 other areas. | 9 slides, which you can see there, summarizes these |
| 10 Q. What information did you use to prepare | 10 factors at least in paraphrase form. The first three |
| 11 these reports? | 11 of these factors involved shares within the Atlantic |
| 12 A. I used a number of sources. So I used | 12 City casino gaming industry, and the remaining factors |
| 13 public reports prepared by the New Jersey Division of | 13 have to do with other types of evidence such as |
| 14 Gaming Enforcement, reports from the New Jersey Casino | 14 industry conditions. |
| 15 Control Commission, reports from other state gaming | 15 Q. What were your findings on the criteria |
| 16 regulators, and public information on the gaming | 16 related to things like shares and economic |
| 17 industry from a number of other sources. I also used | 17 concentration? |
| 18 data on theoretical win by ZIP Code from Eldorado and | 18 A. So if you look at Slide 3 in my -- my |
| 19 Caesars, and as well as some business documents that | 19 slides, that shows the first table from my September |
| 20 were prepared by Eldorado and Caesars. | 20 report. And I see that there's a lot of numbers |
| 21 Q. You're aware that the New Jersey Casino | 21 there. So what this is showing is, it's showing |
| 22 Control Commission has considered horizon mergers in | 22 Caesars post-merger share for each of the 11 |
| 23 the past. Did you consider any of the precedents from | 23 categories. So there's 11 specific metrics that are |
| 24 the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in your | 24 specified in the Casino Control Act that should be |
| 25 evaluation? | 25 used to measure shares. And it also reports a member |


| 14 |  |
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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> of concentration called the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index <br> or HHI. So if we look across the 11 categories on <br> average, and you can see this at the bottom of the <br> table, Caesars post-merger share is 42.3 percent, and <br> the average post-merger HHI is 2594 . And I should <br> point out that it says on the left as part of the <br> slide here, these statistics don't account for Caesars <br> announced sale of Bally's. <br> Q. These are statistics that you prepared <br> in your first report that did not include in the <br> Bally's Casino that we talked about. <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. So how do these shares and concentration <br> levels compare to the levels that have prevailed in <br> Atlantic City in the past? <br> A. So, if we look at Slide 4, which shows <br> what was Figure 3 in my September report, this slide <br> compares the concentration levels that would result <br> from the merger between Eldorado and Caesars to three <br> benchmarks from Atlantic City history. <br> So if we look at the first pair of bars <br> on the left, that shows the HHI which is in blue and <br> the share for Caesars, that's the orange part. And <br> the pair of bars on the left, that shows the | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> blue and Caesars share in orange that would result from the merger, but they are lower than they were on the previous slide because this now accounts for Bally's being sold to another competitor. And we compare that to the same three benchmarks as we see before. We see that both the HHI and the Caesars share that would result from the merger after the sale of Bally's would be lower than all three of the benchmarks on the right. <br> Q. And just for me as a layperson, what <br> does lower mean? Does that mean less of an issue of economic dominance? <br> A. Yeah. So -- so lower means -- there's two ways of thinking about it. So lower HHI -- HHI is a measure of concentration. The higher is the HHI, the more concentrated is the industry. So having a lower HHI means that it would be less concentrated. <br> And the share is simply, you know, <br> looking at Caesars' share of the casino industry at this point is based on an average of different metrics. But it just means that Caesars would be a smaller part of the casino industry in Atlantic City that has been, you know, in these past benchmarks that I'm using, measured a number of different ways. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> concentration of that would result from this proposed merger that we're talking about today. <br> The second pair of bars shows the HHI <br> and the share of Caesars as of 2017, which was before the recent entry of Hard Rock and Ocean Casino. <br> The third pair of bars shows the same <br> concentration statistics that resulted after the Taj <br> Mahal restructuring. <br> And then the last pair of bars on the <br> right shows the concentration statistics that resulted from the Harrah's/Caesars merger. <br> And so if we look across the chart, we <br> can compare the concentration levels that would result <br> from this merger. And again that's before considering <br> the sale of Bally's to these three different <br> benchmarks. So we see that the HHI from this merger would be lower than two of the three benchmarks that I'm looking at. While the share of Caesars, which is in orange, would be somewhat higher than the share that Caesars has had in the past. <br> And if we do take into account the proposed sale of Bally's, which I could on Slide 5 -and Slide 5 is Figure 1 for my May report. So what we see here in on the left, again I'm showing the HHI in | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Q. When you say "Caesars," just to be clear <br> you're talking about what we've been calling New <br> Caesars which is the combined company? <br> A. Yes. That's correct. I'm talking about the same thing as New Caesars. <br> Q. What relationship, if any, have <br> concentration levels in Atlantic City had to price measures? <br> A. So in my report I looked at two measures of prices, and I found the concentration levels in Atlantic City is measured by this HHI statistic that we've been talking about, haven't had a reliable or an economically meaningful relationship with either of the price measures that I looked at. <br> Q. So, and what do we mean when you talk about prices in the casino industry? What are you referring to? <br> A. So I -- I use two specific measures. <br> The first price measure that I use is the slot hold rate which equals the amount of money the casinos win per slot machines as a percentage of the amount of the money that patrons wager on a slot machine. So the hold rate is a measure of the price that players paid for slots gaming because it tells us, on average, how |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> much a player would be expected to lose on a given wager before factoring in promotions. <br> And the second price measure that I look <br> at is called the promotional rate, which equals <br> promotional expenses and allowances as measured as a <br> total of casino wagers. The promotions include things <br> like free play and room comps, food and beverage <br> comps, other things like that. And all of these <br> things act as discounts to players because they <br> partially offset the house advantage on casino gaming. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> So I think you said before I asked you <br> that question about what prices were that you didn't <br> see a reliable or meaningful relationship with the <br> price measure. So what do you conclude from the lack <br> of an observed relationship on your part of price measures? <br> A. So I conclude that the price levels in <br> Atlantic City are being determined by other factors <br> than the -- than the concentration level within Atlantic City. <br> Q. And how about the share criteria that you were talking about? What do you conclude regarding that? | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> organizational structure of the licensee casinos, the growth and development of Atlantic City, barriers to <br> entry, impact on consumer interest, and whether the license should be subject to any restrictions. <br> Q. And you said that was summarized where? <br> A. On Page 2 of my slides. Sorry. I guess <br> it's a little bit out of order. You have to go <br> backwards. <br> Q. Hang on one second. I'm just pulling <br> that up. <br> What conclusion did you draw regarding <br> the other criteria that you just mentioned? <br> A. So I concluded that the other criteria <br> don't indicate that the merger would result in undue <br> economic concentration. <br> Q. So aside from the statutory provisions <br> in Section 82 b of the Casino Control Act regarding <br> undue economic concentration, did you consider any other criteria? <br> A. Yes. I considered the framework <br> described in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines. <br> Q. Why did you use the Horizontal Merger Guidelines? <br> 25 A. So first, you know, the guidelines |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> A. So my conclusion on the share criteria, which are the first three of the 11 criteria according to the Act, is that the merger wouldn't result in undue economic concentration. <br> Q. Why not? <br> A. So really two reasons. First, you know, <br> as I showed in the bar charts that we looked at, the level of concentration based on the share criteria is in line with the levels of concentration that have resulted from previous license transfers that have been approved by the Commission. <br> And, second, because my analysis of the <br> recent history of Atlantic City did not show a <br> reliable or economically meaningful relationship <br> between concentration and price levels, I don't expect <br> that this merger would result in higher hold rates or lower promotional rates. <br> Q. Did you consider any other criteria besides the Casino Control Act criteria? <br> A. I did. I considered each of the other <br> criteria that are listed in the Casino Control Act. <br> And again, those are summaries on Page 2 of my slides. <br> Those other criteria include financial condition of the casino industry, current market conditions, the | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> framework is widely applied to assess competitive impacts of mergers. It's used by the Department of <br> Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, as well as by federal judges. <br> Second, the Casino Control Commission <br> has also considered the guidelines' framework to be <br> helpful until previous decisions regarding undue <br> economic concentration. <br> Q. So the Commission in prior decisions has <br> reviewed, in addition to this section of the statute <br> that we talked about, the Horizontal Merger Guidelines <br> that the FTC and the DOJ use? <br> A. Yes. Some of the prior decisions that I <br> discussed referred to the Horizontal Merger <br> Guidelines -- and, you know, concepts from the <br> Horizontal Merger Guidelines such as the <br> Herfindahl-Hirschman Index that I discussed. <br> Q. And what a the Horizontal Merger <br> Guideline framework? What is that? <br> A. So it's really a framework that <br> describes how to assess competitive effects of a <br> merger. And it has a number of steps of, first, how <br> to identify what's called a relevant antitrust market that can be affected by a horizontal merger. Second, |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> how to measure concentration within those markets. <br> And, third, how to evaluate the potential competitive <br> effects within those markets based on concentration levels and other factors. <br> Q. How are the relevant antitrust markets defined according to the Horizontal Merger Guidelines framework that you're talking about? <br> A. So, in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines, the relevant antitrust markets are defined by a concept that's called the hypothetical monopolist test. According to this test, any market in which it would be profitable for a monopolist to impose what is called a small but significant and nontransitory increase in price -- it's also called a SSNIP for short. Any -- any market in which it would be profitable for a monopolist to impose a SSNIP is a relevant antitrust market. In applying the hypothetical monopolist test, a SSNIP is typically considered to be a five percent increase in price that lasts for at least one year. <br> Q. And just again, for my education, a monopolist would be who? <br> A. So in the hypothetical monopolist test if we were applying it, for example, to, you know, | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> in demand away from Atlantic City to other options in order to conclude that the market is broader than Atlantic City. <br> Second, if we look at where the <br> customers of Atlantic City casinos are coming from, we see that nearly 90 percent of the rated theoretic win from the party casinos come from players who live closer to an casino that's outside of Atlantic City to Atlantic City. And so what that means is that there are a lot of players who are, you know, pretty well positioned to have good alternatives, and it wouldn't take very many of those players to switch away from Atlantic City in response to a price increase for Atlantic City to be considered not to be a relevant market. <br> Third, I talked about this earlier, the <br> recent expansion of gaming in Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland has significantly reduced the gaming revenues in Atlantic City. And that shows that there's competitive between Atlantic City and the casinos in these surrounding states. <br> Fourth, as I've mentioned earlier, <br> there's not an economically meaningful or consistent relationship between concentration and price measures. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Atlantic City and trying to determine, is Atlantic City a relevant antitrust market? A hypothetical monopolist would be a single supplier that controlled, you know, all current and future casino operations in Atlantic City. <br> Q. And did you draw any conclusions about the relevant antitrust market regarding the Atlantic City casinos? <br> A. Yes. I concluded that Atlantic City's casinos compete in a relevant antitrust market that's broader geographically in Atlantic City and includes competitors in nearby states. <br> And, yeah. I think we're showing <br> Slide -- Slide 6 from my -- from my slides which <br> summarizes a number of pieces of evidence that I used for this conclusion. <br> So first, I was talking about the <br> hypothetical monopolist test earlier. By applying <br> that test to the Atlantic City casino industry, we can <br> see that only a relatively small demand response would be needed for Atlantic City to fail the hypothetical monopolist test, and thus to conclude that the market is broader than Atlantic City. So another way of saying this is, there wouldn't have to be a huge shift | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> So over -- you know, the recent -- recent years in Atlantic City, there have been major changes in concentration levels as measured by the HHI. And those major changes haven't resulted in lower promotional rates or higher slot hold rates. <br> And final, if we look at the recent <br> entry of Hard Rock and Ocean Casino, we can see that <br> that spurred increase promotional activity in Atlantic <br> City. And we can actually use that as a way to <br> conduct the hypothetical monopolist test. So I <br> measured the strength of the response of demand to this change of promotion. And the response and demand was great enough to imply that it wouldn't be profitable for a hypothetical monopolist of Atlantic City casinos to impose the small but significant and nontransitory increase in price that I mentioned earlier. So in other words, the demand response was large enough for me to conclude that the relevant market is broader than Atlantic City. <br> Q. You mentioned that major changes in concentration levels in Atlantic City have not resulted in lower promotion rates or higher slot hold rates. Why would or wouldn't they? <br> A. So if we think about the economic theory |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> of competition, that would generally predict that if a relevant market that has high level of concentration, it would have higher prices than a relevant market that has lower levels of concentration. So if Atlantic City were a relevant market, what we would expect to see is the major concentration -- major changes in concentration in Atlantic City would effect the promotional rates or the hold rates in Atlantic City. <br> On the other hand, if the relevant <br> market is broader than Atlantic City, then major changes in concentration within Atlantic City may not affect promotional rates or hold rates. And that's because even a major change in concentration in Atlantic City may have little or no effect on the overall level of competitive in the broader market. <br> Q. So what did you conclude about <br> concentration levels within the relevant antitrust market? <br> A. So on average I found that concentration <br> levels in two potential geographic markets that are broader than Atlantic City fall into the range that's described by the Horizontal Merger Guidelines as unconcentrated. | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> benefit players by allowing both Eldorado and Caesars customers to use their rewards status and benefits at a larger network of casinos. <br> Q. So we talked about the reports that you <br> completed and have submitted to the Commission which have been marked in evidence as $\mathrm{P}-1$ and $\mathrm{P}-2$. What was your conclusion in your report from September of 2019? <br> A. So the overall conclusion of my <br> September report was that the merger would not result in undue economic concentration. <br> Q. And that was pursuant to the Casino Control Act criteria? <br> A. That's correct. As defined in the Casino Control Act. <br> Q. And you mention that you also prepared a second report which we've marked as P-2; correct? <br> A. Yes. I submitted a followup to my first report in May of this year. <br> Q. What was the purpose of preparing your second report? <br> A. In April Caesars announced that it was going to sell its Bally's Atlantic City Casino to Twin River. So in order to account for this proposed sale, my second report updated the shares and the other |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Q. What does that mean, "unconcentrated"? <br> A. I think you could think of <br> unconcentrated as a synonym for, you know, competitive. So in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines essentially there's a safe harbor that says if you -if you define a relevant market for -- in which to assess a merger and you measure the concentration that results from that merger, and it ends up in the unconcentrated range, then that's not a merger that's likely to result in competitive effects. <br> Q. So does that allow you to draw any conclusion about the competitive effects within the relevant market that you're talking about? <br> A. It does. So I concluded that the merger would not result in substantial anticompetitive effects within the relevant antitrust market. <br> Q. Did you consider any pro competitive effects from this merger? <br> A. Yes. In my evaluation of the public interest criterion from the Casino Control Act, I considered potential pro competitive effects. The primary potential pro competitive effects is the integration of Eldorado's and Caesars casino networks and their player rewards program. So this would | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> concentration statistics that I used in my first report. <br> Q. Once you heard about the Bally's <br> agreement being signed, you went back and sort of recalculated. Is that a fair way to say it? <br> A. That's -- that's right. Because, you <br> know, the Bally's sale effects a number of the <br> statistics that would be considered. So it affects the share that Caesars would have after the merger. <br> It affects the, you know, number of -- number of casino operator that there would be after the merger. <br> It affects the HHI level. And so in order to evaluate the undue economic concentration question, in light of the Bally's share, it's important to understand what those levels would be once Bally's is sold. <br> Q. Did your second report reach a different conclusion than your first report? <br> A. No. So the proposed sale of Bally's actually reinforces the conclusion of the first report. The sale would result in lower post-merger shares for Caesars, a lower post-merger HHI , and a higher number of post-merger competitors in Atlantic City compared to the measures I used in my first report. |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Q. Is it your opinion that the sale of <br> Bally's will improve the competitive environment in Atlantic City? <br> A. Yes. Compared to a merger with no sale of Bally's, the sale reduces the number of casinos that would be controlled by Caesars post merger, and it increases the number of independent competitors in Atlantic City. <br> Q. Did the FTC conduct an investigation of this proposed merger? <br> A. Yes. The FTC conducted a merger review process in accordance with what's called the <br> Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. And the purpose of this review process is to determine whether a proposed merger would result in competitive harm. <br> Q. And what does the F -- I guess you told us earlier that you've actually been a consultant to the FTC on these kinds of mergers. But what does the FTC do, or how do they investigate a merger that would relate to Atlantic City like this? <br> A. So, you know, in general, the FTC will collect, you know, data and documents from the merging parties. They'll review that. They'll do their own <br> 25 research is the competitive environments. So they | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> also made a presentation to the FTC in December of <br> last year to describe some additional research that I <br> conducted using the parties' player databases, and <br> several members of the Division of Gaming Enforcement <br> attended that presentation. And I also conducted some <br> additional research on some specific questions that <br> the FTC raised about Atlantic City. <br> Q. So you said that members of the Division <br> of Gaming Enforcement attended the presentation to the <br> FTC that you made? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And to your knowledge, is the FTC -- or <br> was the FTC -- in communication with the Division of <br> Gaming Enforcement on a regular basis? <br> A. So to my understanding, is that the FTC <br> was sharing essentially, you know, all of the <br> materials that it received from the merging parties <br> and that it received from, you know, people like me <br> with -- with the Division. <br> Q. Okay. And what was the outcome? Sorry. What were the outcomes of the FTC's <br> investigation? <br> A. So the FTC required the parties to <br> divest casinos in the Lake Tahoe area and the Bossier |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> would, you know, get data from New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement and from other places. They would typically you know, interview competitors. They might interview business people. They might do, you know, their own economic analysis, you know, along the lines of the economic analysis that I've described. So there's a number of things that they might do. <br> In particular for this merger, they <br> conducted a lengthy investigation. The investigation, <br> you know, as it related to Atlantic City lasted for <br> several months. And as part of that investigation the <br> FTC reviewed numerous nonpublic business documents <br> that it received from the parties. It also received <br> detailed data on the parties Atlantic City properties, <br> including the properties' player databases. And the <br> FTC also conducted interviews with business people involved in the operation of the parties, the Atlantic City properties. <br> Q. And how about on your end? Did you present any research or evidence to the FTC relating to this? <br> A. I did. So the September report that I <br> prepared and that was submitted to the Casino Control <br> Commission, that was also submitted to the FTC. I | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> City, Shreveport area. And they also required a <br> condition that's related to a previously announced <br> sale of a casino in the Kansas City area. But I guess <br> most importantly for this proceeding, the FTC did not require any conditions related to Atlantic City. <br> Q. So not only no divestitures, but no conditions. <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And what does what does that outcome <br> imply about the FTC's findings regarding the Atlantic City market? <br> A. So the outcome implies that the FTC <br> concluded the transaction would not substantially reduce competition in the Atlantic City area. <br> Q. Since you've prepared your second report, have you conducted any additional research? <br> A. So I haven't conducted additional <br> research, per se. I've reviewed some additional materials. So that would include Professor Perry's report and the Division of Gaming Enforcement's report, as well as the materials that describe the FTC's decision and, you know, just followed industry news in general. <br> Q. Have you reviewed the conditions that |



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| 2 undue economic concentration in Atlantic City casino | 2 | Chairman. |
| 3 operations by that person. For the purpose of this | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 4 subsection, undue economic concentration means that a | 4 | Ms. Richardson? Your witness. |
| 5 person would have such actual or potential domination | 5 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 6 of the casino gaming market in Atlantic City as to | 6 | Good morning, Chairman Plousis and |
| 7 substantially impede or suppress competition among | 7 | Commissioner Cooper, and good morning Dr. |
| 8 casino licensees or adversely impact the economic | 8 | Watts. |
| 9 stability of the casino industry in Atlantic City. | 9 | THE WITNESS: Good morning. |
| 10 Do you have a conclusion regarding that? | 10 | CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: |
| 11 A. Yes. My conclusion is that the merger | 11 | Q. You mentioned in some of the post-report |
| 12 would not result in undue economic concentration as |  | items that you looked at and did additional review of |
| 13 defined in the Act according to the language that you |  | that you evaluated the potential impact of COVID-19. |
| 14 just read. | 14 | What specifically did you do there? |
| 15 Q. And I think you said it earlier, but | 15 | A. Sure. So I haven't done a specific |
| 16 looking at the broader market, in addition to the |  | evaluation. I think the question was whether I had |
| 17 criteria set forth in the Casino Control Act, what's |  | considered it? So I -- you know, I have considered |
| 18 your conclusion overall regarding the broader market? |  | it. I think there's -- you know, right now there's |
| 19 A. Yeah. So regarding the broader market, |  | not a lot of data available to do an analysis. For |
| 20 my conclusion is that the proposed merger would not |  | example, you know, the second quarter financial report |
| 21 substantially reduce competition in the relevant |  | from the DGE, you know, isn't available now, and I |
| 22 market that includes Atlantic City. | 22 | don't think it will be available for another month. |
| 23 Q. Dr. Watts, the two reports you prepared | 23 | Q. And you also discussed that the FTC has |
| 24 were prepared before you were aware of any of the | 24 | approved the merger; is that correct? |
| 25 commitments or the conditions that New Caesars has now | 25 | A. That's correct. |
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| 2 made and agreed to regarding the fostering of | 2 | Q. And while they did vote in favor of it, |
| 3 competition that you talked about previously; correct? | 3 | that wasn't a unanimous decision. Are you aware of |
| 4 A. That -- that's correct. |  |  |
| 5 Q. And these are the conditions regarding | 5 | A. That's correct. There was one |
| 6 the removal of deed restrictions, that New Caesars | 6 | commissioner that wrote a dissent in that decision. |
| 7 won't permit any new deed restrictions to be held or | 7 | Q. And looking at your slides on this, the |
| 8 attached, and they've agreed not to block development |  | information is also included in your report, your |
| 9 or expansions of new casino projects. None of that |  | initial report, you noted that the overall HHI for |
| 10 was considered in your evaluation; correct? |  | 2017 was higher than the HHI was here after the merger |
| 11 A. That's right. |  | if it's approved; is that correct? |
| 12 Q. Now that you're aware of those | 12 | A. That's correct. |
| 13 conditions, how does that, if it does, change your | 13 | Q. And in 2017, you're aware that the |
| 14 view regarding the effect of this merger on Atlantic |  | number of casinos was seven, and that was a result of |
| 15 City? | 15 | four casino closures in 2014 and one in 2017? |
| 16 A. So, it doesn't change the bottom-line | 16 | A. Yes. That -- those -- those dates and |
| 17 conclusion of my reports that the merger would not | 17 | number of closures sound -- sound correct to me. |
| 18 result in undue economic concentration. But I do | 18 | Q. Are you aware that in 2014, then the |
| 19 think that these conditions can be viewed as an |  | Atlantic Club, Revel as it originally was, Plaza and |
| 20 additional pro competitive benefit of the merger | 20 | Showboat shut down? |
| 21 because they would create more opportunities for entry | 21 | A. Yes. I'm aware of that. |
| 22 or they would reduce costs for certain existing | 22 | Q. And then in 2017, Taj Mahal closed? |
| 23 opportunities for entry or expansion. | 23 | A. Yes. |
| 24 Q. Thank you. | 24 | Q. So the overall statistics for 2017 were |
| 25 MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have, |  | not the result of any mergers or other transactions |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> through which the Commission addressed by request of approval for a merger as is the case today? <br> A. That's right. So 2017 statistics aren't <br> meant to be something of -- you know, a decision resulting from the Commission. But I think they are a useful benchmark to look at because, you know, one of the other things that I talked about is, we looked over the recent history of Atlantic City. There's been a number of changes in concentration such as the ones that you just talked about of closing of casinos and others that resulted -- <br> Q. And you also noted -- <br> A. Oh, go ahead. <br> Q. I'm sorry. I think your video was <br> delayed there. Did you have something else to say? <br> A. Yeah. So I was just saying that there's <br> been a number of changes. And throughout the -- you know, throughout the recent period, I haven't seen a relationship between those changes in HHI and different price measures. And so if we look at 2017 and the market is operating competitively in 2017, it seems that's a good benchmark to consider in evaluating this merger now. | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Q. And you've discussed your consideration <br> of the overall geographic market being warranted as considered larger than Atlantic City; is that correct? <br> A. That's right. <br> Q. And with Atlantic City being the only <br> gaming spot in New Jersey, doesn't that not present a unique market in of itself? <br> A. So -- so not necessarily. You know, the boundaries of an antitrust market don't necessarily conform to, you know, state boundaries or county boundaries. You know, one of the important facts in my consideration was looking at the players who played in Atlantic City and where they come from. And I think there's a table in my first report that shows that only five percent of the rated theoretical win for Atlantic City casinos is coming from players that actually live in the Atlantic City metropolitan area. <br> So that means, you know, the balance is coming from players outside of that area. And, you know, the largest sources of players for the Atlantic City casinos are the New York City area and the Philadelphia area. <br> Q. And the statutory factors that you've addressed summarized on the slide here, No. 2, the 11 |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> that the overall HHI for 2015 after the Icahn group <br> acquired Taj Mahal and then therefore became a <br> two-facility operator, was higher also than the HHI <br> which would be encountered if this merger is approved; is that correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And in that case, it was a transaction <br> seeking to allow a single operator to move to two operations while at the same time Caesars <br> Entertainment was already a three-facility operator; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. Those facts sound right. <br> Q. So while the overall HHI increased, the largest multi-casino operator as Caesars Entertainment remained as it was; is that correct? <br> A. That's right. So the restructuring of the Taj Mahal didn't affect the size of Caesars. <br> Q. So Caesars Entertainment with three, and then you have the Icahn group with two, after that was approved by the Commission, was in second place, and that was in the market of eight casinos; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. I -- I believe that -- that's correct. | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> factors, as well as the other statutory considerations, include all the factors that are related to data that necessarily comes from New Jersey casinos; isn't that correct? <br> A. So I -- I think -- I guess, you know, the first three factors, you know, when they're talking about shares. My understanding is those are, you know, shares of -- you know, shares within Atlantic City. A number of these other factors have to do with Atlantic City, although, you know, I think several of them are essentially influenced by things that are going on outside of Atlantic City. <br> And then the 11th factor is really, you know, allows the Commission to consider any other evidence that they deem to be relevant. So I think, you know, potentially that could include considering the competitive from beyond Atlantic City. <br> Q. And you've mentioned -- Mr. Schrier questioned you about your conclusions overall in different forms throughout your testimony. You've concluded that there is no undue economic concentration implicated by the merger transaction; correct? <br> A. That's right. |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> Q. And your first amended report that you <br> issued in May of 2020 indicates that the proposed sale <br> of Bally's Atlantic City would reduce the post-merger <br> HHI in a material way; is that correct? <br> A. That's right. <br> Q. You mentioned also that you had reviewed <br> Dr. Perry's report that he prepared dated May 27, 2020. <br> A. Yes, I have. <br> Q. Do you recall in that report that Dr. <br> Perry has a calculation of the average HHI based on several divestiture scenarios? <br> A. Yes. I remember that there's a part of <br> his report where he looks at -- I think, you know, <br> potentially divesting any of the individual casinos <br> currently cold by Caesars or Eldorado, as well as, you <br> know, maybe some -- some divestitures would involve combinations of casinos. <br> Q. And in making those comparisons, if you recall reviewing that table, as well as the narrative itself, a sale of Bally's essentially has the lowest impact on reducing the average HHI ; is that correct? <br> A. Yeah. That's correct. You know, I <br> should point out that those calculations are based on | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> these other properties. So I think I was making a slightly different point, in that if you're trying to figure out how would a casino perform once it's divested, that may look different than what it's historical performance has been like -- and in fact, you know, that's something we saw when Hard Rock and Ocean entered, you know, both of those were able to perform significantly better than their predecessor properties had. <br> Q. I think in these general analyses, <br> wouldn't you agree, though, that you don't have the opportunity to hypothesize how statistics may change under a different owner? You have to rely on that data? <br> A. So I -- I guess I would say, you know, <br> the HHI is using the historical data, are certainly a helpful way of looking at things. But you know, I wouldn't rule out considering factors that -- you know, that a different operator would do. In fact, the entire exercise of conducting, you know, a competitive effects analysis for a merger is really you have to hypothesize how would things be different in the future under some ownership combination of casinos that we haven't, you know, observed before. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> essentially the current sales or whatever other <br> current metrics exist for those casinos. And that <br> might not be an indication of -- or the best measure of, you know, how Bally's or any other domestic property would perform if it were in the hands of a different operator and a new entrant to Atlantic City. <br> Q. Well, you calculated the resulting HHI from a sale of Bally's; is that correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. So while the resulting HHI is slightly <br> different between Dr. Perry's divestiture scenario of <br> Bally's and yours where yours actually is a little bit higher, it is still regardless the lowest HHI difference among the different possibilities of a divestiture? <br> A. Yeah. I -- I agree with the point that you're trying to make -- or I think what the point you're trying to make is, you know, if you calculate HHI using historical performance statistics of, you know, different casinos, then divesting Bally's is going to have less of an impact than divesting other properties because Bally's historical, you know, performance is -- or historical share of, you know, revenue or some other measures is lower than some of | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> So, you know, he haven't observed before a single <br> company controlling the combination of casinos that <br> New Caesars would after this merger. So we have to, you know, use evidence and economic theory to think about that and do the same thing with regard to a divestiture. <br> Q. And to your knowledge, the sale of <br> Bally's is pending. That has not yet been approved; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. That's correct. <br> Q. You have noted in your report that one <br> of the criteria for conducting an undue economic <br> concentration analysis is considering barriers to <br> entry; is that correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. And Mr. Schrier discussed with you <br> different conditions that the Division has proposed in the event this merger is approved. Are you aware of that? <br> A. Yes. I'm aware of those conditions. <br> Q. So are the presence of deed restrictions <br> prohibiting casino gaming on potential sites barriers to entry? <br> A. You know, they are not necessarily |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> barriers to entry in and of themselves because, to the extent that there are other sites available, you know, casinos could enter there and, you know, casinos have entered in the past. So I think you could say they are a barrier to entry to entering onto, you know, those specific plots of land that they -- that they apply to. <br> Q. So you'd agree that exerting control <br> over future possible casino sites would be barriers to entry as well; correct? <br> A. Yes. In the same -- in the same sense that I discussed for, you know, the current covenants. <br> Q. And in speaking about the proposed <br> conditions that the Division has prepared in the event <br> the Commission approves the merger, you indicated your <br> agreement with those avenues to further be pro <br> competitive measures; is that correct? <br> A. Yeah. So if you're referring to -- for example, the, you know, commitments to capital expenditures -- well, actually, is that what you're referring to? <br> Q. I was referring specifically to the areas that we just discussed, the deed restrictions and exerting control over potential future sites? | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> performance. And, therefore, that same poor <br> performance that was evidenced by Bally's could occur <br> there. So that there really we're trying to predict <br> the future here in determining economic concentration and how the market will react. Is that -- is that fair to say? <br> A. Certainly. You know, the impact of putting Bally's in the hands of a new operator or putting any casino in the hands of a new operator is going to depend on, you know, how that operator decides to use that asset to compete in the market. And, you know, if they operate it differently, <br> than the past owner, past operator, then they may achieve different performance, for better or for worse. <br> Q. I think you noted for example, the Hard <br> Rock situation where that facility was sold and at a pretty reasonable price, I would say, and the new owner expended substantial sums of capital. And as a result we have seen substantial uptick in their performance; is that correct? <br> A. Yes. The -- you know, the Hard Rock <br> entry has been -- has been very successful and, you know, certainly has performed better than its |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> A. Yes. I agree that that -- those -- you <br> know, those conditions would be pro competitive. <br> Q. But you did not encourage any pro <br> competitive measures of that -- either of those types <br> in your reports; correct? <br> A. No, I do not. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. RICHARDSON: I have no further <br> questions. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Mr. Schrier? <br> REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: <br> Q. Dr. Watts, I think if I'm trying to <br> crystallize what you were driving at with your <br> questions from Miss Richardson. I think what you were <br> saying was even though Bally's is the property that is <br> being sold and that's where the agreement is, in Dr. <br> Perry's report where he said, well, you could sell <br> Caesars or you could sell Tropicana or you could sell <br> Harrah's and there might be a different outcome. Was <br> it your point that it really depends who acquires that <br> property. Because you could -- you could sell <br> Tropicana, but the new owner of Tropicana that <br> acquires it might not pay attention to operations or | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> predecessor. <br> Q. Just one last question. You were asked whether or not the FTC had a unanimous decision or there was a dissent, and I think you indicated that there was a dissent; correct? <br> A. That's right. <br> Q. And that was Commissioner Chopra; is that right? <br> A. That's -- yes. That's right. <br> Q. And to your knowledge, did that dissent <br> address in any way any of the issues pertaining to Atlantic City? <br> A. No. You know, as I read the dissent, it didn't relate to, you know, anything to do with <br> Atlantic City specifically. It was -- it was more concerned with really the remedies that are required in other parts of the country. So the divestitures that are required in Lake Tahoe and Bossier City and the process that, you know, that the Commission had gone through to approve those divestitures. <br> Q. Thank you. That's all I have. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Ms. Richardson? <br> MS. RICHARDSON: Just one question. |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: <br> Q. Dr. Watts, we've gone over already that <br> the Horizontal Merger Guidelines are useful -- have <br> been considered useful by this Commission in the past <br> as utilized by the Department of Justice and the <br> Federal Trade Commission; is that correct? <br> A. That's correct. <br> Q. Nevertheless, though, with the statutory <br> criteria in our Casino Control Act, we're doing an <br> undue economic concentration analysis for the <br> Commission to make a finding on that, not exactly an <br> antitrust determination as the Federal Government <br> would; is that correct? <br> A. So, I guess I would agree that -- yes, <br> it's not the same criteria as -- as the FTC or the DOJ <br> would use to evaluate a merger. I think there is an <br> antitrust element to it. I mean, certainly the undue <br> economic concentration language and criteria do <br> describe competitive and competitive conditions so I <br> think there's an antitrust element to it. But I agree <br> that the standard is different. It's defined <br> differently than the standard that is used in, you <br> know, a merger proceeding before the FTC, for example. <br> 25 Q. Thank you. | 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> THE WITNESS: That's right. When I was a graduate student, I taught in courses in microeconomics. <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Could you explain what exactly is microeconomics? <br> THE WITNESS: Sure. So microeconomics is -- I guess there's two broad categories of economics. There's microeconomics and there's macroeconomics. Microeconomics has to do with decision-making by individual actors. So we can think of individual actors as being consumers, and they are choosing, you know, what product to buy or what jobs they have or, you know, how much schooling they have. So that would be a microeconomics question. And it also includes decisions made by firms. So, you know, how do firms set prices? How do firms decide how to introduce a new product? How do they interact with each other? So all of those questions are covered by microeconomics. <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Very interesting. Because I heard the word, and I'm like, well, I'd like a little bit -- little bit |
| ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS <br> MR. RICHARDSON: I have no further questions. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> MR. SCHRIER: One followup, Mr. <br> Chairman, if I may. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. <br> REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: <br> Q. Under either of those particular tests <br> or methods of determining competition, whether it's <br> the Casino Control Act criteria or the FTC's criteria, <br> your conclusion is still the same, is it not? <br> A. That's correct. <br> MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. <br> Commissioner Cooper? <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. Dr. <br> Watts, thank you for joining us today and participating in this. I have some questions for you. <br> At the beginning when you stated your educational background and went to college, et cetera, et cetera. I don't mean et cetera, et cetera, but you mentioned that you teach microeconomics; is that correct? | 1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 14 15 16 17 17 18 19 20 21 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS more of explanation. Thank you so much. <br> Keeping in that thought of a little more, explanation and background, I know I have -- again, my personal background. Or I've read the documents. I've read the reports. And I am -- I'm going to say intrigued by the -- and I hope I'm pronouncing this correctly, the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index. Again, I know what I've read. And the importance of this index is -- again, it's used to access the impact of mergers and acquisitions. There are 11 guidelines; am I correct? <br> THE WITNESS: That's right. So for measuring the HHI, you know, in the Casino Control Act, there are 11 different metrics of performance that are, you know, meant to be used to assess shares and the HHI. <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: And if you would, just -- and again I'm going to say maybe in layman's terms. Would you just state those 11 guidelines? <br> THE WITNESS: Sure. So if -- bear with me. I need to get my table here. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. | 2 | you calculate the share of all the participants |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: So there's -- there's, I | 3 | in a given industry, and then you add up the |
| 4 | guess, 11 statistics in total that -- that I | 4 | square of the shares. So you get an index that |
| 5 | used and that are generally used in these undue | 5 | ranges from, you know -- there could be near |
| 6 | concentration proceedings to measure shares and | 6 | zero if there are very many small competitors |
| 7 | HHIs. And they can be thought of as divided | 7 | up to 10,000 is there is a single competitor |
| 8 | into two categories. So some categories have | 8 | because that would be a hundred percent, you |
| 9 | to do with kind of the physical facilities that | 9 | know, if the square is 10,000 . So it's an |
| 10 | the casinos have. And others have to do with | 10 | index that, you know, is one way to quantify |
| 11 | operational measures. | 11 | competition. |
| 12 | So the facilities statistics include the | 12 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. |
| 13 | gaming square footage of the casino. The | 13 | My next question, I'll present it to |
| 14 | number of hotel rooms that each casino has. | 14 | you. There are actually a few parts, but I'll |
| 15 | The number of slot machines. The number of | 15 | ask the whole question, and you can answer |
| 16 | table games. The number of employees. And | 16 | however you feel comfortable, let's say. |
| 17 | then just a count of the number of casinos. So | 17 | You presented documentation, |
| 18 | that's -- | 18 | information, details today about the upcoming |
| 19 | And thank you for bringing my slide up | 19 | merger. You've mentioned -- you discussed the |
| 20 | here. | 20 | words "horizontal merger," competition with |
| 21 | So that -- those statistics are kind of | 21 | competitors. My question for you is, I would |
| 22 | the top half of the table. And then the bottom | 22 | like to get your opinion -- okay. We're |
| 23 | half of the table looks at actual, you know, | 23 | talking about casinos in Atlantic City. But |
| 24 | outcomes. So revenue-based or wager-based | 24 | I'd like your opinion, if you would, on other |
| 25 | outcomes. So those include the slot machine | 25 | potential attractions in Atlantic City and |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 | handle, the table game drop. So both of those | 2 | other operators in Atlantic City. |
| 3 | are measuring, you know, wagering activity. | 3 | Case in point, okay? And this is -- |
| 4 | The slot machine win, the table game win. And | 4 | we're talking about the casinos, but I would |
| 5 | then the overall net revenue for a casino. So | 5 | say a few months ago there was a story in |
| 6 | we look at all -- all 11 of those different | 6 | Atlantic City, I don't know if you've heard, |
| 7 | categories. | 7 | but there was a story about a gentleman by the |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And again, | 8 | name of Bart Blatstein. He owns the Showboat, |
| 9 | I appreciate that. Again, I've read, but just | 9 | but he's talking about building this \$100 |
| 10 | to, shall we say, explain the list. It's | 10 | million water park attraction, et cetera, et |
| 11 | great. I appreciate that. | 11 | cetera, for Atlantic City, gaging or |
| 12 | With that -- with that, my curiosity, | 12 | emphasizing on family entertainment. Okay? |
| 13 | who are or who were Herfindahl and Hirschman? | 13 | So my question here is what is -- again, |
| 14 | Or what is the origin? Who are these two | 14 | what is your opinion on the impact of other |
| 15 | people? Or who -- where do we get these two | 15 | attractions, other operators in Atlantic City? |
| 16 | names from? | 16 | Do you think it's -- is it -- is this |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. So they were two | 17 | necessary? Are families important to Atlantic |
| 18 | economists, and I think they were, you know, | 18 | City? Do we just have the casinos with what |
| 19 | active in the early 1900s. And they -- I think | 19 | they offer? Or do we need other attractions? |
| 20 | maybe -- I can't remember if they came up with | 20 | I'm going to say noncasino attractions. |
| 21 | this concept independently from one another or | 21 | And again, something that really I don't |
| 22 | jointly with each other, but they did come up | 22 | want to say hasn't been focused on today, but |
| 23 | with this way -- this index that's now commonly | 23 | with your background -- your extraordinary |
| 24 | used to measure concentration. And the way | 24 | background -- I'd like to get your viewpoint on |
| 25 | that they came up with calculating is, first | 25 | other -- other attractions in Atlantic City. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 | THE WITNESS: Sure. Well, I think you | 2 | sports betting, in addition to the casinos |
| 3 | know, if you're thinking of Atlantic City and | 3 | being able to offer sports betting, and the |
| 4 | its, you know, wellbeing overall, then I do | 4 | racetracks can offer sports betting. |
| 5 | think there are benefits to, you know, | 5 | So I think excepting the effect -- by |
| 6 | diversifying in a sense the number -- you know | 6 | looking at concentration of casino statistics |
| 7 | the types of attractions or the types of -- | 7 | does a good job of thinking about, you know, is |
| 8 | types of things that are offered. There's | 8 | there an undue concentration in internet |
| 9 | also, I guess, a consideration if -- even if | 9 | gaming? And one other feature of internet |
| 10 | you're primarily focused on the casino industry | 10 | gaming is, the way that internet gaming license |
| 11 | and the, you know, the wellbeing of the casino | 11 | works is, you know, you've got the license. |
| 12 | industry and the customers of casinos, in that | 12 | But then you can allow more than one operator |
| 13 | there's a relationship between casinos and | 13 | to have what are skins that operate on your |
| 14 | other types of attractions. So economics would | 14 | license. So, you know, I might be a casino. |
| 15 | call, you know, casinos and water parks or | 15 | I've got a license. I have my own, you know, |
| 16 | casinos and other attractions complements | 16 | casino.com website we can go to, internet |
| 17 | because the more demand there is for casinos, | 17 | gaming companies, but I have other companies |
| 18 | the more demand there will be for these other | 18 | that come under my license and offer their own |
| 19 | things. And the more demand there is for a | 19 | gaming options. So there's actually a higher |
| 20 | water park who bring in customers who will also | 20 | number of competitors and options for internet |
| 21 | patronize -- patronize casinos. | 21 | gaming in New Jersey than there are for brick |
| 22 | You know, I think one of the reasons | 22 | and mortar gaming. |
| 23 | that Atlantic City was and is the, you know, | 23 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you |
| 24 | the gaming destination that it is, is because | 24 | very much. |
| 25 | of, you know, an important other amenity that | 25 | Mr. Chairman? |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS |
| 2 | it has, which is the waterfront, beach, the | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner |
| 3 | boardwalk. It was a good place to have casinos | 3 | Cooper. |
| 4 | because it had these other entities already. | 4 | Dr. Watts, have you done any other work |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. | 5 | in the Atlantic City market? |
| 6 | And one other -- talking about gaming. | 6 | THE WITNESS: No, I haven't. This is |
| 7 | I'm just wondering. Was internet gaming a part | 7 | my -- I guess my first time to do a competitive |
| 8 | of your evaluation, studies? Was it something | 8 | analysis of Atlantic City. |
| 9 | that was included, considered? Or was that | 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 10 | just a separate issue? | 10 | COVID-19, do you see that -- the |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. So -- | 11 | Atlantic City market bouncing back better than |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Pardon me. | 12 | other markets or worse? |
| 13 | Separate issue. Does internet gaming have an | 13 | THE WITNESS: You know, I think -- I |
| 14 | impact on what's being presented today? | 14 | think that's a very hard question to answer. |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: So internet gaming -- you | 15 | And it's hard because I think we don't fully |
| 16 | know, I just went through the 11 metrics. And | 16 | know yet, you know, what's going to happen, |
| 17 | the 11 metrics don't include a specific measure | 17 | when things are going to improve, if things are |
| 18 | for internet gaming, but it was something that | 18 | going to get worse again, when they are going |
| 19 | I considered. The way that internet gaming | 19 | to get worse again. So I think it's a very |
| 20 | works in New Jersey, as you are aware is that, | 20 | hard question to answer. |
| 21 | you know, all of the casinos can have licenses | 21 | You know, one thing I'll say, I live |
| 22 | for online gaming. They can offer online | 22 | in -- I live in New York City. That's where I |
| 23 | poker. They can offer online slots. They can | 23 | am right now. So, you know, I'm very aware of |
| 24 | offer online table games. And more recently, | 24 | how things have been going on locally in New |
| 25 | they can offer online sports betting. And | 25 | York and in New Jersey. And while this region |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 |  |
| 2 | was, I guess, you know, initially one of the | 2 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Let me make sure |
| 3 | hardest hit areas by the coronavirus, I think | 3 | because I think they had Dr. Perry queued up. |
| 4 | we're also seeing now some of the, you know, | 4 | Just want to make sure that -- |
| 5 | kind of most successful responses in terms of | 5 | Tracy, are you there? |
| 6 | managing the virus and, you know, turning | 6 | MS. RICHARDSON: I'm here. I'm ready to |
| 7 | things around. So I'm not sure how that will | 7 | proceed if the Commission wishes to. I see Dr. |
| 8 | interact with, you know, with the demand for | 8 | Perry is on the line, and he's ready as well. |
| 9 | Atlantic City casinos or, you know, operation | 9 | So leave it to your discretion. |
| 10 | of Atlantic City casinos. But I think it's -- | 10 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Whatever you |
| 11 | I think it's a good sign for the region in | 11 | want to do, Chairman. |
| 12 | general if we can, you know, kind of maintain | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'm just thinking of the |
| 13 | the way that things are currently going. | 13 | stenographer. We're almost in an hour and a |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 14 | half. |
| 15 | How critical do you think the sale of | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. You want to take |
| 16 | Bally's AC is to eliminate undue economic | 16 | maybe 10 minutes for the stenographer? And |
| 17 | concentrations? | 17 | then take quick break. And then we'll start |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: So, you know, my view is | 18 | Mr. Perry. |
| 19 | that really the sale was not necessary to | 19 | MR. RICHARDSON: Sure. Thank you. |
| 20 | prevent undue economic concentration. But at | 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: 11:30. |
| 21 | the same time, I think it certainly will, you | 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 22 | know, increase the level of competition | 22 | (A recess was taken from 11:17 to 11:30 |
| 23 | compared to -- or I guess decrease | 23 | a.m.) |
| 24 | concentration -- relative to what would happen | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Good afternoon. We're |
| 25 | without a sale because it's going to bring in a | 25 | back. |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | new operator. If you're just kind of counting | 2 | Miss Richardson? |
| 3 | the number of operators before and after | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Make sure Mr. Schrier |
| 4 | merger, it would be the same. | 4 | is there. |
| 5 | And you're going to have somebody who's | 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? |
| 6 | operating a casino, they've got other casinos | 6 | MR. SCHRIER: Hello. |
| 7 | in other states. And so they can, you know, | 7 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. |
| 8 | use that -- use that knowledge and experience | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 9 | and also use that network to help promote their | 9 | Miss Richardson, your witness, please. |
| 10 | business in Atlantic City. | 10 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. That's all I | 11 | I'd like to call Dr. Martin Perry. |
| 12 | had, Mr. Watts. Thank you. | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, will you |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. | 13 | swear in Mr. -- Dr. Perry, please. |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Okay. Mr. Schrier, do | 14 | MARTINK. PERRY, PhD, having been |
| 15 | you have any followup based on the questioning | 15 | first duly sworn remotely, testified as follows: |
| 16 | by myself or Commissioner Cooper? | 16 | MR. NANCE: Please state your name for |
| 17 | MR. SCHRIER: I do not, Mr. Chairman. | 17 | the record. |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ms. Richardson? | 18 | THE WITNESS: Martin Perry. |
| 19 | MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, | 19 | MR. NANCE: Thank you. |
| 20 | Chairman. | 20 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: |
| 21 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Do you guys want to get | 21 | Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Perry. |
| 22 | started on Mr. Perry or take a quick break? | 22 | A. Good morning. |
| 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: We can take an early | 23 | Q. Would you please tell us about your |
| 24 | lunch. We can take a half hour break right |  | educational background? |
| 25 | now. | 25 | A. I got my BA degree from the University |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> of Missouri, and then I went to graduate school for economics at Stanford and got my PhD there in 1976. Then I went to work for Bell Labs. And later in the early '80s, I went to law school at Rutgers University Law School at night and got a JDM, 1994. <br> Q. And you mentioned that you worked at <br> Bell Labs. Can you tell us some more about your employment background? <br> A. So I joined Bell Labs in January of 1976 and was there until the breakup in -- so that would be January 1984. That was an economic research group that had been started a few years before I joined. <br> And so most of my -- sort of, you know, over half of my work was just doing economic research. And but some years there was some internal consulting projects to benefit the company. <br> Then in 1984, I think in August, I <br> joined a company called Bell Communications Research, which was part of the breakup of the Bell system. And it was also an economic research group -- not just economics, some other groups -- that was jointly owned by the seven regional Bell companies at that point in time. And I stayed there until 1989 when I joined Rutgers as a professor of economics. | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Division on casino mergers and acquisitions. <br> Q. Can you tell us about the other times <br> that you were retained by the Division as an expert? <br> A. So 1995 , that was the -- the Trump Plaza <br> was -- had been running the Regency Hotel, and they were going to acquire it and reopen as a casino. So the issue there was reopening of that casino, the former Atlantis. And that didn't go well or for long, but it wasn't really a controversial case because it was a reopening the casino. The tricky part was counting the casino in the old Atlantis Casino as part of the Trump Plaza Casino which required building an enclosure across the front of the Convention Hall. <br> So the next merger case I worked on was five years later in 2000 . That was the case in which the -- the Claridge had gone into bankruptcy, and there was an asset that going to be acquired. And Park Place was interested in acquiring the Claridge, as was the Sands. So it was a contentious hearing on which of those two parties would be approved by the Commission. And Park Place ended up being the ultimate acquirer. So in 2000 -- that was in 2000. 2005 I was hired by the Division to write a report for the -- the Caesars/Harrah's merger. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> I stayed at Rutgers for some 22 years. <br> And then 2011 I came out here to be head of the <br> Economics Department at the University of Illinois, and I've been here ever since. I have for nine years, but unfortunately, that that's going to end shortly. <br> Q. And you have research experience as well; right? <br> A. So I -- yeah. So I've done research on <br> various topics on vertical integration, vertical <br> restraints, mergers, auctions. Those things. For the <br> last nine years, I haven't been doing any research. <br> I've been doing administrative work. So I hope to get back to some old topics soon. <br> Q. And you frequently served as an advisor or an expert, haven't you? <br> A. Yeah. I wouldn't say frequently <br> relative to some of my friends in the profession. But I worked on various merger cases for the Department of Justice. And mostly from -- it's on my CV. Over a ten-year period. Most of the cases I worked on there were industrial product mergers. And since 1995 when I was first engaged by the Division to -- for the Trump acquisition of the -- what was the Regency Hotel, that's when I began writing reports for the | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Then I worked for some private parties, too, before that. With respect to that, 2010 was the last time I wrote sort of a report of -- you know, the statistics about the industry. But that was in the context of the Trump bankruptcy. <br> Q. Uh-hum. <br> A. I was hired by the debtor possession, <br> basically the second lienholders who held about $\$ 2$ <br> billion worth of debt that had been issued a few years <br> earlier, and they were proposing a reorganization. <br> And Carl Icahn at the time was the owner of the <br> Tropicana, and he was -- he was a holder of the first <br> lien. And he was also proposing an alternative <br> reorganization. And so I -- I -- that testimony was <br> pretty simple. I just simply pointed out that if the <br> Icahn proposal was adopted, there would have to be a <br> hearing on undue economic concentration. <br> Q. And you have prepared a report for this proceeding; is that right? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And just for purposes of the record, that report has been marked as Exhibit D-2 in evidence. <br> 25 Can you tell us what you were tasked |


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| 2 with for that report? | 2 merger? Is that what your question is? |
| 3 A. Well, the task was just to evaluate | 3 Q. Yes |
| 4 whether this merger would create undue economic | 4 A. I don't think so. Not dramatically. |
| 5 concentration and -- you know, and if there were the | 5 Q. And so as part of your analysis and |
| 6 need to protect economic competition, what the | 6 preparation of your report, did you conduct analysis |
| 7 possible alternative remedies might be. | 7 of industry concentration? |
| 8 In the report I also updated all the | 8 A. Yes. |
| 9 prior tables and for -- from my prior reports. | 9 Q. What method did you use to evaluate that |
| 10 Q. And it's been discussed this morning the | 10 industry concentration? |
| 11 Casino Control Act and the various categories that | 11 A. Well, I used -- like Dr. Watts, I used |
| 12 need to be considered in order to evaluate changes in | 12 the merger guidelines, Herfindahl Index. |
| 13 the market share. You were present for Dr. Watts' | 13 Q. And what today is the current HHI of the |
| 14 testimony? | 14 Atlantic City market? |
| 15 A. Yes. | 15 A. Before the merger? |
| 16 Q. So how many criteria are there to | 16 Q. Yes. |
| 17 consider? | 17 A. It's something in the neighborhood of |
| 18 A. So there's the 11 criterion. | 18 2,000. |
| 19 Q. And in your report, did you note | 19 Q. Could you tell us about the merger |
| 20 initially that you focused on five of those in | 20 guidelines, what the particular thresholds are for HHI |
| 21 particular? | 21 levels in relation to classifying the concentration of |
| 22 A. Yes. | 22 a market? |
| 23 Q. And which ones were those? | 23 A. Sure. Originally the first versions of |
| 24 A. Well, two of the physical measures. So | 24 the guidelines had lower thresholds. So up to 1,000 |
| 25 the casino square footage and the number of hotel | 25 was a unconcentrated industry. And then an 1800 |
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| 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 rooms. And then three there go to revenue and | 2 was -- thousand to 1800 was a moderate concentrated. |
| 3 performance, net revenue table drop and slot machine | 3 And over 1800 was a concentrated industry. Those were |
| 4 drop. | 4 increased. I can't remember the exact year, within |
| 5 Q. Okay. | 5 the last ten years, so that nonconcentrated industry |
| 6 A. Those are the five that I sort of chose | 6 would be measured by Herfindahl up to 1500. And then |
| 7 to focus on early on in my earlier reports. And in | 72500 -- the 2500 would be a moderately concentrated. |
| 8 those reports, I looked -- earlier, I looked -- in | 8 And over 2500 would be a concentrated industry. |
| 9 earlier years, I looked at the other measures and felt | 9 I saw that gradual evolution when I was |
| 10 that these five sort of best summarized both the | 10 the Chief Economist of the Federal Communication |
| 11 physical and the revenue aspects of the industry. | 11 Commission. We were evaluating a large merger in the |
| 12 Q. So based on your past conclusion that | 12 wireless industry, and 2500 was informally used as the |
| 13 those were the best summary, you still maintain that | 13 cutoff for when the -- the Federal Communication |
| 14 today and in your present report? | 14 Commission, which had joint authority over the merger, |
| 15 A. Yes, I think so. | 15 was usually when they would start worrying about the |
| 16 Q. And does your focus on the five in | 16 merger. In local markets. Right. |
| 17 particular as being representation versus the 11 in | 17 Q. So you said up to 2500 would be |
| 18 total, does that effect or alter your conclusions or | 18 moderately concentrated and over 2500 would then be |
| 19 analysis? | 19 highly concentrated? |
| 20 A. I'm pretty sure not. | 20 A. That's their -- yes. That's their |
| 21 Q. And neither view of those creates a | 21 definitions of the merger guidelines. |
| 22 particular favorable or unfavorable view for either | 22 Q. So you said that the current market in |
| 23 Eldorado or Caesars. Would you agree with that? | 23 Atlantic City as exists today before and if the merger |
| 24 A. Your question is, is one particular | 24 is approved, the market -- the HHI is around 2,000. I |
| 25 measure more favorable or less favorable to the | 25 think you had calculated in your report that it was an |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> average of 1944. So that number is considered moderately concentrated right now? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. So what do the 2010 merger guidelines <br> say about changes in overall HHI as a result of a transaction? <br> A. Well, you're asking a question about <br> basically the magnitude of the merger. So these are the deltas as a change from the Herfindahl to the pre-merger to the post-merger. And basically that's trying to get at is this -- the industry could be, you know, moderately concentrated or highly concentrated but it could be a small merger. So the HTs wouldn't worry about a small merger, and only increase the Herfindahl by small amounts. So, you know, I forget the numbers in the older guidelines. I think they were -- well, I think the new guidelines of the merger in a moderately concentrated industry is over -- well, in a concentrated industry, it's over -- well, it's in my report. Over presumptively, okay, up to a hundred. But if it's over 200, then certainly, you know, going to worry about a more complete analysis of other aspects, barriers to entry, and things like that. Efficiencies. | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Q. Well, in your Figure 19 on Page 61 of <br> the report, calculated the post-merger HHI average as <br> at approximately 2641. So that delta there is listed as 697. <br> A. Right. Yeah. I see it. <br> Q. That's correct? <br> A. Yeah. Yes. <br> Q. And in your report you discuss industry <br> concentration by reviewing trends as well, not just <br> the statistical calculations; is that right? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. So for industry performance, can you <br> tell us about what trends you have seen? <br> A. You want me to go back to the beginning? <br> So. <br> Q. Well, the trends in particular that <br> you've seen -- <br> A. The Herfindahl. Yeah. <br> Q. -- from performance that resulted in <br> benefits to consumers? <br> A. Well, the trends in Herfindahl's or trends in performance? <br> Q. Trends in performance. <br> A. Performance. Okay. Well, the -- in my |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Basically saying that even in a highly <br> concentrated industry, a small acquisition is not <br> going to raise enough concerns to go into a very detailed analysis of efficiencies and barriers to entry. <br> Q. So are you saying if there's a change in the overall HHI of more than 200 resulting from a merger that, warrants particular scrutiny and could change other factors? <br> A. Yeah. I think that's the number. I'd have to check my report, you know. <br> Q. And with the pending merger as its overall HHI that would result across all the categories in the merger was approved? <br> A. Say it again? What would the delta be across these categories? <br> Q. The total -- well, both. The total HHI, and then tell us what the delta is. <br> A. I think the HHI would move somewhere around 2500 . And the deltas -- I'd have to look up the deltas from my report. Let's see if I can calculate them. <br> I can't quite remember. Well over 200. <br> You want me to look them up? | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> report I define sort of various periods. You know, sort of nothing is perfect, but I think they help conceptualize certain parents of the industry. And during the early periods, certainly up to -- from the beginnings, the -- the slot percentage declined rapidly with the entry of -- from the entry of Resorts until 1984 or ' 85 when there were ten independent casinos. That continued to decline for the period of the ' 90 s and up until the middle of 2005 or something. I'd have to look at my exact numbers. And since then, it's been pretty stable, depending on the denomination or the average. And even gone up a little bit in recent years. <br> Q. And how about their relationship of competition to slot percentages? <br> A. Well, the way I would interpret this is that you're not going to get an exact change in one year of the Herfindahl as a result of a merger. It is not going to be immediately reflected in -- say Herfindahl goes up and an increase in slot percentage or if a Herfindahl goes down for some reason in entries. But the trend is showing that in respect to slot percentages that during the periods where there was the most competition is roughly reflected by the |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Herfindahl Index is -- those were the periods in which we saw dramatic at the beginning and then modest declines in the slot percentages. <br> Q. And what conclusion do you draw as to increases in competition and how that relates to slot percentages? <br> A. Well, so that's I sort of tried to <br> explain it a second ago. What my conclusion is, is that during the periods in which we had more independent operators and as reflected by lower Herfindahls, those were the periods in which we got benefits of lower slots percentages. And during the periods. The more recent periods since -- mostly since 2005 , the slot percentages were sort of stable and then sort -- and had been drifting up. I think if you look at the average slots -- it's summarized in one of the tables -- slot percentages dropped about eight percent overall. Up until 2005 or so. And then sort of crept up to nine percent since then. <br> Q. So it's fair to say from what you're telling us that if there's an increase in competition, that's going to lead to lower slot percentages and benefit the customers? <br> 25 A. Well, you know, I wouldn't -- you know, | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> promotional trends or the promotion losses that are associated with that. I mean, you have sort of an interim period after the initial burst of opening of casinos is kind of flat, maybe declining slightly. And then the more recent periods from, say, the early 2000 s is going up. But part of the reason that this percentage is going up is that the casino drop is declining during this period. So promotional allowances are actually declining in -- in dollar terms in recent periods. But the percentage of the casino drop is -- is going up because the denominator of this -- of casino drops, the denominator is declining. <br> So it's a little hard to infer that much about this, I think. The fact that promotional allowances are going down could be -- could be a competitive issue but it could be because there's less -- less -- less visitors and less gambling. And thus fewer opportunities to give promotional allowances to customers. <br> Q. Did you also look at the trends in casino win per square foot? <br> A. Yes. Yeah. That's -- that's one of the -- which I found one of the most interesting |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> I'm not disagreeing with Dr. Watts, but I wouldn't sort of expect that if I have an immediate change in the Herfindahl because of a merger that there would be an immediate response in terms of higher slot percentages or vice versa. But what I really -- what my observation really is from the data is that during the periods in which the Herfindahl was low, and there were more independent operators, that's the period in which we got better performance in terms of lower slot percentages. <br> Q. And how about the same effects when it's looked at with regards to promotional spending? <br> A. Well, promotional spending is a <br> harder -- harder to -- to infer. I mean, it's -- I <br> mean, promotional spending is -- I mean, I have to look at my report. But promotional spending is -is -- well, let me glance at my report. I just did, but. (Reviewing.) <br> Q. Page 33, I believe, that you address this particular area. <br> A. Okay. So I have a table on Page 34. <br> Okay. So if you look at the trends, if you divide the promotional expenses by the casino drop, so you're having some major of the -- gaming activity and the | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> things to look at with respect to performance of the casinos. <br> Q. What trends did you find in that area? <br> A. Well, there's been a general decline in <br> the casino win per square foot since the Great <br> Recession began. But that's not surprising because <br> of -- just -- fewer -- fewer gamblers. The -- what <br> you see is that -- when somebody opens a large casino, <br> for example, like the Wild Wild West, and that casino <br> underwent per square foot declines, but what you want <br> to look at is over longer periods of time, you would <br> expect the casinos with a higher casino win per square <br> foot would be the ones that would invest in new casino <br> space, which may have to be matched up with new <br> hotels. And those with lower casino wins per square <br> foot are the ones that won't have an incentive to invest. <br> In my earlier reports in 2005, I -- you <br> know, I think I discussed as certainly 3,000 or $\$ 3500$ <br> per square foot per year was kind of a cutoff that, <br> you know, casinos that had casino win per square foot <br> higher than that would be having incentives to make <br> investments, and casinos lower than that would not. <br> 25 But now the casino win per square foot is much lower |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> across the industry than that period of time, so. <br> Q. And what have the Caesars properties in particular experienced in this area as far as trends? <br> A. Let me pull up my report again. Which page are we referring to now? (Reviewing.) <br> Q. It starts at 36 . <br> A. Okay. <br> Q. I believe in that section you concluded <br> that Caesars properties in particular had downward <br> trends on the win per square foot that we're discussing. <br> A. For years, yes. Yeah. For years <br> Caesars was the most -- one of the highest wins per square foot. But in recent years -- and I'm not sure exactly which year it started. I'll pull it up. But they are not among the highest now. They are among the lowest. <br> Q. Do you believe that capital investment contributes to this particular factor in the trend? <br> A. Well, I do think that investment is important for attracting visitors and gamers, definitely. And so I do think that's important. And we have -- you know, we have seen examples historically of casinos making major investments and | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> I think, since 2010. <br> Q. So I want to turn to consideration of <br> the relevant market that you use. So we heard that <br> Dr. Watts focused on the relevant geographic market as being regional rather than Atlantic City only. You heard that? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Did you review -- did you view the <br> market the same way? <br> A. Well, I guess -- not to contradict Dr. <br> Watts, but I would think about it differently. <br> Should I elaborate. <br> Q. Yes. Please. <br> A. I mean, obviously transportation costs <br> of visitors is an important component of this <br> industry. And if you look at any particular part of <br> this -- of any of the northeast, you think about the <br> consumers there, you know, they're going to have -- in <br> general, you know, they're going to choose between <br> going to Macau or Vegas or going to their local casino <br> or going to Atlantic City. And different people with <br> different income levels are going to have different <br> choices there. But, you know, New Jersey does draw <br> most of its visitors from the Northeast area. |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> then -- not necessarily with expanding the casino <br> floor because that's going to increase the <br> denominator, but other parts of the casino, better <br> renovations, newer amenities, have benefitted their casino win per square foot. <br> It's hard to -- in any situation, it's <br> hard to say because if the casino does a major <br> renovation, it also major expands the casino square <br> footage, then that's going to increase the <br> denominator. But you are going to see there are <br> various points of investment have benefitted the <br> casino by increasing the casino win per square foot. <br> Q. And you looked at the comparisons of <br> levels of win per square foot among the properties. <br> And did you draw any conclusions about Bally's and <br> Caesars in this particular area in comparison to their competitors? <br> A. Well, I think the general observation is that both -- particularly Caesars -- but both Caesars and Bally's were -- before 2005 and 2000 were one of the highest in terms of casino win per square footage, but now they are among the lowest. And most of that decline has occurred -- well, most of that decline has occurred since the beginning of the Great Depression, | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Now, if you open up casinos in <br> Pennsylvania and other states and most of those are put not -- not conglomerated in one place like <br> Atlantic City. They are put in different locations and particularly Pennsylvania. You're going to have an advantage for the location of that casino. That casino is going to have an advantage with respect to people who live near that casino. And because of that so there's going to be certain people. They could be just want to make a short-term trip to a casino, and it doesn't justify going all the way to Atlantic City. And, of course, though, that casino is going to pick up customers in around its location. <br> Now, so what you would see is, like from <br> Dr. Watts map, which is a nice depiction, is around each of those new casinos would be people that are attracted to that casino, different settings, because of its locational advantage as opposed to going to Atlantic City. <br> Now, that doesn't mean that -- that all of those casinos are now in all one big market. <br> Because each of these other casinos in the Northeast are going to have a locational advantage, which is a broader market that Atlantic City draws from. |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> So you if you want to do -- Dr. Watts <br> nicely described the SSNIP test. If you're going to <br> do a hypothetical price increase by all the casinos in Atlantic City, treating them as if they were a monopoly, and ask whether they would lose too much business to make that price increase justified, I think it's not -- I think that -- let's put it this way. I think an appropriate way to do analysis, which would be difficult, would be to ask the following question: Given the casinos that are located in these other jurisdictions and given the local markets that they have, the question would be then, if Atlantic City -- all casinos in Atlantic City -- raise prices by some percentage, what would -- how would the boundaries of those consumers who are in some sense indifferent between coming to Atlantic City and going to their local casino, how would those boundaries change? So it's not the total business that those casinos would pick up because of their locational advantage near certain consumers and where they are, but what would change if you did that? <br> And so I haven't done that analysis. I think that would be a hard analysis to do. I mean, you would -- you would certainly have to have private | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Q. Did the statutory requirements on <br> reviewing undue economic concentration and the factors <br> that go into that, did that also influence your <br> choosing of the relevant market as Atlantic City, being that that's New Jersey law? <br> A. Well, I mean, I think -- I mean, it had <br> to because the statutory requirement required me to <br> analyze it as, you know, as if it was a relevant <br> market. So in my prior reports and also briefly in <br> this report, you know, I referred to what's going on <br> in other jurisdictions. That's what I wanted to do, <br> but also the Division was supportive in doing that in its prior reports. <br> With that said, I think Atlantic City is <br> sufficiently unique, and the casinos are all here so <br> there's no real -- there's no locational cost, <br> transportation cost difference between them, that they <br> are sufficiently -- well, whether it's a relevant <br> market as defined by the FTC, I mean, I think it's a <br> local geographic market justifiably to discuss. And <br> since the nature of the merger is affecting just the <br> parties -- mostly the parties in this city, then <br> that's -- I think that's appropriate. <br> 25 Q. And you mentioned the FTC review. So |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> data that the casinos have on -- from their -- their members. But my -- my view is that that is not going to be a sufficient change in the number of consumers to undermine and make a price increase by all Atlantic City casinos unprofitable. <br> So, in other words, what I'm saying is <br> that five percent or ten percent increase in all the slot percentages in Atlantic City is not going to change all those boundaries of which consumers are choosing between Atlantic City and some local casino enough to make Atlantic City not be considered a market on its own. So basically, I would be stunned if a five percent price increase in Atlantic City wouldn't be profitable for the casinos in Atlantic City. <br> I mean, another way to think about this <br> I suppose is, would these other casinos in <br> Pennsylvania be competitive? I mean, envision a situation, hard to envision, but hypothetical now. Suppose that casino is as built was located -- was dropped somewhere right near in Atlantic City. How competitive would that casino be relative to the other seriously competitive casinos in Atlantic City? Well, my conjecture is not very. Not very competitive. | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> the review here, are you saying that the Commission's review of this is separate and distinct from how the FTC may view this merger? <br> A. Well, I think the statute mandates that, and I think that's about perfectly appropriate. I mean, not that you're going to ignore what's going on around you, but I think Atlantic City's situation is sufficiently unique that it would be really hard to think about -- for all customers there being some larger market. You know, for any -- any given consumer, I guess, like I said before, depending on their income and their preferences or taste for gaming and various other amenities, there -- some people will have choice huge choices around the whole world, and some people will really only have because of transportation costs or some other reason small choices. So you're always going to find consumers who are choosing between Atlantic City and something else. In certain locations around the Northeast. <br> Q. And to your knowledge, in cases that you've participated in, the Commission has used in the past only Atlantic City as the relevant geographical market; is that correct? <br> 25 A. I think that's right. I don't recall |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> the -- well, I can't remember all the Commission <br> opinions. But I don't recall the Commission opinions <br> being decisive. Some decisive acts of those opinions <br> being based on competition elsewhere. But again, I <br> can't recall all the final reports of the decisions of the Commission at this point. <br> Q. Are you aware of the 2015 event when <br> Carl Icahn's affiliated entries acquired Taj Mahal? <br> A. Yes. To a certain extent. <br> Q. And that transaction, that was going to <br> make Mr. Icahn's group a two-facility operator in <br> Atlantic City. Is that your understanding? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Do you know what the Commission view of the relevant market in that case was? <br> A. Well, I read that. I read that decision <br> last night, and I think there -- that decision says <br> that, you know, the Atlantic City market is the market <br> that they want to discuss for the purposes of that -- <br> that merger. Well, merger -- acquisition. <br> Q. And -- <br> A. I think that's right. <br> Q. I'm sorry. Go ahead. <br> A. I think that's right. | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> knowledge or discussions about their views at the time. <br> Q. Understood. <br> So going on toward the end of your <br> report, you make certain recommendations. But do you recommend whether the merger should be approved or not? <br> A. Well, I think, you know, the way -- the <br> way I would interpret mine is presenting alternatives. <br> And from my past experience and my previous reports, you know, I -- I made -- recommendations maybe, but to <br> me they may have been more suggestions for the <br> Commission to consider would be the way I would <br> describe them. But, you know, we title them <br> "recommendations". <br> Q. So why don't you go through what you <br> think the Commission should consider as options for handling this merger? <br> A. Well, I -- I think this is a -- you <br> know, a huge merger in the -- well, it's huge in the nationwide, but it's also huge in the context of Atlantic City. And if you look at the -- I mean, it is true, Professor Watts is correct that there are various instances in which the Herfindahl Index in |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Q. And the Division, as far as you're aware, didn't retain an expert in that matter? <br> A. I don't know that they did. There was no reference to one. <br> Q. Are you aware that we included as a comment in that report that given the expansion in gaming that a limited geographical view of the market is no longer reasonable or justified? <br> A. Well, in my previous answer, I was talking about the Commission. Yes. No. I saw -- I saw that. But I didn't read -- I didn't have a copy of the Division's recommendations to read. But I think that was referred o in the Commission -- the Chairman's decision. <br> Q. Right. So in the Commission's <br> determination that you're aware of, the Commission did not agree with any of those comments that would have been in the Division report. And it went ahead and continued to consider the relevant market as Atlantic City. Is that -- <br> A. That was my interpretation of the decision. Yeah. But I wasn't involved in the case, so, you know, I didn't have -- you know, I wasn't retained by the Division, so I didn't have any | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Atlantic City only since 2005 has been in, you know, approximately 2500 or even above in this highly concentrated industry. And most of those situations, they arose from some kind of merger acquisition involving Caesars. <br> And so the -- in 2005 when we were <br> considering the Caesars/Harrah's merger and I wrote a <br> report, I didn't recommend against the merger. And the AC Hilton and the Dunes property were divested prior to the final decision. But in that -- in that case it probably would have been better to have divested the Showboat. But that generated a huge merger and a dramatic increase in the Herfindahl. And the subsequent performance of Caesars and Bally's wasn't exactly what the Commission or the -- would have hoped for. <br> In this case, I'm realistic in the sense of what is feasible to happen. Of course, the acquisition of Harrah's is a major -- major impact. But Harrah's has been a successful casino with major investments in general. And my view is that Caesars and Bally's properties are in some sense sort of integrated or easily integrated. And so that could have been a larger -- potentially larger major resort |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> hotel that would be competitive with Borgata and things. <br> So but the divestiture of Bally's is <br> sort of the least attractive divestiture from my point <br> of view. And I understand that the maintaining the <br> Wild Wild Casino's property makes the -- that block <br> consistent with Caesars. But that certainly does <br> mitigate some of the potential anticompetitive effects of the merger. <br> I guess my hope and the sense is that by <br> splitting Caesars property and the Bally's property <br> that either one or both would be able to expand in the <br> different directions and become a more competitive, <br> larger resort with more amenities, and therefore be <br> more competitive with the Borgatas and Ocean and Hard <br> Rock. Whether that will happen is pure conjectural, <br> but that's also why I recommended the properties <br> neighboring Caesars and Bally's not be encumbered in <br> any other way by somebody else that would prevent <br> either of those two properties from expanding <br> independently from each other. <br> I'm not sure I answered your question, <br> but. <br> Q. I think that gives an overview to the | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> So the fourth choice would be the <br> divestiture of Bally's that I just discussed. <br> Q. So are you saying that you would have <br> recommended the merger not be approved absent certain <br> remedies such as the divestiture being imposed by the <br> Commission? <br> A. That would have been better. Yes. A divestiture of some sort. <br> Q. So we talked about earlier the -- the <br> 200-and-over threshold that the 2010 merger guidelines <br> give as an indicator that they -- a transaction needs <br> to be looked at more closely. Can you recall what you <br> told the Commission earlier of what the change in the <br> every all HHI would be without any divestiture of <br> Bally's here? <br> A. Well, I think it was close to 700 . <br> Q. Right. And so given that being so far <br> over the 200 threshold, what do you think that that indicates? <br> A. Well, mainly it indicates that this is, you know -- this is a large merger, so both parties are large. <br> Q. And as you know, that sale is pending <br> for now. It hasn't been completed. Is that your |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Commission. So let's just go through some particulars about what you were saying. <br> Without the proposed sale of Bally's, <br> what would your conclusion about the merger have been? <br> A. Well, I think I -- I think I would <br> recommended that there be a divestiture. A Harrah's <br> divestiture would have been, just in terms of <br> competition, would have been my preferred <br> recommendation. I understand the financial aspects of <br> why that's an important part of the merger. <br> Then my second preferred would have been <br> the divestiture of the combined Caesars and Bally's <br> properties because there's -- seems to me that they <br> have an ideal location, and there's no reason why <br> whatever major investments -- I'm not the one to <br> dictate or even recommend what kind of investments <br> would be necessary. Could be, you know, a combined, <br> very serious resort. Not that it isn't close to that <br> now. But that has the most potential. So that would have been my second choice. <br> And my -- you know, the last choice, <br> well, of course, Tropicana is the acquiring company <br> initially, but that would be the same there. But <br> then -- | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> understanding? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. So what other -- what other guidelines <br> or mandates do you think it's important for the <br> Commission to consider if they approve the merger? <br> A. One of the -- one of the most important <br> features, since I've been looking at this since 1995 <br> and all my prior reports I did extensive travels <br> through the -- through the casino district and the <br> support district with various members of the Division. <br> And just always seemed to me that protecting large <br> sites -- potential sites for future large resorts was <br> one of the things that the Commission should have a -you know, maintain importance. <br> I mean, obviously accumulating sites has <br> been the key problem with the development of the casino district. And, I mean, I realize that now and sort of recession and now with the COVID virus, it's hard -- it's hard to imagine another major investment in the city. But if you look at it over, like, you know, for me, so I look every five years. If you look at over a long period of time, it's just been an amazing success story in terms of the investments that have been made. |

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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> The Revel, that was -- at the time that <br> property was -- I think it was called the North Beach <br> property in the old days. That property was -- I <br> think it was owned by MGM and it sold, and that <br> property was most attractive site everybody agreed to. <br> And but it didn't get built on, and but now it has. <br> And so over the long period of time, I mean, amazing <br> things have happened and been built. <br> Now, some of the bondholders haven't <br> always -- bondholders didn't receive all the returns <br> they expected, but that's always part of the economic <br> downturns. So and -- but then I've also seen examples <br> in which things didn't happen. So the classic example <br> historically was the Traymore site which was owned by <br> Caesars. And that's -- that property basically <br> blocked the Sands from having a larger casino that <br> fronted on the boardwalk. And that property just sat <br> there as a parking lot and now it's still vacant. So <br> that's an example of, you know -- in those days would <br> have been an attractive casino. Now it's probably <br> that one block is probably too small for anything you <br> should build now. But so protecting those sites from <br> ownership by the existing casino operators who might <br> not have an interest in selling those sites for -- for | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> developments. I mean, those developments are 20 years away. It's important to -- 10 or 20 years away, it's important to eliminate those. <br> Q. What's your view about the presence of independent operators staying in the Atlantic City market? <br> A. The presence of particular independent <br> operators you're referring to? Of single -- single <br> casino -- <br> Q. Yes. Single. <br> A. -- operators. <br> Q. Single facility owners, operators. <br> A. Well, another thing that's really become <br> clear in the last 15 years is that very large casino <br> resorts can be successful and very small old ones that <br> don't invest are going to die. And I mean, I'm -it's the closure of Trump Plaza. Okay, well, I -obviously that was poorly run for years. The closure of the Sands. That was blocked by the Traymore site. That was inevitable. But these things actually closed sooner than I would have even expected. <br> So I mean, so that -- so that's my point of trying to protect large potential sites. Because we're just -- I just don't think -- and we haven't |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> a new competitor seems to be particularly an important <br> thing. You know, just trying to do little things to <br> try to protect these potential sites. <br> And so that's why I, you know, if the <br> merger is approved in some form, I think with what the <br> Division has proposed in protecting sites and keeping track of ownership and outside the main footprints of the existing casinos is really very important. <br> Q. And how about some other considerations that you would suggest the Commission take into account here? <br> A. Well, the other -- most surprising thing that occurred to me from the last time I really focused on this in 2010 was the deed restrictions on the various casinos, several of which arose from sales of properties by Caesars. And I mean, that's -that's, you know, I find that just incredibly perverse in terms of competition. I mean, in some sense that ought to be illegal since it violates the existing zoning for the casino district, but I guess that's another type of lawsuit. <br> But those -- I mean, one way or another, those really have to be eliminated in order to protect the possibility of accumulating property for future | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> seen one -- of a basic 500 hotel room, basic casino <br> being built like the proposal of Pinnacle to built <br> just on the Traymore site. I just -- that got created because of the Great Recession I understand. But I just didn't think that was a sufficiently large site for -- to be competitive with Borgata and Harrah's and now Ocean and Hard Rock. <br> Q. In this area in your report you've also <br> included a concern about preserving the symmetry of competition in the market. Can you explain that? <br> A. Well, that's why the Herfindahl Index <br> squares the market shares. Because that -- by <br> squaring them, that accentuates the number we're <br> adding up. And larger numbers get squared to larger <br> numbers. So that makes -- and smaller numbers square <br> to smaller numbers. So that the squaring in the <br> Herfindahl Index would -- creates the asymmetry, what makes -- asymmetry makes the Herfindahl Index larger and is trying to capture the notion that smaller firms are less competitive -- you know, provide less competition than larger firms will. <br> Note that you wouldn't have to square <br> the market share. You could cube it or quartic it, but there are some theoretical justifications for |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> squaring the shares. So that's the -- that's the <br> notion of symmetry. And so -- so sort of more broadly, we see that smaller -- smaller operators, smaller casinos -- this is also true with other industries -- can't provide all of the amenities in the gaming industry, but any other industry, they can't compete in every dimension of providing the products with larger firms. And -- and so they are just not -- don't have the same many competitive impact on the industry. <br> Q. And do you have an opinion on the <br> effects that encouraging major investments will have on preserving competition? <br> A. Well, I think, you know, major <br> investments these older properties serve is crucial for their survival. So I guess my hope is that if this merger is approved that, you know, that Eldorado recognizes that. And it sounds like the conditions that they agreed to are really ratifying that, that, yes, these properties have to be invested in if we're going to be competitive with the other major resorts in town. And -- and also that's consistent with my view that you're not going to get just a basic hotel casino built in town anymore. It's going to have to | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> from being blocking of a major development. <br> Q. Yes. <br> A. Let me add to my answer about the deed restrictions. So even if -- if those -- the deed restrictions are on the smaller hotels. You know, the Showboat and Claridge and what used to be the AC Hilton. Even if a new operator wanted to open those hotels as they are, which, you know, which are too small to really be competitive in the long-term, at least there would be -- there's neighboring properties that could -- that those operators could potentially expand into if they are available for sale. So the notion of limiting deed restrictions is -- could result in some -- some of those casinos being opened. But my main concern is that those are -- those existing smaller casinos are located with neighboring property. And opening the old casino could help jump start the development of a larger resort. <br> Q. And it's been mentioned several times that the Division proposed conditions for the Commission's consideration if the merger is approved. Have you seen those? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Do you have them with you? |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> have at least 20 acres or more and be, you know -- I mean, that may not occur any time soon. But that's what the next step would be for the development of the industry. I think. <br> Q. So to help summarize for the Commission, you've essentially outlined three major areas of recommendations here that you said, I think, that if the Bally's sale was not pending, you would have recommended that a particular -- not a particular divestiture take place but that a divestiture be required. Was that right? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And that you also think it's very <br> important to encourage new entrants to the market and competition. Was that right? <br> A. Yeah. Definitely. <br> Q. And you went over for the Commission how <br> important you think it is to remove the deed <br> restrictions that exist? <br> A. Absolutely. <br> Q. And also that there should be <br> prohibitions on the ability to restrict development on <br> future on competitive casino sites; is that right? <br> A. Well, restrict from -- preventing them | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> A. Yeah. I might have them on the file. I <br> could pull them up. <br> Q. Okay. Well, just generally, though, you <br> discussed also that capital improvements are very important to preserving competition. You said that; is that right? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Are you generally aware that the -- <br> excuse me -- the Division has proposed several <br> conditions going toward setting up a fund for <br> extensive capital improvements over a three-year <br> period for the Caesars properties? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And you also recall looking at the <br> conditions and noting that the Division has <br> recommended release of the restrictive covenants that <br> are on the sites that we're talking about? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And also that the Division has proposed <br> a condition to protect -- to prevent, I should say -- <br> land blocking that you're talking about by the parties here and the REIT companies? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Thank you, Dr. Perry. I have no other |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> questions. <br> A. Okay. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? Your <br> witness. <br> CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: <br> Q. Dr. Perry, I think you said that you and <br> Dr. Watts used the same guidelines really in <br> evaluating this merger. And those guidelines were <br> obviously the Casino Control Act, Section 82, and the <br> criteria there and the HHI and the Horizontal Merger <br> Guidelines; right? <br> A. Well, I wouldn't -- wouldn't say I use <br> them. I mean, they are -- they are just -- become <br> such an important reference point for the analysis of mergers. But technically they apply only for how -you know, for how the agency is going to evaluate mergers. But they began in 1968. But over a long period of time, they are just an important reference, so it's kind of unavoidable to use that as a reference. <br> Q. Okay. And I think when you were asked <br> by Miss Richardson about the regional market, I think you said, you know, historically, while the statute in Atlantic City and the Commission has relied upon, of | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> provision but that -- that would be wise. <br> Q. Okay. So with regard to your report and <br> your testimony today, I'm going to read from the <br> Division's report on this merger. Have you reviewed the Division's report? <br> A. Yes, I've read it. <br> Q. Okay. And I'm just going to quote. It <br> says on Page 106: In brief, and subject to the fuller <br> explanation in Dr. Perry's report and testimony at the <br> hearing in this matter, Dr. Perry does not recommend <br> outright approval or disapproval of the merger on <br> undue economic concentration grounds alone. Instead <br> he recommends that the merger -- that if the merger is <br> to be approved, the Commission should impose <br> conditions designed to preserve or enhance <br> competition, certain of which would affect integral <br> components in this merger. <br> Do you agree with that summary? <br> A. I think that's a -- that's a fair <br> summary of my views. I mean, I view myself as providing alternatives and suggestions. <br> Q. So essentially you're not recommending denial. You're not recommending approval. But you're providing suggestions for the consideration of the |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> course the law that exists in Atlantic City that there have been considerations to a regional market as well; correct? <br> A. Well, I -- my work with the Division in the past has always been, yes, that what's happening outside of Atlantic City is important because it clearly has taken customers away. Whether it's really resulted in a competitive impact as strong as the existing conditions casinos in Atlantic City with respect to each other, that's a different story. But, yes, it effects -- you know, the profitability and viability and the growth of Atlantic City, and that's not surprising. <br> Q. So is it fair to say that while the <br> Casino Control Act delineates certain criteria that <br> wouldn't be necessarily prudent to ignore sort of the surroundings in the regional market as well in thinking about what the impacts might be of a merger? <br> A. Yeah. Yes, of course I agree with that. I mean, you know, the open question -- okay. <br> Q. Yeah. And I think the 11th item in <br> Section 82e is that the casino Commission can consider any other relevant evidence it has; is that right? <br> A. Well, I'm not aware of that specific | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> Commission, including potential conditions if the merger is approved; correct? <br> A. Yes. I think that's the right way to describe it. <br> Q. Okay. And you're aware -- because you <br> talked about a little bit so far -- that there are <br> conditions that have been proposed. And are you aware <br> that the conditions that have been proposed have been <br> agreed to by New Caesars? <br> A. Yes. The Division told me that recently. <br> Q. Okay. So you're aware that New Caesars <br> has agreed to expend the $\$ 400$ million over three years <br> to improve the properties that it will hold -- or the <br> properties that it will operate that it will acquire <br> and hold after the merger; correct? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And -- <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. That they also agree after the <br> three-year period to expend five percent of revenues on capital expenditures thereafter. <br> A. Yes. I'm aware of that. Yeah. <br> Q. Okay. And isn't it true that that would |


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| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> address the recommendations that you raised in your report regarding capital spend? <br> A. Well, I don't -- I didn't really make <br> any specific recommendations on capital spending. I mean, nor did I -- I recommend any particular <br> provision like the Division has agreed with New <br> Caesars. I mean, general capital spending is a good <br> thing in terms of improving the success of a property <br> and making it more competitive. <br> Q. Okay. And I think Miss Richardson asked <br> you that question, whether spending capital was <br> helpful to foster the competitive environment; <br> correct? <br> A. Yes. It has been. I mean, there are <br> some examples of failed expenditures. But there's -- <br> Q. Agreed. <br> A. -- more examples of successful <br> expenditures. <br> Q. Good point. Good point. Okay. <br> And you're aware that New Caesars has <br> agreed to remove the deed restrictions on the three <br> properties that you mentioned; correct? <br> A. Yes. That's correct. <br> Q. And that addresses one of your | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: <br> Q. Dr. Perry, I just wanted to ask you <br> about the 11th factor that Mr. Schrier was referring <br> to, that the Commission under the statute is to take <br> into account other relevant information. And the <br> implication that by not expanding the geographical <br> market to be considered, is that, in your view, <br> ignoring any surrounding information? <br> A. No. I don't think so. I think the word <br> "relevant" is is a term from the guidelines. I think <br> the -- you would look at competition in Atlantic City, <br> and that's direct competition head-on-head, just <br> independent of any locational, transportation costs to <br> consumers. That's -- that's going -- that's going to <br> be there. It's always going to be there. That's <br> going to be important for the Commission -- the <br> primary importance. But the effect of other casinos <br> in neighboring jurisdictions is relevant because it <br> affects the financial ability of the casinos in <br> Atlantic City to -- to make investments. Because it <br> is taking -- it will take away consumers, visitors who <br> have a particular locational closeness to one of the <br> new casinos in the other jurisdictions. <br> Q. So you're saying that you did look at |
| ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> recommendations, does it not? <br> A. It does. <br> Q. And you're aware that New Caesars has <br> agreed not to undertake any new deed restrictions; correct? <br> A. Yes. That's correct. <br> Q. And you're also aware that New Caesars <br> has agreed not to block development, I think is how we <br> were characterizing it, but there's a condition that <br> New Caesars has agreed to that it will not block <br> development and will sell land at fair market value if <br> there's a party that wishes to develop or expand <br> development of a particular casino. And that <br> addresses one of your recommendations as well; is that <br> correct? <br> A. Yes, it does. <br> Q. So it's fair to say that by entering <br> into these conditions, New Caesars has essentially <br> removed the barriers for entry of new competitors in <br> Atlantic City in a manner that you have recommended? <br> A. That's right. <br> MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have. Thank you. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY <br> that information, but you found it not necessarily to be relevant to pressure considerations or competitive factors but rather other, you know, societal or individual factors as well including economic, you know, conditions? <br> A. Well, I think a way to say that is the casinos in Atlantic City are directly competing with each other and independent of locational advantages, you know, and transportation costs. And so that's -that's important. But the neighboring jurisdictions, you know, they will attract consumers who might otherwise have come to Atlantic City. But that is different than the competitive -- direct competitive pressure within the city that's probably -- most <br> important from the point of view of the statute and the Commission, I think. <br> Q. Thank you. <br> MR. RICHARDSON: I have nothing further. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? <br> MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further. Thank you. <br> CHAIR PLOUSIS: Commissioner Cooper? <br> COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. <br> Thank you. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | Dr. Perry, once again, thank you for | 2 | about, you know, changes and mergers and when |
| 3 | joining us today and participating in this | 3 | did these transaction occur in the middle of |
| 4 | hearing. I have several questions for you. | 4 | year, do with put -- which year do we count |
| 5 | First I'd like to know in your career, | 5 | them as that. But that -- so I don't know. I |
| 6 | approximately how many of these reports have | 6 | spent -- well, I mean, I don't really want to |
| 7 | you done? Now, I know it can be a longer | 7 | say how many hours I spent because -- |
| 8 | report or shorter report. The depth -- I mean | 8 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: It's variable. |
| 9 | there are a lot of variables. But ballpark, | 9 | THE WITNESS: I might get gassed. But |
| 10 | how many of these reports have you done? | 10 | it's pretty -- yeah. It's time consuming. But |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: On casino matters or just | 11 | if you have support to work with, put together |
| 12 | on -- | 12 | the numbers and the data, then it's less of my |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. Casino | 13 | time. |
| 14 | matters. | 14 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And again, |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: Well, there's '95, 2000, | 15 | I fully realize there's a lot of variables and |
| 16 | 2005, and with the Commission. And then 2010 | 16 | extending circumstances. As you just said, |
| 17 | was the bankruptcy proceeding on the Trump | 17 | something can change, something is updated. A |
| 18 | matters. But I also worked for the Atlantic | 18 | change. So I understand that. |
| 19 | City Casino Association and filed a report and | 19 | A few moments ago you used the word |
| 20 | testified on the -- remember the old -- well, | 20 | "divestitures." And again, I've read the |
| 21 | before your time in the Commission -- the 50 | 21 | documents, the paperwork, the reports. But if |
| 22 | percent rule. That's -- those are listed in | 22 | you would, could you please explain the |
| 23 | my, the -- the beginning of my report. My CV | 23 | difference or the highlights of what exactly -- |
| 24 | is on -- at then end of the report, and it has | 24 | what is a divestiture? |
| 25 | a more comprehensive list. I -- I worked for | 25 | THE WITNESS: Well, it would be -- it |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | Foxwoods briefly on some matter, but I can't | 2 | would be the sale of some, you know, operating |
| 3 | remember. I worked for IGT on some matter and | 3 | assets of the -- of either one of the merging |
| 4 | looked at slot machines. I don't think -- I | 4 | parties in order to resolve competitive issues. |
| 5 | can't remember exactly details, but it would be | 5 | That's the essence in which it's used in merger |
| 6 | on my CV. | 6 | analysis. So, you know, divestiture could be, |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And again, | 7 | like, really small, but in this -- in this |
| 8 | this is just an approximate -- approximate. | 8 | context, it's -- it's divesting the whole |
| 9 | Let's take this report that we're looking at | 9 | casino is the way you would think about it. |
| 10 | today, how long does it take you once you are, | 10 | Because that way the license would be clear and |
| 11 | shall we say hired, or contracted by somebody | 11 | then you qualify the new owners. |
| 12 | or an agency or a casino? And again, I know | 12 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. |
| 13 | there are variables, but how long does it take | 13 | THE WITNESS: But -- but you could |
| 14 | you to do research on one of these reports? | 14 | divest just the hotel tower or parking garage |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: Well, from the point of | 15 | or something. But in all these prior cases, |
| 16 | view of my clients, it's always too long. But | 16 | it's either -- or a piece of land. Like the |
| 17 | partly because I have another job. | 17 | Traymore site could have been divested in that |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. | 18 | consideration. But usually it's mostly been |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: So when did I start | 19 | cast in the context of a casino with its |
| 20 | working on this? Sometime November last year? | 20 | license and hotel and casino. |
| 21 | And you know, I have a support from a base wide | 21 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. I asked Dr. |
| 22 | consulting firm. Two people supported me. And | 22 | Watts this next question. I'm going to pose it |
| 23 | the each report, when I'm updating all the | 23 | to you as well. I'm going to ask -- again, |
| 24 | tables is a little bit easier to update them. | 24 | there are a couple -- couple parts to the |
| 25 | But then there's always complicated issues | 25 | question. But to you -- I'm to say you seem to |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | have a -- a history of Atlantic City, | 2 | I guess my only thought would be, it would be |
| 3 | particularly when you mention Trump Regency -- | 3 | nice if it wasn't in the casino district but |
| 4 | and this is with no disrespect, don't get me | 4 | just adjacent to the casino district so you |
| 5 | wrong -- to Dr. Watts. But when you mention | 5 | weren't giving up the opportunity to have a |
| 6 | Trump Regency the Atlantis, the Traymore, | 6 | casino which could support even broader sets of |
| 7 | Sands, I'm hearing again, you've got a little | 7 | attractions. |
| 8 | more history. Or at least that's what you've | 8 | You're just -- got a little bit of |
| 9 | presented, you know, with Atlantic City. | 9 | marina operations. I never written down. |
| 10 | I would like to get your opinion -- and | 10 | Until recently, I don't think the casinos take |
| 11 | again, we're talking about casinos. But I | 11 | advantage enough on the fact that they're |
| 12 | would like to get your opinion of -- I'm going | 12 | located on a beach, near an Ocean. And I know |
| 13 | to say with regard to other attractions for | 13 | there's now some beach bars and the city has |
| 14 | Atlantic City. And I suppose when I mention | 14 | given permission to those, and I'm sure those |
| 15 | "other attractions," we can incorporate -- or I | 15 | have been a plus, particularly for younger |
| 16 | hope it's okay to incorporate -- the word an | 16 | people. Well, that's a problem right now with |
| 17 | independent operator. And again, as I said, I | 17 | COVID. |
| 18 | posed this question before, but I mentioned | 18 | And the other thing that I observed |
| 19 | Bart Blatstein who is the owner of Showboat. | 19 | is that -- this is going back to the |
| 20 | About a month ago he announced he's going to | 20 | beginning -- is that we didn't want any windows |
| 21 | build this huge park, like $\$ 100$ million of | 21 | onto the boardwalk from the casinos. And so |
| 22 | water park. And I think the focus happens to | 22 | you have a lot of boardwalk frontages in the |
| 23 | be on the family. So my question is your | 23 | casinos that are kind of just false fronts. |
| 24 | thoughts on -- and I know what I've read -- but | 24 | And so we -- but nobody in those days was |
| 25 | I'd like to hear in your words more comments on | 25 | really envisioning shopping within a casino. |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | independent operators and is -- is an | 2 | So that's kind of -- you know, I guess my |
| 3 | attraction gauged, let's say, for the family, | 3 | expectation is that maybe not soon but |
| 4 | is it important at this current time? | 4 | eventually, they'll be shopping on those, |
| 5 | And I'm adding that because again, I | 5 | remodeled to include shopping along the -- |
| 6 | mean, there is so much going on right now. But | 6 | along the boardwalk frontage, whether it be |
| 7 | how important what a family attraction be at | 7 | high end or low end or middle or something. |
| 8 | this junction in Atlantic City? And your | 8 | But, you know, back to your family |
| 9 | thoughts again on an independent operator at | 9 | issue. I think it could be important. How to |
| 10 | this time. | 10 | integrate it into the rest of the casino is an |
| 11 | I know there's a lot in there, but I'll | 11 | issue. It would be nice for parents to have a |
| 12 | let you handle it however you feel comfortable. | 12 | place where their kids can go and somebody was |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: Well, I don't have a | 13 | watching them and so they could be free to do |
| 14 | family, unfortunately. But it's too late now. | 14 | other things. |
| 15 | So I'm not -- I can't really speak so much to | 15 | I think what would happen is there would |
| 16 | that. I mean, I think it's clear that | 16 | be some resorts that would focus more on a |
| 17 | certainly more amenities such as restaurants | 17 | family attraction and others that wouldn't. So |
| 18 | and shopping have made a huge difference in | 18 | that's -- I don't think everybody would adopt a |
| 19 | terms of, you know, sort of Borgata and | 19 | family attract -- amenities. |
| 20 | Harrah's, these others. I think that's | 20 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: And again, I'm |
| 21 | important. This question about family | 21 | just looking at your report on Page 57 under |
| 22 | attractions is -- I can recall people thinking | 22 | Options and Recommendations. You had mentioned |
| 23 | about this back when I first started looking at | 23 | about maintaining independent casino operators. |
| 24 | things in '95. | 24 | So that's why I wanted to ask you. Because |
| 25 | I guess with respect to the water park, | 25 | Bart Blatstein, I think, happens to be one of |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | the names names that come right now. I mean, | 2 | Thank you so very, very much. |
| 3 | in July comes to mind with what he's planning | 3 | THE WITNESS: You're welcome. |
| 4 | to do in Atlantic City. So I wanted to get a | 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner |
| 5 | little more -- some more of your comments and | 5 | Cooper. |
| 6 | thoughts regarding an independent operator, | 6 | Dr. Perry, I have a few questions. You |
| 7 | particularly with what he's planning to provide | 7 | said you did reports in the City in 1995, 2005, |
| 8 | or to offer. It's going to be a while, but | 8 | and 2010. In any of those reports were deed |
| 9 | again, you know, it's going to be another -- | 9 | restrictions an issue, or did you recommend not |
| 10 | it's going to be an addition, something else | 10 | having them back then? |
| 11 | with Atlantic City. | 11 | THE WITNESS: I don't -- I don't recall |
| 12 | I'm very, very happy that you just | 12 | any deed restrictions being in place. The main |
| 13 | mentioned the beach and boardwalk. Because, I | 13 | concern in some of those reports was the motion |
| 14 | mean, that's what we're known for. I always | 14 | of blocking properties. Properties that were, |
| 15 | say I'm born and raised here, which I am. And | 15 | you know, either vacant or underutilized. I |
| 16 | nothing like the Atlantic City beach and | 16 | know there was one casino would more naturally |
| 17 | boardwalk. It's beautiful. | 17 | belong for the development of another casino. |
| 18 | One other question I'd like to ask you. | 18 | I mean, the classic example for yours was the |
| 19 | And again, your -- your thoughts on -- again | 19 | Traymore sites in front of the Sands Hotel that |
| 20 | the analysis that you did. Where does internet | 20 | was owned by Park Place and Caesars. |
| 21 | gaming and sports betting fit in? Does it fit | 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: In your -- in your other |
| 22 | in or does it not fit in with the presentation | 22 | reports that you've done around the country, |
| 23 | that you've given us? | 23 | have you seen deed restrictions in other |
| 24 | THE WITNESS: Well, I didn't really | 24 | jurisdictions? Or is this a local phenomenon? |
| 25 | focus -- in of my reports, this one didn't | 25 | THE WITNESS: I haven't worked on a |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | focus in any detail or no -- no detail about | 2 | casino matters in other parts of the country. |
| 3 | internet and sports gambling. I mean, aside | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: My other question is, in |
| 4 | from the -- the difficult issues about sports | 4 | regards to the Federal Trade Commission report, |
| 5 | gambling and making sure that the people or | 5 | were you surprised that they didn't recommend |
| 6 | participants of the industry are not doing it, | 6 | divestiture here in Atlantic City and they did |
| 7 | I see no problem with having that. I mean, | 7 | in other jurisdictions? |
| 8 | that's -- that could be very attractive to many | 8 | THE WITNESS: No. Well, I will really |
| 9 | people as long as they are -- you know, as long | 9 | don't want to say anything that might be |
| 10 | as you are not a participant in the industry | 10 | construed as critical of the FTC because I have |
| 11 | and also gambling. But that will be hard to | 11 | many friend there and DOJ. But I don't recall |
| 12 | enforce. Many things are hard to enforce. | 12 | the FTC being very concerned about the |
| 13 | Internet gaming is, you know, I'm an | 13 | consequences of a merger in Atlantic City in my |
| 14 | older person, so and everything that's | 14 | prior cases. And in some way you can |
| 15 | happening with respect to, like, the Zoom | 15 | understand that. The whole -- you know, it's |
| 16 | meeting is potentially going to change the -- | 16 | reflected in the increase that these cutoff |
| 17 | not just the workplace but maybe make | 17 | Herfindahl boundaries for what's |
| 18 | everything that's online more attractive and | 18 | unconcentrated, moderately concentrated, and |
| 19 | expand them. | 19 | concentrated. And those have increased. And |
| 20 | So I mean, I -- you know, there are | 20 | that increase is really reflecting the fact |
| 21 | people -- internet -- internet gambling would | 21 | that the agencies -- not just FTC -- but just |
| 22 | be attractive to people that are very distant | 22 | as we're approving mergers with very |
| 23 | from a casino. And I guess I don't really have | 23 | concentrated industries, and we're approving |
| 24 | a strong view about that at this point. | 24 | things with very modest divestitures. And so |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Perfectly okay. | 25 | it's really reflecting the existing practice. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | And there's been a general move since 1980 | 2 | last, either. |
| 3 | that -- that it just takes a few firms to make | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: That's a great |
| 4 | a market sufficiently competitive. I won't | 4 | observation with your expertise that, you know, |
| 5 | name the number. So, no, I wasn't surprised. | 5 | you have to have a resort. We have an |
| 6 | I mean, one anomalous thing is that -- is it's | 6 | advantage here, and I think that will help us |
| 7 | interesting to think about Atlantic City being | 7 | marketing in the future. |
| 8 | in a larger geographic market, and then have | 8 | My last question is, in regards to the |
| 9 | the FTC ask for divestitures in very small | 9 | COVID-19, do you think that we'll be able to |
| 10 | markets. | 10 | recover faster than other jurisdictions or |
| 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. That filled | 11 | slower? |
| 12 | it in. | 12 | THE WITNESS: You know, that's a good |
| 13 | Earlier you stated a number of times you | 13 | question. We're also thinking about that in |
| 14 | were talking about larger tracts of land, 20 | 14 | the context of opening our university. |
| 15 | acre lots in regards to a casino. Is that your | 15 | You know, I -- it just takes one |
| 16 | recommendation for Atlantic City, that you need | 16 | unfortunate incident to set things back as -- |
| 17 | a larger casino here to draw people? | 17 | so that's why I can't really give an answer. |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Well, you can obviously | 18 | But I think there will be -- you know, like |
| 19 | say -- well, we can go up rather than out. But | 19 | some economists are predicting and others, |
| 20 | in practice, you know, the casinos space is | 20 | there will be some kind of snap back when |
| 21 | going to be on one floor. And now if you're | 21 | things are safely operated. |
| 22 | going to add amenities around it like | 22 | I mean, the minor evidence of that, you |
| 23 | restaurant and other entertainment, that's | 23 | know, I'm sitting at the Lake of the Ozarks in |
| 24 | really going to be best done if it's on the | 24 | Missouri. We have a little house down herer. |
| 25 | same floor. So you can get as many hotel rooms | 25 | I've got a nice view. But, boy, when they |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY |
| 2 | as you want on a smaller sites, but in terms of | 2 | opened up the bars in Missouri, things just |
| 3 | having those accessible casino floor space and | 3 | went crazy again. All the 20 different bars |
| 4 | accessible amenities on one floor, then 20 | 4 | here. Like people showed up like there was no |
| 5 | acres is probably as low as you would want to | 5 | tomorrow. And so I think there would be some |
| 6 | go for a modern resort that's going to have | 6 | sort of a reaction back to -- same for |
| 7 | lots of other amenities and attractions. So | 7 | restaurants. People will want to go out to |
| 8 | that's where I came up with that number. | 8 | restaurants. But whether it's big enough to |
| 9 | But it also fits into the some of the | 9 | compensate for all the losses that occurred |
| 10 | size of the blocks in the -- in the casino | 10 | during the shutdown, that's -- I don't know. I |
| 11 | district. | 11 | find that unlikely. |
| 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: So you see that as a | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Dr. Perry. |
| 13 | distinct advantage that we have in Atlantic | 13 | That's all I have. |
| 14 | City that we -- we create a resort rather than | 14 | Miss Richardson? Did you have any |
| 15 | just a simple building and throw slot machines | 15 | followup? |
| 16 | in it and call it a casino. | 16 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: Well, I think that's what | 17 | just very briefly. |
| 18 | happened. And that's -- and that's now | 18 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: |
| 19 | inevitable. I mean, it's really clear. You | 19 | Q. Dr. Perry, there were a lot of questions |
| 20 | know, with the closures in 2014, those were all |  | by Commissioner Cooper about divestiture, and I just |
| 21 | just like the original standalone 500 room |  | want wanted to clarify for the pending sale of |
| 22 | casinos. They're gone. So. |  | Bally's, that is not the entire facility of Bally's. |
| 23 | I mean, the AC Hilton became the | 23 | s that your understanding? |
| 24 | Atlantic Club, it was like a boutique casino | 24 | A. Yes. That's right. So it doesn't |
| 25 | for a few years, but, you know, that didn't |  | nclude the Wild West Casino footprint. |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | Q. Thank you. | 2 | process, just for the record to let everyone |
| 3 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. That's all | 3 | know that I did receive a phone call from the |
| 4 | I have. | 4 | attorney for Hard Rock, and I believe that he |
| 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? | 5 | also reached out to the Division and to Mr. |
| 6 | MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further. | 6 | Schrier on behalf of Eldorado to advise that |
| 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. Yes. | 7 | they are -- they are preparing a motion to |
| 8 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Just before we go into | 8 | participate in this proceeding. I have not |
| 9 | your -- your recess. We neglected to put on | 9 | received it yet. But at the Chairman's |
| 10 | the record, Mr. Schrier, that you -- that your | 10 | direction, we're going to, as he indicated, |
| 11 | case in chief was complete? Could you speak to | 11 | proceed with closing. And then everyone will |
| 12 | that just to make sure that we have that on the | 12 | have an opportunity to address that motion when |
| 13 | record? | 13 | and if it arrives subsequently. And a full |
| 14 | MR. SCHRIER: Absolutely. Yes. | 14 | opportunity to address it. |
| 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: We moved right into the | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you for that |
| 16 | Division's case. | 16 | announcement. |
| 17 | MR. SCHRIER: Right. Right. At the | 17 | Miss Richardson? Please proceed. |
| 18 | conclusion of Dr. Watts' testimony and the | 18 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 19 | questions from the Commission, that was the | 19 | For its consideration in this matter, |
| 20 | conclusion of the case of the Petitioner. | 20 | the Commission as received voluminous |
| 21 | Thank you. | 21 | materials, including the Division's |
| 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. | 22 | comprehensive and detailed report on the |
| 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 23 | proposed merger and the expert report of Dr. |
| 24 | We will recess until 2:10, and then | 24 | Martin Perry. The Commissioners have also |
| 25 | we'll hear the closing statements by both | 25 | heard extensive testimony through which |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | parties. So we will reconvene the 2:10. | 2 | Eldorado sought to address the numerous issues |
| 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Unless there's there's | 3 | and concerns raised by the Division's and Dr. |
| 4 | any other administrative -- | 4 | Perry's reports. |
| 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Unless there's any | 5 | As I noted at the beginning of this |
| 6 | administrative matters. | 6 | proceeding, the Division's report does not |
| 7 | MR. SCHRIER: Nothing that I have, | 7 | include a recommendation whether the merger |
| 8 | Chairman. | 8 | should be approved or not but rather highlights |
| 9 | MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing from me. Thank | 9 | serious considerations that needs to be |
| 10 | you. | 10 | undertaken in reviewing the transaction for |
| 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. Then I will | 11 | approval. |
| 12 | see you -- I will see everybody back at 2:10. | 12 | Those critical areas of concern are |
| 13 | Thank you. | 13 | undue economic concentration, capital |
| 14 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. | 14 | expenditure commitments, the potential impact |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. | 15 | of proposed cost cuts and consolidation |
| 16 | (A recess was taken from to 1:06 to 2:14 | 16 | measures, staffing levels at the Atlantic City |
| 17 | p.m.) | 17 | properties, restrictive covenants, and the |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Good afternoon. We're | 18 | operating and ownership structures of the CEC |
| 19 | back in session here. We are going to | 19 | Atlantic City properties of Bally's, Caesars, |
| 20 | continue, and we're going to open up with | 20 | and potentially Harrah's. |
| 21 | closing statements from Miss Richardson. | 21 | In addition, the overarching component |
| 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, if I may | 22 | of financial stability dominates the Division's |
| 23 | just indicate -- | 23 | overall analysis and its report given the |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Oh, yes. Please. | 24 | complexity and scope of the merger. |
| 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: -- before we begin that | 25 | The Division looked toward testimony |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | from Eldorado's witnesses to support their | 2 | markets like Las Vegas which rely heavily on |
| 3 | position that they can meet the statutory | 3 | airline travel. |
| 4 | standard of financial stability, | 4 | On the critical areas of capital |
| 5 | responsibility, and integrity as well as all | 5 | expenditure commitments, the potential impact |
| 6 | qualification criteria by clear and convincing | 6 | of proposed cost cuts and consolidation |
| 7 | evidence and that the transaction will not | 7 | measures, staffing levels at the Atlantic City |
| 8 | result in undue economic concentration. | 8 | properties, and restrictive covenants, you |
| 9 | In reflecting on the testimony | 9 | heard testimony from several witnesses on these |
| 10 | presented, the Division's concerns as they | 10 | matters, and Eldorado representatives indicated |
| 11 | relate to the overall uncertainty associated | 11 | repeatedly the company's commitments in those |
| 12 | with the transaction remain. As we indicated | 12 | areas in accordance with the Division's |
| 13 | in our report, the financial success of the | 13 | proposed conditions. |
| 14 | merger will be determined in many respects by | 14 | The Commission should not be under any |
| 15 | events and circumstances that are beyond the | 15 | illusion that those representations and |
| 16 | control of Eldorado and cannot accurately be | 16 | commitments were conceived or drafted by |
| 17 | predicted at this time. | 17 | Eldorado. What you have been presented with |
| 18 | We expressed in our report that we do | 18 | instead is Eldorado's agreement with the |
| 19 | not share Eldorado's optimism that New Caesars' | 19 | proposed minimum requirements the Division |
| 20 | operating performance will return to | 20 | carefully prepared for the Commission's review, |
| 21 | pre-shutdown levels by the end of 2021, and | 21 | considering, and adoption if it decides the |
| 22 | listed that as of the date of our June 30th | 22 | merger should be approved. |
| 23 | report, the Division did not know: | 23 | While a $\$ 400$ million pre-funded account |
| 24 | One, the length of time and the nature | 24 | held in trust for much-needed capital |
| 25 | and extent of restrictions and limitations in | 25 | expenditures at the Atlantic City CEC |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | place on casinos and customers; | 2 | properties over a three-year period is |
| 3 | Two, the business volumes and customer | 3 | virtually unprecedented, that fund should be |
| 4 | visitation trends subsequent to reopening, | 4 | considered from the perspective that this |
| 5 | particularly in the Las Vegas market that | 5 | amount will bring those properties to a state |
| 6 | relies heavily on air travel; | 6 | of improvement where they already should have |
| 7 | Three, the length of time it will take | 7 | been. |
| 8 | for revenues to return to pre-closure levels; | 8 | As Eldorado's executive said more than |
| 9 | Four, the incremental costs incurred by | 9 | once yesterday, they are taking on the good and |
| 10 | casinos to protect the health of patrons and | 10 | the bad of Caesars through this merger, and the |
| 11 | employees; | 11 | need for catch-up in this particular area is |
| 12 | Five, the economic conditions that will | 12 | one bad point. |
| 13 | exist post-merger and through 2022; | 13 | For this reason and contrary to views |
| 14 | And, six, any potential future COVID-19 | 14 | expressed by Eldorado in testimony, it is the |
| 15 | medical and health matters that could impact | 15 | Division's position that there is no link |
| 16 | its continuing casino operations. | 16 | between the proposed capital expenditure |
| 17 | Those unknowns, now two weeks after that | 17 | conditions and commitment requirements and the |
| 18 | report was filed, remain so. You did hear | 18 | other remaining issues to be decided in this |
| 19 | testimony related to No. 2 regarding business | 19 | matter, such as whether the sale of Harrah's |
| 20 | volumes and customer visitation upon reopening, | 20 | real estate should be approved to VICI REIT. |
| 21 | as Mr. Reeg and Mr. Yunker indicated Eldorado | 21 | Eldorado through Dr. Watts also |
| 22 | is encouraged by initial results at their | 22 | presented testimony on undue economic |
| 23 | regional properties but noted that destination | 23 | concentration. Dr. Watts urged that the |
| 24 | resorts results had been soft. Which is, of | 24 | relevant geographic market should be considered |
| 25 | course, one of the Division's unknowns as to | 25 | as more regional in scope rather than just |

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| 2 | considering Atlantic City because of the | 2 | in relation to the Atlantic City properties, |
| 3 | expansion in gaming in the Northeast. But such | 3 | remove barriers to entry to maintain |
| 4 | a concept has not been adopted by this | 4 | competition, and require New Caesars to adhere |
| 5 | Commission in the past. | 5 | to the commitments that have been made on this |
| 6 | Further, as noted by Dr. Perry, this | 6 | record. |
| 7 | expanded view is unwarranted because the undue | 7 | Thank you. |
| 8 | economic concentration standards are set forth | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 9 | in the Casino Control Act, which by their very | 9 | Mr. Schrier? |
| 10 | statutory nature, apply only to Atlantic City | 10 | MR. SCHRIER: Is that better? |
| 11 | casinos. | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: We can hear you now. |
| 12 | If the pending sale of Bally's Atlantic | 12 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you, Chairman and |
| 13 | City is completed, as Dr. Perry notes, some | 13 | Commissioner Cooper. I appreciate your efforts |
| 14 | undue economic concentration concerns are | 14 | and time over a very long day or two. |
| 15 | alleviated. To ameliorate some of these | 15 | As you have heard, this is the last |
| 16 | concerns, Dr. Perry has provided several | 16 | approval that is needed for this transaction to |
| 17 | recommendations to provide protections to | 17 | close. And with an approval, the Eldorado and |
| 18 | enhance competition which the Division has | 18 | Caesars merger is poised to be undertaken as |
| 19 | codified in its list of proposed conditions to | 19 | quickly as possible. This has been in process |
| 20 | you. | 20 | for a year. And as you have heard, this matter |
| 21 | As set forth in our report and | 21 | has been before over 20 gaming boards and |
| 22 | illustrated through our examination of Mr. | 22 | commissions who have all approved the merger. |
| 23 | Yunker, detailing the sequence of events and | 23 | I, like you and the Division, |
| 24 | seeking a position for a specific plan as to | 24 | acknowledge that this is a complicated |
| 25 | capital expenditures as well as deed | 25 | transaction with many moving parts. No one |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | restrictions, certain plans, agreements, or | 2 | said that pursuing the largest gaming deal in |
| 3 | commitments put forth by Eldorado came only | 3 | history would ever be simple. And we add in |
| 4 | after inquiry, prodding, or prompting in some | 4 | the COVID crisis and the multitude of |
| 5 | cases, repeated inquiry,, and explanations | 5 | adjustments that had to be made in the last six |
| 6 | where needed from the Division. | 6 | months, and you heard how that complexity can |
| 7 | These matters along with the matters | 7 | increase. |
| 8 | discussed with Mr. Carano about some regulatory | 8 | But notwithstanding all that, I think |
| 9 | missteps following the grant of ICA to Eldorado | 9 | you heard loud and clear that these two |
| 10 | give the Division pause as to Eldorado's | 10 | companies have positioned themselves with the |
| 11 | ability to recognize the needs and issues which | 11 | equity, with the funding, and with the |
| 12 | Eldorado faces in this market and how to | 12 | liquidity in place to close this deal now and |
| 13 | address and comply with them, particularly as | 13 | to proceed well into the future. |
| 14 | to the vastly expanded enterprises of proposed | 14 | How did they do it? How did they find |
| 15 | New Caesars. | 15 | that path when faced with adversity in the |
| 16 | In conclusion, the Division has | 16 | markets and the gaming industry? I submit they |
| 17 | presented a list of the conditions it submits | 17 | were able to do it because of the leadership of |
| 18 | should be imposed at a minimum if the | 18 | the executives at Eldorado and at Caesars. The |
| 19 | Commission decides to approve this merger. | 19 | people you heard from yesterday and their staff |
| 20 | These conditions are essential to ensure close | 20 | have the skills and the knowledge and the sheer |
| 21 | and continued financial oversight of proposed | 21 | strength of principle to solve the thorny |
| 22 | New Caesars, quantify and implement robust | 22 | problems, to address the concerns of regulators |
| 23 | capital investment in Atlantic City, monitor | 23 | and of banks and investors, and to lead the |
| 24 | staffing levels, evaluate the impact of any | 24 | company to be in a position to close this deal. |
| 25 | proposed cost cuts and consolidation measures | 25 | That same leadership team will be the reason |


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| 2 | that this combined company will succeed in the | 2 | with the sale of land in Las Vegas, and a new |
| 3 | future. | 3 | mortgage note and \$210 million of incremental |
| 4 | The Division's report raised many | 4 | commitments to Eldorado's revolving credit |
| 5 | questions which I will address, but the two | 5 | facility. |
| 6 | primary areas that you need to consider are, | 6 | Mr. Yunker testified that Eldorado |
| 7 | one, if this company has proven its financial | 7 | expects to have approximately $\$ 4$ billion of |
| 8 | stability and, two, that the combination will | 8 | liquidity by the end of the third quarter 2020. |
| 9 | not result in undue economic concentration | 9 | And Eldorado will have an equity market |
| 10 | under the Casino Control Act. | 10 | capitalization for approximately \$7 billion, |
| 11 | Let's talk about financial stability. | 11 | which is the largest among public company peers |
| 12 | You heard the testimony of Mr. Reeg and Mr. | 12 | in the industry. |
| 13 | Yunker that as conditions in the market | 13 | Most importantly, while performance |
| 14 | changed, the company used its resources to find | 14 | results are ahead of expectations in April, |
| 15 | appropriate debt equity and liquidity. You | 15 | Eldorado's liquidity position is well beyond |
| 16 | heard Mr. Yunker testify that post-reopening | 16 | any expectation that the company or the |
| 17 | operating results and cash flows are | 17 | Division had in late April. The post-June |
| 18 | significantly ahead of the April expectations. | 18 | liquidity position now puts New Caesars in a |
| 19 | And also that the preliminary property level | 19 | position to endure potential operating cash |
| 20 | revenues for the second quarter of 2020 did | 20 | flow weaknesses for extremely sustained periods |
| 21 | exceed the April 30 forecast model. | 21 | of time and addresses the concern raised by |
| 22 | Additionally, you heard that Eldorado | 22 | Miss Richardson about the uncertainties of the |
| 23 | executed a series of equity and debt | 23 | future. |
| 24 | transactions in mid-June, just last month, that | 24 | I submit that all of this solidly |
| 25 | were met with tremendous demand from investors. | 25 | addresses the concerns raised by the Division |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | On June 19th, Eldorado closed a 20.7 | 2 | over financial stability and debt structure. |
| 3 | million share offering that yielded \$772 | 3 | Beyond capital structure, the Division |
| 4 | million of cash proceeds. Immediately | 4 | raised several areas of concern about other |
| 5 | following that equity raise, Eldorado executed | 5 | aspects of the merger. One area was the |
| 6 | an $\$ 8$ billion debt offering as well. And in | 6 | potential impact of synergy measures on the |
| 7 | addition to achieving a very low cost of debt, | 7 | Atlantic City market. And Mr. Chairman, you |
| 8 | overwhelming demand allowed Eldorado to upsize | 8 | also asked about that as well. |
| 9 | the offering and put additional liquidity on | 9 | The testimony of Tom Reeg and Bret |
| 10 | the balance sheet by ensuring full access to | 10 | Yunker explained that the synergy measures have |
| 11 | the combined company's \$2 billion of revolving | 11 | already started to be implemented by the |
| 12 | credit facilities at closing. | 12 | company. You heard the 200 million will be |
| 13 | The testimony noted that New Caesars | 13 | realized from decentralizing the current |
| 14 | earliest debt maturity will be at the end of | 14 | Caesars organization. Additional synergies |
| 15 | 2024, and that was also indicated in the | 15 | will be realized from purchasing consolidation, |
| 16 | Division's report. This provides over four | 16 | duplicative professional services, misdirected |
| 17 | years of runway for New Caesars to complete | 17 | IT spend, and more enterprise level contracts |
| 18 | integration, drive free cash flow, de-leverage, | 18 | and slot floor optimization. And another |
| 19 | and optimize the combined asset base as it has | 19 | hundred million dollars of revenue driven |
| 20 | done in prior transactions. | 20 | synergies are expected from the Caesars Rewards |
| 21 | In order to further augment Eldorado's | 21 | impact. |
| 22 | liquidity position, they also announced two | 22 | Mr. Yunker, Mr. Carano and Mr. Reeg all |
| 23 | additional transactions in June. One was a | 23 | stated that these measures were never from day |
| 24 | \$500 million additional proceeds from VICI that | 24 | one intended to come from Atlantic City. And |
| 25 | are expected in the third quarter in connection | 25 | in fact, to back up that statement, they have |

Renzi Legal Resources

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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | agreed to Condition No. 22 which requires any | 2 | Mr. Reeg, we take the good with the bad. |
| 3 | reductions in full-time employees or part-time | 3 | So what is the remedy? After reviewing |
| 4 | employees of more than 50 persons to be | 4 | the situation and working back and forth with |
| 5 | submitted approved by the Division. There are | 5 | the Division, I'm not sure I would call it |
| 6 | no anticipated reductions in force at any | 6 | "prodding," but certainly the Division was |
| 7 | individual casino facility in Atlantic City. | 7 | instrumental in working through these |
| 8 | However, in the future, if there would be, | 8 | conditions with Eldorado. But in working with |
| 9 | Eldorado, New Caesars has an agreed to obtain | 9 | them, Eldorado or New Caesars committed to put |
| 10 | approval. | 10 | \$400 million into a fund and spend that on the |
| 11 | Another area the Division raised -- and | 11 | three properties it will own over that |
| 12 | it's a legitimate question -- is the company's | 12 | three-year period. |
| 13 | ability to manage integration of CEC into ERI | 13 | You heard Bret Yunker, Steve Callender, |
| 14 | and become New Caesars given the scale of this | 14 | Tom Reeg testify that of that $\$ 400$ million, |
| 15 | merger. In that regard you heard Anthony | 15 | they will invest $\$ 150$ million in Caesars |
| 16 | Carano, Tom Reeg, and Steve Callender testify | 16 | Atlantic City for the first three years after |
| 17 | about the skill and experience of a combined | 17 | the merger and at least \$125 million in Bally's |
| 18 | Eldorado and Caesars executive management | 18 | Atlantic City if that property is not sold to |
| 19 | teams. | 19 | Twin River. |
| 20 | Significant integration planning efforts | 20 | Additionally, New Caesars has committed |
| 21 | have been ongoing following the announcement of | 21 | that on an ongoing forward basis they will |
| 22 | the transaction in June of 2019, including site | 22 | invest at least five percent of Atlantic City |
| 23 | visits to all the Caesars properties. Detailed | 23 | net revenues on capital expenditures in these |
| 24 | integration plans are being executed across all | 24 | Atlantic City properties after the first three |
| 25 | key functions of the business such as | 25 | years. |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | marketing, responsible gaming, accounting, | 2 | At the Division's request, they will put |
| 3 | finance, human resources, and so on. | 3 | this money into a trust to be administered by |
| 4 | Lastly, senior leadership has been | 4 | an independent trustee who can step in if they |
| 5 | confirmed, and the leaders were selected from | 5 | fail to meet their commitment. This, as Miss |
| 6 | both legacy Eldorado and Caesars teams at the | 6 | Richardson said, is unprecedented. What does |
| 7 | corporate and property level. Key executives | 7 | it mean? What does it mean? It means that New |
| 8 | of both companies understand and have | 8 | Caesars is committed to Atlantic City and to |
| 9 | experience with integration of gaming | 9 | improving the facilities it operates in |
| 10 | properties, and are well under way to hit the | 10 | Atlantic City to be best in class. |
| 11 | ground running, as Mr. Carano said. | 11 | This agreed-upon commitment was made to |
| 12 | I'd like to address the concerns raised | 12 | address several areas, not just the chronic |
| 13 | by the Division and well recognized by Eldorado | 13 | undercapitalization of Caesars and Bally's, but |
| 14 | about the lack of capital investment in CEC | 14 | to address the other concerns raised by the |
| 15 | properties in Atlantic City and as part of the | 15 | Division like the sale of Harrah's land to |
| 16 | petition seeking to convey the Harrah's real | 16 | VICI. |
| 17 | estate to VICI, which is a concern that this | 17 | Although New Caesars does not agree with |
| 18 | sale to VICI might result in a lack of capital | 18 | the Division and Dr. Perry's view that REIT |
| 19 | expenditure. | 19 | ownership might encourage undercapitalization, |
| 20 | If there was one overarching area of | 20 | the commitment made satisfies and addresses |
| 21 | concern that was raised over and over again, it | 21 | those concerns in a big way. |
| 22 | was the lack of the capital expenditure at the | 22 | And with the sale of Harrah's land to |
| 23 | CEC properties in Atlantic City. No one | 23 | VICI -- I'm sorry. Yes. With the sale of |
| 24 | disputes that. But that wasn't due to | 24 | Harrah's land to VICI and the sale of Bally's, |
| 25 | Eldorado. But as Miss Richardson said quoting | 25 | VICI will be in exactly the same position as it |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | is today, holding the land of two casinos under | 2 | this Commission has seen situations over the |
| 3 | an approved master lease by the Casino Control | 3 | years where operators have held three, as CEC |
| 4 | Commission. | 4 | does as we sit here today, and even four |
| 5 | The reality is -- and the Division has | 5 | casinos. So New Caesars holding three casinos |
| 6 | said this ad infinitum -- Caesars did not | 6 | and having five or six competitors gunning for |
| 7 | expend the capital that was needed to upgrade | 7 | them is not unusual or something that this city |
| 8 | their Atlantic City casino hotels. That was | 8 | hasn't seen before. What is unusual is that in |
| 9 | not getting better. As we sit here today, what | 9 | order to address any concerns about competition |
| 10 | would be the outcome if this merger did not | 10 | under Section 82 of the Act, New Caesars not |
| 11 | occur? I can assure you that there would not | 11 | only committed a massive dedicated capital |
| 12 | be a commitment and a fund to spend $\$ 400$ | 12 | expenditure fund but committed and agreed to |
| 13 | million on these properties. Not a knock on | 13 | conditions to removing all of the current deed |
| 14 | Caesars, but Eldorado wants to be in Atlantic | 14 | restrictions on three potential casino |
| 15 | City, and they've backed that up not just with | 15 | properties that it will have rights over when |
| 16 | promises but with enormous dedicated and | 16 | it acquires CEC. And they've agreed not to |
| 17 | set-aside funds to prove it. | 17 | implement any new deed restrictions. |
| 18 | Finally, let's talk about the issue of | 18 | Further, the company committed to not |
| 19 | undue economic concentration. Section 82 of | 19 | closing any Atlantic City property for five |
| 20 | the Act requires the Commission to determine | 20 | years. And in addition, the company committed |
| 21 | whether the outcome of this transaction will | 21 | to selling land parcels in Atlantic City at |
| 22 | result in undue economic concentration. The | 22 | fair market value that may assist a third party |
| 23 | law requires the Commission to consider changes | 23 | in developing a new casino, and they will not |
| 24 | in market share which could result from the | 24 | block any new development in the city. |
| 25 | transaction and offers 11 statistical | 25 | Lastly, they are committed to the sale |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | categories set forth in the Act. | 2 | of Bally's Atlantic City, the Twin River |
| 3 | You heard from two experts, one, Dr. | 3 | holdings which, as Mr. Callender noted, will |
| 4 | Watts, saying that there is in his view no | 4 | add another substantial new competitor into the |
| 5 | finding of undue economic concentration under | 5 | market. |
| 6 | Section 82 of the Act alone. But he also said | 6 | So as a result of all of those things, I |
| 7 | that under all the other criteria that you may | 7 | would submit that the approval of this merger, |
| 8 | want to take into account, like the FTC does, | 8 | including the conditions will, in fact, |
| 9 | like the Department of Justice does, that even | 9 | encourage competition in the Atlantic City |
| 10 | under those criteria, there were no -- there | 10 | market for years to come. |
| 11 | was no undue economic concentration. | 11 | It's been noted by this Commission in |
| 12 | The other expert didn't make a | 12 | past reviews of this issue of economic |
| 13 | recommendation on approving this merger either | 13 | concentration that the responsibility of the |
| 14 | way, but he did offer potential mitigating | 14 | Commission is not just to foster competition |
| 15 | conditions to foster competition if the | 15 | but under Section $1 \mathrm{~b}(13)$ of the Act to also |
| 16 | Commission chose to allow the merger to occur. | 16 | encourage the rebuilding and redeveloping of |
| 17 | Although it's not binding on the | 17 | existing facilities and of encouraging new |
| 18 | Commission, you did hear evidence that the FTC, | 18 | capital investment in Atlantic City and to |
| 19 | after months of its review, concluded that the | 19 | provide a meaningful and permanent contribution |
| 20 | transaction would not substantially reduce | 20 | to the economic viability of the resort, |
| 21 | competition in the Atlantic City area, and they | 21 | convention, and tourist industry of New Jersey. |
| 22 | closed their investigation of the Atlantic City | 22 | That's a quote from the statute. I |
| 23 | market without any remedial actions to address | 23 | submit to you that this transaction and the |
| 24 | anticompetitive concerns. | 24 | sale of the Harrah's land to VICI with these |
| 25 | I submit that experts can differ, but | 25 | conditions will accomplish that. |


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| 2 | I have one additional housekeeping item, | 2 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. I've spoken with Mr. |
| 3 | and that is that if you agree to the merger, we | 3 | Casiello. |
| 4 | have created a capital expenditure trust. And | 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Is there any |
| 5 | that Trust Agreement has been submitted in | 5 | preferred timeline to address that matter? |
| 6 | evidence as P-5. If you do agree to the | 6 | From your perspective? |
| 7 | merger, then I would ask that you approve the | 7 | MR. SCHRIER: Having not seen what the |
| 8 | Trust Agreement and, in addition, qualify the | 8 | filing is going to say, it's a little difficult |
| 9 | Trustee, John J. Farmer, to serve as Trustee | 9 | for me to respond. |
| 10 | over the capital expenditure trust. So I would | 10 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: I understand. |
| 11 | ask that you kindly do that as part of your | 11 | MR. SCHRIER: But, obviously, my goal is |
| 12 | decision. | 12 | to allow the Commissioners to deliberate and, |
| 13 | In conclusion, we respectfully request | 13 | you know, provide their decision as quickly as |
| 14 | your approval of this merger and the relief | 14 | possible. |
| 15 | requested in the associated petitions that are | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Understood. |
| 16 | pending before you numbered 15 through 18 on | 16 | So what I'm trying to determine, Mr. |
| 17 | your agenda. | 17 | Chairman, is if we want to -- because I do have |
| 18 | I want to thank you again for your time | 18 | it on my BlackBerry, the petition. If we want |
| 19 | and effort and consideration for this very | 19 | to reconvene this evening to address the motion |
| 20 | complicated matter. And I also want to thank | 20 | to participate, assuming it is served and filed |
| 21 | the Director and the Director's staff for all | 21 | on everyone? And make your decision on that so |
| 22 | of their hard work and efforts over the past | 22 | that when we recess for the evening, we know if |
| 23 | year. | 23 | you're deliberating with that brief or not. |
| 24 | Thank you. | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. |
| 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. Schrier. | 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Is everyone available |
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| 2 | Commissioner Cooper, any last questions? | 2 | to reconvene later? |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'm fine. | 3 | MS. RICHARDSON: Yes. |
| 4 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: You're fine? | 4 | MR. REBUCK: Yeah. The Division will |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. | 5 | make itself available. This is Dave Rebuck. |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Well, we will recess | 6 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: So let's say we want to |
| 7 | until tomorrow morning at $10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. We'll see if | 7 | give them until 4:00? |
| 8 | we get that -- the documents in regard to that | 8 | MS. RICHARDSON: That would be okay. |
| 9 | pending matter, and we'll all review it before | 9 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. We'll reconvene. |
| 10 | we come to our conclusion tomorrow morning. | 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: All right. Then we'll |
| 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Oh, no. Actually, Mr. | 11 | recess now reconvene at 4:00. |
| 12 | Chairman, we do have to address whether or not | 12 | Mr. Schrier, you have the documents |
| 13 | the Commission will agree to allow Hard Rock to | 13 | electronically transferred? |
| 14 | participate. And if you do agree -- well, | 14 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: MaryJo, I think |
| 15 | they -- the parties should be allowed to be | 15 | you're muted. |
| 16 | heard to speak to that if there's any | 16 | MS. FLAHERTY: Dianna, I just want to |
| 17 | objection. And if you do grant them the right | 17 | note, I think you also have a petition from |
| 18 | to participate, then you could review the brief | 18 | maybe Ocean as well? |
| 19 | that they would file. But the question still | 19 | MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: We do. |
| 20 | remains addressing the motion to participate, | 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Oh, you got that. |
| 21 | which is still in the process of being | 21 | Yeah. I haven't gotten that one yet. |
| 22 | prepared. | 22 | MS. FLAHERTY: I just want to note, |
| 23 | I understand that Mr. Casiello has | 23 | there's some other petitions on the agenda. |
| 24 | reached out to Mr. Schrier and to the Division. | 24 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. Yes. We will do |
| 25 | Has there -- | 25 | those tomorrow morning. |


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| 2 | MS. FLAHERTY: Okay. Thank you. | 2 | procedures rules. |
| 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yeah. | 3 | So with that, Mr. Chairman, if the |
| 4 | MS. RICHARDSON: And Mr. Chairman, and | 4 | parties wish to be heard with respect to those |
| 5 | Dianna, if I could be heard with the one | 5 | two motions to participate. |
| 6 | component that Mr. Schrier ended with about the | 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? Would you |
| 7 | Trust and the Trustee, Mr. Farmer? | 7 | like to be heard on this matter? |
| 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 8 | MR. SCHRIER: I would not. But Mr. |
| 9 | MS. RICHARDSON: Since the Division | 9 | O'Gara is going to handle this matter as |
| 10 | is -- the agency that would recommend to you | 10 | Co-Petitioner. |
| 11 | whether an individual should be qualified, I | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. |
| 12 | just want to note for your reference and | 12 | MR. O'GARA: Good afternoon, Chairman, |
| 13 | convenience when you consider these particular | 13 | Commissioner Cooper. Paul O'Gara, Brownstein, |
| 14 | matters and those rulings in particular on the | 14 | Hyatt, Farber Schreck on behalf of the |
| 15 | Trust, the Division does recommend that Mr. | 15 | Co-Petitioners Caesars. |
| 16 | Farmer be considered qualified. He has | 16 | We're in receipt of Mr. Casiello's |
| 17 | previous experience in -- as a divestiture | 17 | motion and his short letter regarding |
| 18 | trustee in other matters. As you know, Mr. | 18 | participation. We would, on behalf of the |
| 19 | Farmer was former Attorney General of New | 19 | parties, oppose an objection to the |
| 20 | Jersey and has had a prestigious career in | 20 | participation. |
| 21 | public service. So we wholeheartedly recommend | 21 | While we recognize that the standards |
| 22 | him for qualification for that position. | 22 | for participation under the rule are |
| 23 | Thank you. | 23 | substantially less than they would be for |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. So noted. | 24 | intervention, I would urge the Commission to |
| 25 | Then we will -- we will recess until | 25 | consider that this petition arrived after the |
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| 2 | 4:00. We'll see everybody back at 4:00. Thank | 2 | closing statements in this matter and that |
| 3 | you. | 3 | perhaps it's not timely. |
| 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: All right. Thank you. | 4 | I would also urge you to consider that |
| 5 | (A recess was taken from 2:49 to 4:02 | 5 | there's nothing that states what the compelling |
| 6 | p.m.) | 6 | interest or the specific interest that either |
| 7 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Good afternoon. Again, | 7 | of the two parties, either AC Ocean or Hard |
| 8 | this is Chairman Plousis. We're reconvening | 8 | Rock, have with respect to this matter that |
| 9 | the Casino Control Commission meeting. | 9 | could add anything substantial. |
| 10 | So I'm going to turn it over to our | 10 | We think that the -- all the facts and |
| 11 | Chief Counsel. | 11 | virtually all the arguments the Commission we |
| 12 | Dianna? | 12 | would consider have been placed before by the |
| 13 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Good afternoon | 13 | Division by the Petitioners and that nothing |
| 14 | everyone, again. | 14 | would be added to the proceedings by the |
| 15 | Since the break, we have received letter | 15 | participation of either of these parties. |
| 16 | petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, | 16 | Thank you. |
| 17 | LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as | 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara. |
| 18 | Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger | 18 | Miss Richardson? |
| 19 | proceeding through the filing of a letter | 19 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and |
| 20 | brief. | 20 | Commissioner Cooper. |
| 21 | Their action is pursuant to Rule | 21 | The Division does not formally oppose |
| 22 | 1:1-16 --6. Rule 1:1-16.4 of the | 22 | the request for participation, but I would note |
| 23 | Administrative Rules consistent with the | 23 | that we really do have to echo what Mr. O'Gara |
| 24 | Commission rules requiring that actions of this | 24 | said, that it is open to question whether the |
| 25 | nature be guided by the administrative | 25 | Petitioners have presented a significant |


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| 2 | interest in the outcome of this proceeding | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: 10:00. |
| 3 | considering the scope of the merger and the | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: 10:00 in the morning. |
| 4 | interests that it set forth in the letter | 4 | And the Commission will render its decision on |
| 5 | petitions that were sent to you and the parties | 5 | the merger action. |
| 6 | today. | 6 | And as we discussed offline, the other |
| 7 | Also, we note that this is very late in | 7 | matters will also be called separately, giving |
| 8 | the process, and if the Commission is inclined | 8 | an opportunity for the parties to speak briefly |
| 9 | to consider such participation, it should be | 9 | to those items, or you can reference arguments |
| 10 | completed as soon as possible as to so, under | 10 | made on the merger matter instead if you |
| 11 | the rules that Miss Fauntleroy set forth, to | 11 | choose. And then we'll close out the meeting. |
| 12 | not cause undue delay. | 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. So we're in |
| 13 | Thank you. | 13 | recess until tomorrow morning at 10:00. |
| 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 14 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. |
| 15 | (Conferring.) | 15 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. |
| 16 | * * * PAUSE * * * | 16 | MR. O'GARA: Thank you. |
| 17 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excuse me for the | 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Have a good evening, |
| 18 | sidebar. | 18 | everyone. |
| 19 | Reviewing the matter, we're going to | 19 | MS. FLAHERTY: You, too. |
| 20 | move forward on this. We took note that we did | 20 | (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was recessed at |
| 21 | receive these letters, but we're not entering | 21 | 4:09 p.m.) |
| 22 | it into the -- as a party to this action. As | 22 |  |
| 23 | we heard earlier by both parties that this is | 23 |  |
| 24 | late in the game and the closing statements had | 24 |  |
| 25 | already been made. So. | 25 |  |
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| 2 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: So I would just for the | 2 | CERTIFICATE |
| 3 | record -- just make a motion to deny the | 3 |  |
| 4 | petition -- the request of Hard Rock and of | 4 | I, M. DARLENE ENGEL, a Certified Court |
| 5 | Ocean to participate. | 5 | Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll make a motion. | 6 | certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate |
| 7 | Do I have a second? | 7 | transcript of the proceedings via remote technology. |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. | 8 | I further certify that I am neither |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: All in favor, say aye? | 9 | attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed |
| 10 | (Ayes.) | 10 | by any of the parties to the action; further that I am |
| 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |  | not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel |
| 12 | (No response.) | 12 | employed in this case; nor am I financially interested |
| 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. | 13 | in the action. |
| 14 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. So find out if | 14 |  |
| 15 | there's anything else. | 15 |  |
| 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any other | 16 |  |
| 17 | matters pertaining to this from the Division or | 17 | Dorlere Enge |
| 18 | counsel? | 18 |  |
| 19 | MR. SCHRIER: I have none, Chairman. | 19 | M. DARLENE ENGEL, CCR |
| 20 | MS. RICHARDSON: None, Chairman. | 20 | License No 30XI0102300 |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing -- | 21 |  |
| 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: So this is the last |  | Dated: July 21, 2020 |
| 23 | recess. |  | My Notary Commission Expires |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |  | November 21, 2024 |
| 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: 10:00? |  | ID No 50117353 |


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B E F O R E :
CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 17, 2020

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:
ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP
STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
FOR: CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION, CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC, CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC., AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.
ITEM NO. 15 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP
STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
FOR: BOARDWALK REGENCY, LLC, BALLY'S
PARK PLACE, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY PROPCO, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS INC., VICI PROPERTIES, LP, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY, LLC, AND CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY, LLC, AND BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY, LLC.
BALLARD SPAHR, LLP
BY: MICHAEL D. FABIUS, ESQ.
FOR: VICI PROPERTIES, INC.

16
DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
GENERAL
BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK
PAUL M. O'GARA, ESQ.
FOR: CEOC/NON-CPLV
ITEM NO. 17 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP
STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
FOR: ELDORADO RESORTS, INC., AND
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 17, 2020

1
2
A P P E A R A N C S Continued:
DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
BLANK ROME, LLP STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ. FOR: TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY

Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 17, 2020



|  | 10 |  | 12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | company of Bally's Atlantic City, Caesars | 2 | made changes to remedy those missteps. |
| 3 | Atlantic City, Harrah's Atlantic City, and | 3 | CEO Thomas Reeg unabashedly acknowledged |
| 4 | Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, | 4 | shortcomings in the properties -- properties |
| 5 | in addition to Tropicana Atlantic City. | 5 | they intend to acquire, describing the level of |
| 6 | Eldorado will change its name to Caesars | 6 | business at these properties compared to what |
| 7 | Entertainment, which throughout this hearing | 7 | it once, once was, he called it "sad" and vowed |
| 8 | was frequently and informally referred to as | 8 | to rebuild it. When concerns were raised about |
| 9 | the "New Caesars." The Petitioners also seek | 9 | the relatively low level of employment at the |
| 10 | various rulings from the Commission related to | 10 | properties compared to the market average, he |
| 11 | the proposed merger. | 11 | said they fully understood and will work to |
| 12 | Eldorado has been engaged in | 12 | remedy that. |
| 13 | acquisitions over the past several years. | 13 | I found their testimony to be |
| 14 | Since 2014 Eldorado has increased its gaming | 14 | forthright. In my view, the Petitioners have |
| 15 | assets almost fourfold, including its 2018 | 15 | been honest about the challenges that lie |
| 16 | purchase of Tropicana Entertainment which | 16 | ahead. They have made commitments to restore |
| 17 | included Tropicana Atlantic City, New Jersey. | 17 | the proud history of the properties they would |
| 18 | Now with this 17.3 billion agreement to merge | 18 | acquire, and they acknowledge the importance of |
| 19 | two of the nation's largest publicly traded | 19 | Atlantic City to their success. |
| 20 | gaming companies, a combined Eldorado and | 20 | On the second day of this hearing, we |
| 21 | Caesars would control a significant portion of | 21 | turned our attention to the merger's -- to the |
| 22 | this market. There are legitimate concerns | 22 | merger's potential impact on competition in |
| 23 | that New Caesars, if left unchecked, would be | 23 | this market. |
| 24 | in a position to harm fair competition in the | 24 | We heard testimony from two economists. |
| 25 | Atlantic City casino market. | 25 | The first, Dr. Timothy Watts, who was retained |
|  | 11 |  | 13 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | As a backdrop, during this period, we | 2 | by the Petitioners. The second, Dr. Martin |
| 3 | have witnessed dramatic and unprecedented | 3 | Perry, was engaged by the Division of Gaming |
| 4 | business disruptions across the country. Many | 4 | Enforcement. Both experts submitted detailed |
| 5 | industries, including casino gaming, have | 5 | reports with the analysis of the merger |
| 6 | suffered from the mandated shutdown of public | 6 | transaction as well as their opinions of the |
| 7 | spaces to limit human contact and slow the | 7 | impact on Atlantic City. |
| 8 | spread of COVID-19. In New Jersey, the | 8 | Dr. Watts was helpful in assessing the |
| 9 | recovery from this episode has begun, but there | 9 | statistical impact of the proposed merger. In |
| 10 | has been setbacks in other regions of the | 10 | his report, he included all the statistical |
| 11 | country. The level of uncertainty regarding | 11 | categories in the Casino Control Act pertaining |
| 12 | when business might return to normal is very | 12 | to undue economic concentration. Dr. Watts |
| 13 | high. At this time there should be indeed be | 13 | also provided an amendment to his original |
| 14 | natural skepticism regarding near-term | 14 | report which analyzed the potential impact of |
| 15 | financial forecasts. | 15 | the Bally's sale to an independent operator. |
| 16 | On Wednesday we heard testimony from the | 16 | In my view, the Petitioner's decision to divest |
| 17 | team of executives who will be responsible for | 17 | one of the casinos weighs heavily in their |
| 18 | implementing the merger and will operate New | 18 | favor. Indeed, the economic concentration will |
| 19 | Caesars. They highlighted transactions | 19 | not exist. If the sale of the property is |
| 20 | recently undertaken to place the merged company | 20 | completed, confidence in the market may be |
| 21 | on stronger footing and noted additional steps | 21 | harmed and concerns of undue economic |
| 22 | that are available if circumstances worsen. | 22 | concentration would be heightened. |
| 23 | President and COO Anthony Carano acknowledged | 23 | Dr. Perry raised, among other things, |
| 24 | missteps Eldorado made following its entry into | 24 | the well-known restrictive covenants that |
| 25 | the -- into this market two years ago and has | 25 | Caesars Entertainment placed on former casino |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | properties it once owned in Atlantic City. In | 2 | and consider all viewpoints. I see no way as |
| 3 | his report he called for the State to lift the | 3 | part of these proceedings on the merger of this |
| 4 | restrictions while noting existing operators | 4 | transaction. |
| 5 | have an incentive to block competition from | 5 | Another matter of concern related to |
| 6 | other entrants by placing restrictions on the | 6 | this transaction has been the leasing structure |
| 7 | use of these properties. | 7 | of the casinos in Caesars local portfolio. A |
| 8 | The Division included the lifting of the | 8 | merger will expand this agreement with the |
| 9 | deed restrictions among its recommended | 9 | proposed transfer of Harrah's Atlantic City's |
| 10 | conditions as Condition 37, and the Petitioners | 10 | real estate assets to VICI Real Estate |
| 11 | agreed to do so upon the agreement of the | 11 | Investment Trust or VICI REIT. After this |
| 12 | current owners. | 12 | transaction, all of New Caesars Atlantic City |
| 13 | Other parties, namely Hard Rock Casino | 13 | casinos will be leased from one of two REITs. |
| 14 | and Ocean Casino Resort, filed emergency | 14 | New Caesars will be a casino operator only, and |
| 15 | petition seeking to be heard through the filing | 15 | it will make rent payments for the real estate |
| 16 | of the brief on the Division's -- on the | 16 | it previously owned. The methodology to |
| 17 | Division's recommended condition regarding | 17 | determine lease payments and the allocation of |
| 18 | restrictive covenants. However, being filed | 18 | lease payments among the properties has not |
| 19 | after closing statements were made and not | 19 | been a matter presented to this Commission. |
| 20 | advancing an argument that could substantially | 20 | The Division recommends a condition that New |
| 21 | add to the merits of the matters before us, the | 21 | Caesars submit this information within ten days |
| 22 | Petitions were denied. | 22 | prior to implementation. |
| 23 | Nevertheless, I have significant | 23 | As reported by the Division since |
| 24 | reservations regarding the appropriateness of | 24 | Bally's AC and Caesars AC have been owned by |
| 25 | requiring the restrictions be lifted as a | 25 | VICI and operated under leases, they have |
|  | 15 |  | 17 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | condition of approving the resolution today. | 2 | suffered from relatively low capital |
| 3 | It greatly complicates this matter and this | 3 | investment. This gave rise to proposed |
| 4 | decision with hypotheticals. Are there | 4 | conditions that require, among other things, |
| 5 | potential operators waiting for the opportunity | 5 | New Caesars to spend a minimum of 400 million |
| 6 | to bring small, outdated, and shuttered casinos | 6 | in capital expenditure -- in capital |
| 7 | back to life? In the end, it is an academic | 7 | expenditures at Caesars AC, Harrah's AC, and |
| 8 | exercise seeking to remedy perceived ills that | 8 | Tropicana AC over a three-year period. If |
| 9 | are not related to the merger plan that is | 9 | Bally's AC is not sold by the end of this year, |
| 10 | before us today. | 10 | an additional 125 million in capital |
| 11 | In reality, we remain in the midst of a | 11 | expenditures will be added, also to be spent |
| 12 | historic business disruption caused by the | 12 | over three years. |
| 13 | spread of COVID-19. As I noted, recovering in | 13 | These capex funds will be deposited into |
| 14 | New Jersey has begun, but there has been | 14 | a trust administered by an independent trustee |
| 15 | setbacks in other states. The level of | 15 | here in New Jersey. And after the three-year |
| 16 | economic uncertainty raised by COVID remains | 16 | period expires, Petitioners will commit five |
| 17 | very high today. | 17 | percent of Atlantic City revenues for capital |
| 18 | Under questioning, the economic experts | 18 | investment at the properties in Atlantic City. |
| 19 | could not predict whether New Jersey's casino | 19 | If the capital investments required for |
| 20 | industry is on a better footing of recovery | 20 | the first three years are not made, the casino |
| 21 | compared to other states. The benefit of more | 21 | license hearings of the properties will e |
| 22 | time will allow study and deliberations on | 22 | automatically be reopened before this |
| 23 | whether or not the restrictions should be | 23 | Commission. In my view, these strong measures |
| 24 | lifted as well as the timing of any changes. | 24 | are absolutely required. They will resolve the |
| 25 | This discussion should include all stakeholders | 25 | underinvestment that has negatively impacted |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | the performance of these properties and restore | 2 | Entertainment New Jersey, in addition to |
| 3 | them to be the exceptional facilities as the | 3 | Tropicana Atlantic City. |
| 4 | Casino Control Act requires and this State | 4 | Commissioner Cooper, do you have any |
| 5 | expects. | 5 | comments? |
| 6 | The Petitioners have agreed to these | 6 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, yes, |
| 7 | conditions, and their commitment to invest | 7 | I do. Thank you very much. |
| 8 | capital regardless of whether they own the real | 8 | Just over a year ago in June, we were |
| 9 | estate of each casino, is now a matter of | 9 | introduced to the Carano family and its team of |
| 10 | record. | 10 | executives in Eldorado in the course of |
| 11 | This Commission expects to be kept aware | 11 | securing our approval to purchase the |
| 12 | of the Petitioner's progress regarding the | 12 | Tropicana. Now we are here to consider |
| 13 | capex expenditures and any shortcomings in | 13 | approval of a merger between Eldorado and |
| 14 | satisfying them. In order to provide complete | 14 | Caesars that will result in what has been |
| 15 | transparency regarding this matter, I ask the | 15 | repeatedly described as the largest gaming |
| 16 | Petitioners to provide through their counsel | 16 | company in the United States. The stakes could |
| 17 | copies of the capex plan, any amendments, and | 17 | not be any higher. |
| 18 | all stipulated notices to the Commission | 18 | Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has |
| 19 | Chairman. | 19 | been devastating, resulting in tragic loss of |
| 20 | The Division has reported to us on the | 20 | lives and countless travesties, shuttered |
| 21 | qualification of the Applicant and its | 21 | businesses, and lost jobs. The Atlantic City |
| 22 | qualifying entities, individuals, and financial | 22 | industry was not spared. It bears to reason |
| 23 | resources. The Division has recommended 40 | 23 | that there was significant concern regarding |
| 24 | conditions be placed on our approval, and we | 24 | the financial stability of a merged Caesars and |
| 25 | have heard through sworn testimony the | 25 | Eldorado given the magnitude of the impact when |
|  | 19 |  | 21 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 14 |
| 2 | Petitioners have stipulated to all the | 2 | the two companies and given the unanticipated |
| 3 | conditions. | 3 | costs. |
| 4 | The conditions put great responsibility | 4 | I listened intently to the testimony |
| 5 | on the Division. It's the Division's duty to | 5 | offered over the last two days which was |
| 6 | monitor and ensure New Caesars meets its | 6 | extremely thorough and very informative. While |
| 7 | commitments and satisfies all its | 7 | Eldorado was able to improve its financial |
| 8 | responsibilities under the New Jersey Casino | 8 | condition, it is very important that the |
| 9 | Control Act. New Jersey's regulatory structure | 9 | regulatory authorities continue to monitor New |
| 10 | requires a five-year review of each casino | 10 | Caesars' financial condition to ensure its |
| 11 | license and any conditions. | 11 | ongoing viability as it navigates through these |
| 12 | Moreover, the Division Director has the | 12 | most challenging times. |
| 13 | authority to reopen license hearings before the | 13 | I also heard the comment from one of the |
| 14 | Commission at any time. The public can be sure | 14 | witnesses that we believe in Atlantic City. |
| 15 | this body stands ready to fulfill its duties | 15 | And anyone or any company who believes in |
| 16 | and resume hearings whenever necessary. | 16 | Atlantic City gets my attention. It's |
| 17 | Based upon the Division's report and the | 17 | believing. It's creating. It's initiating. |
| 18 | entire record of this proceedings, including | 18 | It's developing. It's putting everything |
| 19 | all testimony, I am satisfied that the | 19 | together. |
| 20 | Applicant has met its burden of establishing by | 20 | I heard the witnesses talk about their |
| 21 | clear and convincing evidence that it meets | 21 | great team for this upcoming merger, listing |
| 22 | each qualification standard under the Casino | 22 | very talented and knowledgeable individuals |
| 23 | Control Act as the parent holding company of | 23 | from various locations and areas. |
| 24 | Bally's Atlantic City, Caesars Atlantic City, | 24 | I was also very pleased to hear about |
| 25 | Harrah's Atlantic City, and Caesars Interactive | 25 | the level of commitment to Atlantic City and |

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| 1 | ITEM NO. 14 | 1 | ITEM NO. 15 |
| 2 | involvement in the community. | 2 | relief. But this matter, as you know, was |
| 3 | And with that being said, as I have | 3 | argued as a part of the merger, but the parties |
| 4 | always believed in Atlantic City, I truly | 4 | may wish to add additional insight. |
| 5 | believe that Eldorado should be given the | 5 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Counsel? |
| 6 | opportunity to be in Atlantic City, to be a | 6 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. |
| 7 | part of the Atlantic City gaming industry. I | 7 | Stephen D. Schrier again, of course. |
| 8 | look forward to their success. | 8 | You heard the testimony from Tom Reeg |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner | 9 | and Bret Yunker regarding the nature of the |
| 10 | Cooper. | 10 | sale of land held by Harrah's Propco to VICI |
| 11 | I'm prepared to make a motion. I move | 11 | and how that sale was an important part of the |
| 12 | we adopt the draft opinion and order, and based | 12 | overall transaction. A draft of the amended |
| 13 | on findings and rulings and subject to the | 13 | master lease known as the regional lease has |
| 14 | conditions specified therein, we: | 14 | been provided to the Division and the |
| 15 | One, find that the plan of merger | 15 | Commission. The amended regional lease covers |
| 16 | between Eldorado Resorts, Incorporated, and | 16 | the same required lease language in Section 82c |
| 17 | Caesars Entertainment Corporation will not | 17 | that is found in the present approved leases |
| 18 | result in undue economic concentration under | 18 | with Bally's and Caesars and VICI. |
| 19 | the Casino Control Act; | 19 | With the sale, the lease will be amended |
| 20 | Two, approve the plan of merger; | 20 | to cover all three of these properties, |
| 21 | Three, find the entity and individual | 21 | Harrah's, Caesars, and Bally's. Therefore, the |
| 22 | qualifiers qualified; | 22 | joint Petitioners would respectfully request |
| 23 | Four, approve the Trust Agreement and | 23 | that the Commission grant the Petition and |
| 24 | find the trustee, John Farmer, qualified; | 24 | approve the sale of the land held by Harrah's |
| 25 | Five, adopt the Division's proposed | 25 | Propco to VICI and the lease back of that land |
|  | 23 |  | 25 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 15 | 1 | ITEM NO. 15 |
| 2 | conditions identified as $\mathrm{D}-4$ with the exception | 2 | to Harrah's Opco, and also approve the |
| 3 | of Condition 37 in evidence; | 3 | amendments to the regional lease to incorporate |
| 4 | Six, require the Petitioners to provide | 4 | the Harrah's land. |
| 5 | through their counsel copies of the capex plan, | 5 | And finally, to delegate to the Chair |
| 6 | any amendments, and all stipulated notices to | 6 | the authority to approve any further amendments |
| 7 | the Commissioner Chairman; | 7 | to the regional lease to the extent that any of |
| 8 | Seven, approve all related relief as set | 8 | those amendments do not relate to the buyout or |
| 9 | forth in the opinion and order. | 9 | joint and several liability determination |
| 10 | Do I have a second? | 10 | provisions under the Act. |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. | 11 | And I think on behalf of -- of VICI that |
| 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? | 12 | Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to |
| 13 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? | 13 | address the licensing issue. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 14 | MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, |
| 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 15 | Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, |
| 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 16 | representing VICI Properties, LP, and its |
| 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is | 17 | affiliates. |
| 18 | Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Bally's Park Place, | 18 | It appears that my video is not showing, |
| 19 | LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, | 19 | but I hope that you can hear me? |
| 20 | LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Propco, LLC, | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, we can. |
| 21 | Eldorado Resorts Inc., VICI Properties, LP, | 21 | THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll proceed if |
| 22 | Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, and Caesars | 22 | that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. |
| 23 | Atlantic City, LLC, and Bally's Atlantic City, | 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Go ahead. |
| 24 | LLC. | 24 | MR. FABIUS: I want to keep my remarks |
| 25 | I will not read the three requests for | 25 | focused and short on the licensing |


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| 1 | ITEM NO. 15 | 1 | ITEM NO. 15 |
| 2 | determination for Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, | 2 | the Commission and Division for their diligence |
| 3 | as I know Mr. Schrier has already covered the | 3 | and professionalism handling this petition, all |
| 4 | request for approval of the sale and the | 4 | the matters before you today, and for managing |
| 5 | approval of the lease, which we certainly join | 5 | to pull off a multiple-day Commission meeting |
| 6 | in, and we know that you have a detailed record | 6 | over Zoom, notwithstanding my video |
| 7 | already presented. | 7 | complications. I know how much work has been |
| 8 | As stated, this petition also seeks a | 8 | required to get these ready for presentation to |
| 9 | declaratory ruling as to the licensure status | 9 | you, and I just want to close by saying thank |
| 10 | of Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, which would own | 10 | you. |
| 11 | the real estate for Harrah's and lease it back | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, sir. |
| 12 | to New Caesars through a passive triple net | 12 | Miss Richardson? |
| 13 | lease. | 13 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 14 | I recognize that the Commissioner has | 14 | The Division primarily relies on its response |
| 15 | seen these asset triple net leases before, | 15 | to this petition included in its June 30th |
| 16 | including the one presently applicable to | 16 | report on the merger. I'd just like to |
| 17 | Caesars and Bally's in Atlantic City that would | 17 | highlight some of the those points here. |
| 18 | become applicable to Harrah's. Previously the | 18 | Initially, I'd also like to clarify some |
| 19 | Commission determined that the licensure status | 19 | references that -- sorry. Sorry, Chairman and |
| 20 | of VICI's subsidiaries are owning the real | 20 | Commissioner Cooper. |
| 21 | estate of Caesars as well as is that of a | 21 | Some references made by Eldorado |
| 22 | licensee, and we would respectfully ask that | 22 | regarding the proposed Harrah's transaction |
| 23 | the Commission determined Harrah's, LLC, to | 23 | being called a land lease deal. As the |
| 24 | have the same license status. | 24 | Commission is aware through its consideration |
| 25 | In 2017 when Chair Levenson explained | 25 | of other REIT transactions, this is not simply |
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| 1 | ITEM NO. 15 | 1 | ITEM NO. 15 |
| 2 | that the lease gives total control over to the | 2 | a lease of land which implies just of the |
| 3 | property to the tenants operating the business | 3 | parcel underlying the casino, but is a lease of |
| 4 | on the real estate, and that, therefore, CSIE | 4 | also the entire brick and mortar casino hotel |
| 5 | licensure is required. The Commission's | 5 | facility. To refer to this proposed |
| 6 | previous rationale continues to apply to the | 6 | arrangement in the basic terms of "land lease" |
| 7 | Commission's determination today. | 7 | oversimplifies the matter and is simply |
| 8 | Consistent with the Commission's prior | 8 | inaccurate. |
| 9 | CSIE licensing determinations for passive | 9 | You set forth how the Division has |
| 10 | triple net landlords, we have proposed a set of | 10 | presented data showing that Bally's and Caesars |
| 11 | conditions on the licensee determination that | 11 | have not been the beneficiaries of any |
| 12 | include enhanced financial requirements. We've | 12 | substantial capital expenditure projects since |
| 13 | provided a written submission to the Commission | 13 | it entered the VICI REIT in 2017. Similarly, |
| 14 | detailing these conditions which include | 14 | we showed that Tropicana is part of the GLPI |
| 15 | regular reporting of financial information, | 15 | REIT structure. And since 2018 when that |
| 16 | certifying compliance with financial stability | 16 | structure was established upon Eldorado's |
| 17 | criteria, and providing the Division with | 17 | acquisition, Tropicana has not been the |
| 18 | information material to its showing of | 18 | beneficiary of any substantial capital |
| 19 | financial stability. | 19 | expenditures. |
| 20 | We have no objection to the continuation | 20 | You heard testimony that Eldorado would |
| 21 | of these conditions on the CSIE license | 21 | never make decisions about improvements based |
| 22 | determination for Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC. | 22 | on whether a property is owned or leased. In a |
| 23 | Before I yield the proverbial floor back | 23 | situation of choosing between two properties |
| 24 | to Mr. Schreir, I want to finish by expressing | 24 | for a project, both with similar operating |
| 25 | our appreciation and thanks to the staffs of | 25 | results and similar expected returns on |

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| 1 | ITEM NO. 15 | 1 | ITEM NO. 15 |
| 2 | investments, what would be the incentive for | 2 | landlord entities, and those same conditions |
| 3 | Eldorado to choose to improve the property it | 3 | which are recommended by VICI REIT in its |
| 4 | doesn't own instead of the equally deserving | 4 | written submission here in order to enhance the |
| 5 | property it does where it would be the | 5 | financial stability requirements applicable to |
| 6 | beneficiary of the increase in overall value | 6 | the Harrah's landlord entity. |
| 7 | obtained through such improvements? | 7 | Thank you. |
| 8 | There have been attempts to equate the | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 9 | \$400 million capital expenditure trust and the | 9 | Any further questions for counsel? |
| 10 | ongoing requirements thereafter as entirely | 10 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: No, thank you. |
| 11 | resolving any capital expenditure concerns | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 12 | which can result from a REIT structure. To the | 12 | motion? |
| 13 | contrary, the need for such a fund to be | 13 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 14 | established through this merger proves the | 14 | move to adopt the draft resolution and issue: |
| 15 | point of the concern. If the lease structure | 15 | One, a declaratory ruling pursuant to |
| 16 | and the minimal capital expenditure | 16 | NJAC 19:40a-3.7 determining the licensing |
| 17 | requirements provided for under it gave any | 17 | status of Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, as a |
| 18 | comfort that Atlantic City properties would | 18 | CSIE [sic] to serve as the landlord of Harrah's |
| 19 | benefit from those requirements, the additional | 19 | Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC; |
| 20 | imposition of such conditions here would be | 20 | And, two, approval of the sale of |
| 21 | unnecessary. | 21 | certain parcels of real property and the |
| 22 | If the sale of Harrah's is approved and | 22 | buildings and other improvements constructed |
| 23 | those real estate assets are added to the VICI | 23 | there on; |
| 24 | REIT, an upper tier property in the market will | 24 | And, three, approval of the lease as |
| 25 | no longer be owned by its operator. While CEC | 25 | amended by and among Harrah's Atlantic City, |
|  | 31 |  | 33 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 15 | 1 | ITEM NO. 16 |
| 2 | has a pending sale in Harrah's which pursuant | 2 | Caesars Atlantic City, LLC, and Bally's |
| 3 | to a companion agreement would remove the lower | 3 | Atlantic City, LLC, as landlords and Harrah's |
| 4 | tier performer of Bally's from the REIT | 4 | Opco, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, and Bally's Park |
| 5 | resulting in an overall expansion of VICI's | 5 | Place, LLC, as tenants; |
| 6 | role in the market based on this prospective | 6 | And, four, additional relief in |
| 7 | new combination of properties. | 7 | accordance with the terms of the resolution. |
| 8 | Financial uncertainty exacerbates such | 8 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |
| 9 | concerns in conditions where the REIT may be | 9 | Any further discussion? |
| 10 | negatively impacted if gaming tenants | 10 | (No response.) |
| 11 | experience difficulty in satisfying rent | 11 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call |
| 12 | payments as a result of continued capacity | 12 | vote? |
| 13 | limitations, use restrictions, health concerns, | 13 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? |
| 14 | or a recessionary atmosphere. | 14 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 15 | If the Commission determines that the | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? |
| 16 | sale of Harrah's should be approved and that | 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 17 | the appropriate status through the landlord | 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 16 is the |
| 18 | entity of Harrah's would be as a casino service | 18 | matter of Caesars Entertainment Operating |
| 19 | industry enterprise, the Division would be able | 19 | Companies non-CPLV request for amendments to |
| 20 | to concur in a determination of that licensure | 20 | the master lease. |
| 21 | status. | 21 | MR. O'GARA: Good morning, Chairman |
| 22 | The Division submits that such a | 22 | Plousis, Commissioner Cooper. |
| 23 | determination would call for additional | 23 | This petition was filed by CEC with |
| 24 | conditions over and above both those which were | 24 | respect to the lease, the amendment of which |
| 25 | previously imposed on the Bally's and Caesars | 25 | you have just approved to include Harrah's |

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| 1 | ITEM NO. 16 | 1 | ITEM NO. 17 |
| 2 | Atlantic City prior to the transaction. The | 2 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Uh-uh. |
| 3 | amendment proposes to amend this non-CPLV lease | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 4 | which will now be known as the regional lease | 4 | motion? |
| 5 | to provide for two things. Number one, to deem | 5 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 6 | the obligations under the lease with respect to | 6 | move to adopt the draft resolution and grant |
| 7 | capital expenditures that are imposed upon | 7 | the requested relief in the Petition and: |
| 8 | Caesars as having been made. And, second, to | 8 | A, approve the amendments to the master |
| 9 | then lay out going forward the capital | 9 | lease pursuant to NJSA 5:12-82c; |
| 10 | expenditure obligations under the lease on a | 10 | And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the |
| 11 | schedule for the next three years. This was in | 11 | authority to approve amendments to the lease |
| 12 | response to the COVID-19 crisis and the | 12 | subject to the extent set forth in the findings |
| 13 | complete shutdown of the industry. | 13 | and rulings and subject to the conditions |
| 14 | With respect to the going forward | 14 | provided in the resolution. |
| 15 | obligations, they are those that would exist | 15 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |
| 16 | under the master lease that you heard testimony | 16 | Any further discussion? |
| 17 | regarding. And certainly the provisions of the | 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | lease are superseded and, in fact, will be | 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call |
| 19 | governed, capital expenditure in New Jersey by | 19 | vote? |
| 20 | the terms of your conditions requiring capital | 20 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? |
| 21 | expenditure at facilities in Atlantic City | 21 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 22 | which will far exceed any requirements of the | 22 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? |
| 23 | lease over the next three years. | 23 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 24 | I'll be happy to answer any questions | 24 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: No. 17 is the matter of |
| 25 | you might have. | 25 | Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Tropicana Atlantic |
|  | 35 |  | 37 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 16 | 1 | ITEM NO. 17 |
| 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 2 | City Corp., Caesars Entertainment Corporation, |
| 3 | Miss Richardson? | 3 | and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New |
| 4 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. | 4 | Jersey, regarding temporary key licensure and |
| 5 | As you know, capital expenditures have | 5 | qualification matters. |
| 6 | been one of the main concerns of the Division | 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? |
| 7 | related to these merger matters, and you have | 7 | MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this |
| 8 | ruled on them this morning and imposed the | 8 | petition was filed in -- as a means of |
| 9 | conditions that we requested. | 9 | effectuating the approval of the qualifiers and |
| 10 | Initially we did not believe that the | 10 | key employees necessary to fulfill your ruling |
| 11 | request that Mr. O'Gara has just addressed was | 11 | on merger. |
| 12 | appropriate to hear in advance of this merger, | 12 | What we are seeking in the petition is |
| 13 | and it was held until today. | 13 | the issuance of a temporary key employee |
| 14 | Now that the Commission has ruled on the | 14 | license to Kevin Fulmer to perform duties as |
| 15 | merger and incorporated the Division's detailed | 15 | the Vice President Digital Sports on behalf of |
| 16 | conditions regarding capital expenditures, the | 16 | CIE NJ and also approve a waiver of residency |
| 17 | Division does not object to the proposed | 17 | requirement for Mr. Fulmer. |
| 18 | amendments since capital expenditures as they | 18 | And secondarily, to permit the temporary |
| 19 | relate to the Atlantic City properties subject | 19 | qualification of certain other individuals who |
| 20 | to the VICI lease will be wholly governed by | 20 | will assume positions and titles in Caesars |
| 21 | the merger rulings today and the requirements | 21 | Entertainment, Inc., or New Caesars, and that |
| 22 | set forth in conjunction with that. | 22 | would be Keith Causey, Brandi Ellis, Eric |
| 23 | Thank you. | 23 | Golebiewski, Josh Jones, and Gregg Klein. And |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. | 24 | I would ask that you approve that petition. |
| 25 | Any further questions for counsel? | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |

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| 1 | ITEM NO. 17 | 1 | ITEM NO. 17 |
| 2 | Miss Richardson? | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 3 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. | 3 | motion? |
| 4 | In the event the merger was to be approved, the | 4 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 5 | Director of the Division had designated as | 5 | move to adopt the draft resolution and issue a |
| 6 | necessary qualifiers the individuals listed by | 6 | temporary casino key employee license to Kevin |
| 7 | Mr. Schrier, and in the case of Kevin Fulmer, a | 7 | Fulmer pursuant to NJSA 5:12-89(e) and NJSA |
| 8 | key qualifier. | 8 | 19:41A-5.3(d) and permit him to assume the |
| 9 | You have the Division's letter of July | 9 | duties and exercise the powers of Vice |
| 10 | 9th indicating no objection to the temporary | 10 | President of Digital Sports for Caesars |
| 11 | authorization relief to allow these individuals | 11 | Interactive Entertainment, New Jersey, LLC, |
| 12 | to either assume the titles upon the merger for | 12 | pending plenary qualification in accordance |
| 13 | New Caesars, if approved, or to retain their | 13 | with the conditions contained in NJSA |
| 14 | current titles in positions with the new | 14 | 5:12-85.1c and NJAC 13:69C-2.6. |
| 15 | company. | 15 | And, further, grant the Petitioner's |
| 16 | As to Kevin Fulmer, he will be the Vice | 16 | request to waive the residency requirement as |
| 17 | President of Digital Sports for Caesars and | 17 | provided for in NJSA 5:12-89(b)4, and authorize |
| 18 | Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, and he'll | 18 | on a temporary basis and prior to plenary |
| 19 | also have corporate responsibilities with New | 19 | qualification the following officers to assume |
| 20 | Caesars. | 20 | the duties and exercise the powers of their |
| 21 | Given his title with the CIE NJ casino | 21 | respective positions for Caesars Entertainment, |
| 22 | licensee, temporary casino key employee | 22 | Incorporated, subject to the conditions |
| 23 | licensure as well as qualification has been | 23 | contained in NJSA 5:12-25.1C, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) |
| 24 | sought for him along with the residency waiver. | 24 | and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.6 and 2.7. |
| 25 | The Division does not object to those | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. |
|  | 39 |  | 41 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 17 | 1 | ITEM NO. 17 |
| 2 | requests for relief. And as to residency | 2 | Any further discussion? |
| 3 | specifically, Mr. Fulmer will remain a resident | 3 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: I'll call them |
| 4 | of Nevada where he currently carries out his | 4 | individually, the names. |
| 5 | duties, and his responsibilities will continue | 5 | Kevin Fulmer? |
| 6 | require him to be primarily based there. | 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 7 | The Division also consents to a waiver | 7 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? |
| 8 | of the requirement that disclosure forms be on | 8 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 9 | file for more than 30 days prior to | 9 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Chairman Plousis? |
| 10 | consideration of temporary qualification to the | 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 11 | extent needed. | 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Keith Causey as Senior |
| 12 | In addition, Miss Ellis has filed a | 12 | Vice President of Strategic Business Services |
| 13 | personal history disclosure Form 3 as permitted | 13 | and Information Technology. |
| 14 | as an initial filing under the regulations and | 14 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 15 | subject to the requirement that she submit the | 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? |
| 16 | necessary full forms within 15 days of any | 16 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 17 | grant of temporary qualification, and subject | 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Chairman Plousis? |
| 18 | to the requirements of NJAC 13:69C-2.7(b). | 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 19 | The Division has no objection to the | 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Brandi Ellis as Vice |
| 20 | temporary qualification of the noted | 20 | President VIP Marketing. |
| 21 | individuals, and as indicated, temporary casino | 21 | Commissioner Cooper? |
| 22 | key employee licensure for Mr. Fulmer. | 22 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. |
| 23 | Thank you. | 23 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? |
| 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions? | 24 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. |
| 25 | (No response.) | 25 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Eric Golebiewski, Vice |


|  | 42 |  | 44 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 18 | 1 | ITEM NO. 18 |
| 2 | President Security Operations. | 2 | Thank you. |
| 3 | Commissioner Cooper? | 3 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 4 | Miss Richardson? |
| 5 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 5 | MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 6 | Similar to the prior matter, No. 16 on |
| 7 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Josh Jones, Senior Vice | 7 | the agenda, the Division has a similar |
| 8 | President Operations. | 8 | response. |
| 9 | Commissioner Cooper? | 9 | Now that the Commission has ruled on the |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 10 | merger and specifically incorporated the |
| 11 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 11 | Division's detailed conditions related to |
| 12 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 12 | capital expenditures, the Division does not |
| 13 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And lastly, Gregg | 13 | object to the proposed amendments since those |
| 14 | Klein, Vice President Operations. | 14 | requirements as they relate to Tropicana |
| 15 | Commissioner Cooper? | 15 | Atlantic City subject to the lease with GLP |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. | 16 | Capital will be wholly governed by the merger |
| 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? | 17 | rulings and the requirements set forth today. |
| 18 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. | 18 | Thank you. |
| 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. | 19 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for |
| 20 | Last item, No. 18, Tropicana Atlantic | 20 | counsel? |
| 21 | City for amendment to its master lease. | 21 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: No questions. |
| 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? | 22 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a |
| 23 | MR. SCHRIER: Thank you, Chairman. | 23 | motion? |
| 24 | This is a petition on behalf of | 24 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |
| 25 | Tropicana Atlantic City that is designed to | 25 | move to adopt the draft resolution and grant |
|  | 43 |  | 45 |
| 1 | ITEM NO. 18 | 1 | ITEM NO. 18 |
| 2 | address the impacts of COVID-19 on the | 2 | the requested relief in the Petition and: |
| 3 | Tropicana and the GLP master lease, similar in | 3 | A, approve the amendments to the master |
| 4 | nature to the one that Mr. O'Gara just spoke | 4 | lease pursuant to NJSA 5:12-82c; |
| 5 | about regarding VICI. | 5 | And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the |
| 6 | The Petition seeks the approvals of | 6 | authority to approve amendments to the lease |
| 7 | certain rent adjustments and also the ability | 7 | subject to the extent set forth in the findings |
| 8 | of Eldorado to replace or sell certain | 8 | and rulings and subject to the conditions |
| 9 | properties that are subject to the lease terms. | 9 | provided in the resolution. |
| 10 | None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic | 10 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |
| 11 | City. | 11 | Any further discussion? |
| 12 | And we also in that Petition -- or in | 12 | (No response.) |
| 13 | the amended lease -- would seek certain other | 13 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in |
| 14 | relief under the operating the capital | 14 | favor? |
| 15 | expenditures and the financial covenants | 15 | (Ayes.) |
| 16 | contained in the lease. | 16 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? |
| 17 | The matter before you does not implicate | 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | any of the terms of the lease regarding the | 18 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: That didn't need to be |
| 19 | provisions that are required under Section 82c | 19 | a roll call. That's fine. |
| 20 | of the Act and you, as Chairman through | 20 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. |
| 21 | delegated authority, may approve the amended | 21 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: In accordance with |
| 22 | and restated master lease upon receiving a | 22 | Resolution 19-12-11-03, the next closed session |
| 23 | report from the Division or a response from the | 23 | will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at |
| 24 | Division. So I would respectfully request that | 24 | 9:30 a.m. in the Commission offices. |
| 25 | this matter be approved as well. | 25 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: This is the public |


|  | 46 |  | 48 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | PUBLIC | 1 | PUBLIC |
| 2 | participation portion of the meeting. Are | 2 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Let me to address that. |
| 3 | there any comments? | 3 | The industry has worked with AtlantiCare as |
| 4 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. | 4 | well as the Division of Gaming Enforcement and |
| 5 | This public comment is dated July 15, | 5 | the Casino Control Commission to put in all the |
| 6 | 10:30 a.m., from Mark Clayton: I am for the | 6 | safety protocols. We will get back to this |
| 7 | merger as it would help to make Caesars/ | 7 | gentleman and advise him of those safety |
| 8 | Eldorado more efficient and would allow for | 8 | protocols, which include testing and where |
| 9 | Caesars to be better managed than it has been | 9 | tests are available. I know Unite 54 is |
| 10 | historically. | 10 | involved with testing as well as some free |
| 11 | However, Caesars did a lot of damage to | 11 | testing in the city. So we will address that |
| 12 | Atlantic City under the previous ownership by | 12 | with him personally. |
| 13 | putting deed restrictions on several casinos | 13 | But for everybody listening out there, |
| 14 | buildings for the sole reason of preventing | 14 | the industry has done their due diligence, as |
| 15 | competition. This has resulted in less | 15 | well as the Division of Gaming Enforcement and |
| 16 | investment, jobs and options for consumers. | 16 | the Commission to make sure everyone who works |
| 17 | The deed restrictive properties include the | 17 | in the casinos as well as visits the casinos |
| 18 | Claridge, Showboat, and the Atlantic Club. | 18 | will be safe and secure. |
| 19 | Trump Plaza also has a deed restriction. As a | 19 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: This comment is July |
| 20 | condition of approving the Caesars/Eldorado | 20 | 15, at 10:42 a.m., from John Nixon: Would like |
| 21 | merger can the CCC please require Caesars/Carl | 21 | to introduce this product to the Commission for |
| 22 | Icahn to remove all deed restrictions they put | 22 | consideration. |
| 23 | on former casinos to reduce competition. | 23 | It's a cleanmachineteam. |
| 24 | Caesars were to pay less taxes. Caesars owner | 24 | This is from 7 -- July 15, 11:28 a.m. |
| 25 | Icahn. | 25 | from Moshed Math: To whom this may concern, |
|  | 47 |  | 49 |
| 1 | PUBLIC | 1 | PUBLIC |
| 2 | By requiring this condition, this can | 2 | I'm wondering if language requiring the removal |
| 3 | open up the window for additional future | 3 | of the Deed Restrictions placed by Harrah's |
| 4 | investment and redevelopment into Atlantic City | 4 | Corporation on (Showboat, Claridge and Atlantic |
| 5 | as well as thousands of additional jobs. The | 5 | City Hotel) properties sold, may be a condition |
| 6 | buildings with deed restrictions are eyesores | 6 | for approval of the merger? |
| 7 | or have underperformed because they cannot be | 7 | I know Senator Chris Brown, believed |
| 8 | utilized as they were designed and to their | 8 | that there is a case for removal by the Courts. |
| 9 | potential. Tourism in Atlantic City showed a | 9 | I believe it will be great to let everyone in |
| 10 | significant jump when Ocean Hard Rock opened. | 10 | the world know, that Atlantic City is open for |
| 11 | Thousands of permanent jobs were created as | 11 | business. I have no conflict of interest |
| 12 | well. More options as a result of additional | 12 | (transparency purposes) in this matter. |
| 13 | investment would further increase tourism to | 13 | My name is Mosheh Math. |
| 14 | Atlantic City, Las Vegas would not be what it | 14 | And he does give his number which I will |
| 15 | is today without a significant amount of | 15 | not read. |
| 16 | competition and investments. | 16 | Thank you in advance, for hopefully |
| 17 | This is July $15,10: 32 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. from | 17 | addressing this question. Appreciatively, |
| 18 | Charliepig: What are the general protocols for | 18 | Mosheh. |
| 19 | coronavirus testing for gaming employees? In | 19 | July 16, 2:35 p.m., Linda Smith: I |
| 20 | particular, will the CCC require testing? If | 20 | watched the hearing over the last 2 days and |
| 21 | so, will the test results be disclosed publicly | 21 | heard the Division repeatedly state during its |
| 22 | for each casino? Please elaborate as best you | 22 | questioning of witnesses and its closing |
| 23 | can on the reasons for the CCC's positions. | 23 | statement that the Caesars properties are |
| 24 | I'm sorry. This is Sebastian | 24 | currently in a state of disrepair. Why wasn't |
| 25 | Pignatello. His e-mail address was Charliepig. | 25 | the Division concerned during the incremental |


|  | 50 |  | 52 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | PUBLIC | 1 |  |
| 2 | demise of these properties? What did the | 2 | CERTIFICATE |
| 3 | Division do to ensure its own conditions for | 3 |  |
| 4 | approving the variance transactions in the past | 4 |  |
| 5 | were actually being met over the last 5-8 | 5 | I, M. DARLENE ENGEL, a Certified Court |
| 6 | years? | 6 | Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate |
| 7 | This is July 17, 10:45 a.m. Pascal | 8 | transcript of the proceedings via remote technology. |
| 8 | Forest: Hi, the meeting was supposed to start |  |  |
| 9 | 45 minutes ago at $10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. The Commission has | 10 | I further certify that I am neither |
| 10 | not given any explanation as to why it is | 11 | attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed |
| 11 | delayed nor has it given any new time date. | 12 | by any of the parties to the action; further that I am |
| 12 | Could you please let me know when the | 13 | not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel |
| 13 | meeting is rescheduled for? Regards. | 14 | employed in this case; nor am I financially interested |
| 14 | Another one from Ming Xu, 7-17, 11:06 | 15 | in the action. |
| 15 | a.m. | 17 |  |
| 16 | Hi - wanted to see if you could provide | 18 |  |
| 17 | the reason for the delay in starting the 7/17 | 19 | Doulere Engel |
| 18 | public meeting and when we can expect to | 20 | --------------- |
| 19 | receive an update. |  | M. DARLENE ENGEL, CCR |
| 20 | Thanks, Ming. | 21 | License No 30XI0102300 |
| 21 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Well, the Commission | 22 |  |
| 22 | appreciates everybody who made public comment, | 23 |  |
| 23 | and we apologize for the delay. We were in |  | Dated: July 21, 2020 |
| 24 | deliberations, and we had to resolve some |  | November 21, 2024 |
| 25 | matters. | 25 | ID No. 50117353 |
|  | 51 |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 | And so on that note, do we have a motion |  |  |
| 3 | to adjourn? |  |  |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I |  |  |
| 5 | will make in motion. |  |  |
| 6 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that. |  |  |
| 7 | All in favor? |  |  |
| 8 | (Ayes.) |  |  |
| 9 | CHAIR PLOUSIS: Meeting adjourned. |  |  |
| 10 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you, everyone. I |  |  |
| 11 | will be sending you guys the drafts in a few |  |  |
| 12 | minutes. |  |  |
| 13 | MR. SCHRIER: Okay. Thank you again. |  |  |
| 14 | We appreciate all of your time. |  |  |
| 15 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Absolutely. Thank you. |  |  |
| 16 | MR. FABIUS: Thank you very much. |  |  |
| 17 | MS. FAUNTLEROY: Have a safe weekend, |  |  |
| 18 | everyone. |  |  |
| 19 | (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was adjourned |  |  |
| 20 | at 12:26 p.m.) |  |  |
| 21 |  |  |  |
| 22 |  |  |  |
| 23 |  |  |  |
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