1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2	
	CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
3	
4	
5	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
6	VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY
7	
8	
9	Wednesday, July 15, 2020
10	Atlantic City Commission Offices
11	Joseph P. Lordi Public Meeting Room - First Floor
12	Tennessee Avenue and Boardwalk
13	Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
14	10:31 a.m. to 4:26 p.m.
15	
16	
17	Certified Court Reporter: M. Darlene Engel
18	
19	
20	RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES
21	Court Reporting, Videography & Legal Services
22	2277 STATE HIGHWAY #33, SUITE 410
23	HAMILTON SQUARE, NEW JERSEY 08690
24	TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652
25	www.RLResources.com No. 327360

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1 B E F O R E:
  CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
3
      ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
4 PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
5
  OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
 6
       DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
        SECRETARY
7
       TERESA M. PIMPINELLI, SENIOR COUNSEL
8
  DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
    DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
 9
       TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
      BRIAN C. BISCIEGLIA, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
10
       JORDAN HOLLANDER, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
      CAMILA MENDES-FERREIRA, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
11
12
13
14
15
16
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18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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APPEARANCES:
1
  ITEM NO. 11 TERESA M. PIMPINELLI, SENIOR COUNSEL
               TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
 3
                                    GENERAL
               PATRICK W. MADAMBA, JR., LEGAL COUNSEL
 4
               FOR:
                    MARINA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY,
               LLC, AND MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL
 5
  ITEM NO. 12 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
 6
               TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
 7
                                    GENERAL
               BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK
 8
               PACIFICO AGNELLINI, ESQ.
                     HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING
 9
               COMPANY, LLC, BOARDWALK REGENCY
               CORPORATION, LLC, AND BALLY'S PARK
10
               PLACE, LLC
11 ITEM NO. 13 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
               TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
12
                                    GENERAL
               BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK
1.3
               PACIFICO AGNELLINI, ESQ.
               FOR:
                    CAESARS INTERACTIVE
14
               ENTERTAINMENT, LLC
15 ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
               TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
16
                                    GENERAL
               BLANK ROME, LLP
17
               STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
                     CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION,
               FOR:
18
               CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC,
               CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS
19
               INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC,
               HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY,
20
               LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK
              REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC.,
21
              AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.
22
23
24
25
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1	AGENDA		
_	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15		
2	JULY 15, 2020, 10:31 a.m.		
3	ITEM	PAGE	VOTE
4	1 Ratification of the minutes of the Ju	ne 11	12
	10, 2020, public meeting		- 1
5	2 Applications for initial casino key		- 1
	employee licenses:	1.0	1.0
6	a) William S. Kosturko	12 12	
7	<pre>b) Kayla M. O'Connor c) Eileen G. O'Pray</pre>	13	
,	3 Consideration of the initial applicat		
8	of Andre E. Harvey for a casino key	1011 11	10
	employee license (20-0013-CK)		- 1
9	4 Consideration of the initial applicat	ion 16	18
	of Edward Machinski for a casino key		- 1
10	employee license (20-0014-CK)		- 1
	5 Consideration of the initial applicat	ion 18	20
11	of Matthew Madensky for a casino key		- 1
1 0	employee license (209-0016-CK)		0.1
12	6 Consideration of the initial applicat		21
13	of Ryan M. Rothstein for a casino key employee license (19-0046-CK)		- 1
10	7 Consideration of the initial applicat	ion 22	23
14	of Robert H. Pattillo, Jr., for a cas		23
	key employee license (20-2015-CK)		- 1
15	8 Consideration of the initial applicat	ion 23	25
	of the initial application of Sadia		- 1
16	Rasifzaman (a/k/a Sadia Khald) for a		- 1
	casino key employee license		- 1
17	(DDT 20-0008-CK)		0.7
18	9 Stipulation of settlement in the init	ial 25	27
10	application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key employee license		- 1
19	(DKT 19-0043-CK)		- 1
	10 Consideration of the initial applicat	ion 27	29
20	of Nelson Velez for a casino key empl		
	license (DKT 19-0051-CK)	2	- 1
21	11 Joint petition of Marina District	29	31
	Development Company, LLC, and MGM Res	orts	- 1
22	International requesting permission f		- 1
	Scott Wessel to assume the duties and		- 1
23	exercise the powers of Senior vice		- 1
0.4	President, Technology & Digital Solut	ions	- 1
24	of MGM Resorts International pending		- 1
25	plenary qualification (PRN 1902002)		- 1
۷ ک			- 1

1		CONTINUED AGENDA		
		PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15		
2		JULY 15, 2020, 10:31 a.m.		
	ITEM	·	PAGE	VOTE
3				
	12 Consi	ideration of the initial casino key	32	34
4		oyee licensure and plenary		
		ification of Jennifer L. Galle to		
5		e as Regional Vice President of		
_		eting, Corporate for Harrah's		
6		ntic City Operating Company, LLC;		
		dwalk Regency Corporation, LLC, and		
7	·-	y's Park Place, LLC (PRN 283190)	2.4	27
8		ideration of the initial casino key	3 4	37
0	_	oyee licensure and plenary ification of Melanie R. Gross to		
9		e as Vice President, Online Casino		
<i>J</i>		Sports of Caesars Interactive		
10		rtainment, LLC (PRN 3251902)		
_ 0		t petition of Caesars Entertainment	38	
11		oration, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth		
	_	ners, LLC, Caesars Resorts		
12	Colle	ections, Caesars Interactive		
	Ente	rtainment New Jersey, LLC, Harrah's		
13	Atlar	ntic City Operating Company, LLC,		
	Ball	y's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk		
14		ncy, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc.,		
		Colt Merger Sub, Inc., for approval		
15		(I) The merger of Caesars		
		rtainment Corporation with Colt		
16		er Sub, Inc., and (II) The		
1 🗖		ification of the New Entity and		
17		ral Person Qualifiers and (III)		
1.0		r declaratory relief pursuant to		
18	NJSA	5:12-2, et seq. (PRN 2481902)	60	
19		Thomas R. Regg, sworn	60 125	
エラ		Anthony L. Carano, sworn Bret D. Yunker, sworn	125 156	
20		Bret D. Yunker, sworn Stephen Callender, sworn	205	
∠ ∪		Stephen Callendel, Sworn Stephanie Lepori, sworn	230	
21		bechnamic hepoti, sworm	200	
22				
23				
24				
25				

	6		8
1	ITEM NO. 14	1	(Public Meeting 20-07-15 was commenced
2	PETITIONER EXHIBITS	2	at 10:31 a.m. via remote technology.)
3	NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD P-1 Dr. Timothy Watts' September 6, 2019, X	3	MR. NANCE: Good morning. I'd like to
4	Economic Analysis of the Competitive	1	_
5	Effects of the Proposed Merger of	4	read an opening statement:
6	Caesars Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic	5	This is to advise the general public
	City Casino Operations	6	that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the
7	P-2 Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, X	7	public laws of 1975 entitled "Senator Bryon M.
8	P-2 Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, X Economic Analysis of the Competitive	8	Baer Open Public Meeting Act," the New Jersey
	Effects of the Proposed Merger of	9	Casino Control Commission on December 11th,
9	Caesars Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic	10	2019, filed with the Secretary of State at the
10	City Casino Operations: First	11	State House in Trenton an annual meeting
	Amendment to Analysis of September 6,	12	schedule.
11 12	2019 P-3 New Jersey Casino Control Commission X	13	The use of cell phones in the public
	Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy	14	meeting room while the Commission is in session
13 14	Watts, PhD P-4 Slide Deck Presentation X	15	is prohibited.
15	P-5 Trust Agreement between Eldorado X	16	Any member of the public who wish to
	Resorts, Inc., a Nevada Corporation	17	address the Commission will be given the
16	(to be renamed Caesars Entertainment, Inc., and converted to a Delaware	18	opportunity to do so before the Commission
17	Limited Liability Company), Caesars	19	**
10	Resort Collection, LLC, a Delaware	1	adjourns for the day.
18	Limited Liability Company and John J. Farmer, Jr., as Trustee (Redacted)	20	Please acknowledge the Pledge of
19		21	Allegiance.
20 21		22	(The Flag Salute was recited.)
22		23	FROM THE FLOOR: I don't know if I can
23		24	change that. (Unintelligible.)
24 25		25	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Good morning. I would
	7		9
1	ITEM NO. 14	1	like to say to the thousands of our neighbors
2	DIVISION EXHIBITS	2	who work in this industry and in the vital
3	NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD D-1 Report to the Casino Control Commission X	3	*
4	on the Petition of Caesars	1	hospitality jobs in our region
5	Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars	4	FROM THE FLOOR: I was trying to type.
6	Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, LLC, Caesars Interactive	5	CHAIR PLOUSIS: are still suffering.
	Entertainment, LLC, Bally's Park Place,	6	We welcome back many of you, look forward to
7	LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Harrah's	7	the day when all the properties are again
8	Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt	8	operating at full capacity.
	Merger, Sub, Inc., for approval of the	9	With Governor Murphy on down, the State
9	merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc.,	10	and City have worked hard to provide a safe
10	and related relief, PRN 2481902	11	environment for you to work and where guests
11	(Redacted)	12	can feel safe taking advantage of leisure
11	D-2 Dr. Martin K. Perry's May 2020 Report X	13	activities once again and will continue to do
		14	so.
12	on Undue Economic Concentration	14	
	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger		
13		15	I am pleased to be able to chair this
	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey	15 16	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in
13 14	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to X	15 16 17	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is
13	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to
13 14 15 16	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to X Indiana Racing Commission	15 16 17 18 19	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the
13 14 15	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18 19 20	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of meeting participants, as
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of meeting participants, as well as members of the public interested in
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of meeting participants, as well as members of the public interested in attending the meeting, the Commission is using
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of meeting participants, as well as members of the public interested in attending the meeting, the Commission is using remote collaboration technology for meeting
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey  D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to Indiana Racing Commission D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	I am pleased to be able to chair this meeting from the Commission's offices in Atlantic City. I welcome everyone who is joining us remotely today. As a measure to mitigate spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of meeting participants, as well as members of the public interested in attending the meeting, the Commission is using

	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, l
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		
1	ITEM NO. 1	1	ITEM NO. 2
1		1	well, and recommend that those initial casino
2	Also, please identify yourself before speaking.	2	
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 10	flexible in advance so this meeting could can	9	COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman,
10	move forward today.  Dianna?	10	move to grant the two initial casino key
12		11	employee licenses.
	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Good morning, Mr.	12	CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.
13 14	Chairman.	13	Any further discussion?
14	Please answer when I call your name for the roll, please.	14 15	(No response.)
16	Commissioner Cooper?	16	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in
17	COMMISSIONER COOPER: Here.	17	favor, say aye?
18	MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?		(Ayes.)
19	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Here.	18 19	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed?
20	MS. FAUNTLEROY: There was no closed		(No response.)
21	session held this meeting.	20	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it.
22	The first item on the agenda for your	21	MS. FAUNTLEROY: With respect to Miss
23	consideration is the ratification of the	22	O'Pray, an objection has been raised by the
23 24	minutes of the June 10, 2020, meeting.	23	Division. Staff has reviewed that matter and
25		24	concurs. They recommend it be remanded to the
23	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any questions	25	contested case process.
		1	

	14		16
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?
14 15	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the	15	(No response.)
14 15 16	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.	15 16	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a
14 15 16 17	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.	15 16 17	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?
14 15 16 17 18	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for	15 16 17 18	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I
14 15 16 17 18 19	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?	15 16 17 18 19	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)	15 16 17 18 19 20	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and the Applicant and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and the Applicant and grant the initial application of Edward
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and the Applicant and grant the initial application of Edward Machinski for a casino key employee license
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and the Applicant and grant the initial application of Edward Machinski for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with the terms and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	behalf of the Division of Gaming Enforcement.  The Division would ask that the stipulation be submitted as approved.  Thank you very much.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	(No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and the Applicant and grant the initial application of Edward Machinski for a casino key employee license

	18		20
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
1 2		1 2	ITEM NO. 6 has failed to attend the last two scheduled
	ITEM NO. 5 and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.	l	has failed to attend the last two scheduled
2	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.	2	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in
2 3	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has	2 3	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.
2 3 4	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of	2 3 4	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the
2 3 4 5	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that	2 3 4 5	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.
2 3 4 5 6 7	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.	2 3 4 5 6 7	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.
2 3 4 5 6	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.	2 3 4 5 6	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key employee license.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with the terms and conditions as provided for in the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key employee license.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.  Any further discussion?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with the terms and conditions as provided for in the stipulation.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key employee license.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with the terms and conditions as provided for in the stipulation.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key employee license.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	and Commissioner Cooper. Jordan Hollander for the Division.  As Senior Counsel Pimpinelli has outlined, we have reached a the stipulation of settlement in this matter, and we request that the stipulation be approved as submitted.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I move to approve the stipulation of settlement between the Division and Applicant and grant the initial application of Matthew Madensky for a casino key employee license subject to compliance with the terms and conditions as provided for in the stipulation.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.  Any further discussion?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	has failed to attend the last two scheduled conferences and generally showed no interest in the contested case process.  Therefore, at this point we at the Division must ask that this application be denied.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Any questions for counsel?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I move to: A, find Ryan M. Rothstein disqualified pursuant to NJSA 5:12-80b and d, and NJSA 5:12-86, and NJSA 5:12-89; and, B, deny his initial application for a casino key employee license.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in

	22		24
1	22 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.)
13	_	16	CHAIR PLOUSIS: The ayes have it.
16	favor, say aye?		
	favor, say aye? (Ayes.)	17	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.
16		1	<del>-</del>
16 17	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed?	17	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of
16 17 18 19	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.)	17 18 19	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of settlement in the initial application of Joanna
16 17 18 19 20	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it.	17 18	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of settlement in the initial application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key employee license.
16 17 18 19 20 21	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.	17 18 19 20 21	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of settlement in the initial application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key employee license. Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli?
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you. Item No. 8 is the consideration of the	17 18 19 20 21 22	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of settlement in the initial application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key employee license. Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli? MS. PIMPINELLI: Hello again, Chairman
16 17 18 19 20 21	(Ayes.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.	17 18 19 20 21	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Thank you.  Item No. 9 is the stipulation of settlement in the initial application of Joanna Martinez for a casino key employee license. Again, Senior Counsel Pimpinelli?

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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
23 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
43	Tou have a start metho for the matter.	23	1 believe 1 at madamoa is nere on belian

		T	
	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,
	-, w movement could be retor		1

	34		36
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	3rd, 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.	20 21	counsel?
22	MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?	22	(No response.)
		23	
23	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.	23	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a
24 25	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 13 is the	25	motion?
23	consideration of the initial casino key	23	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			Welanie R. Gloss parsuant to 1957 5.12-69c,
	Entertainment.	5	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B,
6	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was	5 6	
6 7			NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B,
	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was	6	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice
7	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20,	6 7	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for
7 8	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and	6 7 8	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and
7 8 9	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December	6 7 8 9	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey,
7 8 9 10	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.	6 7 8 9 10	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA
7 8 9 10 11	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they	6 7 8 9 10 11	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.
7 8 9 10 11 12	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7. CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.
7 8 9 10 11 12	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman,	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion?
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini,	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion?  (No response.)
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7. CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial casino key employee license for Melanie Gross.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial casino key employee license for Melanie Gross.  We have reviewed the resolution, have no	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.) CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial casino key employee license for Melanie Gross.  We have reviewed the resolution, have no comment, and would ask that you grant the	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial casino key employee license for Melanie Gross.  We have reviewed the resolution, have no comment, and would ask that you grant the relief requested.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Mr. Chairman, the remaining matters, 14 through 18, will be
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	In this case, Mrs. Gross' request was filed by way of a petition on November 20, 2019, requesting temporary qualification and licensure which you considered at your December 11, 2019, meeting and granted.  Counsel is here, and I ask that they enter their appearance and proceed.  MR. AGNELLINI: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. Pacifico Agnellini, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck on behalf of the petitioners.  As indicated, before you is a petition for the plenary qualification and initial casino key employee license for Melanie Gross.  We have reviewed the resolution, have no comment, and would ask that you grant the	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	NJAC 19:41A-5.3 and NJSA 5:12-89(b)4 and; B, find Ms. Gross qualified to serve as Vice President of Online Casino and Sports for Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, and Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, in accordance with NJSA 5:12-85.1c, NJSA 5:12-89b(1) and (2), and NJAC 13:69C-2.7.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that motion. Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, roll call vote?  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Mr. Chairman,

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1	ITEM NO. 14	1	ITEM NO. 14
2	we are asking for a 20-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
		1	

1 ITEM NO. 14 2 lease back of Harrah's AC and a determination 3 regarding the licensing status of its landlord. 4 The remaining items on our agenda also involve 5 the same parties and we will address them after 6 the conclusion of this hearing. To properly 7 evaluate the raised in these matters we will 8 take testimony and consider the presentations 9 by counsel. Before we begin, I understand 10 there are several exhibits that have been 11 premarked for identification. I understand 12 that there are also some sealing requests 13 pending for both and those items are. 14 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, we have 15 Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure 16 that we all have clarity and we're all on the 17 same page. 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 Daryl? 20 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The 21 premarked exhibits are as follows: 22 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 23 commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 24 to D-4. 25 D-1 is a report of the Division of 2 ITEM NO. 14 2 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 3 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 4 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 5 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 6 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 6 ITEM NO. 14 7 ITEM NO. 14 8 CHAIR PLOUSIS: To Sain Do. 14 ITEM NO. 14 9 PRN 2481902. 9 Janyl? 10 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 3 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 4 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 5 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 6 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 7 on undue economic concentration analysis 7 on undue economic concentration analysis 8 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 8 ITEM NO. 14 9 Janyl. Scans Ars a side presentation. 9 Address the restaction control that the Division fled regarding Eldorado Resorts when it acquired to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 8 MR. SCHRIER: Yes. And that is dated June 20, 2020.				
Lease back of Harrah's AC and a determination regarding the licensing status of its landlord.   Commissione Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy		42		44
regarding the licensing status of its landlord.  The remaining itens on our agenda also involve the same parties and we will address them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will a dress them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the conclusion of the hear after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in the proposed merger of Eldorado and Casars in Atlantic City, New Jersey.  D-3 public redacted executive report to Indicate a present owning company of casino P-3 public redacted executive report to Indicate a present owning company of casino P-3 public redacted executive report to Indicate a present owning company of casino P-3 public redacted executive report to Indicate a proposed merger of Eldorado and Casars in Atlantic City, New Jersey.  D-3 public redacted executive report to Indicate a proposed merger of Eldorado and Casars in Atlantic City, New Jersey.  D-4, the Division of Guming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5:  P-1, Irmothy Watts Spytember 6, 2019, Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects o		ITEM NO. 14		
the remaining items on our agenda also involve the same parties and we will address them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly evaluate the raised in these matters we will take testimony and consider the presentations by counsel. Before we begin, I understand 10 there are several exhibits that have been 10 conpany, Caesars Resort Collections, LLC, a person of their are also some sealing requests 12 pending for both and those items are. 13 These are the exhibits. 14 Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure 15 pending for both and those items are. 16 that we all have clarity and we're all on the 16 that we all have clarity and we're all on the 17 same page. 17 Dary? 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 Dary? 19				<del>-</del>
the same parties and we will address them after the conclusion of this hearing. To properly cevaluate the raised in these matters we will take testimony and consider the presentations by counsel. Before we begin, I understand by counsel. Before we begin, I understand there are as everal exhibits that have been premarked for identification. I understand there are as los some sealing requests pending for both and those items are.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, we have that we all have clarity and we're all on the same page.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.  Dary!?  MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The premarked exhibits are as follows:  The Division of Gaming Enforcement commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 to D-4.  TITEM NO. 14  T			3	Commission Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy
the conclusion of this hearing. To properly cevaluate the raised in these matters we will take testimony and consider the presentations by counsel. Before we begin, I understand there are several exhibits that have been the there are several exhibits that have been that there are also some scaling requests that mere also some scaling requests that mere are also some scaling requests that mere also some scaling requests that we all have clarity and we're all on the same page.  13 These are the exhibits. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 14 These are the exhibits. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 15 These are the exhibits. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 16 The Davision of Gaming Enforcement 27 Does counsel want to be heard? 28 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 29 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 20 The Davision of Gaming Enforcement 21 To D-4. 22 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 23 The Davision of Caming Enforcement 24 Tropicana. The exhibit for D-1 is the Division report on the merger relief petition, which is  43 TIEM NO. 14 Casming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the plant properties of the Division of Casming Enforcement 24 Tropicana. The exhibit for D-1 is the Division report on the merger relief petition, which is  43 TIEM NO. 14 Casming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the plant properties of the Division of Casming Enforcement 24 Tropicana. The exhibit for D-1 is the Division report on the merger relief petition, which is  43 The Patiloners submitted five exhibits 24 The Davision of Gaming Enforcement 25 Thank you.  43 The Patiloners submitted five exhibits 26 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 27 On undue economic concentration analysis 28 Performed the davision of Gaming Enforcement 29 The Davision of Gaming Enforcement 29 The Davision	4	The remaining items on our agenda also involve	4	Watts, PhD.
take testimony and consider the presentations by counsel. Before we begin, I understand there are several exhibits that have been the there are also some sealing requests pending for both and those items are.  The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both and those items are. The pending for both p-5 and D-1 and D-2. The pending for both p-1 and p	5	-	5	P-4 is a slide presentation.
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11 premarked for identification. I understand 12 that there are also some sealing requests 13 pending for both and those items are. 14 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, we have 15 Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure 16 that we all have clarity and we're all on the 17 same page. 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 Daryl? 20 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The 21 premarked exhibits are as follows: 21 Desieve Mr. Nance referenced the plenary 22 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 23 commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 24 to D-4. 25 D-1 is a report of the Division of 26 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 27 on undue economic concentration analysis 28 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 29 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 20 D-3 public redacted executive report to 21 Indiana Racing Commission. 21 D-4, the Division of Gaming Enforcement 22 D-4, the Drivision of Gaming Enforcement 23 recommended conditions. 24 The Petitioners submitted five exhibits 25 pending for both P-3 and D-1 and D-2. 26 Does counsel want to be heard? 27 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, before was defress the reduction requests, may I just please correct the record regarding D-1? I believe Mr. Nance referenced the plenary qualification for growth at the Division filed regarding Eldorado Resorts when it acquired report on the merger relief petition, which is  43 TITEM NO. 14  TI	9	by counsel. Before we begin, I understand	9	convert to a Delaware limited liability
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MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, we have Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure that we all have clarity and we're all on the The analysis of the Competitive Effects of Indiana Raeing Commission of Saming Enforcement To under schaffler of Gaming Enforcement To under schaffler year.  As a perant was a speak.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, before we address the redaction requests, may I just please correct the record regarding D-1? I believe Mr. Nance referenced the plenary qualification report that the Division filed regarding Eldorado Resorts, To D-1 is a report of the Division of  As a plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey, D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report on undue economic concentration analysis related to the proposed merger of Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey, The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5:  D-4, the Division of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: The Polysion of Gaming Enforcement recommended conditions.  The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1	12	that there are also some sealing requests	12	Farmer, Jr., as trustee.
15 Mr. Nance identify the items first to ensure 16 that we all have clarity and we're all on the 17 same page. 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 Dary? 19 Dary? 20 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The 21 premarked exhibits are as follows: 21 please correct the record regarding D-1? I 22 believe Mr. Nance referenced the plenary 23 commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 24 to D-4. 25 D-1 is a report of the Division of 25 TEM NO. 14 26 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 27 appleary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 28 a plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 29 a plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 30 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 41 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 42 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 43 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 44 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 45 Iicensee Atlantic City, Corp. PRN 1351803. 46 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 47 on undue economic concentration analysis 48 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 49 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 40 D-3 public redacted executive report to 41 Indiana Racing Commission. 41 Inc., as Parent owning Enforcement 42 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 43 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 44 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 45 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 46 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 47 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 48 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 49 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 40 Inc., as parent owning compend on the proposed merger of Eldorado and 40 Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey. 41 Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey. 42 Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey. 43 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations. 44 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 45 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 46 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 47 Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey. 48 Inc., and Atlantic City, New Jersey. 49 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 40 Inc., and Atlan	13	pending for both and those items are.	13	These are the exhibits.
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18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 Dary!? 20 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The 21 premarked exhibits are as follows: 22 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 23 commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 24 to D-4. 25 D-1 is a report of the Division of 26 aming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 27 please correct the record when it acquired report on the merger relief petition, which is 28 report on the merger relief petition, which is 29 please correct the record Reparding D-1? I believe Mr. Nance referenced the plenary qualification report that the Division filed regarding Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 3 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 4 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 5 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 5 Ilicensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 6 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report on undue economic concentration analysis related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 9 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. And that is dated June 20, 2020, on the plant was a typo, Miss Richardson. 10 D-3 public redacted executive report to Indiana Racing Commission. 11 The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: 12 D-4, the Division of Gaming Enforcement premarked as P-1 to P-5: 13 recommended conditions. 14 The Petitioners submitted five exhibits premarked as P-1 to P-5: 15 Control Commission on the Petition of Caesars in P-1, Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment 19 Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic 20 City Casino Operations. 21 P-2, Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, Analysis of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Sentertainment 22 City Casino Operations. 23 Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, 24 Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN	17	same page.	17	Does counsel want to be heard?
19 Daryl? 20 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners. The 21 premarked exhibits are as follows: 22 The Division of Gaming Enforcement 23 commit submitted four exhibits premarked as D-1 24 to D-4. 25 D-1 is a report of the Division of 26 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 27 please report on the merger relief petition, which is 28 plearary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 30 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 41 INTEM NO. 14 42 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 33 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 44 lnc., as parent owning company of casino 45 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 46 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 47 on undue economic concentration analysis 48 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 49 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 40 D-3 public redacted executive report to 41 Indiana Racing Commission. 41 The Petitioners submitted five exhibits 43 premarked as P-1 to P-5: 43 ITEM NO. 14 44 Comferring.) 55 licensee Atlantic City, New Jersey. 50 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 51 on undue economic concentration analysis 52 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 53 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 54 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 55 location Trecommended conditions. 56 D-2, Dr. Mind Matts September 6, 2019, 57 Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment 58 P-1, Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, 59 City Casino Operations. 50 City Casino Operations. 50 City Casino Operations. 50 City Casino Operations. 50 City Casino Operations. 51 Control Commission on the Petition of Caesars 51 Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger, 52 Schalar Resorts, Inc., and Atlantic City Operating Company, 51 LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, 52 Schalar Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, 53 Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN	18		18	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, before we
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1 ITEM NO. 14 2 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 2 PRN 2481902. 3 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 4 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 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 7 on undue economic concentration analysis 8 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 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 Indiana Racing Commission. 11 recommended conditions. 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 15 premarked as P-1 to P-5: 15 Control Commission on the Petition of Caesars P-1, Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, 16 Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, 17 Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, 18 the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment 19 Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of 17 City Casino Operations. 19 P-2, Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, 21 P-2, Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, 22 Analysis of the Proposed Merger of Caesars 22 Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of 23 Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, 12 Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN	25	D-1 is a report of the Division of	25	report on the merger relief petition, which is
2 Gaming Enforcement dated June 20, 2020, on the 3 plenary qualification of Eldorado Resorts, 4 Inc., as parent owning company of casino 5 licensee Atlantic City Corp. PRN 1351803. 6 D-2, Dr. Martin K. Perry May 2020 report 7 on undue economic concentration analysis 8 related to the proposed merger of Eldorado and 9 Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. 10 D-3 public redacted executive report to 11 Indiana Racing Commission. 12 D-4, the Division of Gaming Enforcement 13 recommended conditions. 14 The Petitioners submitted five exhibits 15 premarked as P-1 to P-5: 16 P-1, Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, 17 Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of 18 the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment 19 Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic 20 City Casino Operations. 21 Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, 22 Analysis of the Proposed Merger of Caesars 23 Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, 24 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 2 PRN 2481902. 3 Thank you. (Conferring.) 4 (Conferring.) 5 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. And that is dated June 20, 2020. That was a typo, Miss 7 Richardson. 8 MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Thank you. 9 MS. FAUNTLEROY: You want the full title in the record? 10 full report in? You want the full title in the record? 11 record? 12 MS. RICHARDSON: Sure. Please go ahead. 13 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Go ahead, Daryl MR. NANCE: D-1, Report to the Casino 14 MR. NANCE: D-1, Report to the Casino 15 Control Commission on the Petition of Caesars 16 Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars Growth 17 Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts Collections, 18 the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment 19 Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic 19 Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk Regency, 20 LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, 21 LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, 22 Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of 23 Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, 24 Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN		43		45
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24 Inc., and Atlantic City Operations First 24 Merger Sub, Inc., and related relief, PRN				
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	23	imendment withdraws of september 0, 201).	23	2101702.

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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		10	clarification would be that the exhibits being
11	request.  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	D-4 with a sealing request with respect to 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
13	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?
		l	•
17	requested with regard to those two, and we do	17 18	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?
18	not seek any redactions to any of the other		
19	documents that we are introducing in this	19 20	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll make that
20	proceeding.		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.		,,,,
5	Mis. reem nessor. Thank you, Mr.	4	procedural matters that should be brought to
	Chairman.	5	
6		l	procedural matters that should be brought to
	Chairman.	5	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?
6	Chairman. Regarding D-1, the Division consents to	5 6	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time? MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.
6 7	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding	5 6 7	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time? MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner,
6 7 8	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding P-5, I believe that the Division also does	5 6 7 8	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?  MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.  MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr.
6 7 8 9	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding P-5, I believe that the Division also does consent to those redactions, which are minimal, to protect the trustee's compensation amounts.	5 6 7 8 9	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?  MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.  MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 7 8 9 10	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding P-5, I believe that the Division also does consent to those redactions, which are minimal,	5 6 7 8 9 10	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?  MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.  MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, we are set
6 7 8 9 10 11	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding P-5, I believe that the Division also does consent to those redactions, which are minimal, to protect the trustee's compensation amounts.  I would just note for the record that	5 6 7 8 9 10	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?  MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.  MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, we are set for opening statement, which the parties may
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Chairman.  Regarding D-1, the Division consents to the reactions that were requested. Regarding P-5, I believe that the Division also does consent to those redactions, which are minimal, to protect the trustee's compensation amounts.  I would just note for the record that that document is still being reviewed as of this morning. So while I believe there is no	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	procedural matters that should be brought to our attention at this time?  MR. SCHRIER: None from the Petitioner, Mr. Chairman.  MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, we are set for opening statement, which the parties may waive and elect instead to proceed directly to
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50 52 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 with us today, many of whom will testify before 2 companies by the Commission. 3 3 you. I understand that Gary Carano is with us. Once the merger is completed, Caesars He is the Chairman of the Board of Eldorado 4 4 Entertainment Corporation will remain a 5 5 Resorts. Tom Reeg, who is the Chief Executive qualified holding company of three of the 6 Officer. Bret Yunker, who is the Chief 6 Atlantic City casino licensees and Caesars 7 7 Interactive. Further to that end, Eldorado, Financial Officer, Anthony Carano, who is 8 President and Chief Operating Officer. 8 which is a Nevada corporation, will convert to 9 9 Stephanie Lepori, who is the Chief a Delaware corporation and will adopt the name 10 Administrative and Accounting Officer, and 10 Caesars Entertainment, Incorporated, which we Steve Callender, who is the Regional President 11 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 Interactive, and Tropicana Atlantic City. 15 the National Economic Research Associates, and 15 16 we will be hearing from him tomorrow. 16 Another critical component of how this And I also would note that John J. 17 merger will take place involves a second 17 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. 2.1 So we're here today on behalf of two 21 That agreement called the Master Transaction 22 very well-known publicly traded companies in Agreement provides for a series of transactions 22 whereby VICI will exercise rights that it has 23 23 the gaming industry, Eldorado Resorts and 24 24 Caesars Entertainment Corporation Corp. Both 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 8 company known as Caesars Interactive 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 2019, Eldorado and Caesars entered into an 13 Atlantic City land is approximately \$600 13 million. With the other lease modifications 14 Agreement and Plan of Merger. And pursuant to 14 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 generated to fund the merger. As set forth in 18 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

54 56 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 put in enormous time and effort and generated a 2 referred to as Caesars or CEC, to approve a 3 3 substantial report on the transaction. We merger. ERI and CEC have also submitted requests for other relief which may be needed 4 greatly appreciate their efforts and their 5 5 insights, and we have tried very hard to in connection with or as a result of the merger address their issues and concerns raised in 6 6 if it is approved. The merger transactions --7 if you determine they should be approved will 7 their report. 8 We are in unusual times and as you all 8 result in the largest United States gaming 9 9 company relative to the number of properties know there are still uncertainties in our 10 future. But I submit to you that when you hear 10 owned, operated, and managed. the testimony and review the evidence that we 11 Since the merger was announced in late 11 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 made and solidly backstopped by New Caesars, 17 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 2.1 gaming destination. 21 a report. And Dr. Perry's May 27, 2020, report 22 has also been filed with the Commission and is You have heard from Ms. Fauntleroy that 22 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 55 57 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 to give you an overview of New Caesars and its 7 granted. 8 8 operating expectations; third, to address the 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 of proposed cost can you tell us and 11 of economic concentration under Section 82 of 11 12 the Casino Control Act; and, fourth, to confirm 12 consolidation measures, staffing levels at the 13 Atlantic City properties, restrictive the very substantial commitments that have been 13 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 19 review and analysis setting forth not only its Thank you. 20 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? 20 evaluation of the above critical areas in the MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. 21 21 context of size and scope of this merger, but 22 22 also of a primary criterion that must be As you said, today the Commission is 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

58 60 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 2 in Atlantic City. MR. SCHRIER: Yeah. For some reason I'm 3 3 not able to pin the larger screen up. Ah. The usual evaluation and analysis points 4 of reviewing historical operating results, key There with go. 5 5 assumptions and capital expenditure plans, CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, can you swear 6 available financial flexibility in the event 6 in Mr. Reeg, please. 7 7 THOMAS R. REEG, having been first duly that cash flows fall short of expectations 8 simply could not be undertaken in this matter 8 sworn remotely, testified as follows: 9 Q MR. NANCE: Please state your name for with any degree of certainty or confidence. 10 10 The current environment created circumstances the record. 11 THE WITNESS: Thomas Robert Reeg. 11 surrounding the financial results of this 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 Good morning, Mr. Reeg. 15 the Division looks toward testimony from 15 Good morning. A. 16 Eldorado to address these matters. Pending the 16 Will you tell the Commission what your 17 title is with Eldorado Resorts? 17 presentation of that testimony, for the I'm the Chief Executive Officer of 18 Commission's reference the Division has 18 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. 2.1 Commission, after receiving and reviewing all 21 O. So once the merger is completed, you 22 will be the CEO of New Caesars? of the information which will be presented, 22 23 determines that the merger should be approved, 23 A. Correct. 24 24 Can you please provide some background the Division's list of conditions presents what 25 on yourself and your responsibilities as the CEO? 25 it believes are the requirements, which at a 59 61 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 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 Mr. Schrier's comments thanking you for considering this matter today and for all of the work that the DGE 4 proposed new entity, Caesars Entertainment, 5 put in and staff. It's been an extraordinary period 5 Inc., which will be referred to as New Caesars, 6 of time. 6 ensure robust capital investment in Atlantic City, monitor staffing levels, evaluate the My background is financial. I graduated 8 8 impact of any proposed cost cuts and 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. sector throughout. So go back to the early '90s in 13 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 18 them while I was at Bank of America. And that Mr. Chairman. 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 25 And then in late 2010, I it.

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- 2 discussed joining -- I'm sorry. Post that Shreveport
- 3 acquisition 2007, I joined the board of the private
- 4 Eldorado Resorts, LLC, and I've been on that board
- 5 through its iteration today and remain on the board of
- 6 Eldorado, will be a board member of New Caesars as
- 7 well.
- 8 In late 2010, I spoke to Don Carano and
- 9 Gary Carano about joining Eldorado full time in a
- 10 permanent role with a strategic focus on driving the
- 11 casino entity into the public markets. I joined as
- 12 Senior Vice President of Strategic Development in
- 13 early 2011, put together -- obviously with a lot of
- 14 help -- the initial merger into MTR Gaming which was
- 15 an existing public company in 2014.
- 16 At that point I became president of
- 17 Eldorado Resorts, Inc., which would became the public
- 18 company that survived that merger. I then was working
- 19 strategically on subsequent transactions that included
- 20 the purchase of Isle of Capri Casinos, Incorporated,
- 21 the Grand Victoria asset from the Elgin Riverboat
- 22 partnership, the Tropicana Entertainment transaction
- 23 which brought us into Atlantic City, and then the
- 24 Caesars transaction that's before the Commission
- 25 today.

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 REEG
- 2 interested in pursuing a transaction at that time.
- 3 Subsequent to that, there were press
- 4 reports of Carl Icahn accumulating a position in
- 5 Caesars. We had done the Tropicana Entertainment
- 6 transaction with Mr. Icahn. At a dinner post that
- 7 transaction with Mr. Icahn we had briefly discussed
- 8 the possibility of Caesars ultimately being merged
- 9 into Eldorado, but it was really just a passing
- 10 conversation at that point.
- Once the press reports became public on
- 12 Mr. Icahn's position, we reached out to Mr. Icahn and
- 13 his group to discuss a potential merger, reiterate our
- 14 interest in a transaction. Mr. Icahn was publicly
- 15 urging the Caesars board to pursue strategic
  - 6 alternatives, including a potential merger. And we
- 17 entered into those discussions in the first quarter of
- 18 2019.
- 19 Those discussions were ongoing for many
- 20 months, and given the size of Caesars, it -- there was
- 21 really no alternative for Caesars to sell themselves
- 22 for cash. It would have -- they would -- in any
- 23 buyer's bid, they were going to be required to take
- 24 equity of the combined company. And I -- I know that

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25 as we've gone through this process, the ability of

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- ITEM NO. 14 REEG Q. Thank you.
- In June of 2019, you appeared before the
- 4 Commission here pertaining to Eldorado receiving its
- 5 plenary casino license qualification, via holding
- 6 company and owning the Tropicana Atlantic City. Soon
- 7 thereafter the company entered into agreements to
- 8 merge with Caesars Entertainment. I'm wondering if
- 9 you could please provide the Commissioners with the
- 10 background on that transaction?
- 11 MR. SCHRIER: If you could flip the
- slide. Thank you.
- 13 A. Sure. So we -- in June of 2018 -- or
- 14 I'm sorry. In August of 2018 Caesars had reported a
- 15 quarter that was not well received by the investment
- 16 community. We had relationships with investors in
- 17 Caesars that had expressed their dissatisfaction of
   18 the direction of Caesars and encouraged us to reach
- 19 out to the company and see if there was a transaction
- 20 to be put together with Caesars.
- 21 I -- we knew multiple board members of
- 22 Caesars and reached out through them to discuss a
- 23 potential merger transaction. There were brief
- 24 discussions at that point that were subsequently
- 5 shelved when Caesars' board told us that they were not

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  - 2 management team to take on an acquisition of this size
  - 3 is of paramount importance.
    - You know, I would weave this into
  - 5 further testimony, but the first point I would make
  - 6 there is Mr. Icahn, who has a long history in Atlantic
  - 7 City and is renowned and legendary as an astute
  - 8 investor, who is willing and was willing to take
  - 9 equity in the combined company given his confidence in
  - 10 our ability to manage the combined entity.
  - Those transaction discussions concluded
  - 12 in the middle of June of last year, as you said,
  - 13 shortly after I was in front of -- we were in front of
  - 14 Atlantic City for our licensing. And on June 24th, we
  - 15 announced the transaction that's before the Commission
  - 16 today.

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- 17 Q. Have you reviewed the Division's report
- 18 in this matter?
- 19 A. I have.
- Q. Can you tell the Commissioners --
- 21 MR. SCHRIER: If we could flip the
- slide, please.
- Q. -- what made this deal attractive to
- 24 Eldorado?
- A. Right. From -- so from the outside, we

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- 2 have been -- have done, as I said, a number of
- transactions. And we believe that the casino business 3
- 4 is best managed in a decentralized fashion where the
- 5 operating teams closest to your customers are making
- most of the operating decisions based on framework
- that you set out for them rather than a command and
- control structure from a centralized organization
- that, in many cases, is thousands of miles away from
- the customer. So that has been a theme of what we
- have done over the years in terms of putting companies 11

12 together.

13 Caesars had developed over the last 14 several years a -- the opposite structure, a highly

- 15 centralized structure, based in Nevada that, in our
- view, led to inefficiencies cease in operations,
- excess costs in the business that are kind of what I 17

18 would call traditional focus of M&A.

19 The unique piece of Caesars is they have 20

- a history as a legendary brand in the business in any 21 number of areas. But kind of the gold standard in the
- 22 past from a brand standpoint. The fact that they were
- 23 potentially available and the Caesars Rewards program
- for customer retention and development is unmatched in
- the business. We had long admired it from afar. All

ITEM NO. 14 - REEG

2 to add throughout the company, we -- we acquire their

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- negatives as well. And the performance in Atlantic
- City, we were -- we were viewing from afar was not
- keeping up with the rest of the market. We think
- 6 there is opportunity, and we are willing to invest
- 7 capital that will be discussed in greater detail
- later, to bring these properties back to where they 8
- 9 need to be from a competitive standpoint.

10 But Atlantic City is going to be a

significant piece of this combined company. On an 11

12 EBITDAR basis, Atlantic City should be north of \$200

13 million of EBITDAR in a company that will do, you

14 know, approaching 4 billion. But that's across over

15 50 properties across the country. So New Jersey will

be an important market for us. And we're excited to 16

17 become more involved through this acquisition.

18 O. Mr. Reeg, when this deal was announced 19 in June, things were a bit different than they are

20 today. How do you see the transaction today in light

21 of some of the events that are occurring with the

22 pandemic, for example? Is it still an attractive

23 proposition?

24 And that was a key question for us in

25 the -- over the last several months. This -- this

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- of us in this sector have players club programs that
- 3 link properties throughout their system. We are among
- them. Nobody in this business has the cross market
- 5 play that Caesars has generated and demonstrated over

the years. 6

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So those were the key pieces that were appealing to us in the transaction and remain appealing to us today.

Q. And as part of that transaction, how did 11 you view Atlantic City fitting into that rationale?

A. As the Commission notes, we came into 13 Atlantic City at a time when others were questioning,

is this a market that you would like to come into, 15 given all the competition that opened on the Eastern

Seaboard? But we look to the history and the strength of Atlantic City as positive. And we've had a

positive experience with Tropicana since we've opened,

19 despite the additional competition added by Hard Rock 20 and the reopening of Ocean, we've been able to hold

21 our own through that.

22

And, you know, we think that -- we know that when we acquire Caesars, in addition to the

positive attributes that I was talking about earlier and the fantastic management talent that we're going 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG

> 2 crisis has been -- I don't know have to tell members

3 of the Commissioner that this crisis has been

extraordinary. But from a business standpoint, this

5 has been the most trying time to run a casino company

in the over 25 years that I've been involved around 6

7 this business.

22

8 We were making decisions that you never

dreamed you would make. If -- you know, when you talk

10 about the size of this company, this combined company

has closed and then reopened 50 properties -- more 11

than 50 properties over the past three months. We 12

furloughed close to 95 percent of employees during 13

14 those closings. We made decisions on how you would

15 treat employees in terms of pay that, while they were 16 out of work, bringing them back, dealing with

17 benefits. And at the same time, we were close to

closing this acquisition. This -- we were likely a 18

19 month from being in front of most of the commissions

20 that we've been in front of recently to reach final

21 approvals as COVID spread across the country.

And it was clear to us at that time that

23 all of the opportunity that we saw within Caesars when

24 we underwrote the transaction was still there, and it

became a question of, can you get to that point? And

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG

2 the key to that was can you bridge that financially?

3 And how long is that bridge?

4

When we put forth our April 30th

5 projections that are a part of the record now, we

were, as it turned out, conservative relative to what 6

7 has happened since reopening. But it was important to

8 us to put numbers in that reflected a scenario that

was clearly a test but represented what could happen

as we went through reopening. We're pleased to report 10

that we've out performed those numbers. But as we 11

12 looked at the numbers and looked at what we could do

financially, it was clear that we needed to continue 13

forward with this transaction, with the expectation

that the benefits may be shifted out a few months, but 15

16 that they were still available to us.

17 But again on the that, the point of

18 management, we had a lot of wood to chop after that

19 decision was made. We had -- we still had to get

20 through the FTC process. And we had to sell a

21 particular asset in Lake Tahoe effectively three

2.2. different times through this process. We had a buyer

23 who at the eleventh hour walked away. We had another

24 buyer that the FTC raised doubts about. And we

ultimately moved to Twin River as a buyer of that

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And then finally, we had to reopen these

properties across the country with varying

restrictions, develop a health and safety program with

5 the help of medical experts that were on our payroll

6 on both sides. And with all of that going on, we've

7 generated results on a consolidated basis on the

year-over-year comparison from reopening to now that's 8

9 effectively flat to the prior year's results. So it's

an extraordinary testament to the combined management 10

team that's coming together here that we're able to 11

12 work through this and get to this point today.

13 Yeah. So, as was noted, this is the

14 largest gaming company transaction in history. Could

you describe to the Commission the basic terms of the 15

16 transaction?

17 A. Yes. So we are acquiring Caesars for a

18 combination of cash and stock, \$8.40 per share in

19 cash. The remainder in stock. There has been some

ticking -- ticking fee, I'm sorry -- that has accrued 20

21 in the interim that will be paid in cash in closing as

22 well.

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23 The combined -- excuse me for a minute.

24 I'm going to pull this up on my screen so I can see

the numbers in front of me. I apologize. So it's

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asset. That transaction was struck when there was not

3 a casino open in this country. So to sell an asset in

that time was an extraordinary effort by this

5 management team.

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We then had to start to reopen these properties. We had to reopen more than 50 properties

8 across the two companies. We were doing this when

we're dealing with COVID from a business perspective,

and there are members of the senior management team 10

that were dealing with COVID in their homes at this

time. So this was an extraordinary lift on both 12

13 sides. 14

We then had to go to the financial

15 markets. And we had put forward financial structure

in June of 2019 that obviously did not contemplate a

three-month shut down between signing and closing. We

18 were able, through the efforts of the entire

19 management team, but particular efforts of Mr. Yunker,

who the Commission will hear from shortly, to raise 2.0

21 over \$8 million of financing in a period of time when

assets had been opened for a handful of weeks. And to 22

put us in a financial position that looks very similar

to what was presented to this Commission and presented 25 to the investment community in June of '19.

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2 8.70 of cash, 3.60 per share of equity, the aggregate

3 cash consideration is approximately seven and-a-half

billion dollars. \$3.2 billion of that cash is part of 4

5 the master transaction agreement in connection with --

I'm sorry -- it's in connection with the VICI master 6

7 transaction agreement. We will issue over 77 million

8 shares of stock to Caesars investors. That's over \$3

billion of equity value. Coupled with our \$800

million equity offering that was priced and closed in 10

June. That's nearly \$4 billion of equity coming into 11

this transaction. That's the largest equity issuance 12

13 in connection with any previous gaming merger by a

14 wide margin.

15 You know, Bret and I come from the fixed

16 income background in investing and banking. We

17 understand the importance of balance sheet. And

there's going to be a great deal of discussion of that 18

19 in the testimony. And there is understandably a great

20 deal of focus in the DGE report there. But we feel

21 we've built a balance sheet that has proven can

22 withstand a crisis but is built to withstand a further

23 crisis should one arise.

24 Eldorado is expected to own 56 percent

of the merged company, and we will change our name, as

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG

- was disclosed before, to Caesars Entertainment which
- is a clear indication of our view of the power of the 3
- 4 Caesars brand.
- 5 Q. All right. So as of today, where is the
- company in respect for closing and approvals of this 6
- transaction? 7
- 8 MR. SCHRIER: If you could put up the
- 9 slide, please.
- 10 A. Yes. From an approval standpoint, we
- received Nevada approval last week, Indiana Gaming 11
- 12 Commission approval last week as well. And Indiana
- 13 Horse Racing Commission this past Monday. So that the
- only required regulatory approval that remains in
- 15 front of us is the hearings this week in front of the
- New Jersey Casino Control Commission. All of the
- financing is in place. All of the cash, both the cash 17
- on our side and the cash that VICI will fund as part
- 19 of the transaction, is currently in escrow. The
- leadership team and the new board of directors are 20
- 21 confirmed. There are at least six board members from
- 22 Eldorado, five members from the Caesars side.
- Operating integration that Anthony will go through as
- well ahead of prior transactions. That's a silver
- 25 lining of the extra time that we've had, is we've had

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
- 2 fact, they are exceptional in that area. And you can

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- 3 see there are areas of the company where -- for the
- Commissioners benefit the blue colored boxes are
- 5 Caesars employees that are filling those management
- 6 positions. And the black boxes are existing Eldorado.
- 7 So you can see that we are bringing a lot of
- 8 management talent in from Caesars.
- 9 Particularly in key areas where they are
- 10 extraordinary strong. I also mentioned Caesars
- Rewards. Their program there is unmatched in the 11
- 12 space. We're bringing that team into our
- 13 organization. Caesars has a very well developed
- 14 compliance and AML function that we are going to go
- with as we move forward as a combined company. 15
  - Caesars has a very well developed
- 17 corporate social responsibility area that was headed
- 18 by Jan Jones Blackhurst the who is now a member of the
- 19 Caesars board and will be a member of the combined
- board. And Jan will chair a new corporate 20
- 21 responsibility committee at the board level. Miss
- 22 Lepori's testimony will go into greater detail here.
- 23 You know, I am pleased personally to
- 24 report that Tony Rodio, the existing CEO of Caesars
- 25 Entertainment and former CEO of Tropicana

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- a lot of time to put forth or put together plans to
- 3 hit the ground running on day one.
- 4 As I said, cash flows are well in excess
- 5 of what was presented to the Board -- to the
- Commission and the DGE on April 30th. We have an 6
- agreement in place -- or Caesars has an agreement in 7
- 8 place to sell Bally's to Twin River. Twin River is
- working through the regulatory process in New Jersey.
- 10 And we're hopeful that will close by year end.

- 11 And Miss Richardson spoke of the
- conditions that were noted in the DGE report, and 12.
- 13 we -- we are prepared to agree to all of the 14 conditions that are listed in that report.
- 15
  - Q. Mr. Reeg, if I could just refer you back
- 16 to the corporate leadership team?
- 17 MR. SCHRIER: If we can flip she's
- slides to the back two pages, 38 and 39 for the 18
- 19 Commission to review.
- 20 Can you just briefly describe what this
- structure looks like and how it was created for New 21
- 22 Caesars?
- 23 Yes. As in our prior acquisitions, we
- 24 expect to find significant management talent in the
- target company. And Caesars was no exception. In

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
- 2 Entertainment is going to remain with the company in a
- 3 strategic advisory role to me. And chief among his
- responsibilities is going to be to develop and
- 5 implement the capital expenditure program that we're
- going through here today. 6
- Tony's experience in the Atlantic City
- 8 market is substantial. I know that he's very familiar
- to both the DGE and the Commission. And we are
- 10 thrilled that he will be involved and will be a chief
- principal in developing and implementing our program 11
- 12 in Atlantic City from a capital perspective as we move
- 13 forward.

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- Thank you, Mr. Reeg.
- 15 And just to confirm what I think you
- 16 said previously, you've read all of the 40 conditions
- 17 that have been marked into evidence in this matter by
- the Division and on behalf of Eldorado and New 18
- 19 Caesars, of which you will be the CEO, you agree to
- 20 abide by those conditions?
- 21 A. Absolutely. As I said, I -- we
- 22 understand that we acquire the positives and negatives
- 23 of Caesars. And we know that Atlantic City and New
- 24 Jersey have had some difficulties with a lack of
  - investment from Caesars chiefly in the past. And, you

78 80 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 know, we understand why the conditions are there, and 2 by saying is Caesars used to operate the way that we we are absolutely committed to agreeing to abide by 3 operate back in the Harrah's Entertainment days when 4 them. Phil Satre was in my seat with Harrah's. Their 5 O. Thank you. 5 operating philosophy was very similar to ours in terms 6 MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have Mr. 6 of empowering the local level and running the company 7 Chairman. 7 in a decentralized fashion. It's really over the past 8 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 8 ten years that this central -- and the last five years 9 9 in particular -- that the centralized infrastructure (Conferring.) 10 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? 10 was built up. MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, chairman. 11 So there is a cultural change that's 11 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: 12 going to take place here. There are a lot of 13 13 management leaders, particularly at the local level, O. Good afternoon, Mr. Reeg. 14 Α. Hi. 14 that go back to the Phil Satre days and really have 15 Q. You mentioned earlier about Carl Icahn 15 been waiting to be re-empowered as we've -- as they've and collaboration with him to reach this merger deal gone about their operating careers. So we see a great 16 back in 2019. What, to your knowledge, is his deal of excitement at the local level that they will 17 percentage ownership of Caesars Entertainment 18 have had their hands untied to operate more as they 19 currently? 19 would see fit at the local level. 20 20 A. I believe his direct ownership is just But there -- I don't want to minimize 21 under 19 percent. And his ownership through forwards 21 that there is going to be a cultural transaction, 22 and options goes in excess of 30 percent. 22 particularly at the corporate level. We have --23 Q. And what would you estimate his 23 we've -- during this process, particularly because of 24 24 ownership through himself personally and his what happened with the pandemic and the merger affiliated companies to be after the merger if it's agreements that we've had to live under from an 79 81 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 approved? 2 operating perspective, we've gotten a crystal clear 3 A. I believe he will end up in the 10 3 view into the bureaucracy see that exists within percent area or -- or greater and our largest single 4 Caesars. And to dismantle that is not going to be a 5 shareholder. 5 simple day one, just snap your fingers. It's going to 6 Q. When you were discussing the 6 be an education process, and this is how we do organization of the combined company, you mentioned 7 business. 7 8 specifically Caesars' AML program, which the Division And this is what we have done in prior is familiar with. And you said also that that program 9 acquisitions. This is certainly a larger acquisition. is intended to be kept by New Caesars if it is a 10 But we have, you know, buy-in from the senior 10 combined company? 11 leadership team on both sides. And we're -- I'm not 11 12 A. Correct. 12 going to stand in front of you and say that we don't expect any hiccups along the way. But we are 13 And the Division did consider that 13 program, and still does, to be robust and very staffed 14 confidant that we can demonstrate -- that we can and an important area. So essentially are you saying 15 deliver the similar results that we've delivered in that you intend to keep the program as it exists under 16 past acquisitions, you know, demonstrated track record 17 over the past six or seven years. 17 Caesars? 18 Q. And if the merger is approved, Eldorado 18 A. Yes. 19 essentially would be operating as mostly a regional 19 Can you discuss the transaction and 20 operator. You'd be acquiring certain Caesars integration plans with Eldorado and Caesars being 2.0 21 properties which are more of destination resorts. corporations with somewhat different corporate operating strategies. If the merger is approved, what 22 Under the current conditions with the COVID-19 health 23 crisis, how do you feel about the company going

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forward being positioned with this mix and, you know,

customer -- certain reluctancies and travel, et

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into a unified entity?

challenges do you see with melding these two companies

Well, you have -- and what I would start

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG

2 cetera?

- A. Yes. I think that's the argument for
- 4 diversification. We have our own destination markets
- 5 in Atlantic City at the Trop currently and in Reno.
- 6 And what we're experiencing today is the weekend
- 7 activity is robust but midweek activity is soft. And
- 8 that's true of Caesars in Las Vegas as well. On a
- 9 combined basis, we'll have about 60 percent regional
- 10 operations, about 40 percent Las Vegas. And what's
- 11 happening now is the performance of the regional
- 12 destin -- or the regional properties are far stronger
- 13 than anyone anticipated, including us. And the
- 14 strength in those regional properties are offsetting
- 15 the weakness in Las Vegas Strip, Reno, New Orleans,
- 16 and Atlantic City that is seen throughout the two
- 17 portfolios. And we're ending up in a position where
- 18 the operating results are, from a cash flow
- 19 perspective, is almost flat in a year-over-year basis.
- 20 And, you know, you have projections in front of us
- 21 that for this current quarter I think we're showings
- 22 60 percent drop in EBIDTA. So the diversification
- 23 that has -- that this transaction brings, you're
- 24 seeing the benefits in real time today.
- Q. And turning to others here, you're aware

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 REEG
- 2 approval is being sought now?
- 3 A. It is.
  - Q. And there's a value of 600 million in

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- 5 proceeds that's attributable to Harrah's Atlantic City
- 6 in connection with the overall sale of other three
- 7 Harrah's properties, real estate assets, to VICI; is
- 8 that correct?
  - A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. And that 600 million is vital to the
- 11 funds required to complete the merger process?
  - A. Correct.
- Q. Aside from using the sale proceeds from
- 14 Harrah's Atlantic City potentially as a funding source
- 15 to complete these transaction if they are approved by
- 16 the Commission, how does that sale benefit operations
- 17 or the Atlantic City market?
  - A. So, we view REITs as -- REIT financing
- 19 as just another financing tool. We don't operate or
- 20 invest in properties differently relative to whether
- 21 they are leased or wholly owned. You can -- the
- 22 Caesars side in particular recently, you've had
- 23 Caesars spent well over \$50 million in Southern
- 24 Indiana on an expansion there. Caesars Palace,
- Harrah's Las Vegas, they've spent hundreds of millions

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- that subsidiaries of CEC are parties to a master lease
- 3 with subsidiaries of the two properties; is that
- 4 correct?

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- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And VICI Properties is a real estate
- 7 investment trust, or a REIT as it's commonly known?
  - That's correct.
  - O. And Bally's and Caesars in Atlantic City
- 10 are subject to that lease and under the REIT
- 11 arrangement?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. And are you aware that this Commission
- 14 approved the bankruptcy construction and REIT
- 15 arrangement when Caesars Entertainment Operating
- 16 Company completed its reorganization?
  - A. I'm aware.
  - Q. And are you also aware that at that time
- 19 a condition was imposed that the call right applicable
- 20 to Harrah's Atlantic City could not be exercised
- 21 through a sales process without regulatory approvals?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And as part of this merger, CEC has
- 24 entered into an agreement for the sale of Harrah's
  - 5 real estate assets to VICI REIT, and that sale

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- 2 of dollars since the bankruptcy, investing in assets
- 3 that are subject to the lease. We are a hundred
- 4 percent aware that they have not invested in the
- 5 Atlantic City assets, but that's not tied to them
- 6 being leased.
- 7 So the 600 million that comes in from
- 8 Harrah's Atlantic City -- the sale to VICI is \$600
- 9 million that we did not have to have an underwritten
- 10 financing commitment for the past 13 months and pay
- 11 fees that would just benefit bankers, who I can assure
- 12 you have benefitted substantially from this
- 13 transaction, without that additional -- the additional
- 14 fees on the 600 million.

But from our standpoint -- and the way

- 16 that we are evaluated, that lease is treated as debt
- 17 on our balance sheet and by investors. So we don't
- differentiate from an operating investment perspective
- 19 whether a property is leased or owned. And as
- 20 evidence of that, we're making substantial capital
- 21 expenditure commitments here that are actually funding
- 22 into escrow for the benefit of these New Jersey
- 23 assets. And we would intend when those are exhausted,
- 24 we'll be spending, you know, five percent of revenues
- on maintenance capital going forward, which in the

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
- 2 Atlantic City market, is north of \$50 million a year.
- 3 Q. That capital expenditure fund is
- 4 separate and apart from anything having to do with the
- potential sale of the Harrah's Atlantic City real
- 6 estate assets: correct?
  - That's correct.
- 8 How much is the annual rent under the
- 9 existing master lease that the CEC subsidiaries have
- with VICI? 10

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- 11 A. Hm. I don't have that off the top of my
- 12 head. I know that Mr. Yunker will.
- 13 Do you know how much the annual rent is
- 14 expected to increase if the three Harrah's property,
- real estate asset sales, are approved and added to the 15
- master lease?
- 17 A. It's \$3.2 billion of proceeds that will
- 18 increase our lease expense by \$200-odd million a year.
- 19 Q. And are you aware of what the annual
- 20 capital expenditure requirements will be under the
- 21 amended lease if those new properties are included?
- 22 A. I don't have that off the top of my
- 23 head. But it's -- it's substantial. It's more
- 24 than -- the capex requirements in the VICI lease are
- higher than the capex requirements in the GLPI lease

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
- 2 expenditure requirements that are through the lease;
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 And there's also a request pending to
- 6 amend the master lease between CEC and VICI before the
- 7 Commission; is that correct?
- 8 Α. Correct.
  - Q. What's the nature of the proposed
- 10 amendment?
- A. So it's -- there's multiple pieces, and 11
- 12 Mr. Yunker can get into more specifics. But we bring
- 13 Harrah's Atlantic City, Tropicana Laughlin, Harrah's
- New Orleans into that master lease. Those are the
- call option assets that are a piece of this. There 15
- 16 are other more technical changes, but that's the
- 17 biggest piece of the amendment.
  - Q. And outside of the Harrah's
- 19 transactions, there is also a request to the
- Commission to amend that lease for immediate relief; 20
- 21 is that correct?
- 22 A. Correct.
  - And what is that for?
- 24 We have to -- there are agreements we
- 25 have to enter into at closing, including the master

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- as an example. But if we spend the typical five
- 3 percent of maintenance that we spend across all of our
- properties, we would meet the capital expenditure
- 5 requirement.

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- 6 Q. You're not aware of the number, but you
- are aware generally that under the terms of the lease, 7
- the minimum capital expenditure requirements in that
- lease do not require any particular amount to be spent
- 10 on any particular property; correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 So absent any other requirements, the
- master lease would not require any particular amount
- 14 to be spent at Harrah's Atlantic City if it's added to
- 15 that lease?
- 16 That's correct. Master lease is a
- 17 unitary document dictated by the entire company. So
- the operations of the entire company support those --
- 19 that master lease. It's not as if Atlantic City is on
- its own. But to your point, in addition, the capital
- 21 requirements are across the entire portfolio, not
- 22 specific to any asset.
- 23 So to your statement that, for that
- 24 matter, Bally's Atlantic City and Caesars Atlantic
  - City similarly don't have specific directed capital

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
  - 2 transaction agreement with VICI. And we need to have
  - 3 all of the approvals in place in order to enter into
  - 4 those agreements at closing.
  - 5 And is there not also a pending request
  - 6 from CEC to amend the master lease seeking some relief
  - 7 based on COVID-19 conditions and meeting specific
  - 8 minimum capital expenditure requirements?
  - 9 There's been a re -- yes. There's been
  - 10 a recalculation -- or an amendment that allows for a
  - recalculation of the three-year rolling capex 11
  - requirement as -- because of the COVID situation over 12
  - 13 the past three months.
  - 14 Can you explain that proposed amendment
  - 15 for the Commission?
  - 16 A. It effectively -- it -- there's a
  - 17 minimum annual requirement, and there's a three-year
  - rolling requirement in the lease. In the COVID 18
  - 19 environment with liquidity in a premium, most capital
  - 20 was stopped in the entire space. And so there's an
  - 21 easing of the requirement in terms of how the -- the
  - 22 three-year calculation is done. You basically get a
  - 23 mulligan, as a golf term, where your -- you're not
  - 24 penalized for the freeze during COVID. 25
    - You mentioned earlier that there is a

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG
- pending sale agreement for Bally's Atlantic City to 2
- 3 Twin River; correct?

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- A. Correct.
- 5 And that sale will not include the Wild
- Wild West portion of the casino or the sportsbook? 6
  - A. That's correct.
- 8 And there's also separate agreement
- 9 since Bally's is in the REIT with VICI that there is
- an agreement for the sale of those real estate assets 10
- as well; correct? 11
- 12 Right. There's a split of the proceeds,
- 13 and it will come out of the master lease.
- 15

So the total sale price is 25 million.

- And can you explain the split for the Commission?
- A. The VICI will get the vast majority of 16
- the proceeds, as the value is deemed to be primarily 17
- real estate operations, not casino operations. And I
- 19 would tell the Commission that that transaction was in
- 20 process on the Caesars side, and it was entered into
- 21 and executed by Caesars. So we were not directly
- involved in those negotiations. We ultimately had to
- 23 approve the transaction, but we were not a party to it
- 24 being put together.
  - Q. And understanding that, that Eldorado

- ITEM NO. 14 REEG
- 2 discussing to amend the master lease between CEC and
- 3 VICI, there's also a pending request related to the
- Tropicana lease for the COVID relief?
  - A. Correct.
- Can you tell the Commission about that 6
- 7 amendment?
- 8 A. So the chief pieces of the GLPI
- 9 amendment were related to the divestiture requirements
- in Indiana. What we wanted to do was be able to sell 10
- the Evansville asset as a wholly owned asset rather 11
- 12 than as a leasehold interest. So there's an ability
- to swap existing owned Eldorado assets into the lease 13
- to substitute for the cash flow that will leave from
- Evansville and to extricate Evansville from a lease, 15
- 16 sell it as a HOLDCO.
- 17 In addition, there was a -- there's a
- 18 variable rent component of the GLPI lease where a
- portion of their rent is tied to a percentage of 19
- 20 revenue. And because of the closures in COVID, there
- 21 was going to be a fairly significant reduction in that
- 22 variable rent piece. We agreed to fix that at a
- 23 higher level, not at the prior -- the pre-COVID level,
- but higher than if you had run that calculation with a 24
- three-month closure in the interim.

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- 2 In addition, we have the ability to
- 3 remove some smaller assets from that lease as a part

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- of the amendment.
- 5 And does that proposed amendment seek
- relief similar to the VICI amendment for COVID relief 6
- 7 related to capital expenditure requirements under the
- 8 lease?
- 9 A. I believe so. But it's a different --
- 10 there isn't the three-year rolling average requirement
- there. So you -- it's more of a waiver until we get 11
- 12 to -- or once we got through the crisis and should be
- 13 back to normal quickly.
- 14 And as you're aware and you've addressed
- 15 earlier, the Division has raised serious concerns
- 16 about the need for capital expenditures, or capex, at
- 17 the CEC Atlantic City properties; correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 And you mentioned this as well. But
- 20 after several discussions with the Division, Eldorado
- 21 has committed to establish a pre-funded account of
- 22 \$400 million to be held in trust for capital
- 23 expenditures in Atlantic City over a three-year
- 24 period?

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A. That's correct.

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- did not negotiate that deal but Caesars is to receive
- approximately six million from that sale, what's your 3
- view on the disposition of that property where there's
- 5 really a minimal gain to Caesars?
- A. I think it allows us to focus on 6
- Caesars, Harrah's, and Tropicana and direct our 7
- 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
- 12 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
- 15 outcome for New Caesars and for the state.
- 16 And Tropicana is also part of a REIT 17 with a subsidiary of gaming and leisure properties;
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 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
- 23 property subject to that lease?
- 24 That is correct.
- 25 And similar to the request that we were

94 96 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 Q. And given the pending sale of Bally's, 2 Correct. Α. 3 if that sale is not completed, an additional 125 3 And they had a concern that the number 4 million will be added to that trust to spend on of licenses would have given New Caesars control over 5 Bally's Atlantic City? approximately 50 to 60 percent of Indiana's gaming 6 A. Correct. 6 7 And that capex trust account will be 7 A. Yeah. They're internal number was north 8 subject to a trust agreement? 8 of 60 percent. 9 9 And initially Eldorado had voluntarily A. Yes. Q. 10 And supervised by a trustee? proposed to divest two licenses to alleviate undue Q. 10 economic concentration concerns; is that correct? 11 A. Correct. 11 12 It was mentioned that John Farmer is 12 That is correct. going to be that trustee. You're aware of that? 13 And ultimately, as you said, they 13 14 A. I am. 14 determined that a total of three divestitures was And you mentioned earlier that you 15 required in the best interest of their state? 15 16 reviewed the conditions that the Division has listed 16 A. Yes. and admitted as an exhibit into evidence. You're Is it correct that Eldorado has until 17 17 Q. aware that within those conditions, the Division has 18 December 31 of 2020 to enter into definitive 19 specifically addressed these requirements that we just 19 agreements on those three licenses? 20 discussed about capex if the Commission determines the 20 That is correct. 21 merger will be approved? 21 And again, you indicated earlier and 22 A. I'm aware. 22 again with me here that you reviewed the Division's 23 And just to reconfirm, Eldorado as New list of proposed conditions. And can you please 23 24 Caesars will comply with those conditions? 24 reiterate that New Caesars intends to fully comply 25 A. Yes. with that entire list? 95 97 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 O. You mentioned a bit earlier that the FTC 2 A. The entire list. Yes. 3 process, and they have required the divestiture of two 3 Q. Thank you. properties and the completion of a divestiture of a 4 MS. RICHARDSON: I have nothing further. 5 third which was already in progress to satisfy 5 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. anti-competitive concerns; is that correct? 6 Mr. Schrier? 6 7 That is correct. 7 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman. A. 8 O. What properties are those, please? 8 Just a couple questions. 9 So the one that was in process that has 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: 10 subsequently closed was the Isle of Capri Kansas City 10 Q. Mr. Reeg, I think there was testimony asset. The two pending transactions are the Montbleu that you just gave that the master lease that you have 11 12 asset in Tahoe and the Eldorado Casino in Shreveport, with these real estate investment trusts, the master 12 13 Louisiana. And both of those are under contract to trust with VICI that you're aware of that Caesars has 13 sell to Twin River, and they're moving through 14 14 and the master lease with GLPI that covers Tropicana, 15 licensing in Nevada and Louisiana. that the master lease itself doesn't speak directly or 15 16 You mentioned that the Indiana Gaming require the expenditure of any specific capital at any 16 17 Commission has approved the merger as of several days 17 particular casino property that's a part of the lease. ago; correct? 18 18 Is that accurate? 19 Correct. 19 A. That's correct. 20 And there they required the divestiture 20 And that -- is that, to your knowledge, of three gaming licenses; is that correct? 2.1 21 sort of how these master leases work? 22 That's correct. 22 A. Yeah. That's a standard -- the way 23 And that was because the merger would these are set up -- the reason that the landlords like 23 24 have resulted in New Caesars owning five gaming them is they diversify their risk. That while they 24 licenses in that state? have a lease on individual assets, they typically get

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- 2 a corporate guaranty or something that's akin to a
- corporate guaranty that gives them the support of the 3
- 4 cash flows of the entire organization assets that are
- 5 in their lease and assets that are not in their lease.
- And they are unitary in that the collection of assets 6
- 7 in the lease support the lease payments but also the
- 8 capital requirements that are a part of the lease are
- not required to go to any individual asset as long as
- you meet the aggregate number that's in the lease. 10
- 11 That's similar to what you would find in
- 12 MGP's lease -- or MGM's lease, Penn's lease, Boyd's
- lease, any lease that you're looking at in this space. 13
- 14 Q. And I think you testified that the
- 15 master lease that covers the properties in Atlantic
- City of Bally's and Caesars is similar; right? There
- was no requirement of a specific capital expenditure
- in that lease that currently exists; correct?
- 19 A. For those particular assets. That's
- 20 correct.

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decision?

A. No.

- 21 Q. Right. So under these master leases,
- and as an operator who has some properties with REITs,

So long as you stay within the guardrails of your

decisions sit with the operator. Us in this case.

that decision for you or force you to make that

requirements in the lease, all capital and operating

So the landlord, so to speak, can't make

O. And we've heard some testimony and some

questions from Miss Richardson about the fact that

these properties in Atlantic City under the Bally's

there have been sort of under capital amounts spent on

and Caesars lease. Did that have anything to do with

management team made the decision to invest in other

the real estate investment trust to your knowledge?

A. No. As I said, the -- the Caesars

markets. As I pointed out, they spent significant

property. That property is in the same lease that

lease for Las Vegas assets. And they spend

dollars in Southern Indiana, moved to a land-based

we're discussing here. And then they have a separate

considerable dollars on Caesars Palace and Harrah's.

nothing to do with the landlord and had nothing to do

At the same time they were not spending money in

Atlantic City. So it was not a -- it was not -- had

- who does determine specifically what the capital
- expenditure should be for a particular property? 24
- 25 A. That's entirely the operator's decision.

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- 2 with, frankly, a lease-versus-owned decision. It was

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- 3 a capital owned allocation decision of senior
- management of the former Caesars.
- 5 O. And if the sale of Harrah's land to VICI
- 6 is approved by the Commission as we have requested.
- 7 Harrah's -- Harrah's Operating Company will be subject
- 8 to basically this same kind of lease that currently
- 9 exists on Caesars and Bally's; correct?
  - A. Correct. It comes into the same lease.
- Q. And the decision of whether or not to 11
- 12 expend capital is going to be a decision that would be
- made by New Caesars; correct? 13
- 14 A. Correct. We're making the capital
- 15 commitment described by Miss Richardson and listed in
- the conditions. But how that capital is spent and in 16
- 17 which buildings is subject to the limitations
- 18 described in the conditions is our decision.
- Q. So the proposed conditions you've agreed 19
- 20 to, the sale of the Harrah's property to VICI, will
- 21 result notwithstanding whatever the term of the lease
- 22 in terms of the lease are regarding capital
- 23 expenditure, will result in a \$400 million fund that
- 24 you will expend in conjunction with approvals for that
- capital budget with the Division of Gaming

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- 2 Enforcement; right?
  - A. That's correct. If you look at that 400
- 3 million, that's fairly close to the 600 million we'll 4
- 5 receive for the sale of the real estate. So most of
- that will come right back into Atlantic City. 6
- Q. Okay. So you'll get 600 million, but we 7
- 8 promised to put 400 million and potentially \$525
- million if Bally's is not sold timely into a fund to
- be used to improve those properties. 10
  - That is correct. A.
- 12 Q. Thank you?
  - MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have.
- 14 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ms. Richardson?
  - MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman.
- 16 Just a couple of questions.

17 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON:

- Mr. Reeg, you indicated to me and to Mr.
- 19 Schrier that decisions regarding capital expenditures
- 20 are made by the operator alone, not the landlord?
- 21 Correct.
- 22 And we've also discussed the 400 million
- 23 fund that Eldorado has committed to set up in the
- 24 event that the Commission approves the transaction and
- also incorporates the Division's proposed conditions?

Renzi Legal Resources

102 104 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 thank you for being here, participating with 2 A Correct 3 3 Absent that fund, there would be no us, all of us. I do have a couple questions Q. 4 requirements for capital expenditures on the Atlantic 5 City properties operated by CEC currently; correct? When I -- when I, we, anybody mentions 6 A. That is correct. No individual 6 the word "COVID," "coronavirus," the world has 7 7 been impacted. In, let's say, the past four requirements. It would be the aggregate requirement 8 under the lease. 8 months, let's say, what financial -- and again, 9 9 Q. And as we've discussed, the lease we've got all the documents. I've read all the doesn't require any particular amounts to be devoted 10 documents. How has this coronavirus impacted to this market or any property in particular; correct? 11 Eldorado, Caesars, this project, this merger? 11 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 -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. So following that theory, if you have a 17 THE WITNESS: Yeah. 17 property that has not been adequately maintained, and 18 COMMISSIONER COOPER: How this has its performance as suffered as a result, would not the 19 impacted? What's happened? What's been put on return on investment analysis just perpetuate those 20 20 hold? And part two to that, I know we're 21 issues? 21 looking at big, big numbers. Even bringing it 22 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, the Caesars assets, regardless of how it happens, 24 employees, conventions, entertainment. I'm 24 25 25 certainly -- how it happened -- certainly would go going to say the whole spectrum. How has this 103 105 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 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 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 personal level, I'm one of the households that 6 decision not to invest. I think in terms of how Caesars got to 7 dealt with COVID personally through this 8 8 where it is today, I think there was a scarcity of process. So that was an additional twist that 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 isn't anything like what this company looks like 11 put it simply, we were operating 50-plus 12 properties across this company -- this combined 12 coming out of this. So I think part of it was there 13 company on March 1st. By March 19th, we were 13 was a limit on capital dollars in total that worked 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 to protect your customers, your employees? 17 MS. RICHARDSON: I have nothing further. 18 What is the State going to do? The states were 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 19 acting in -- on different timelines with 19 Commissioner Cooper? Do you have any 20 different requirements. And so it was like 20 questions for Mr. Reeg? 21 being a fireman with 55 fires starting at the 21 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes, I do. Yes, I 22 22 do. Thank you, Chairman. same time. And so you were running from one to 23 23 another to put them out. Good morning, Mr. Reeg. 24 So now you get to the point of, okay, 24 THE WITNESS: Good morning. 25 we've closed all of our assets. You're next 25 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Good morning and

106 108 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 decision is, how do you treat your employees? 2 know -- and leaving aside this deal, this is 3 3 I grew up in a household where my father was a just operating the companies. So, you know, to union carpenter. And I remember the pain of 4 put it in layman's terms, we burned a billion 5 5 being laid off and worrying about, well, how 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 9 you're making that decision now for people that 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 But then your thought is -- again, can 11 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 which were all over the map. But it -- and we 17 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 2.1 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 24 should be looking to support your employees 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, 107 109 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 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 4 just gut-wrenching. 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 6 it was May 11th on our side -- where you've got And as you know in New Jersey, we have 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 11

percent of employees on both sides, which was just gut-wrenching.

And so there was a day where -- I think it was May 11th on our side -- where you've got to tell 95 percent of your people that they -- they're not coming to work and not getting paid anymore. We're continuing to cover your benefits. We're hopeful that we can reopen quickly, but we don't know because we're -- we're working through this with the states. We hired medical experts. I never would have thought I would be on a weekly call, or now -- but more than -- more often than that in the height of the crisis with an epidemiologist that's telling us, you know, here's what you should be doing and developing health and safety protocols and procuring all of this equipment that you need to keep your employees and your customers safe. And there is no playbook. This is -- you're figuring this out one decision at a time as this is moving forward.

And now you're -- you're moving to, you

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capacity. And all of that has impact in -- on how many employees you bring back. I'm pleased to report that, despite those limitations, we're over 50 percent of employees back in New Jersey. But we want that number to keep climbing. But we understand it can only climb as the public health situation gets better. So those are very long answer, but.

COMMISSIONER COOPER: No. That's -- THE WITNESS: An extraordinary three months, four months, and it continues to be extraordinary times.

COMMISSIONER COOPER: It's -- a very scary time. It's uncertain. It's fragile.

And just what -- just how you elaborated has given me some -- some reassurance.

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110 112 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 2 benefit from those incremental players coming Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask another 3 3 question? to the system and getting into our programs and going to use their points. And for New Jersey 4 4 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. 5 5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Going to in particular, Caesars operates plane programs 6 another topic, so to speak. You mentioned 6 where they charter planes that operate in New 7 7 Jersey on a seasonal basis. They operate in early on that Caesars is very well-known for 8 their cross marketing. And I agree with you a 8 Laughlin and New Orleans and Lake Tahoe as 9 9 hundred percent. They are well-known for that. 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 as their destination. So we're quite excited 15 share anything with us today? Let's say, what 15 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. COMMISSIONER COOPER: Sounds awesome. 18 development? Because, as we know, you're going 18 19 to have this huge database. What can we 19 One final question, and this might be a 20 little bit on the personal note to you, let's 20 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 that you and Eldorado and Caesars believes in 25 database. But one of the -- when we announced 25 113 111 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 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 4 raised in Atlantic City. properties to us, what was striking to us is 5 5 the amount of business that feeds from What I would like to ask you is -- and 6 6 properties into the Caesars network. I would almost like saying to a parent, who's your tell you that the -- you know, it was routine 7 favorite child? But what makes -- of all your 8 8 to hear properties that were exporting 50, 75, 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, that surely you might be able to say, come to 12 have exposure to. We bring the Denver market. 12 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 21 the Eldorado side, which is about half of what 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

114 116 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 service, you know, full-on casinos like you see 2 synergies are going to capture that kind of 3 3 in Atlantic City, we've got Atlantic City. THE WITNESS: So the first hundred 4 We've got Reno, we've got Las Vegas Strip. You 4 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 center. And it's our job to make our that centralized group. A lot of those changes 11 11 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. And it's a shame that the Caesars 15 15 You've got -- we have a different 16 properties have been allowed to deteriorate 16 philosophy on slot lease expense than Caesars. Caesars used quite a bit of it. That's pretty 17 competitively, because we have seen in the 17 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 2.1 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 115 117 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 4 Caesars. It kind of grew like a weed without five-minute cab ride at the most of each other, 5 is unique on the Eastern Seaboard. And if the 5 much supervision. It was a place where it was 6 6 assets are such that the necessary investment kind of Nirvana for an IT person. You could has been made, we are quite certain that they 7 just chase any butterfly that you like. So can compete with all of the additional capacity 8 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 22 where customers are reaching into th same food CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Reeg, in the 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

118 120 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 3 So if there's 50 -- neighborhood of 55 CHAIR PLOUSIS: All right. And I have properties and only 45 or 50 -- only five or 4 4 one last question, Mr. Reeg. 5 5 ten come back, you're look talking about a 125, Do you have any capital expenditure plans for the Atlantic City market at the 6 150 million savings there. 6 7 7 But what I want to stress is we've moment? 8 agreed to -- we have told the DGE that New 8 THE WITNESS: Yeah. We're -- we're 9 Q Jersey was never a real piece of our synergy 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 to you prior to this. You know, we are -- and 11 room product at Caesars is -- subpar. I'll say 11 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 from the property as revenues declined. And 21 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Well, I'm glad you say 21 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 119 121 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 4 legacy of the company, that they were tougher 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 6 industry itself. activity that makes you want to keep going and 7 7 THE WITNESS: We fully understand that, come in rather than makes you want to turn 8 8 around and go somewhere else. and we'll work to remedy that situation. 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 uniqueness do you think you're bringing to this 11 any properties within five years of the merger 11 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 restrictions currently in place by Caesars? focus on entertainment. We're bringing a 15 15 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 18 Top Golf. That's going to bring new people. well. 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 21 THE WITNESS: I'd say a key properties. 22 22 THE WITNESS: Correct. 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

122 124 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 1 ITEM NO. 14 - REEG 2 2 involved. And Gary is the Executive Chairman. next witness. So we'll be back at five of two? 3 3 Anthony is the Chief Operating Officer. We are MS. FAUNTLEROY: Just make it 2:00. 4 4 submit committed to that family-style service CHAIR PLOUSIS: 2:00? Okay. So we'll 5 5 and the relationship with customers and reconvene at 2:00 with our next witness. 6 employees on a personal level, at senior levels 6 Thank you. 7 7 of local leadership, where it still feels like (A recess was taken from 1:23 to 2:03 8 a family-owned business. It doesn't feel like 8 p.m.) 9 9 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? Schrier? a giant corporation. Even though clearly now 10 10 it is going to be a giant corporation. Your next witness? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Make sure the Division 11 11 The capital that we're going invest here 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. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Tracy is on. 15 properties in the '90s that the level of 15 16 business that Caesars and Harrah's did at that 16 MS. RICHARDSON: I'm here. 17 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 17 point versus what they do today is sad. And we 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 24 customers and, you know, are excited to moment. 25 25 interact with them. Can I ask that the slide deck be put up 125 123 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 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, please. 4 well. And it looks like Ohio was going to open 5 5 MR. SCHRIER: Eldorado calls Anthony before New Jersey. I joked with Steve I bet you're excited to just leave your house and run 6 6 Carano. straight to Ohio. That level of enthusiasm and 7 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, can you swear 8 8 customer engagement, along with this capital in Mr. Carano. 9 that's coming in, should be a good combination 9 ANTHONY L. 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 13 THE WITNESS: Anthony Louis Carano. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 14 At this time we're at 1:30. 14 MR. NANCE: Thank you. DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: 15 MS. FAUNTLEROY: If counsel want to ask 15 16 any followup. 16 O. 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 19 Schrier or Miss Richardson? A. Is that better? 20 MS. RICHARDSON: No, Chairman. Thank 20 Keep going. 21 21 Mr. Carano, what is your current title you. 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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- 2 to the Commission about yourself and your employment,
- 3 your education history?
- 4 A. Certainly. So I grew up in the gaming
- 5 business. My grandfather founded this company in
- 6 1972. I grew up working throughout our properties.
- 7 Once I turned 21 I moved to the casino floor. I began
- 8 as a slot mechanic at the Eldorado in Reno. I moved
- 9 through the cage, dealt the games, and worked
- 10 throughout the casino.
- I then went to law school and practiced
- 12 law for around five years before moving back to our
- 13 gaming company. I became our General Counsel in 2014
- 14 when we acquired MTR Gaming and went public. And then
- 15 2015 I added operation to my responsibilities and was
- 16 named Chief Operating Officer in 2008.
- 17 Q. How long have you been President and
- 18 Chief Operating Officer?
- 19 A. I've been Chief Operating Officer since
- 20 2018.

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- 21 Q. Can you tell the Commission what your
- 22 role is in that capacity?
- A. Yes. I oversee all the operations of
- 24 the company. I work very closely with our regional
- 25 presidents who directly oversee the general managers

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- 2 would be the Atlantic City casinos?
- 3 A. Yeah. So Atlantic City would really be
- 4 a seamless transition for us in the New Caesars. The
- 5 regional president would be Steve Callender, who has a
- 6 long, very successful full history in Atlantic City.
- 7 And as Tom spoke to, just an incredible passion and
- 8 energy for the business and for Atlantic City in
- 9 particular.
- 10 Q. And have you met or do you know the GMs
- 11 for the properties that you will be acquiring?
- 12 A. Absolutely. We have tremendous talent
- 13 throughout the city. At the Caesars properties, along
- 14 with Tropicana, Ron Baumann is going to stay on with
- 15 us. Ron's been a tremendous leader and new energy for
- 16 the Caesars properties in this last year in the
- 17 market. Jason Gregorec, our tremendous general
- 18 manager at Tropicana, and Karie Hall at Bally's, I'm
- 19 excited to say they are all staying on and are
- 20 tremendous leaders in the market.
- Q. I'm sure on the operations front, things
- 22 have been difficult regarding the COVID crisis. Can
- 23 you describe to the Commission how you've been
- 24 handling that?
- 25 A. Yeah. Absolutely. So we've been

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- of the properties. In addition to the regional
- 3 presidents, I have responsibilities over marketing,
- 4 sales, entertainment, and revenue management. In each
- 5 of these positions, we have incredible talent, men and
- 6 women for both Caesars and Eldorado for the New
- 7 Caesars.
- 8 Q. And how does that -- how does that team
- 9 report to you? Do you have regular meetings? Or how
- $10\,$  do you work with your management team at the various
- 11 properties?
- 12 A. Yeah. We're on -- I'm either on a
- 13 property or on the phone every day with my direct
- 14 reports. With the regional presidents in daily
- 15 conversations with them. We have a group call every
- 16 week with all regional presidents. I speak to our
- 17 general managers regularly. And along with the rest
- 18 of my reports throughout the company.
- We also have a regional quarterly
- 20 meetings where we meet at the properties with all the
- 21 general managers from the region, the regional
- 22 presidents, the leadership team for the region to
- 23 really do a deep dive into each property that we
- 24 operate.

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Q. Is there a regional president, that

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- 2 obviously laser focused on providing the best --
- 3 best-in-class safety measures for COVID. We've been

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- 4 working nonstop with Caesars, with medical
- 5 professionals. With the DGE and local officials to
- 6 ensure we have a safe and secure workplace for our
- 7 team members and a safe place for our guests to come
- 8 and play. As you know and can imagine, it's
- 9 constantly evolving. So we're making sure we have the
- 10 best practices in place at all times and reacting
- 11 accordingly as quickly as we can.
- Q. One of the things that has arisen in the
- 13 Division's review and has been spoken about by Mr.
- 14 Reeg, and there were questions from DAG Richardson
- 15 involve staffing levels at the Caesars casinos in
- 16 Atlantic City over the years and how that has
- 17 declined. How does New Caesars plan to address that?
  - A. Yeah. As Tom spoke to, we fully
- 19 understand the negative history around staffing at the
- 20 Caesars properties. And as such we're going remedy
- 21 that. We've worked with the Division and to come up
- 22 with the following commitments that are in the report.
- 23 We are going to return to pre-COVID employment levels
- $\,\,24\,\,$  within 12 months or when net revenues return to  $90\,\,$
- 25 percent of pre-COVID levels. We're not planning on

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130 132 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO any reductions of force in the Atlantic City casinos. 2 So it sounds like the integration so far But if there were any reductions of FTEs or part-time 3 3 has gone well. 4 employees of more than 50, then we will first obtain 4 A. It has. 5 the Division's approval before making any moves. Are you confident that you'll be able to 6 So you understand that New Caesars and 6 integrate the Caesars companies into your corporate 7 you as the Chief Operating Officer of that company has 7 portfolio on an ongoing basis successfully? 8 committed to those staffing requirements and 8 A. Yeah. We've had, as you're aware, a lot preapproval of any reduction in force that might 9 of history in integrating numerous companies recently 10 arise? in the past five or six years. We've learned great 10 11 A. Absolutely. 11 lessons through each integration. And it's led us to this -- this larger integration, and we feel very 12 What kind of a role have you been 12 playing in the merger that's the subject of our good. Again, from the talent that we're getting from 13 13 hearing today? 14 Caesars and the talent that we have at ERI, we're just Yeah. So in the transaction I've -in a great position in the integration front. Better 15 A. 15 MR. SCHRIER: One more slide? than we've been on prior transactions. 16 16 17 One more slide, please? 17 Thank you. 18 Story to interrupt. 18 MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have at this 19 A. That's okay. 19 time, Mr. Chairman. 20 During the transaction, I've led our 20 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 21 integration team for both companies. Integration 21 Miss Richardson? 22 began in June of 2019, which really seems like an 22 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. 23 eternity ago now. But once we announced a deal, 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: 24 myself and the rest of the team, the leadership team, Good afternoon, Mr. Carano. traveled to all the Caesars properties around the 25 A. Good afternoon. 131 133 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO country. We met with the local management teams. Got 2 Q. You mentioned that the general managers 3 a great overview of their properties, including all at the CEC Atlantic City properties are expected to the teams and properties in Atlantic City. remain in place, Karie Hall and Ron Baumann 5 5 The team at Caesars led by Tony Rodio specifically. A. Yes. 6 and Tom Jenkin have been incredible to work with since 6 Outside of the general managers, there 7 day one and has allowed us to be in a great position 8 for day one of the New Caesars. 8 hasn't yet been a plan submitted for lower-level 9 In January of this year, we were at a -management at the CEC properties if they are acquired 10 we were at a position where we were able to announce 10 through this proceeding; is that correct? the new senior leadership team that Tom walked through 11 A. That's correct. 12 You've already mentioned with Mr. earlier. It's made up of just incredible men and 12 women for both Caesars and Eldorado, as you saw. It's 13 Schrier that you reviewed our proposed conditions that 14 a team with immense talent and experience in the 14 we've provided to the Commission. And if the merger 15 gaming sector. 15 is approved, are you aware of the proposed requirement 16 And then once we announced that, we 16 that New Caesars would be required to submit an 17 organizational plan to the Division within 30 days of 17 continued with integration. And then COVID hit in 18 any closing for its review and approval? March. While all of our properties were shut down, 18 19 A. Yes. 19 I'm pleased to say that integration did not shut down. 20 Do you recall following Eldorado's grant We selected leaders in each department across both 2.0 21 of interim casino authorization, or ICA, that there companies, and they did just an incredible job during

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the Division?

A. I do.

were some regulatory concerns addressed with you by

And they were primarily related to a few

22 the shutdown in moving the integration forward, really

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day one.

combining these two companies, and have us in a really

incredible position now to hit the ground running on

134 136 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 2 2 missteps won't happen again. We've learned a areas, one of which was staffing change notifications? tremendous amount of lessons. We've had great 3 3 4 Another was proposed consolidations of communication since, starting with those weekly phone Q. functions for the -- a help desk in Nevada? calls. And we have great resources coming to us from 6 6 Caesars in Atlantic City that we feel very confidant A. Yes. 7 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 9 having advance discussion with the Division as to Q. And you've touched on that, you've had team of resources and expertise of staff already in 10 credentials which might be required to acquire those 10 titles? 11 11 Atlantic City. Do you believe overall that you have 12 A. Yes. 12 the adequate staff and expertise to properly integrate the Atlantic City operations of CEC to remain in 13 O. And also appointment of directors to the 13 14 casino licensee entity of Tropicana Atlantic City? compliance with regulatory requirements, not only here 15 but also the other jurisdiction acquisitions for CEC A. Yes. 15 And the last area had to do with a across the country? 16 Q. 16 submission of a table of organization that didn't 17 A. Absolutely. And in particular, in 17 contain an explanation or context for what was 18 Atlantic City, we're very excited about the addition depicted as 32 positions being eliminated, including 19 of Lynne Hughes from Caesars to help us in this 19 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 22 compliance is adding tremendous talent to his 23 23 organization to ensure that we remain in compliance in Q. So regarding those concerns, the 24 Division sent a letter to your attention; is that 24 all of our jurisdictions. correct? 25 And it was mentioned earlier that 135 137 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 2 A. Correct. 2 Eldorado was recently before the Indiana regulatory 3 And you had responded with further 3 authorities. That included the Indiana Horse Racing information and apologies regarding certain failures Commission; is that correct? 5 to adhere to the regulatory requirements; is that 5 A. That is correct. correct? 6 6 And in materials that were provided by 7 That is correct. 7 A. that Commission staff to its executive director, they 8 O. And in that response, you had also 8 had raised some concerns about Eldorado's management proposed weekly conference calls with the Division to of racing operations; is that correct? 10 ensure our concerns were properly addressed; is that 10 A. That is correct. 11 right? 11 And, in fact, they specifically 12 That is correct. commented that they found it difficult to come away 12 13 And you recall that those calls were with any optimism regarding ERI's history of managing 13 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 O. So given these errors that occurred 17 hearing, which they approved us unanimously, they were after Eldorado was granted ICA, how would you plan to 18 also -- they also mentioned that their concerns have avoid such failures if the merger is granted and the 19 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?

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Yeah. I certainly agree we had some

have a tremendous amount of senior leadership team

coming to us from Caesars to ensure that these same

23 missteps early on after the Tropicana approval. We

all optimistic about ERI or the New Caesars as

Q. I understand then that they ultimately

that they had some bumps in the road, so to speak,

came to an approval, but during the process, it seemed

operators in the racing arena.

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- that caused them to use terms such as they weren't
- clear that ERI offered capable leadership needed for 3
- 4 the future of Indiana racing. And also that at times
- 5 there was indications that ERI was even disinterested
- in horse racing since it entered that industry in 6
- 7 2014; is that correct?
- 8 A. That is. And I'd say, as we said at the
- 9 meeting, we certainly made mistakes as we got into the
- racing industry. We were new to that industry. But 10
- it serves as a great example of how we react as a 11
- 12 company. We learned from those mistakes very quickly.
- 13 We staffed up. We hired Joe Morris, who is Senior
- 14 Vice President of Racing. He's done an incredible
- 15 job. And to show that the improvements that we made,
- 16 the head of the Ohio Racing Association sent a letter
- of support to Indiana, outlining the improvements that 17
- 18 Eldorado has made in the company and how optimistic
- 19 they are of us operating and acting into the future as
- 20 well.

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- 21 So is there anything else that you would
- 22 add to the concerns we've discussed? Initially that
- the Division has about the size and scope of the
- transaction and integration issues that may occur

A. No. All I would say is, you know,

integration and success of this company is going to

employees. And I can just say from top to bottom, we

have put together, bar none, the best team in gaming.

We have the absolutely best frontline employees who

are going to have a renowned sense of pride in the

family-run business. We treat it as such. We care

superb and it's going to be a differentiator for us as

a company and the success that we're going to have.

Atlantic City that Tropicana's casino win was down

Eldorado's first year of operations for Tropicana

10.8 percent in comparison to 2018?

A. I am.

industry or that year?

Q. Are you aware that for 2019, which was

And that was the largest decline in the

A. I am. And I believe, you know, we had

two new entrants into the market. And particularly on

company that they work for. As Tom said, it's a

start and end with the talent level that we have as

25 since we're also discussing another regulator's

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concerns in that similar area?

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- the boardwalk, we believe a lot of people wanted to go

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- try the new companies in town. Once business started 3
- to improve later in the year, and we think the way
- 2020 started out, there's going to be a lot more back
- 6 to normal. And we were very encouraged about the
- 7 business heading into 2020 pre-COVID.
- 8 So what plans for operational
- 9 improvements do you have to reestablish the
- prominence, of Tropicana in particular, going forward 10
- where in the results that we're talking about 2018 11
- 12 versus 2019 Tropicana was second 2018 and went to
- 13 fourth in 2019 for the factors that, in your view,
- 14 applied?
- 15 Yeah. So Caesars Rewards is going to be
- 16 incredibly important for this property. We've done a
- 17 great job at the property, investing in it, and it's
- 18 going to allow Caesars Rewards members from all over
- 19 the country to come see another property in Atlantic
- 20
- 21 We've recently added a lot of technology
- 22 on the gaming floor with Pulse Arena, with different
- 23 systems to really improve the customer experience.
- 24 We've added a beautiful new sportsbook. Once sports
  - are back up and operating. We've got a new escalator

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- 2 that goes down to the boardwalk. Just a tremendous
- 3 amount of the improvements throughout the property
- that we believe will be well received with the, you
- 5 know, 65 million new customers that will be able to
- 6 visit this property.
- 7 Mr. Reeg touched on this a little bit in
- 8 his testimony, but what operational improvements do
- 9 you think are required at the Caesars Atlantic City
- 10 property if Eldorado is granted approval for the
- 11 merger?
- Yeah. We take a little bit different
- approach in operations. We're very in the weeds in
- 14 operations. As Tom said, we give the power back to
- 16 framework for them. Myself and the rest of our senior
- leadership team is very involved, looking at -- at all
- the numbers throughout the organization. So there's 18

- 21 throughout the organization. Getting the best
- 22 customers from around the country to Caesars and to
- 23 the other properties throughout the city. And then
- 24 again, it's just -- it's empowering Steve and his

### about our team members as such. And the service 12

- levels that they're going to give to the customers in 13 Atlantic City and all over the country is going to be
  - 15 the local operators. With that said, we've set the
  - 17
  - 19 going to be a renewed sense of an attention to detail.
  - 20 There's going to be a great focus on marketing

  - leadership team in Atlantic City who knows what's

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142 144 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 2 going on on the ground. No one knows what's going on THE WITNESS: Sure. So I oversee 3 operations of the company. That includes the in Atlantic City better than Steve, along with this 3 management team. And it's empowering them, giving him 4 regional presidents. We chop up the country 4 5 5 resources. Giving him the capital, as has been in -- it will be nine regions in the New discussed, to give him the best properties in Atlantic 6 Caesars. I'm the regional president over each 7 one of those. In addition to operations at the 7 City. And that's where the success is really going to 8 8 property, oversee marketing, sales, 9 9 entertainment. Who am I missing? I think Q. And you discussed with Mr. Schrier as part of your testimony the employment and staffing 10 that's -- that's the main. level issues that have been encountered at the CEC 11 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. That sounds 11 12 Atlantic City properties; correct? 12 good. That sounds great. 13 A. Correct. 13 If you would, two areas of your 14 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 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 Q. Would you agree that employment levels 18 18 marketing. And I'm very, very pleased to hear are important regarding operating performance and 19 that. I know Mr. Reeg talked about cross maintenance of a first-class facility? 20 marketing. I'm guessing the two are 20 21 A. Absolutely. 21 intertwined, interchanged. But with that being 22 22 said, could you just -- as I said, would you And you've already confirmed that you 23 reviewed the Division's proposed conditions and 23 please elaborate a little bit more on the 24 24 particularly the conditions related to this area? marketing that you're planning? And also about 25 25 the entertainment. That's very near and dear A. Yes. 143 145 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 2 Q. And this was proposed by the 2 to my heart. I was in the entertainment 3 Commission -- sorry. Excuse me. 3 business here for over 35 years. I'm always 4 This was proposed by the Division and 4 concerned and curious and very, very much aware 5 5 Eldorado is agreeing to it. They did not craft this of what is being done for the visitor, for the requirement; correct? 6 6 tourists, for the gambler, with regard to the 7 7 entertainment that you'll be providing. So A. Correct. 8 8 That's all I have. Thank you. with that. O. 9 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 19 today or participating with us. Couple In one area that we're extremely excited about 20 questions for you. 20 at Caesars, is the data analytics team we are 21 21 Just to moment ago, if you would, would 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

146 148 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 3 Atlantic City. So it's improving in all of fine. I'm fine. And I'm satisfied with that. 4 those areas. But on a deal as large as this and with what --5 5 In terms of entertainment, I'm very 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 that comes to play at all their properties, and 11 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. 2.1 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 147 149 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 6 technology on the slot floor. That's a major looked at the number, et cetera, et cetera. If 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. We've started that at Trop and will continue 11 let me do this under two parts. 11 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 And then the second part, maybe some of the 14 14 amenities. Harrah's has done a nice job in the individual properties. By that, I'm sure you Caesars portfolio with the restaurants. We've 15 15 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 19 to. But as I said, generally speaking, what 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 22 beautiful beaches and sceneries and views that Again, I'm not -- I don't mean to be 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

150 152 1 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO 2 2 to us for us to have the nicest hotel rooms in across the country. And in particularly in 3 3 the market. We're going to remodel all the Atlantic City, we have industry veterans that 4 4 are leading the team in Atlantic City led by hotel rooms that hasn't been remodeled 5 5 Steve Callender. recently, again to give us that competitive 6 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 9 tremendous amount of eyes and dedication to the I have one final question for you. And 10 actually, looking back to when you gave your 10 city. But it comes down to the team, the 11 11 opening remarks, I was very -- you explained 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 so excited and so confident that we will be well, it's a good 48, 50 years. And I think 18 19 that is -- I think that's beautiful. 19 successful for years to come in the city. 20 20 COMMISSIONER COOPER: I want to thank Beautiful, the family operation. I love it. 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 24 and you gave some reassurance. Seriously, I name Eldorado first appeared in Atlantic City. 25 25 And it was a name that, quite honestly, I thank you. Seriously, I appreciate your 151 153 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 4 acquired Tropicana in 2018. And you were CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner 5 5 beginning to branch into larger markets. Cooper. 6 6 Sir, did Eldorado or Caesars access the In less than a year after acquiring the 7 Tropicana, you entered into a merger agreement Federal Cares Act during this COVID emergency? THE WITNESS: I do not believe so. 8 8 with the plan to becoming the biggest gaming 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 13 just like getting ready to know you as an 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 THE WITNESS: You know, maybe in the 15 reassure me -- and I said convince me and 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 19 to handle a -- the magnitude of this commitment incredible. So I think the database is --20 20 is -- it's been incredible from a Caesars and and merger. 21 21 an Eldorado standpoint. So the power of the THE WITNESS: Absolutely. And we're 22 22 humbled by the opportunity. And I can tell 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

154 156 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 BRET D. YUNKER, having been first duly this COVID-19 situation? 4 THE WITNESS: That's -- that's a sworn remotely, testified as follows: 5 5 difficult question. It was very encouraging MR. NANCE: Please state your name for 6 news on the vaccine front this morning. I 6 the record. 7 THE WITNESS: Bret Yunker. 7 think that's an important part. Once we get 8 past this medical -- once we get past this area 8 MR. NANCE: Thank you. 9 9 MR. SCHRIER: May I proceed? that we're in right now, I think there's going 10 to be incredible pent-up demand for people 10 MR. NANCE: Yes. wanting to get out and enjoy themselves and MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. 11 11 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 Good afternoon, Mr. Yunker. O. 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 O. What is your current title with 16 pent-up demand, and I think the industry, as it 16 Eldorado? A. I'm the Chief Financial Officer of 17 has in prior crises, will recover very quickly. 17 18 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. 18 Eldorado Resorts. 19 Counsel? Counsel, do you have any 19 Q. Can you please provide some background to the Commissioners on yourself, your employment, 20 20 2.1 Steve? Or Mr. Schrier? 21 your history, your education? 22 22 MR. SCHRIER: Thank you Mr. Chairman. A. Absolutely. And very nice to be with 23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: 23 everybody this afternoon digitally. And thank you 24 very much for hosting us. And off the top, I want to 24 Q. Mr. Carano, I think you were asked about thank the Division staff for their hard work on this 25 the Cares Act and whether that was -- a question that 157 155 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CARANO the Chairman had, whether that had been accessed; is unprecedented situation. We wouldn't be here without 3 that correct? all of their support in navigating us through what was 4 4 That is correct. And I'd like to revise an unprecedented situation. my statement and maybe ask Miss Lepori when she's 5 5 In terms of my background, I'm questioned to address that. 6 originally from Southern California. I started my 6 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 entertainment, media, and gaming industries. That person to answer that question? 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. variety of transaction across the corporate and tribal 11 12 gaming space throughout the 2000s, including some Q. Okay. 12 13 MR. SCHRIER: All right. With that, Mr. 13 headline consolidation transactions not unlike this 14 Chairman, I have nothing further. one. And so I had a front row seat to what went down 14 15 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 15 with the great financial crisis for this industry. 16 Miss Richardson? 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 time. 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 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 24 25 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, will you 25 through a very difficult period.

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2 I finished my career after 14 years with

- 3 B of A. I spent six more years as a banker with
- 4 JPMorgan, leading their gaming efforts in the country.
- 5 When I got to JPMorgan, fortuitously, I had been
- 6 spending time throughout my career with the Eldorado
- 7 team and the Caranos and Mr. Reeg. They were just
- 8 starting to do their go-public transaction where they
- 9 did a reverse merger with a company called MTR Gaming.
- 10 Luckily, we were able to lead the financing in
- 11 connection with putting those two companies together
- 12 and effectively taking Eldorado public.

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Since that time, obviously it's been

- 14 very active with Eldorado in terms after series of
- 15 acquisitions, both independent assets and companies,
- 16 including Isle of Capri and the Tropicana acquisition
- 17 that we've talked about. I was always intrigued about
- 18 working with them. Obviously a great growth story in
- 19 the industry. You know, it was different. Ten years
- 20 ago with Eldorado and the Carano family would use
- 21 equity in transactions. During the 2000s, they were
- 22 always cash-fueled acquisitions. This was different,
- 23 where the Caranos continued to say they're happy to
- 24 get diluted as long as they're growing a company
- 25 strategically and creating value. So that's what's

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 YUNKER
- 2 IT, strategic analytics, finance IR and treasury and

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- 3 tax. It's a great team of leaders from both Eldorado
- 4 and Caesars, 50/50. And we can't wait to get going
- 5 assuming we get approval for the merger.
  - Q. Thank you. Is that Slide 39?
  - A. Yup.
- 8 Q. Is that what you were referring to Mr.
- 9 Yunker?
- 10 A. Yes
- 11 Q. Okay. And what role will you be playing
- 12 with the merger, which is the subject of our hearing
- 13 today?
- 14 A. Okay. In terms of the role for the
- 15 merger, again answering upfront was a very heavy lift,
- 16 and we designed it with, you know, downsized scenarios
- 17 in mind, which we'll talk about. We spent a lot of
- 18 time going across the country visiting all the
- 19 properties, meeting the leadership, teams there across
- 20 all functions. Spending a lot of time in Las Vegas
- 21 with the corporate teams, thinking through how best to
- 22 integrate both the Las Vegas corporate infrastructure
- 23 that exists at Caesars today alongside our Reno
- 24 corporate infrastructure at Eldorado.
  - Q. In working with the Division of Gaming

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- been going on with the Eldorado story to this point.
- When Gary became Executive Chairman in 4 late 2018 and Tom was elevated to CEO, that left the
- 5 CFO vacant. I was happy to get that phone call from
- 6 Tom. I know a lot of people were interested in
- 7 joining the team. And I -- it was a perfect fit for
- 8 me. It got me back to the West Coast from New York.
- 9 We had a great ten years there. But I'm now based in
- 10 Nevada.

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- 11 And my first day on the job was -- with
- 12 Eldorado was May 2nd of last year. So as you can
- 13 imagine, from day one I was very busy. Eldorado and
- 14 Caesars at that time were deep into diligence and
- 15 negotiations around this merger. So I spent the
- 16 balance of the first two months up to June 24th
- 17 diligencing the company and really arranging the
- 18 financing that we'll talk about in much more detail,
- 19 \$7.2 million in committed financing from our bank
- 20 group and 3.2 million in VICI.
- In terms of the go-forward organization, we've got a chart at the very back of the presentation
- 23 that shows who will be reporting to me. It's some
- 24 great leaders across design and construction,
- 25 procurement, sourcing, strategic business services and

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- 2 Enforcement's Financial Unit on this merger?
- 3 A. Yeah. We've obviously been through a
- 4 series of approvals across the country. And I've
- 5 spent a great deal of time with the Division staff,
- 6 particularly Mr. Glaum, who is the financial expert in
- 7 terms of reviewing this transaction, analyzing the
- 8 models, and getting that into this terrific report
- 9 that was assembled that has an extreme amount of
- 10 detail around the merger.
- 11 Q. Regarding the financial information and 12 the forecasts that are outlined in the report of the
- 13 Division of Gaming Enforcement, did you have input
- 14 into those?

- A. Yes, I did.
- 16 Q. And who prepared the forecasts that were 17 outlined there?
- 18 A. We prepared them at a consolidated
- 19 level. We do rely, to some degree, on the property
- 20 level management teams to assemble their bottoms-up
- 21 projections for the properties. But we consolidate
- 22 them on a corporate level.
- 23 MR. SCHRIER: Referring back to slide
- seven, please?
- Thank you.

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- Q. During the course of this transaction,
  we have all touched upon the fact that a pandemic has
  hit us, and we were all affected, but particularly the
  gaming industry. How did the company manage that in
  regard to keeping the merger on track?
- 7 A. So, yes. The gaming industry, leisure 8 industries, and many industries beyond, you would never expect a full national shutdown and zero-revenue environment. Luckily, both Eldorado and Caesars came 10 down into the shutdown with moderate leverage on a 11 12 standalone basis. For example, Eldorado was leveraged just over four times as of December 31st, 2019. And 13 we had ample liquidity from cash on hand and our revolvers that we both funded alongside many of other 15 16 industry participants as the shutdown began.

What was great about, you know, being somewhat lowered levered and having tons of liquidity available to us was, it allowed us to be patient with respect to capital raising and allowing properties to naturally reopen coming out of the crisis.

- Q. Can you talk a little bit about some of the things that you accomplished in response to the COVID-19?
- 25 A. Yep. So looking at the models that

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- 2 approximately 20 percent stake in standalone Eldorado
- 3 and priced the transaction at a premium at last close,
- 4 which rarely happens on equity offering, and it was
- 5 the largest equity offering to price at a premium
- 6 post-COVID-19. And trust me, no one is happier than
- 7 me that the April modeling scenario that was outlined
- 8 in the report did not play out in reality. As that
- 9 report notes repeatedly, we would have been in
- 10 precarious liquidity position. And alongside the rest
- 11 of the transactions that we'll talk about, we're just
- 12 in a very different place given what we executed in

13 June.

- Q. And what would you say was the basis for being able to price this offering at a premium?
- 16 A. Well, yeah. We had casinos reopened.
- 17 We put out those initial Resorts -- results --
- 18 operating results in mid-June for the reopened
- 19 properties that had opened in May in Louisiana and
- 20 Mississippi. I think the investors were very
- 21 surprised at what those showed in terms of modest
- 22 revenue declines but nothing near what, you know,
- 23 people were probably thinking when you think about a
- 24 building operating at 50 percent capacity. I think
- 25 most people were thinking revenues would be down in

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- we've been running, you know, consistently since
- 3 summer of last year, given the billion dollars of
- 4 losses that Mr. Reeg discussed and are outlined in the
- 5 report from the shutdown, we recognized that our debt
- 6 levels would be elevated relative to our original
- 7 underwriting, and liquidity would be tight if we
- 8 didn't raise any other capital beyond what we
- 9 committed from our banks. So in April we began
- 10 exploring various means of raising capital. As the
- 11 market began to heal, alongside the casino reopenings
- 12 that began in May, we settled on a strategic of
- 13 executing a significant equity raise alongside other
- 14 liquidity and other transactions that I'll discuss in
- 15 more detail. Importantly, both the Eldorado and
- 16 Caesars boards supported this strategy.

Even though no one was forcing us to do lequity, we knew it was the right thing to do. Again,

- 19 the equity raise we were effectively giving up
- 20 shareholder upside in order to protect near term
- 21 downside. Again, this is something the Carano family
- 22 has consistently done throughout its history in this
- space and one of the many reasons I took this job.
   The equity offering that we executed in
- The equity offering that we executed in mid -- in mid-June was historic. We sold an

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- 2 line with that capacity reduction. In fact, they
- 3 were, you know, barely down for Eldorado and/or up for
- 4 Caesars in the regional properties.

5 Alongside that EBITDA was, you know, up.

- 6 So I don't think we had ever modeled it that way.
- 7 Certainly that wasn't what we had modeled in April.
- 8 So I think that started to allow investors to see that
- 9 we could ramp out of this maybe quicker than most
- 10 people thought. Alongside that, just providing
- 11 liquidity, I think everybody thought that was a good
- 12 side from both an equity and debt perspective.

The strategic rationale of this merger,

- 14 we've talked about a lot already today, so I don't
- 15 need to go into it again, but I think investors see
- 16 that. I think they also see a long track record from
- 17 Eldorado being able to temporarily take on some more
- 18 debt to close an acquisition and then quickly pay it
- 19 down. So I think that track record also helped us
- 20 significantly, and all of that led to that transaction
- 21 pricing at a premium.

MR. SCHRIER: Put up Slide 8.

- Q. Go back to the equity offering that you
- 24 mentioned. Where does -- where does that offering put
  - the company in comparison to other publicly traded

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2 gaming companies?

A. Yeah. As of this morning, if you look the pro forma share count for the company and multiply it by our share price, our market cap is well

6 north of \$7 billion, making us the most value gaming

7 company in this space. Equity investors think

8 long-term, and this graph simply points to our ability

9 to manage the company through the other side of this

10 health crisis.

11 MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to Slide 9, 12 please.

13 Q. In addition to the -- push ahead if you 14 would, two slides?

15 A. Yeah. I'm happy to hit No. 9 here 16 quickly. Just a couple highlights.

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

20 capital markets and upsize in order to ensure we had

21 full access to our revolving credit facilities, plus

22 additional cash on hand.

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Given Eldorado's willingness to execute equity, coupled with that track record of

25 de-leveraging, we again encountered extremely high

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Q. If we go to Slide 10, what does that

3 slide depict?

4 A. Yeah. This is where we expect to close

5 in terms of liquidity with cash and revolvers

6 available to us at \$3.3 billion. We've got these VICI

7 transactions and incremental revolver commitments

8 which are subject to regulatory approval. We expect

9 to get those done, hopefully, by the end of third

10 quarter taking us to four billion.

One further note, we've talked about

12 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

15 executed in the coming months and announced, and those

16 will just further enhance our liquidity position as we

17 get into 2021.

18 Q. So now that you've completed the

19 financing, and I've heard that the funds are in

20 escrow, can you describe what the total capital

21 structure will look like?

MR. SCHRIER: If you could flip to Slide

please.

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24 A. Yeah. Slide 11 this chart ties together

25 our final financing package, which is largely in line

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demand for our offering which allowed us to price the

3 new debt, which was just over six percent. Which was

4 right in line with our original pricing expectations

5 for the summer. So that allowed us to upside the debt

6 by \$800 million and provided additional liquidity.

Alongside that, we also announced a \$500 million transaction with VICI centered on Las Vegas

9 based assets. And an incremental \$210 million of

10 revolving credit facility from a national bank group.

So in totality, as you look at the

12 report from April -- the April model and the report

13 was delivered in June -- it does a great job

14 summarizing what's called the subsequent events, which

15 are these transactions that I just walked through.

In totality, the equity incremental

17 debt, VICI transactions, and revolving commitments

18 totaling \$3.2 billion of incremental liquidity across

these transactions, leaving us with approximately \$4billion of total liquidity, which is outlined in table

21 format on Slide 10.

Q. The issued liquidity was one of the

23 topics that the Division raised questions about in

24 their report initially; is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

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with what we underwrote last summer in terms of where

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3 we land on a net debt basis. We'll be just inside of

4 \$13 million of traditional total net debt. That's

5 just a bit higher than last summer but highly

6 manageable in light of our pro forma liquidity

7 situation. And most importantly, the runway to the

8 first debt maturity, which would be in December of

9 2024. So we have four years to work through

10 integration, manage near-term instability stemming

11 from the health crisis, de-leverage our business, and

12 optimize our asset base, as we have done in many

13 precedent transactions.

Q. So does the fact that your earliest debt

15 maturity doesn't arise for four years, what does

16 that -- what does that give you in terms of sort of

17 the runway you're talking about?

A. It gives us a lot of flexibility.

19 Again, ten years ago, with a different transaction in

20 the space and others, we learned a lesson that having

21 debt maturity right in front of you after you close a

22 merger is not a good idea. So we saw this as a great

23 opportunity, putting these companies together and debt

24 structures together, to not have a maturity until

December of 2024 and have well over \$4 billion of

170 172 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER liquidity on hand means that the operating you may be taking in order to achieve those synergies 3 expectations, which we all know are going to be 3 and how that might impact Atlantic City. Can you 4 volatile, you know, it takes some of the heat off of address that? 5 5 having to stick the landing on every single projection A. Absolutely. And I know Tom had already hit this, so I'll try to be somewhat brief here given given there's no debt maturity until the end of '24. 6 6 7 we've already covered this. But first of all, the Thank you. 7 8 MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to slide 12, 8 original synergies that we underwrote, the 500 9 please. 9 million, including 100 million of revenue-related 10 Q. So the company provided updated synergies, which given what we've learned since the 10 forecasts to the Division of Gaming Enforcement at the merger may prove to be conservative. That being said, 11 11 12 end of April; is that correct? 12 we won't know for certain, you know, how we're doing 13 A. Yes. 13 against this hundred-million revenue synergies until 14 O. And how has the company's performance 14 we start seeing the results of putting Eldorado 15 been compared to those forecasts? We've heard a 15 properties into the Caesars Rewards network little bit about it, but I think that's your post-closing merger. And vice versa, you know, we're 17 bailiwick, so can you explain that in a little bit 17 hoping to see some upside where we can market more detail? 18 18 Eldorado's database in new major metropolitan areas to 19 A. Absolutely. I think everyone will see 19 help support Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and other that we announced preliminary results from the 20 20 destinations. 21 reopened properties for both Eldorado and Caesars 21 With respect to the 400 million of through June 30th this morning. Very happy to report 2.2. 22 announced expense savings, these represent only five 23 that the regional properties for Eldorado and Caesars 23 percent of the combined companies' \$8 billion of 24 are performing really well in both revenue and EBITDA 2019's operating expenses. So we believe a five 24 and well beyond, you know, any expectation that we had percent reduction is achievable. And the focus has 173 171 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER when we were doing the April 30th model. 2 always been on achieving the vast majority of those 3 The destination properties, largely Las 3 savings at the corporate level through payroll and 4 Vegas oriented are soft for all the reasons we've gone 4 non-payroll reductions across the enterprise. 5 about -- talked about earlier this morning. But even 5 Mr. Tony Rodio, he became the new CEO as soft as they are, with, you know, revenue down 30, 6 6 alongside when we were doing our initial diligence in 40, 50 percent, an EBITDA in line with those declines. 7 early 2019. He saw many of the same opportunities 7 8 you know, we had modeled 60-percent-plus declines on 8 that we did during that time. And to that end, his ebb today for the third quarter. So despite that operating philosophy and actions taken pre and post 10 softness and the destination properties, we're 10 the merger have resulted in significant expense 11 actually still performing ahead of those. If you look reductions to date, with revenues in January and 11 12 specifically at just comparing the 2Q EBITDA February of 2020 when Caesars reported record monthly 12 13 performance in the April 30th model against where 13 results. 14 we're coming in on a preliminary basis for both 14 With respect to Atlantic City, we're 15 companies, we're roughly \$100 dollars ahead just for 15 well aware of the cost reductions that have taken 2Q alone. So we're very cautiously optimistic that we 16 place over the past 12 years, and the Division's can carry this through and effectively be free cash 17 17 report highlights those in many areas. As such, it flow positive over the next 12 months. has not been a focus of us in terms if generating 18 19 MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to the next 19 material cost savings for the merged entity. 20 slide, please? 20 When we engaged specifically with the 21 Q. In the Division of Gaming Enforcement's 21 Division in terms of employment conditions, we quickly

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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.

report, one of the things that they focused on were

transaction, and Mr. Reeg commented on that as well.

But the Division was concerned with the measures that

the synergies that you expected to achieve in the

174 176 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 Q. Thank you. 2 and Las Vegas portfolio. At Eldorado we make 3 MR. SCHRIER: And can we flip to Slide corporate decisions on where best to invest capital 4 14, please. regardless of the assets' leases, and that's certainly 5 This is a recurring theme, of course, 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 2018 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 City. Can you briefly describe to the Commission how 9 capex, is that asset in lease or not? We just -- we you prepare to address that? put money where we think it's going to get the best 10 10 A. Yes, I can. We're well aware of the return. 11 11 12 back of investment that stemmed from the ownership 12 So in any event, in order to address the over the past decade, plus in consultation with our 13 Division's concerns, we are making a commitment as 13 property level leaders in Atlantic City and previously stated to escrow \$400 million for purposes 15 discussions with the Division, we formulated a major of investment across all the leased assets in Atlantic 15 capital reinvestment plan for the Atlantic City City, assuming that the real estate is approved 16 through the VICI. 17 properties, assuming our merger is approved. These 17 encompassed a \$400 million investment over the first 18 O. 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 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 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 to fulfill this commitment that we're talking about 24 horizon, we've also committed to invest at least five 24 percent of our revenues annually into the Atlantic regarding the \$400 million and potentially adding 175 177 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER City properties. 2 another \$125 million. If the Bally's transaction does 3 Q. Thank you. 3 not go through with within a specific period of time, 4 MR. SCHRIER: And can we flip to Slide you're aware that there is a trust agreement that has 5 15, please. 5 been circulating that, hopefully, will be agreed to Q. Another significant part of this merger today? 6 6 7 transaction involves the sale and the lease back of 7 Yes, I am. A. 8 the land under Harrah's Atlantic City to VICI. You've 8 O. And do you understand that the Trust heard a bit about that, and the Division has raised 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? trusts may not encourage the expenditure of capital on 12 A. 12. Yes, I do. 13 Do you understand that the Trust will be 13 the casino facility itself by the operator. Do you 14 agree with that viewpoint? 14 managed by an independent trustee and not by New A. Yeah. I think Tom touched on this a 15 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 18 has concerns about the impact of REIT ownership on an 19 operator's decision-making process with respect to 20 allocating capital expenditures. At Eldorado we believe that Caesars' lack of spend on its Atlantic 2.1 22 City leased assets has been driven by a corporate decision related to capital allocation, especially when you look at what Caesars has currently been

investing in leased assets elsewhere in its regional

the funds to pay contractors as that work is 21 22 performed? 23 A. Yes, I do. 24 And are you clear on the fact that this money that will be set aside is not money that's

So once the trust is set up and your

capital expenditure budget is submitted and approved

by the Division, do you understand that you'll have to

execute on that budget? You go to the Trustee to get

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Q.

178 180 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 generally available to New Caesars for any other use? 2 approved to take over Bally's. They bring a very 3 large East Coast database into play and have a very A. Absolutely. 3 If you fail to fulfill your obligations 4 talent the management team. 5 5 and don't cure that failure to expend the capex O. So it sound like Twin River could be a according to the terms of the Trust, the Trustee can 6 very formidable competitor in this market? 6 7 execute the improvements and use the funds until you 7 A. From my perspective, yes. 8 are permitted to restore your efforts to do so by the 8 MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip the Slide to 9 9 Division and the Commission. Do you understand that? 17, please? 10 10 Q. Mr. Yunker, on Slide 17 there is a chart A. I do. Q. And if you never do get your privileges, that has been put together. Was that a chart that you 11 11 12 so to speak, to restore the capex, do you understand 12 put together? 13 that the Trustee will then have the right to execute 13 Yes. A. on the capital expenditure budget as opposed to the 14 And it runs for three pages, 17, 18, and 15 company making those decisions? 15 19. And what it appears to address, and one of the 16 A. Yes, I do. concerns that were raised by the Division in its 16 17 Okay. And you also understand from the Q. 17 report and the company's response. What was the Trust that it won't be terminated until all the 18 purpose of putting this chart together? approved funds have been expended and all the expenses 19 A. Yeah. Again, having, you know, spending 20 of the Trust have been paid? 20 a lot of time with the report and the Division, you 21 A. Yes. 21 know, during this review process, I just wanted to 22 22 reiterate that we understand the conditions, summarize Q. Mr. Yunker, is it fair to say that you 23 and New Caesars agree to this and the capital 23 the actions that we are taking in order to get merger expenditure fund, the three-year program, the deed 24 24 approval from the Commission. And just wanted to put 25 restrictions, and all of the other 40 proposed it all in one place so we could have it summarized. 179 181 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER conditions so that the Commission and Division would 2 Q. So what this represents is a chart that 3 be comfortable with approving the merger, the sale of 3 you prepared that actually talks about each of the Harrah's land, the amendments to the master lease 4 concerns, company's response, and effectively how that 5 which are contained in the petitions that are 5 response will be executed potentially by agreement to currently before the Commission? certain conditions upon approval of the merger and the 6 6 7 7 A. Yes. other petitions that are pending? 8 MR. SCHRIER: Can we flip to Slide 16, 8 A. That's correct. 9 please? 9 Okay. And I just want to ask you as 10 Q. We just touched on it, but one area that well. You've read all the conditions that have been 10 the Commission has to consider in its evaluation of submitted to the Commission by Eldorado, Caesars, and 11 this merger is what the impact of this transaction 12. the Division. There's about 40 of them, and they've 12 will have on economic concentration and competition in 13 been marked in evidence. On behalf of New Caesars, as 14 the city of Atlantic City among the casinos. Excuse 14 the incoming CFO of that company, do you agree to 15 me. Can you describe --15 abide by these conditions if this merger and the other 16 A. Yeah. Go ahead. Sorry. 16 petitions are approved? 17 -- steps you are taking in this regard? 17 A. Yes. I'm familiar with all 40, and I 18 A. Yes. In order to address the 18 support them. 19 recommendations from the Division's economic expert, Q. Thank you. 19 20 we've agreed to the following conditions that we 20 MR. SCHRIER: I have nothing further. expect will foster competition and further development 2.1 21 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 22 in Atlantic City, all of which are listed here on the 22 Miss Richardson?

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MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON:

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Yunker.

23 slide. Importantly, with respect to Twin River,

25 to bring significant competition when they are

24 they're a significant regional competitor that's going

182 184 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 Good afternoon. 2 assumption around when properties would reopen. And 3 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 bulk of the properties opened along -- alongside the 5 to increase their -- the liquidity availability; 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 ahead in Las Vegas. So largely just from the timing 9 billion increase in liquidity; is that right? perspective, we almost stuck the landing perfectly 10 A. That's correct. 10 from April to what has actually occurred. 11 O. And with the cash burn rate that you 11 described in the second quarter, that was essential to 12 In terms of performance, Caesars for maintaining a liquidity level going forward in these their core regional properties for the reopened period 13 13 uncertain conditions? 14 through June 30th, they reported this morning that A. Yeah. We -- you know, we, like many 15 their revenues were actually up 9 to 11 percent, which 15 16 others -- not only in the gaming industry but again, is pretty incredible with this 50 percent operating across many industries, domestically, you know, we 17 limitation across that portfolio. 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 percent for a through June 30th. Again, we had been 22 mid to back half of June given built-in liquidity that 22 23 we built in upfront for a rainy day. So that served 23 modelling revenues down and EBITDA down at greater 24 percentages than the revenue declines. So pretty us well. And then we were able to right-size the liquidity and leverage situation by the other 25 incredible statistic there. Obviously benefitting 183 185 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 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 gradually -- a gradual return to normal operating 4 in April. Certainly we did not. 4 results projected by the year end of 2021; is that 5 5 The destination properties, again, weaker, given the challenges that Las Vegas is having 6 correct? 6 7 alongside Caesars New Orleans asset. But still down 7 A. That's correct. 8 Q. Including in that is an assumption or 8 55 to 65 percent on EBITDA through June 30th. That's projection that operating limitations of capacity 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 Yes. 11 ahead when you put those two together. A. 12 12 And Eldorado, net revenues for our In fact, though, presently -- and you know, for the foreseeable future of an unknown 13 regional properties decreased only nine percent duration -- they are quite lower than that; is that 14 through June 30th. Again, much less than we had 14 15 right? 15 modeled in April. 16 A. That's right. 16 And for destination properties, which is You still have confidence in your 17 our Reno property, down approximately 40 percent 17 Q. forecast in that approximate return to normalcy by through June 30th. Again, in sight of what we 18 projected in April. EBITDA actually up 16 percent for around the fourth quarter of 2021? 19 19 20 Yes, we do. 20 the core Eldorado regional properties. EBITDA down A.

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And explain that.

Yep. So again, I'll list some

two pieces to this in our modelling. One was an

statistics that we put out publicly this morning for

reopened properties. And again, I think there were

approximately 30 percent for Reno.

When you roll all of that together, what

it means is that we do have confidence that we're

actually within spitting distance of what -- what the

company did in 2019, especially when you think about

1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER

- 2 the incremental measures being taken as part of the
- merger. So we do feel very confident that we are
- 4 going to be free cash flow positive over the next 12
- 5 months.
- 6 And in addition to the liquidity steps
- 7 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. 11
- 12 A. Yeah. Great question. So yeah. We
- 13 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
- 19 didn't access that remain available to us, notably the
- 20 equity-linked market.

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- 21 We will be conducting asset sales, as we
- 22 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 24
- of our assets outside of the leases. So we have

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER
- 2 combined into a higher-growth vehicle that the public

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- 3 markets can see and value at a higher multiple than
- what we get valued at today. So those businesses
- 5 would continue to thrive. Especially if they're
- 6 combined in the right way with sports betting where
- you could do cross marketing cross wallets and
- 8 channels, which would be more revenue, which would
- benefit the State of New Jersey.
- 10 Q. And this has been touched upon some
- 11 previously. But you're aware that our report
- 12 addresses how the CEC properties in Atlantic City have
- had dramatic reductions in EBITDA since 2008 while 13
- other casinos during that time period have realized
- positive increases during that time. You're aware of 15
- 16 that?
- 17 A. Yes, I am.
- 18 Q. What plans that have not previously
- 19 mentioned does Eldorado have for the CEC properties if
- 20 the merger is approved to affect an impact operating
- 21 results?
- 22 Yeah. I think both Tom and Anthony hit
- 23 it, and I know Mr. Callender is going to go into more
- 24 detail given he's more occupational than I am. But
- 25 obviously, you know, from my perspective, reinvesting

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- 2 in these assets that have been starved of capital for
- 3 the last 12 years, you know, that's where I come into
- play as the CFO. So we've arranged an abundance of 4
- 5 capital to make that happen day one.
  - Q. And with regard to Harrah's Atlantic
- 6 7 City, what's your view of why that casino's
- 8 operational results had a decline also over the last
- ten years while their capex investment was at an
- 10 industry-leading level?
- 11 A. Honestly, you know, I wasn't part of the
- 12 Caesars management team operating those assets. I do
- 13 think the Harrah's Atlantic City asset, you know,
- benefited from the convention center and some room 14
- 15 remodels and wasn't as starved as the odd ones. You
- know, the market in general, the last 12 years just 16
- 17 has had a hard time just because of all the additional
- 18 competition that's come in in the Northeast. But
- 19 individual property level trends over last 10 to 12
- 20 years, I'd probably defer that a little bit to Steve
- 21 Callender just given his expertise in the market and
- 22 everything he did to grow Tropicana during that time.
- 23 Q. And you've addressed somewhat with Mr.
- 24 Schrier capex commitments, proposals from the Division
- to have condition requirements to that effect.

# ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER

- wholly owned assets that are significant that we can
- 3 monetize through additional sale lease backs or
- 4 outright sales. We've talked in the past about
- 5 selling a Las Vegas Strip asset. So that's something
- we'll be looking at in the next 12 to 18 months as 6 7 well.
- 8 We have this great growing opportunity
- in the sports and online gaming space where, you know,
- 10 working together with our partner, William Hill, there
- may be a monetization opportunity off of those assets
- 12 in the next 12 to 18 months, and additional assets 13 that we can monetize if and when needed.
- 14 O. And related to the potential
- 15 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
- 19 Entertainment New Jersey?
- 20 A. Yep. So these high-growth assets that
- 21 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

190 192 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 Specifically, Bally's and Caesars from 2008 through 2 A. Yes. 2009 had the lowest total capex of other properties --3 And you also indicated that Eldorado 3 in comparison to other properties that were opened would commit to increasing the capex budget for the during that period; is that correct? CEC Atlantic City properties to \$100 million per year 6 Yes. in 2021 and 2022; is that right? Α. 6 7 7 Q. And viewing that data through 2019, that 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? you the issues with the quarterly capex plan submissions by CEC, did he not? 10 A. Yes. 10 Q. And because this is such a critical area Yes, he did. 11 11 A. of concern for the Division, information about 12 And that explanation noted that there Eldorado's capex plans for the CEC Atlantic City 13 were continual deferrals of projects in those reports properties was requested early on after the merger was to future years, rendering it inadequate to support a announced; is that correct? near-term investment commitment; is that correct? 15 15 A. Yes. 16 A. Yes. 16 17 Q. And that would have been approximately 17 And following that explanation, you Q. 18 August 2019? 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 22 precluded from completing extensive operational A. reviews. But once they were so permitted, they would 23 And you also expressed a willingness to O. hold meetings and conduct those reviews to lead to 24 impose an escrow arrangement or front -- upfront 25 specific capex plans; is that correct? funding requirement for any capex funds? 191 193 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 A. Yes. 2 A. Yes, I did. 3 The Division advised you at that time 3 And then following additional discussions with the Division, Eldorado ultimately that, notwithstanding further in-depth reviews that 4 committed to dedicate \$400 million in capex funds to 5 would be done at a minimum, a preliminary plan was 5 be expended over a three-year period? required at that point; correct? 6 6 7 7 A. That's correct. A. Yes. 8 8 O. And you responded to that request and And you've addressed this, so I just included general areas of potential capital investment 9 want to touch upon again the breakdown of the at the three Atlantic City companies operated by CEC; 10 particular arrangement. If the Commission approved 10 is that right? 11 the merger, the Division has proposed conditions to 11 12 memorialize that condition: is that correct? 12 A. We did. 13 13 But notwithstanding that response, no A. Yes. specific commitments to projects was included in any 14 I'm sorry. I didn't mean "condition." I meant "commitment." 15 responses to the Division through January 2020, was 15 16 it? 16 A. Yes. 17 O. And given the critical need for spending 17 That's correct. Again, in February 2020 the Division in the near term since previous expenditures have been 18 Q. inadequate at the CEC properties, the spending 19 19 reached out to you through Deputy Chief Chris Glaum to 20 commitment would require at least 200 million to be discuss its capex concerns; correct? 2.0 21 expended in the first year and a the total of 325 21 A. Yes. 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?

they had been required to submit on a quarterly basis

under their restructuring conditions; is that correct?

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And to Caesars Atlantic City in

194 196 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER particular in its need for a dramatic initiative as to 2 release the deed restrictions on the Atlantic Club capex, a minimum of \$150 million from the total 400 3 property and non-Showboat only; is that correct? million is to be spent at Caesars over three years; is A. Yes. 5 5 that correct? O. And you are aware that -- I believe 6 A. Yes, it is. 6 you've confirmed this already, but I just would like 7 to discuss it again. You're aware that the Division And in addition, there are timing 7 thresholds of 75 million to have been spent by the end 8 8 if the merger is approved has proposed a condition of year one, and a total of 125 million having been 9 that would require a removal of all three deed spent by the end of year two for Caesars. Is that restrictions? 10 also correct? A. Yes, I am. 11 11 12 A. Yes, it is. 12 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 And overall just to reconfirm, you have capex for Bally's Atlantic City over a three-year reviewed in total the conditions proposed by the 16 period if that sale is not completed; is that correct? Division on its list that's been admitted into 17 17 18 A. Yes. 18 evidence today. 19 O. And Eldorado also commits to do that if 19 A. Yes, I have. 20 it obtains approval for the merger? 20 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? Yes, we will. 23 ongoing commitment and requirement for capex is needed 23 A. 24 to set forth ongoing expectations; is that correct? 24 Thank you. 25 A. Yes, we do. 25 MS. RICHARDSON: I have no other 195 197 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 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 Richardson. account funds that at least five percent of each 5 5 Commissioner Cooper? properties net revenue be dedicated annually to capex? 6 COMMISSIONER COOPER: I have a couple 6 7 A. Yes. We understand. 7 questions. 8 8 O. And you'd also commit to that Once again, Mr. Yunker, thank you for 9 requirement as well? 9 participating today. I'm actually going to go 10 We do. We commit to it. 10 back to a question that I posed to Mr. Reeg, 11 You did also touch upon the existence of 11 but I would like to ask it of you as well, deed restrictions on certain sites in Atlantic City. 12 particularly since you're the Chief Financial Those specifically are on the Claridge, the former 13 Officer. And that was a question with Atlantic Club, and on the Showboat; is that correct? 14 14 regard -- and I know in bits and pieces, we've A. Yes. 15 been hearing COVID and how it's been -- how 15 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 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 the coronavirus as the Chief Financial Officer? 19 intention of making any changes regarding the deed 20 And I suppose the original question, you know, restrictions if the merger was approved; isn't that 21 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 Then in later responses in February and 24 a billion dollars. Part of me wanted to say April, you indicated that Eldorado would be willing to 25 well, how do you recoup that? I mean, a

198 200 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 2 billion dollars. And he was explaining that it operating environments across the country, 3 3 went from -- you know, all your properties we're going to be fine to get through this will 4 4 open. Then they were shutting. I know what we no matter what. 5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. When you 5 were going through here in Atlantic City. So 6 what I would like to just ask you as an aside 6 said "liquidity fortress," I haven't heard it. 7 Again, who knows -- as you say, it's 7 as the CFO, can you discuss or add anything 8 from your viewpoint about, you know, the impact 8 devastating what has happened. Who knows what 9 Q of the coronavirus, the COVID, on the upcoming 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 who knows? It's very -- as you said, it's you there anything you'd like to add? 11 11 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 the words with Eldorado, with Caesars, 15 it was heartbreaking for the industry to, you 15 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? THE WITNESS: Yes. Yeah. I'll trying 20 Caesars employees. So from my perspective, 20 21 what I wanted to do and what I believe we have 21 to give one example. You know, and again, I 22 22 think Tom and Anthony have talked to this, and successfully done, is create a fortress of 23 23 liquidity so that people can rest easier at feel free to ask Mr. Callender as well with his 24 24 experience with Eldorado. But one example night knowing that this company is going to get 25 would just be where are marketing decisions 25 through, however long this crisis is. We don't 199 201 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 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 4 stable, et cetera? You know, from a -- beyond Vegas, or is it done closer to the properties 5 5 a shadow of a doubt, I think we've put with the GMs and the local managers? So it's 6 6 ourselves in that position. So I'm hoping 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 8 70-thousand plus pro forma employees to rest centrally, or is it being made at the property 9 easier at night. 9 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 14 company -- Caesars. 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 19 All the capital that we assembled in terms of 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 24 the sense that through thick and thin, even if 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

202 204 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 2 it's really marrying and blend of the best of 2 number, especially given the process that Mr. 3 3 both worlds from my perspective. Rodio has achieved to date. 4 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you CHAIR PLOUSIS: But again, you agree 5 5 very much. Thank you. 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 7 efficiencies there, merging different Cooper. 8 Mr. Yunker, I asked this question 8 operations. I just see that's ambitious if 9 9 earlier. Did Eldorado or Caesars use any of you're not going to lay off employees, which is 10 the Care Act? 10 traditionally your highest cost. Correct? THE WITNESS: So we didn't access any THE WITNESS: Yes. Yeah. So again, our 11 11 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. 203 205 1 ITEM NO. 14 - YUNKER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 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 4 about. Maybe you could just elaborate a little 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. this witness, Mr. Chairman. 6 7 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I don't have that CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? 8 MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing further from 8 specific been table in front of me, but I think 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. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier, can you 11 million of synergies on an annual basis in that 11 12 12 call your next witness? April model. 13 13 MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Eldorado calls Steve In terms of where that comes from, again 14 Tom talked about it. A little under \$200 14 Callender. 15 15 million of corporate overhead savings of 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 19 audit, duplicative board of directors, outside Callender, please? 20 counsel, and redundant IT. Another 50 million 20 STEPHEN CALLENDER, having been first of slot lease expense, which again, Caesars 21 21 duly sworn remotely, testified as follows: 22 22 already have taken a good chunk out to date for 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.

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 CALLENDER
- 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER:
- 3 Q. Good afternoon Mr. Callender. What's
- 4 your -- excuse me -- current title with Eldorado?
- 5 A. My current title is Senior Vice
- 6 President of Operations for the East. I'll transition
- into President of the territory when it changes.
- 8 Q. So your title will change to become a
- 9 territorial regional president?
- 10 A. Regional President. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you provide the Commission with some
- 12 background on your yourself and your employment
- 13 history?
- 14 A. Sure. Lifelong South Jersey guy. When
- 15 I graduated from college, gaming was being approved.
- 16 So I went for an interview to get into the Resorts
- 17 International original dealer school, and was lucky
- 18 enough to get in. So my original deal was at Resorts
- 19 in 1978. I spent 20 years there, worked my way up to
- 20 Vice President of Casino Operations. I worked with
- 21 Park Place Entertainment for the next ten years. In
- 22 fact, I was working for them when they bought Caesars.
- 23 A year and-a-half later, Harrah's bought them
- 24 ironically. I went to work at Resorts in 2006 for
- 25 Tony Rodio running the property day-to-day operations.

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- Baltimore.

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- 3 Q. And where will you be located
- 4 physically, your office?
- 5 A. In Atlantic City.
  - Q. So as a regional president of New
- 7 Caesars, what will be your responsibility on behalf of
- 8 the company?
  - A. Well, I'll be responsible for those six
- 10 properties. And generally I walk the properties every
- 11 day. I would -- I would think I would be at Horseshoe
- 12 in Baltimore a couple times a month, the same as
- 13 Harrah's in Chester. But I'll be in Atlantic City the
- 14 rest of the time and moving from property to property.
- 15 Q. Now, did the GMs of these properties, do 16 they report to you?
- 17 A. They do.
- 18 Q. And knowing that under the merger,
- 19 you'll potentially own Harrah's, Caesars, and for a
- 20 short time, Bally's, do you have familiarity with
- 21 these casino hotels in Atlantic City?
- 22 A. Yes, I do. I worked at Bally's for ten
- 23 years. So -- and I obviously know the market very
- 24 well. I spent a lot of time walking the city and
- 25 looking at properties. Ron Baumann and I worked

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- 2 And I came to the Tropicana in 2010. Tony came in in
- 3 2011. I became General Manager in 2012, and met the
- 4 Eldorado guys in 2018.

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- 5 Q. You also serve in any other capacity in
- 6 Atlantic City or with the casino industry?
- 7 A. President of the Casino Association.
- 8 Q. How long have you done that?
  - A. Just finishing up my first year.
- 10 Q. Quite a year you've had.
  - A. Yeah. It was quite a year to have that.
- 12 I was on the phone with Director Rebuck most of the
- 13 time with reopening protocols and spent a lot of time
- 14 with the team, you know, getting things ready.
- 15 Q. Right. Right.
- What territory do you cover currently?
- 17 A. I have the East Coast, which is
- 18 Tropicana in Atlantic City and Scioto Downs in
- 19 Columbus, Ohio. After the merger, Scioto Downs will
- 20 become part of the Central Division.
- Q. And will there be any other
- 22 jurisdictions after the merger that you will be
- 23 responsible for?
- A. The four properties in Atlantic City,
- 25 Harrah's in Chester Pennsylvania, and Horseshoe in

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 CALLENDER
  - 2 together at Bally's for a short while. And he's
  - 3 been -- he's on the Casino Association as well. So
  - 4 you know, I talk to him a lot, and we work very well
  - 5 together.

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- 6 Karie Hall I've met a few times. I
- 7 don't know her real well. I actually worked for her
- 8 father. Her father was a pit manager when I was a
- 9 boxman so small -- small business.
- 10 Q. Yes. So Mr. Callender, you've read the
- 11 conditions and the commitments that are being made by
- 12 your company to the Commission should the merger and
- 13 the other petitions been be approved?
  - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. And you are aware that New Caesars has
- 16 made a commitment to pre-fund \$400 million into an
- 17 account that is required to be spent over the next
- 18 three years on the three properties that New Caesars
- 19 will own; Tropicana, Caesars, and Harrah's?
  - A. Yes, I am.
- 21 Q. As the Regional President over Atlantic
- 22 City, there has been some dialog about what is
- 23 intended to be done with that money and where it is
- 24 intended to be spent. And there's some requirements
- 25 about that in terms of dollars. But can you tell the

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- 2 Commission what benefits you would foresee from this
- 3 capital being expended and how?
- 4 MR. SCHRIER: If we could put up the
- 5 slides please? For -- Slide 20.
- 6 A. Sure. I'd be happy to. When Anthony
- 7 told me how much money we were going to spend, I was
- 8 very excited, frankly. It was interesting to me.
- 9 It's -- the similarities between what's happening here
- 10 and what happened in 2010 when I came to this property
- 11 shortly after the Columbia Sussex left. Since 2000 --
- 12 you know, it's a great brand and it's a great
- 13 property, history. They'd just been neglected during
- 14 bankruptcy and they lost business. You know, in poor
- 15 condition and had poor morale. So at least here in
- 16 Tropicana in 2011 when Tony Rodio came on board, we
- 17 spent \$300 million through 2019 improving the
- 18 experience, which I think really needs to happen in
- 19 those properties as well.
- 20 Just looking at this case study, I
- 21 dropped it down to 2014 to 2019, which is when we
- 22 started to do big projects, large growth projects.
- 23 And we did -- you know, we renovated three hotel
- 24 towers, North, South, and Havana. We did a complete
- 25 casino floor renovation with a beautiful high-limit

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 CALLENDER
- 2 Borgata only. And it was a great -- great thing to
- 3 have happen. You know, the projects had a huge effect

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- 4 on team member morale, I think more than anything
- 5 else. You know, people wanted to be proud of where
- 6 they worked. And as we started to invest money in the
- 7 property and fix it up, team members got more engaged.
- 8 Service levels got better. The customers were
- 9 happier. They started to come more and play more.
- 10 And it gave us, you know, great -- great momentum that
- 11 we've carried all the way through.
- 12 Q. There are some pictures there from the
- 13 capital expenditure case study that you are referring
  - 4 to regarding Tropicana recently. What are those
- 15 photographs?
- 16 A. Yeah. Just the different projects that
- 17 we've worked on our floors. It's probably the most
- 18 modern casino floor in the city. We did a project
- 19 just this year, our electronic table games and Pulse
- 20 Arena. It's doing very well, particularly with the
- 21 change in COVID, things are happening. Our sports
- 22 book's in here. Our high-limit slot room. Chelsea
- 23 pool and some restaurants. It's a great story.
- Q. Yes. So furthering the story and as we
- 25 look toward the future, there have been questions,

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- slot room and our sportsbook that Eldorado was part
- 3 of, along with escalators going down to the boardwalk.
- 4 At a time when we only had seven casinos
- 6 we purchased the Chelsea Hotel and built a connector

in town and we were short on room occupancy, we had --

- 7 to the main building and fixed that up, and it looks
- 8 great now.

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- 9 We added nongaming amenities and some --
- 10 some underutilized space, including a state-of-the-art
- 11 fitness center that was in an extra ballroom and an
- 12 escape room, which came from back of the house space.
- 13 New concepts such as Chickie's & Pete's and Jose
- 14 Garces. We refurbished all the food and beverage
- 15 outlets and it was a great result for us.
- 16 Q. Flip to Page 21. Your example of a case
- 17 study that you've provided here to the Commission
- 18 talks about how much money was spent at Tropicana, and
- 19 what was the outcome of those expenditures, in your
- 20 view?
- A. Well, as a capex went up, our net
- 22 revenues grew and our EBITDA grew quite a bit. When
- 23 we started the projects, we were generally seventh or
- 24 eighth in town each month in gaming revenue. And by
- 5 2017, we were a solid number two in town and behind

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- 2 obviously, about what does New Caesars intend to do at
- 3 the new properties that it will acquire with the
- 4 capital expenditure fund that will be created? And,
- 5 obviously, we have to put together a budget for that.
- 6 That has to be approved by the Division as to what the
- 7 capital expenditure would be. But have you looked
- 8 into some of the areas that you think might be
- 9 worthwhile in terms of capital expenditure at Caesars?
- 10 A. Yeah. Of course. And it needs a lot of
- 11 work. Caesars needs a lot of work. So and I think
- 12 the key is the rooms. You have to start there.
- 13 There's some renderings here to look at, because
- 14 they've already started to, you know, do a little bit
- 15 of research and work on that.
- But I don't think you can overlook the
- 17 gaming floor in the sense of an arrival that Tom and
- 18 Anthony talked about a little bit. You know, people
- 19 want to be wowed when they come to these properties.
- 20 And some nongaming amenities would certainly help to
- 21 drive traffic. You know, we've had success here in
- 22 Tropicana bringing customers in from Scioto Downs in
- 23 Columbus and from Pompano, plans that we set up, and
- 24 they love the property. So we want to be able to show
- 5 off Caesars and Harrah's the same way. So I think the

214 216 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 quicker we get in there and start working, you know, 2 invest on our casino floor. As I said, we put in the 3 the better we'll do. 3 Pulse Arena this year. But, you know, they challenged 4 I'm glad Tony is going to be involved. 4 the executive team here to have a, you know, wish list 5 I know Anthony is going to have a big role. So we'll 5 if you will, in the event that money comes up that we do something robust in there and make it back to what 6 can do something with. So, you know, that team will 6 it should be. 7 7 be ready to go. We looked at some technology changes 8 MR. SCHRIER: And if you could flip to 8 and, you know, a smart key system which would sync all 9 9 our towers and locks. An energy conservation project Slide 28, please. 10 What's the plan for Harrah's? which changes lights and motors and chillers and makes 10 A. Harrah's is actually in better shape, the property not as expensive to run and more 11 11 12 obviously. You know, I think that it's in better 12 regulated. So there's a lot of things we can do here, 13 but the property is in great shape. 13 condition, but it still needs some -- work on its rooms. So there are two towers are getting some room 14 Q. Were you involved in the preparation of 15 work there. They have the refreshing, the upgrading 15 the capital expenditure fund in terms of the kind of of the pool area. That's their biggest nongaming 16 things that the company would be looking to do? 17 A. Yeah. I can't wait to, you know, get amenity. It's -- it's a great amenity. It's a little 17 18 bit tired. They have nice retail there. 18 with Ron Baumann and Tony when he's in town to walk 19 But the building facade needs work. 19 the properties and figure out exactly what order we 20 And, you know, the marketing wrap that's electronic 20 want to do things and what we can -- you know, what we 21 skin on their tower where they message out is in -- is 21 can piggyback on and start fixing things up. 22 2.2. in really poor condition, and it needs to be upgraded Q. How has the opening gone so far, from 23 and replaced. So I think that's something that needs 23 your perspective, in Atlantic City? 24 to be done. And the slot product needs some upgrading A. Well, the team members are certainly 24 25 as well. And we have some renderings from their rooms 25 happy to be back at work. I wish there are more back, 215 217 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 2 as well. 2 but so far so good. I think we're doing a great job 3 Q. I don't know if you heard, but Miss 3 of following our protocols across the city. We work Richardson had asked a question regarding Harrah's really hard at it. The Division of Gaming Enforcement 4 5 earlier, and I think her point was that, you know, do 5 and AtlantiCare and Unite Here! all helped us work you have an opinion on why Harrah's, even though there 6 together to put protocols in place that we knew we 6 could handle and follow. And we're doing a good job 7 had been some significant capital expenditures made to the property over time, why that may not have 8 with that. And, hopefully, we can expand a little bit correlated to increase in revenues similar to what you 9 more as people see that we're doing a good job with 10 it.

Richardson had asked a question regarding Harrah's
earlier, and I think her point was that, you know, do
you have an opinion on why Harrah's, even though there
had been some significant capital expenditures made to
the property over time, why that may not have
correlated to increase in revenues similar to what you
showed for Tropicana being fairly significant?

A. I think it's probably a marketing -function of the marketing offers. And because
decisions were being made in Las Vegas and not at the
property, I think there's some angst in their
leadership in how they take care of their guests.

Q. Thank you.

So let's just flip to Slide 31, although

property, I think there's some angst in their
leadership in how they take care of their guests.

Q. Thank you.

So let's just flip to Slide 31, although
we did look at all of the improvements that had been
made to Tropicana over the last few years, you still
have some additional plans that you'd like to
implement at Tropicana as well. Can you explain
those?

A. Sure. You know, the opportunity to do
the West Tower and some of the rooms in the Chelsea
will be a good advantage for us. We continue to

eally hard at it. The Division of Gaming Enforcement and AtlantiCare and Unite Here! all helped us work objected to put protocols in place that we knew we ould handle and follow. And we're doing a good job with that. And, hopefully, we can expand a little bit more as people see that we're doing a good job with the compact of the compa

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218 220 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 2 Callender's cross-examination and he's done as 2 That's correct. 3 3 Q. And on the same sheet with the net a witness this evening, then that's --CHAIR PLOUSIS: We'll do that then. revenue and the EBITDA to predict the increases over 4 5 We'll break for ten minutes. It's five --5 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 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Does that work for the that 2018, both net revenue and EBITDA were higher 7 7 8 attornevs? 8 than they were in 2019? 9 Q CHAIR PLOUSIS: Does that work for the A. Yes, they were. 10 10 Q. And again, 2019 had those decreases, and attorneys? MS. RICHARDSON: Yes. that was the first full year of Eldorado's operations. 11 11 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 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 I don't think that she'll take that long. But 17 reopening. What percentage would you say of employees 17 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. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. 20 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? (A recess was taken from 3:56 to 4:10 23 23 A. I think collectively they are a little 24 24 bit over 50 percent. p.m.) 25 25 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. Q. And there's been other testimony and --219 221 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 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 Division has recommended if the merger is approved 4 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: that the staffing levels would be maintained to 5 5 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Callender. pre-COVID levels. Do you have any -- anything 6 6 7 additional to add regarding any staffing level or Good afternoon. 8 O. I just want to clarify a couple things 8 overall changes in staff that you envision at the 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? Slide 21 shows the graphical representation of the 11 A. No. Not yet I don't. I mean, I have to capex expended from 2014 to 2019; correct? 12 look at what happens and figure out the different 12 13 A. That was just on large projects. 13 properties. As we get more capacity and more 14 O. 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 And you've expressed excitement at the there, 152 million of that was expended between 2014 16 capital expenditure fund that would be available if 17 and 2018; is that correct? 17 the merger is approved and the condition is imposed and being able to take measures to implement that. 18 A. Yes. That's correct. 18 19 Q. And during that period, the -- Mr. 19 Just to be clear, that fund that will be subject to a Icahn's affiliated companies controlled Tropicana 20 trust overseen by a trustee, that fund will be 21 Entertainment that ran Tropicana AC; is that correct? 21 established only due to a Division-proposed condition 22 That's correct. 22 if the Commission elects to impose it; is that 23 So in 2019, under Eldorado's ownership, 23 correct? 24 there was only 16 million in capital expenditures for 24 A. That's correct. Trop AC; is that right? 25 And related to --

222 224 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 2 A. But as an operator, we want the come in again. But some of our regulars are here just 3 properties to run as well as possible. And we think 3 about as often as they would be. 4 Q. Thank you, Mr. Callender. I have no 4 we can do a better job if we invest in it and pick up 5 the morale of the employees and give guests something other questions. 6 to look forward to. 6 A. Thank you. 7 7 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. Q. And --8 A. This is a very competitive market, and 8 Commissioner Cooper? 9 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you, Mr. 9 with Hard Rock and Ocean reopening, it's had an impact on everyone. Probably more of an impact on Tropicana 10 than anyone because we had bought the database from 11 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Schrier has 11 Trump Taj Mahal when it closed, so a lot of those 12 redirect first. customers gravitated back towards there. 13 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. 13 14 I think you're essentially illustrating 14 Schrier. 15 the point of why the Division has honed in on the 15 MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further. Thank desperate need for capital expenditure projects at the 16 you. CEC Atlantic City properties if the merger is 17 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. 17 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Now Commissioner Cooper. 18 approved, so thank you. 18 19 You mention that the staff and the 19 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman -operations has done well to meet the unique challenges 20 CHAIR PLOUSIS: It's getting late in the 20 21 of COVID protocols on the reopening. Have there been 21 day there. 22 any particular challenges that you've had to address? 22 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Good afternoon, 23 A. Frankly, it's gone very well. We have 23 Mr. Callender. 24 team members helping us. You know, regular line-level 24 THE WITNESS: How you doing? 25 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Once again, thank employees pointing out if someone is not following the 223 225 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER rules. And even some of our guests are doing it and 2 you for your participation today. My 3 letting us know that somebody is -- pulled their mask 3 question -- questions, are, there's no question down when nobody's around. So we're addressing that. 4 you have a very long history with the casino And but, by the large, it's been very good. 5 industry, a very involved -- very involved 5 6 Q. And Mr. Yunker spoke earlier to the 6 history. With your leadership, your 7 disclosures today about certain expectations being 7 experience, your expertise, it's very 8 exceeded upon reopening and having some initial well-known and appreciated. results on that. Do you have anything to add 9 With the different casinos that you've 10 particular to Tropicana Atlantic City since July 2nd? 10 been at, and you've been in a leadership 11 A. So, you know, we really need to get to 11 position, I know that you have always been a 12 where we can feed people, and it's going to help us a 12 leader in community involvement, whichever 13 lot. We're working on a project to get it on our property you've been at. So my question for 13 14 Chelsea deck to start doing outdoor dining out there, 14 you right now is, as this merger -- if it goes 15 which will help us increase patronage. But it's a --15 through -- we say if -- if it goes through, 16 it's a work in progress. 16 could you share with us what type of community 17 Q. Have you noticed any specific impacts as 17 involvement you and Eldorado will have in the to customer volumes or feedback from the customers 18 Atlantic City community? 19 19 they are comfortable there, they had some discomfort? And I also would just like to add, even 20 Any particular feedback that you're receiving? 20 recently I know that you have done a lot in the A. You know, I've talked to a lot of 21 Atlantic City community with coronavirus and 21 22 customers. I'm very close to the customers, and some 22 COVID and everything, and you've just been in 23 people were great with it, and some people were not. 23 the forefront. You took the reigns. You've 24 I got calls from people, said you know what? I'm glad 24 been right out there. I'm going personally say 25 I was back, but I'm going to wait for a while before I 25 thank you for all that you've done with the

226 228 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 2 2 Casino Association with Trop, with everything. say especially with these very fragile times. 3 3 That's good for me, Mr. Chairman. And that's from me personally. 4 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner 4 But with Eldorado, how would you be 5 5 involved in the community? And I'm going to Cooper. 6 say a part two to that, if Eldorado has a 6 I just want to get it again. Mr. 7 7 community involvement plan or program in other 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 9 with us, that would be great. 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 of the culture of both companies, actually, to 11 Brigantine. I can walk to Harrah's from there. 11 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 17 wants me. And like I said, I will travel, you Club had a project that we thought was 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 20 thousand dollars in. So that's -- that's 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 22 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. what we do. 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 25 Food Bank, Atlantic/Cape Community College, worked nonstop with the Division as well as the 229 227 ITEM NO. 14 - CALLENDER 1 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 4 sync up with Caesars and what they do, we think 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 8 didn't say Caesars. But with the properties 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 14 City that you could get anywhere in the THE WITNESS: Yeah. Actually, in Scioto 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 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 23 Atlantic City STAND DOWN, and Tropicana last appreciated. 24 24 THE WITNESS: Thank you. year was honored by the American Legion, won a 25 25 COMMISSIONER COOPER: And I'm going to national award for that effort so. I wanted to

230 232 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 3 So currently I've over 20 years of experience within for charitable organizations in the community, the gaming industry and clearly have a passion for it. 4 and I know that will continue under your 5 5 leadership. Q. How long have you been the Chief 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 6 Administrative and Accounting Officer? 7 7 CHAIR PLOUSIS: That's all I had. So when we went in public in 2014, I 8 Does counsel have any followup? 8 went over to the corporate officers, corporate 9 9 function, with Gary Carano and Tom Reeg. In 2000 --MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further from me, 10 the beginning of last year, 2019, I started in the Mr. Chairman. 10 chief accounting administrative officer position when 11 MS. RICHARDSON: Nothing for the 11 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 15 Q. Okay. Yeah. I was going to ask you. MR. SCHRIER: Yes. I will call 16 Stephanie Lepori. 16 It sounds like sort of two hats that you wear. Can 17 you explain what your responsibilities are in the 17 MS. LEPORI: Good afternoon. 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 STEPHANIE LEPORI, having been first 20 accounting officer. So oversee the financial duly remotely sworn, testified as follows: 21 reporting functions, working directly closely with the properties, and then for external and reporting with 22 MR. NANCE: Please state your name for 22 23 the record. 23 Bret. Also with our SBP -- with HR's departure 24 recently pre-merger, we were on the cusp of the 24 THE WITNESS: Stephanie Lepori. Caesars transaction. I had HR under my purview with 25 MR. NANCE: Thank you. 231 233 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: that as well but continued to do that. In the 3 Good afternoon, Miss Lepori. 3 go-forward company, I will have that same role but 4 Can you tell the Commission what your 4 Keith Causey, who is the Chief Accounting Officer for 5 current title is with Eldorado? 5 Caesars today is staying on with the company. We're A. I'm the Chief Administrative and 6 6 going to take an approach with the business services 7 Accounting Officer for Eldorado Resorts. 7 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 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 Sure. Born and raised in Reno. Went to 11 significant role within one of the largest gaming 12 companies. But I think it's a great strategy as we 12 University of Southern California and graduated in 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. 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 So he will continue to oversee that, and so we'll 17 lot of time in a lot of different jurisdictions as 18 complement each other in the those roles. gaming first became regulated and legal everywhere 18 19 Q. Thank you. We have Slide 32 up. 19 else outside the Reno and Las Vegas. Got my CPA 20 Yes. 20 there. A. 21 Caesars has been recognized as an 21 When Silver Lake opened in 1995, which 22 is a joint venture between Eldorado Resorts and Circus 22 industry leader in its social responsibility and Circus and Mandalay and MGM, but at the time Circus 23 diversity programs. Would you agree with that? 24 A. I do. And we're really excited to work Circus, I returned back to Reno to open the property with Jan Jones who was -- you know, did lead it and 25 and started -- that was my first entrance with

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2 was one of the founders and pioneers of one of the

- 3 great programs that Caesars has today. She's staying
- 4 on -- she's a current board member and staying on with
- 5 the New Caesars board. We will form a board committee
- 6 that she'll chair that will have governance over our
- 7 corporate social responsibility and environmental ESG
- 8 programs as well. I'm very excited to expand the
- 9 foundation that she's built. Tom and Gary and Anthony
- 10 and Bret definitely are vested and interested in
- 11 building on that foundation and not just, you know,
- 12 checking a box or getting good press but really living
- 13 it. And many across the portfolio, both at the
- 14 corporate and the property level.
- ${\it Q.}$  So I see a couple photographs here that
- 16 you've noted. Can you explain those?
- 17 A. Yes. So we've -- we've got -- we're one
- 18 of our day-one initiatives will be to conduct
- 19 unconscious bias training. In today's environment we
- 20 think diverse -- not just diversity from a gender
- 21 perspective but diversity including critical, not just
- 22 for -- because it's important and it's what we should
- do. But I think it's a good investment in the
- 24 property and that by grooming and mentoring and
- 25 identifying diversified leaders and talent across the

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2 As far as the Planet component is the

3 environmental impact green initiatives both internally4 and with suppliers.

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5 Then the Play component is really about

6 having world-class venues, world-class customer

7 service, as Anthony spoke to. And then a real focus

8 on responsible gaming. Making sure that our9 advertising and marketing is appropriate. That we

10 train our employees to identify issues and be aware.

11 And also to have policies in place that also promote

12 responsible gaming.

13 Q. I think if we flip to Slide 30, the

14 concept the responsible gaming?

A. Uh-hum.

Q. And again, are those programs that youare intending to integrate between the two companies?

A. That's correct. We currently have

19 responsible gaming, problem gaming strategies at

20 Eldorado. But again, Caesars has been a pioneer in

21 their approach. They have ambassadors identified at

22 the properties who are both front and back of house

23 team members who really understand what to look for

24 and can be -- have an approach with customers in the

event that there's something, either intervention or

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2 just awareness that needs to be. So we will certainly

3 deploy that. It's -- you know, we had some

4 restrictions on day, one but as soon as we can get in

5 there, we will -- we have a timeline and a game plan

6 to implement. We will have policies in day one as

7 well and then work with responsible gaming team who is

8 continuing to stay on with us from the Caesars

9 program.

10 And I should reiterate in addition to

11 Jan Jones, Gwen Migita and others in the

12 responsibility function that will be staying on with

13 us.

14 Another item I should address is there's

15 a Caesars Care Foundation that was established during

16 COVID that we will also continue to deploy. We had a

17 version of that at Eldorado as well, but it's been

18 important as our team members have been impacted by

19 furloughs and COVID and reduced hours and those

20 things. And then also the Caesars Foundation will be

21 further expanded across the Eldorado portfolio.

O. Thank you.

23 I heard the Chairman talk about

24 community involvement. Is that what the Caesars

25 Foundation does?

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2 enterprise will benefit the company and our industry

3 as a whole as we move forward.

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4 Caesars also has some programs. They've

5 got the People, Planet, Play. You'll see that their

6 website. And it's really the three prongs of the 7 initiatives that they've been very successful in

8 building and executing. And we think there's a lot of

9 opportunity to expand on that.

These are also fundamental values that Eldorado has had, but has been a little more organic

whereas Caesars in their culture has been strategic

13 and really implementing it in a way that I think we14 will complement each other again.

And the People function is really about

16 diversity. Listening to our employees, growth and17 development. Volunteering. Community involvement as

18 Steve mentioned. We also are, you know -- Gary Carano

19 came to me many times supporting and asking me to be

20 on different boards. As Steve said, I'm currently on

21 the -- he's on boards. I'm on the Boys & Girls Club

22 in Nevada. We also think that, you know, investing

23 our community in our children is critical and our
 24 schools. And we'll partner with the university, also,

25 who identify talent.

238 240 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 2 A. The Caesars Foundation doesn't identify. 2 Good afternoon, Miss Lepori. 3 It has resources, and it will deploy them both at the 3 A. Good afternoon. 4 4 corporate level and then also at the property level. Q. Related to your duties that Mr. Schrier 5 As Steve mentioned and Anthony spoke to, we really was discussing with you about HR related matters, are want the properties to be empowered in their 6 you aware of the requirements specific to New Jersey 7 7 leadership within their communities because they know that casino licensees have to have equal employment better than, you know, someone sitting in Reno or Las 8 opportunity -- business opportunity plans in effect? 9 A. I do. We went through this when we Vegas what the community needs are. So there's funds 10 that are available to them as well that get allocated. 10 acquired Tropicana. And we -- I'm aware of the plan And then corporate fund for the initiatives such as that we have in place. I know that Steve is a 11 11 the Food Bank, United Way, you know, some of those 12 champion of it and enforcing it. I do think it's other initiatives that are -- are brought forward to 13 worthwhile, and I know we need to review and make sure 13 14 request funds. 14 we're consistent across the portfolio with the new 15 Thank you. 15 assets, and we want to address that. And I think it's 16 You are our last witness today. And is 16 an opportunity to take fresh eyes and look at it, but 17 yes, I'm aware of that. 17 there anything else that you would like to add? 18 A. I would. In closing, we would love to 18 Q. Thank you. 19 thank the Director of the New Jersey Division of 19 And that touches on my other question 20 Gaming Enforcement and his staff and the Commission 20 then. So you're familiar in our report that a -- and 21 and its staff. As Chairman and Commissioner Cooper 21 the list of conditions that we've proposed that would know, we love -- we love Atlantic City. We would love 2.2. 22 require that review so that you establish the 23 to be there. It's challenging to do those things 23 consistency among all the Atlantic City licensees as virtually, so we appreciate the opportunity to do it 24 to the plans for policies and procedures if the merger 25 25 amidst what we're all going through these days. is approved? 239 241 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 1 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 2 I know -- as Bret and Tom talked about, 2 A. Yes. I believe there is a 60-day 3 this is a very long process, and it's a very 3 requirement submitted to you, and we will -- we're 4 complicated transaction and unprecedented, really, in 4 fully committed to making sure we make that deadline. our industry. And then you throw COVID on top it. So 5 5 That's correct. Thank you. I think we've exhibited the ability to execute in one 6 MS. RICHARDSON: I have no other 6 7 of most challenging environments possible. And we questions. 8 appreciate working with you and the opportunity to CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 9 still be here in front of you here today. 9 Commissioner Cooper? 10 We also understand and respect the 10 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you, Mr. importance of these assets to the State of New Jersey 11 Chairman. and specifically Atlantic City. Our team has 12 Thank you, Miss Lepori -- I hope I'm 12. committed investing, not only in these assets as we've 13 13 saying that correctly -- again for 14 discussed, but our team members as well. And the 14 participating. 15 15 community in which we operate. You mentioned cross-functional and back 16 So we respectfully request your approval 16 of the house. And I'm familiar with both of 17 of the transaction and welcome any other questions 17 those, but would you just elaborate on. You that you might have for me. 18 said that early on in your presentation you 19 19 Q. Thank you. were working on cross-functional and back of

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entails.

the house. Just elaborate a little what that

systems -- IT systems are such a critical

function, whether it's customer facing for

Caesars Rewards or if it's, you know, getting

THE WITNESS: Yeah. As you know today,

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Chairman.

MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have, Mr.

MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON:

Miss Richardson?

242 244 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 3 accurately. I view those as a service that we 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 5 general managers, Anthony, Tom. And so they 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 7 their strategies and have the data and 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 9 IT or HR, really to support team members, I volunteer hours. And that's throughout the --10 10 across the country. Like I mentioned, the believe that there has to be a very Caesars Foundation, we will continue to grow 11 collaborative approach to doing that to make it 11 12 efficient. And I think that's one of the 12 and strategically deploy that also across the 13 13 country, and they give significant dollars. attributes that Eldorado brings to the table. 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 20 regulators in the communities we operate in. it's veterans or women or the LB -- LGBTQ, 2.1 So I think if you have that efficiency and 2.1 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 23 not have the charitable side of it, but those areas, you can further support the 24 24 customer facing areas, which is where we understanding where can we be helpful in those 25 generate our tax revenues. 25 different segments of our community and make 243 245 ITEM NO. 14 - LEPORI 1 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 4 well. before you came on, I had asked Mr. Callender 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 8 And I asked him -- we talked about Atlantic 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 12 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you again, just now you started to talk about different 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 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 19 pre-COVID I felt like I lived in Las Vegas. So With that being said, is there any --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 25 City, but in other jurisdictions. 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
	247		249
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	- 1 /
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	
-	,		

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

	250	
1 2	CERTIFICATE	
3	LM DADIENE ENGEL G 45 10	
5	I, M. DARLENE ENGEL, a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey,	l
6	certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate	
7	transcript of the proceedings via remote technology.	l
8 9	I further certify that I am neither attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed	l
10	by any of the parties to the action; further that I am	l
11	not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel	l
12	employed in this case; nor am I financially interested	
13 14	in the action.	l
15		l
16		l
17		l
18 19	M. DARLENE ENGEL, CCR	l
20	License No 30XI0102300	l
21		
22	Dated: July 20, 2020	
23 24	My Notary Commission Expires November 21, 2024	l
25	ID No 50117353	l
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1	
2	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
3	CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
4	
5	CONTINUED
6	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
7	VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY
8	
9	
10	Thursday, July 16, 2020
11	Atlantic City Commission Offices
12	Joseph P. Lordi Public Meeting Room - First Floor
13	Tennessee Avenue and Boardwalk
14	Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
15	10:00 a.m. to 4:09 p.m.
16	
17	
18	Certified Court Reporter: M. Darlene Engel
19	
20	RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES
21	Court Reporting, Videography & Legal Services
22	2277 STATE HIGHWAY #33, SUITE 410
23	HAMILTON SQUARE, NEW JERSEY 08690
24	TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652
25	www.RLResources.com No. 330969

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

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1
 2 B E F O R E:
  CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
 4
       ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
 5 PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
 6
  OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
 7
       DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
        SECRETARY
 8
   DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
 9
     DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
       TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
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## Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

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  APPEARANCES:
 3
  ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
               TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
 4
                                     GENERAL
 5
               BLANK ROME, LLP
               STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
 6
                     CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION,
               CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC,
 7
               CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS
               INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC,
 8
               HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY,
               LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK
 9
               REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC.,
               AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.
10
               BROWNSTEIN, HYATT, FARBER, SCHRECK
11
               PAUL M. O'GARA, ESQ.
               FOR: CO-PETITIONERS, CAESARS
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## Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

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 2
                     CONTINUED AGENDA
                 PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
 3
                   JULY 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
   ITEM
                                                 PAGE
                                                       VOTE
  CONTINUED
 5
  14
       Joint petition of Caesars Entertainment
                                                    7
       Corporation, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth
       Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts
 6
       Collections, Caesars Interactive
 7
       Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, Harrah's
       Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC,
 8
       Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk
       Regency, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc.,
 9
       and Colt Merger Sub, Inc., for approval
       of: (I) The merger of Caesars
       Entertainment Corporation with Colt
10
       Merger Sub, Inc., and (II) The
       qualification of the New Entity and
11
       Natural Person Qualifiers and (III)
12
       other declaratory relief pursuant to
       NJSA 5:12-2, et seq. (PRN 2481902)
13
                       Dr. Timothy Watts, sworn
                    Dr. Martin K. Perry, sworn
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# Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

1							
2	ITEM NO	ITEM NO. 14					
3		PETITIONER EXHIBITS					
4	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	EVD				
5	P-1	Dr. Timothy Watts' September 6, 2019, Economic Analysis of the Competitive	X				
6		Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment Corp. with					
7		Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic City Casino Operations					
8	D 0						
9	P-2	Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, Economic Analysis of the Competitive	X				
10		Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment Corp. with					
11		Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic City Casino Operations: First Amendment to Analysis of September 6,					
12		2019					
13 14	P-3	New Jersey Casino Control Commission Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy Watts, PhD	X				
	P-4	Slide Deck Presentation	X				
16	P-5	Trust Agreement between Eldorado	Х				
17		Resorts, Inc., a Nevada Corporation (to be renamed Caesars Entertainment,					
18		Inc., and converted to a Delaware Limited Liability Company), Caesars					
19		Resort Collection, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company and John J. Farmer, Jr., as Trustee (Redacted)					
20		raimer, or., as riuscee (Nedacted)					
21							
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# Public Meeting No. 20-17-15 July 16, 2020

6	8
1	1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
2 ITEM NO. 14	2 Economic Research Associates or NERA for short.
3 DIVISION EXHIBITS 4 NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD	3 O. And what is NERA?
5 D-1 Report to the Casino Control Commission X	4 A. NERA is a firm of economists that
on the Petition of Caesars  6 Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars	5 conduct research on a range of areas, including
Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts	6 competition economics, regulatory economics, financial
7 Collections, LLC, Caesars Interactive	7 economics, and other areas.
Entertainment, LLC, Bally's Park Place,  8 LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Harrah's	
Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC,	
9 Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, Sub, Inc., for approval of the	9 A. I'm a managing director and a partner at
10 merger of Caesars Entertainment	10 NERA where I've worked for 12 years. At NERA I
Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., 11 and related relief, PRN 2481902	11 conduct economic research in the field of antitrust
(Redacted)	12 and economics. And in particular my work at NERA is
12 D 2 D M ( V D 1 M 2020 D 1 V	13 focused on the evaluating the competitive effects of
D-2 Dr. Martin K. Perry's May 2020 Report X  13 on Undue Economic Concentration	14 mergers and acquisitions, I regularly present the
Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger	15 results of my research to business leaders and
14 of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey	16 government agencies, including competition
15	17 authorities.
D-3 Public Redacted Executive Report to X  16 Indiana Racing Commission	18 Q. Can you summarize your education for the
17 D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X	19 Commission?
Recommended Conditions	20 A. Sure. I received a bachelor's degree in
19	21 economics from Vanderbilt University and a PhD in
20	22 economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
21 22	23 And while I was a student at MIT, I also taught
23	24 courses in microeconomics.
24 25	25 Q. You are here today for a hearing
7	9
7 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS	9 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS	1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was reconvened 3 at 10:00 a.m. via remote technology.)	1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 regarding a merger in the gaming industry. Have you
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- Q. So you just noted your engagement with
- 3 Eldorado. Have you researched the competitive effects
- 4 of this merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic
- 5 City?
- 6 A. Yes, I have. And I've prepared two
- 7 reports summarizing my research on this topic. My
- 8 first report was submitted in September of last year,
- 9 and my second report was submitted in May of this
- 10 year.
- 11 Q. Can you tell us what your instructions
- 12 were in preparation of these reports?
- 13 A. Sure. I was asked to conduct an
- 14 economic analysis to determine whether the merger of
- 15 Eldorado and Caesars would result in undue economic
- 16 concentration in the Atlantic City casino industry as
- 17 defined in New Jerseys Casino Control Act.
- 18 For this analysis I considered the
- 19 criteria that are explicitly laid out in the Act, and
- 20 I also considered the criteria horizon merger
- 21 guidelines. The guidelines described the framework
- 22 used by the US Department of Justice and the US
- 23 Federal Trade Commission to determine whether a
- 24 horizontal merger based on less competition.
- Q. And for the Commissioners, can you tell

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- A. Yes. So the Commission has considered

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- 3 undue economic concentration in its review of the
- 4 Harrah's/Caesars merger in 2005 and its review of the
- 5 Trump Taj Mahal restructuring in 2015. And I
- 6 considered the Commission's decisions and the evidence
- 7 that was presented to the Commission in those
- 8 proceedings as part of my research.
  - Q. In your opinion has there been any
- 10 significant changes affecting casino gaming in
- 11 Atlantic City since those precedents occurred?
- 12 A. Yes. There have. Since 2005 there have
- 13 been -- first, you know, major changes to casino
- 14 gaming regulations in many states. Those regulatory
- 15 changes have allowed new casinos to enter an area
- 16 served by Atlantic City. Those include the
- 17 Philadelphia area, Eastern Pennsylvania. Eastern
- 18 Maryland and the New York City area. And this can be
- 19 seen on -- there's a map, I think on Page 1 of my
- 20 slides, that shows current casino landscape in
- 21 Atlantic City and the surrounding states.
- 22 Aside from expansion of gaming in
- 23 several states, there have also been casino industry
- 24 exit and events in Atlantic City. So most recently in
- 25 2018, the Hard Rock Casino and the Ocean Casino opened

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 us what a horizontal merger is?
- 3 A. Sure. A horizontal merger is a merger
- 4 between companies that are actually competitors or
- 5 potential competitors in a given line of business and
- 6 geographic area. So the merger between Eldorado and
   7 Caesars would be a horizon merger because they both
- Cuesars would be a normal merger because they both
- $8 \hspace{0.1cm}$  compete in the gaming industry in Atlantic City and in
- 9 other areas.
- 10 Q. What information did you use to prepare
- 11 these reports?
- 12 A. I used a number of sources. So I used
- 13 public reports prepared by the New Jersey Division of
- 14 Gaming Enforcement, reports from the New Jersey Casino
- 15 Control Commission, reports from other state gaming
- 16 regulators, and public information on the gaming
- 17 industry from a number of other sources. I also used
- 18 data on theoretical win by ZIP Code from Eldorado and
- 19 Caesars, and as well as some business documents that
- 20 were prepared by Eldorado and Caesars.
- 21 Q. You're aware that the New Jersey Casino
- 22 Control Commission has considered horizon mergers in
- 23 the past. Did you consider any of the precedents from
- 24 the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in your
- 25 evaluation?

1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 in locations that were formerly occupied by the Trump
- 3 Taj Mahal and the Revel.
- 4 Q. What factors did you consider when
- 5 deciding whether the proposed merger would result in
- 6 undue economic concentration?
- 7 A. So I considered the 11 factors that are
- 8 laid out in the Casino Control Act. Page 2 of my
- 9 slides, which you can see there, summarizes these
- 10 factors at least in paraphrase form. The first three
- 11 of these factors involved shares within the Atlantic
- 12 City casino gaming industry, and the remaining factors
- 13 have to do with other types of evidence such as
- 14 industry conditions.
- 15 Q. What were your findings on the criteria
- 16 related to things like shares and economic
- 17 concentration?
- 18 A. So if you look at Slide 3 in my -- my
- 19 slides, that shows the first table from my September
- 20 report. And I see that there's a lot of numbers
- 21 there. So what this is showing is, it's showing
- 22 Caesars post-merger share for each of the 11
- 23 categories. So there's 11 specific metrics that are
- 24 specified in the Casino Control Act that should be25 used to measure shares. And it also reports a member

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 of concentration called the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index
- 3 or HHI. So if we look across the 11 categories on
- 4 average, and you can see this at the bottom of the
- 5 table, Caesars post-merger share is 42.3 percent, and
- 6 the average post-merger HHI is 2594. And I should
- 7 point out that it says on the left as part of the
- 8 slide here, these statistics don't account for Caesars
- 9 announced sale of Bally's.
- Q. These are statistics that you prepared
- 11 in your first report that did not include in the
- 12 Bally's Casino that we talked about.
- A. That's correct.
- O. So how do these shares and concentration
- 15 levels compare to the levels that have prevailed in
- 16 Atlantic City in the past?
- 17 A. So, if we look at Slide 4, which shows
- 18 what was Figure 3 in my September report, this slide
- 19 compares the concentration levels that would result
- 20 from the merger between Eldorado and Caesars to three
- 21 benchmarks from Atlantic City history.
- So if we look at the first pair of bars
- 23 on the left, that shows the HHI which is in blue and
- 24 the share for Caesars, that's the orange part. And
- 25 the pair of bars on the left, that shows the

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 blue and Caesars share in orange that would result
- 3 from the merger, but they are lower than they were on

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17

- 4 the previous slide because this now accounts for
- 5 Bally's being sold to another competitor. And we
- 6 compare that to the same three benchmarks as we see
- 7 before. We see that both the HHI and the Caesars
- 8 share that would result from the merger after the sale
- 9 of Bally's would be lower than all three of the
- 10 benchmarks on the right.
- 11 Q. And just for me as a layperson, what
- 12 does lower mean? Does that mean less of an issue of
- 13 economic dominance?
- 14 A. Yeah. So -- so lower means -- there's
- 15 two ways of thinking about it. So lower HHI -- HHI is
- 16 a measure of concentration. The higher is the HHI,
- 17 the more concentrated is the industry. So having a
- 18 lower HHI means that it would be less concentrated.
- 19 And the share is simply, you know,
- 20 looking at Caesars' share of the casino industry at
- 21 this point is based on an average of different
- 22 metrics. But it just means that Caesars would be a
- 23 smaller part of the casino industry in Atlantic City
- 24 that has been, you know, in these past benchmarks that
- 25 I'm using, measured a number of different ways.

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## ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 concentration of that would result from this proposed
- 3 merger that we're talking about today.
- 4 The second pair of bars shows the HHI
- 5 and the share of Caesars as of 2017, which was before
- 6 the recent entry of Hard Rock and Ocean Casino.
- 7 The third pair of bars shows the same
- 8 concentration statistics that resulted after the Taj
- 9 Mahal restructuring.
- 10 And then the last pair of bars on the
- 11 right shows the concentration statistics that resulted
- 12 from the Harrah's/Caesars merger.
- 13 And so if we look across the chart, we
- 14 can compare the concentration levels that would result
- 15 from this merger. And again that's before considering
- 16 the sale of Bally's to these three different
- 17 benchmarks. So we see that the HHI from this merger
- 18 would be lower than two of the three benchmarks that
- 19 I'm looking at. While the share of Caesars, which is
- 20 in orange, would be somewhat higher than the share
- 21 that Caesars has had in the past.
- And if we do take into account the
- 23 proposed sale of Bally's, which I could on Slide 5 --
- 24 and Slide 5 is Figure 1 for my May report. So what we
- 25 see here in on the left, again I'm showing the HHI in

1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- Q. When you say "Caesars," just to be clear
- 3 you're talking about what we've been calling New
- 4 Caesars which is the combined company?
- 5 A. Yes. That's correct. I'm talking about
- 6 the same thing as New Caesars.
- Q. What relationship, if any, have
- 8 concentration levels in Atlantic City had to price
- 9 measures?
- 10 A. So in my report I looked at two measures
- 1 of prices, and I found the concentration levels in
- 12 Atlantic City is measured by this HHI statistic that
- 13 we've been talking about, haven't had a reliable or an14 economically meaningful relationship with either of
- 15 the price measures that I looked at.
- 16 Q. So, and what do we mean when you talk
- 17 about prices in the casino industry? What are you
- 18 referring to?
- 19 A. So I -- I use two specific measures.
- 20 The first price measure that I use is the slot hold
- 21 rate which equals the amount of money the casinos win
- 22 per slot machines as a percentage of the amount of the
- 23 money that patrons wager on a slot machine. So the
- 24 hold rate is a measure of the price that players paid
- 25 for slots gaming because it tells us, on average, how

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 much a player would be expected to lose on a given
- wager before factoring in promotions.
- 4 And the second price measure that I look
- at is called the promotional rate, which equals
- promotional expenses and allowances as measured as a
- total of casino wagers. The promotions include things
- like free play and room comps, food and beverage
- comps, other things like that. And all of these
- 10 things act as discounts to players because they
- partially offset the house advantage on casino gaming.
- 12 Thank you.
- 13 So I think you said before I asked you
- 14 that question about what prices were that you didn't
- 15 see a reliable or meaningful relationship with the
- 16 price measure. So what do you conclude from the lack
- 17 of an observed relationship on your part of price
- 18 measures?
- 19 A. So I conclude that the price levels in
- 20 Atlantic City are being determined by other factors
- than the -- than the concentration level within
- 22 Atlantic City.
- 23 And how about the share criteria that Q.
- 24 you were talking about? What do you conclude
- 25 regarding that?

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- ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 organizational structure of the licensee casinos, the
- growth and development of Atlantic City, barriers to
- entry, impact on consumer interest, and whether the
- 5 license should be subject to any restrictions.
  - And you said that was summarized where?

20

21

- On Page 2 of my slides. Sorry. I guess
- 8 it's a little bit out of order. You have to go
- backwards.
- 10 Q. Hang on one second. I'm just pulling 11 that up.
- 12 What conclusion did you draw regarding
- the other criteria that you just mentioned? 13
- 14 A. So I concluded that the other criteria
- don't indicate that the merger would result in undue 15
- economic concentration. 16
- 17 So aside from the statutory provisions
- 18 in Section 82b of the Casino Control Act regarding
- undue economic concentration, did you consider any 19
- 20 other criteria?
- 21 A. Yes. I considered the framework
- 22 described in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines.
- 23 Why did you use the Horizontal Merger
- 24 Guidelines?
- 25 A. So first, you know, the guidelines

19

## ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 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
- 5 undue economic concentration.
- Q. Why not? 6
- So really two reasons. First, you know,
- 8 as I showed in the bar charts that we looked at, the
- 9 level of concentration based on the share criteria is
- 10 in line with the levels of concentration that have
- 11 resulted from previous license transfers that have
- 12 been approved by the Commission.
- 13 And, second, because my analysis of the
- 14 recent history of Atlantic City did not show a
- 15 reliable or economically meaningful relationship
- 16 between concentration and price levels, I don't expect
- 17 that this merger would result in higher hold rates or
- 18 lower promotional rates.
- 19 Q. Did you consider any other criteria
- 20 besides the Casino Control Act criteria?
- 21 A. I did. I considered each of the other
- 22 criteria that are listed in the Casino Control Act.
- 23 And again, those are summaries on Page 2 of my slides.
- 24 Those other criteria include financial condition of
- 25 the casino industry, current market conditions, the

- ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
  - framework is widely applied to assess competitive
  - impacts of mergers. It's used by the Department of
  - Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, as well as
  - 5 by federal judges.
  - 6 Second, the Casino Control Commission
  - has also considered the guidelines' framework to be
  - helpful until previous decisions regarding undue
  - 9 economic concentration.
  - 10 Q. So the Commission in prior decisions has
  - 11 reviewed, in addition to this section of the statute
  - 12 that we talked about, the Horizontal Merger Guidelines
  - 13 that the FTC and the DOJ use?
  - 14 A. Yes. Some of the prior decisions that I
  - 15 discussed referred to the Horizontal Merger
  - 16 Guidelines -- and, you know, concepts from the
  - 17 Horizontal Merger Guidelines such as the
  - 18 Herfindahl-Hirschman Index that I discussed.
  - 19 Q. And what a the Horizontal Merger
  - 20 Guideline framework? What is that?
  - 21 A. So it's really a framework that
  - 22 describes how to assess competitive effects of a
  - 23 merger. And it has a number of steps of, first, how
  - 24 to identify what's called a relevant antitrust market
  - 25 that can be affected by a horizontal merger. Second,

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 how to measure concentration within those markets.
- 3 And, third, how to evaluate the potential competitive
- 4 effects within those markets based on concentration
- 5 levels and other factors.
- 6 Q. How are the relevant antitrust markets
- 7 defined according to the Horizontal Merger Guidelines
- 8 framework that you're talking about?
- 9 A. So, in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines,
- 10 the relevant antitrust markets are defined by a
- 11 concept that's called the hypothetical monopolist
- 12 test. According to this test, any market in which it
- 13 would be profitable for a monopolist to impose what is
- 14 called a small but significant and nontransitory
- 15 increase in price -- it's also called a SSNIP for
- 16 short. Any -- any market in which it would be
- 17 profitable for a monopolist to impose a SSNIP is a
- 18 relevant antitrust market. In applying the
- 19 hypothetical monopolist test, a SSNIP is typically
- 20 considered to be a five percent increase in price that
- 21 lasts for at least one year.
- Q. And just again, for my education, a
- 23 monopolist would be who?
- A. So in the hypothetical monopolist test
- 25 if we were applying it, for example, to, you know,

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 in demand away from Atlantic City to other options in
- 3 order to conclude that the market is broader than
- 4 Atlantic City.
- 5 Second, if we look at where the
- 6 customers of Atlantic City casinos are coming from, we
- 7 see that nearly 90 percent of the rated theoretic win
- 8 from the party casinos come from players who live
- 9 closer to an casino that's outside of Atlantic City to
- 10 Atlantic City. And so what that means is that there
- 11 are a lot of players who are, you know, pretty well
- 12 positioned to have good alternatives, and it wouldn't
- 13 take very many of those players to switch away from
- 14 Atlantic City in response to a price increase for
- 15 Atlantic City to be considered not to be a relevant
- 16 market.
- 17 Third, I talked about this earlier, the
- 18 recent expansion of gaming in Pennsylvania, New York,
- 19 and Maryland has significantly reduced the gaming
- 20 revenues in Atlantic City. And that shows that
- 21 there's competitive between Atlantic City and the
- 22 casinos in these surrounding states.
- Fourth, as I've mentioned earlier,
- 24 there's not an economically meaningful or consistent
- 25 relationship between concentration and price measures.

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## ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 Atlantic City and trying to determine, is Atlantic
- 3 City a relevant antitrust market? A hypothetical
- 4 monopolist would be a single supplier that controlled,
- 5 you know, all current and future casino operations in
- 6 Atlantic City.
- 7 Q. And did you draw any conclusions about
- 8 the relevant antitrust market regarding the Atlantic
- 9 City casinos?
- 10 A. Yes. I concluded that Atlantic City's
- 11 casinos compete in a relevant antitrust market that's
- 12 broader geographically in Atlantic City and includes
- 13 competitors in nearby states.
- 14 And, yeah. I think we're showing
- 15 Slide -- Slide 6 from my -- from my slides which
- 16 summarizes a number of pieces of evidence that I used
- 17 for this conclusion.
- 18 So first, I was talking about the
- 19 hypothetical monopolist test earlier. By applying
- 20 that test to the Atlantic City casino industry, we can
- 21 see that only a relatively small demand response would
- 22 be needed for Atlantic City to fail the hypothetical
- 23 monopolist test, and thus to conclude that the market
- 24 is broader than Atlantic City. So another way of
- 25 saying this is, there wouldn't have to be a huge shift

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 So over -- you know, the recent -- recent years in
- 3 Atlantic City, there have been major changes in
- 4 concentration levels as measured by the HHI. And
- 5 those major changes haven't resulted in lower
- 6 promotional rates or higher slot hold rates.
- 7 And final, if we look at the recent
- 8 entry of Hard Rock and Ocean Casino, we can see that
- 9 that spurred increase promotional activity in Atlantic
- 10 City. And we can actually use that as a way to
- 11 conduct the hypothetical monopolist test. So I
- 12 measured the strength of the response of demand to
- 13 this change of promotion. And the response and demand
- 14 was great enough to imply that it wouldn't be
- 15 profitable for a hypothetical monopolist of Atlantic
- 16 City casinos to impose the small but significant and
- 17 nontransitory increase in price that I mentioned
- 18 earlier. So in other words, the demand response was
- 19 large enough for me to conclude that the relevant
- 20 market is broader than Atlantic City.
- Q. You mentioned that major changes in
- 22 concentration levels in Atlantic City have not
- 23 resulted in lower promotion rates or higher slot hold
- 24 rates. Why would or wouldn't they?
- A. So if we think about the economic theory

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 of competition, that would generally predict that if a
- relevant market that has high level of concentration,
- 4 it would have higher prices than a relevant market
- 5 that has lower levels of concentration. So if
- 6 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

10 City.

- 11 On the other hand, if the relevant
- 12 market is broader than Atlantic City, then major
- 13 changes in concentration within Atlantic City may not
- 14 affect promotional rates or hold rates. And that's
- 15 because even a major change in concentration in
- 16 Atlantic City may have little or no effect on the
- 17 overall level of competitive in the broader market.
- So what did you conclude about
- 19 concentration levels within the relevant antitrust
- 20 market?

2

- 21 A. So on average I found that concentration
- 22 levels in two potential geographic markets that are
- 23 broader than Atlantic City fall into the range that's
- 24 described by the Horizontal Merger Guidelines as
- 25 unconcentrated.

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
- 2 benefit players by allowing both Eldorado and Caesars
- 3 customers to use their rewards status and benefits at
- a larger network of casinos.
- 5 Q. So we talked about the reports that you
- 6 completed and have submitted to the Commission which
- have been marked in evidence as P-1 and P-2. What was
- your conclusion in your report from September of 2019?
  - A. So the overall conclusion of my
- 10 September report was that the merger would not result
- in undue economic concentration. 11
- 12 O. And that was pursuant to the Casino
- Control Act criteria? 13
- 14 A. That's correct. As defined in the
- 15 Casino Control Act.
- 16 Q. And you mention that you also prepared a
- 17 second report which we've marked as P-2; correct?
- A. Yes. I submitted a followup to my first 18
- 19 report in May of this year.
- What was the purpose of preparing your 20 O.
- 21 second report?
- 22 A. In April Caesars announced that it was
- 23 going to sell its Bally's Atlantic City Casino to Twin
- 24 River. So in order to account for this proposed sale,
- 25 my second report updated the shares and the other

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
  - What does that mean, "unconcentrated"?
- 3 I think you could think of
- 4 unconcentrated as a synonym for, you know,
- competitive. So in the Horizontal Merger Guidelines
- essentially there's a safe harbor that says if you --
- 7 if you define a relevant market for -- in which to
- 8 assess a merger and you measure the concentration that
- 9 results from that merger, and it ends up in the
- 10 unconcentrated range, then that's not a merger that's
- 11 likely to result in competitive effects.
- 12 So does that allow you to draw any
- 13 conclusion about the competitive effects within the
- 14 relevant market that you're talking about?
  - A. It does. So I concluded that the merger
- 16 would not result in substantial anticompetitive
- effects within the relevant antitrust market.
- 18 Q. Did you consider any pro competitive
- 19 effects from this merger?
- 20 A. Yes. In my evaluation of the public
- 21 interest criterion from the Casino Control Act, I
- 22 considered potential pro competitive effects. The
- 23 primary potential pro competitive effects is the
- 24 integration of Eldorado's and Caesars casino networks
- 25 and their player rewards program. So this would

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- concentration statistics that I used in my first
- 3 report.
- 4 Once you heard about the Bally's
- 5 agreement being signed, you went back and sort of
- recalculated. Is that a fair way to say it?
- 7 A. That's -- that's right. Because, you
- 8 know, the Bally's sale effects a number of the
- statistics that would be considered. So it affects
- the share that Caesars would have after the merger.
- It affects the, you know, number of -- number of
- casino operator that there would be after the merger.
- It affects the HHI level. And so in order to evaluate 14 the undue economic concentration question, in light of
- the Bally's share, it's important to understand what
- 16 those levels would be once Bally's is sold.
- 17 Q. Did your second report reach a different
- 18 conclusion than your first report?
- 19 No. So the proposed sale of Bally's
- 20 actually reinforces the conclusion of the first
- 21 report. The sale would result in lower post-merger
- shares for Caesars, a lower post-merger HHI, and a
- 23 higher number of post-merger competitors in Atlantic
- 24 City compared to the measures I used in my first
- 25 report.

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- 2 Q. Is it your opinion that the sale of
- 3 Bally's will improve the competitive environment in
- Atlantic City?
- 5 A. Yes. Compared to a merger with no sale
- 6 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.
- Q. Did the FTC conduct an investigation of 10
- 11 this proposed merger?
- 12 Yes. The FTC conducted a merger review
- 13 process in accordance with what's called the
- 14 Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. And the purpose of this review
- 15 process is to determine whether a proposed merger
- 16 would result in competitive harm.
- Q. And what does the F -- I guess you told
- 18 us earlier that you've actually been a consultant to
- 19 the FTC on these kinds of mergers. But what does the
- 20 FTC do, or how do they investigate a merger that would
- 21 relate to Atlantic City like this?
- A. So, you know, in general, the FTC will
- 23 collect, you know, data and documents from the merging
- 24 parties. They'll review that. They'll do their own
- 25 research is the competitive environments. So they

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
- 2 also made a presentation to the FTC in December of
- last year to describe some additional research that I
- conducted using the parties' player databases, and
- several members of the Division of Gaming Enforcement

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- 6 attended that presentation. And I also conducted some
- 7 additional research on some specific questions that
- 8 the FTC raised about Atlantic City.
- 9 Q. So you said that members of the Division
- 10 of Gaming Enforcement attended the presentation to the
- 11 FTC that you made?
- 12 That's correct.
- 13 Q. And to your knowledge, is the FTC -- or
- was the FTC -- in communication with the Division of
- 15 Gaming Enforcement on a regular basis?
  - A. So to my understanding, is that the FTC
- 17 was sharing essentially, you know, all of the
- 18 materials that it received from the merging parties
- 19 and that it received from, you know, people like me
- 20 with -- with the Division.
- 21 Q. Okay. And what was the outcome? Sorry.
- 22 What were the outcomes of the FTC's
- 23 investigation?

16

- 24 A. So the FTC required the parties to
- 25 divest casinos in the Lake Tahoe area and the Bossier

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#### 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS

- 2 would, you know, get data from New Jersey Division of
- 3 Gaming Enforcement and from other places. They would
- 4 typically you know, interview competitors. They might
- 5 interview business people. They might do, you know,
- 6 their own economic analysis, you know, along the lines of the economic analysis that I've described. So
- 8 there's a number of things that they might do.
- In particular for this merger, they
- 10 conducted a lengthy investigation. The investigation,
- 11 you know, as it related to Atlantic City lasted for
- 12 several months. And as part of that investigation the
- 13 FTC reviewed numerous nonpublic business documents
- 14 that it received from the parties. It also received
- 15 detailed data on the parties Atlantic City properties,
- 16 including the properties' player databases. And the
- 17 FTC also conducted interviews with business people
- 18 involved in the operation of the parties, the Atlantic
- 19 City properties.
- 20 And how about on your end? Did you
- 21 present any research or evidence to the FTC relating
- 22 to this?
- I did. So the September report that I
- 24 prepared and that was submitted to the Casino Control
- 25 Commission, that was also submitted to the FTC. I

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  - City, Shreveport area. And they also required a
  - condition that's related to a previously announced
  - sale of a casino in the Kansas City area. But I guess
  - most importantly for this proceeding, the FTC did not
  - require any conditions related to Atlantic City. 6
  - 7 So not only no divestitures, but no Q.
  - 8 conditions.

9

- A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And what does what does that outcome
- imply about the FTC's findings regarding the Atlantic
- 12 City market?
- 13 So the outcome implies that the FTC
- concluded the transaction would not substantially 14
- 15 reduce competition in the Atlantic City area.
- 16 Since you've prepared your second
- 17 report, have you conducted any additional research?
  - So I haven't conducted additional
- research, per se. I've reviewed some additional 19
- materials. So that would include Professor Perry's
- report and the Division of Gaming Enforcement's 21
- report, as well as the materials that describe the
- 23 FTC's decision and, you know, just followed industry
- 24 news in general.
- 25

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
- 2 New Caesars and the Division of Gaming Enforcement
- have worked out that New Caesars will agree to?
  - Yes, I have.
- 5 Have you considered the impact of the
- 6 Coronavirus pandemic on the Atlantic City casino
- industry, including the temporary closure that has
- 8 occurred?

4

- Q A. Yes.
- O. And with all that additional information 10
- 11 that you reviewed, has any of that changed the
- 12 opinions that are described in your two written
- 13 reports?
- 14 A. No, it has not.
- 15 Now, you said that you reviewed
- 16 Professor Perry's report. That's the report dated May
- 27th? 17
- 18 A. That's right.
- 19 Q. After you reviewed his report, did that
- 20 cause you to reconsider or change any of the opinions
- 21 that you had in your reports?
- No. I -- I -- you know, I gave it a
- 23 careful review, but it didn't change my opinions.
- 24 It's fair to say that Dr. -- I'm
- 25 sorry -- Professor Perry provided several

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- 2 City and that remaining potential sites for the
- development of large resort casino hotels in Atlantic
- City should be protected. I understand Eldorado has
- agreed to a condition that would release restrictive
- covenants on the former Atlantic Club, Claridge, and
- Showboat properties. Moreover, Eldorado, VICI REIT,
- and GLPI, which is another REIT, have agreed not to
- file any new restrictive covenants in Atlantic City
- 10 and to make land parcels outside of the footprint of
- 11 their current property available to the construction
- of a new casino or an expansion of an existing casino
- in Atlantic City. 13
- 14 And finally, Dr. Perry's report also
- states that it's important that the merging parties 15
- commit to a program of investment and upgrades to
- their Atlantic City hotels. As a condition of the
- merger, I understand that Eldorado has agreed to spend
- 19 at least \$4 million in capital expenditures for its
- 20 Atlantic City properties over a three-year period.
- 21 So did the FTC raise any the of the
- 22 concerns that were outlined in Dr. Perry's report? 23
  - To my knowledge, the FTC didn't raise
- 24 the concerns put forth by Dr. -- by Professor Perry.
- 25 O. Did the Federal Trade Commission agree

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- recommendations in his report; correct?
- 3 A. That's right.
- 4 Do you agree with the recommendations
- 5 made in Professor Perry's report?
- A. No. But even though I don't agree with
- 7 the ultimate recommendations that he makes, I
- 8 understand that Eldorado has agreed to a number of
- 9 significant terms as conditions to the merger. And
- 10 these conditions, as well as the pending sale of
- 11 Bally's, should help to address some of the concerns
- 12 that he raises.
- 13 So first, in his report Professor Perry
- 14 recommends the Commission maintain as many independent
- 15 casino operators as possible. So the sale of Bally's
- 16 would preserve the current number of independent
- 17 casino operators and would also introduce Twin River
- 18 as a new competitor to Atlantic City, a competitor
- 19 that's currently operating multiple casinos in several
- 20 states.
- 2.1 Second, in his report Professor Perry
- 22 describes concerns related to entry of new
- 23 competitors. His report recommends that the parties
- 24 should be required to list the deed restrictions on
- 25 existing properties controlled by Caesars in Atlantic

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- with your conclusion regarding the Atlantic City
- 3 market?
- 4 A. So the Federal Trade Commission -- they
- 5 didn't require any asset divestitures or other
- conditions relating to Atlantic City. And the FTC's 6
- general practice when it doesn't have a divestiture or 7
- other remedies is not to provide a detailed
- explanation of their decision. And that was the case
- in this matter, so they didn't provide an explanation
- of their decision or their reasoning as it relates to
- Atlantic City. But their -- their decision does
- indicate that they concluded that the merger would not
- about substantially reduce competition in the relative 14
- 15 market that includes Atlantic City.
- 16 So, Dr. Watts, what's your overall
- 17 conclusion regarding undue concentration in Atlantic
- 18 City with this merger?
- 19 A. So my overall conclusion is that the
- 20 merger would not result in undue economic
- 21 concentration in Atlantic City.
- 22 I'm going to read to you language from
- 23 the Casino Control Act, Section 82, and it says: No
- person shall be issued or be the holder of a casino
- 25 license if the issuance or the holding results in

38 40 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 2 undue economic concentration in Atlantic City casino Chairman. 3 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 3 operations by that person. For the purpose of this 4 subsection, undue economic concentration means that a Ms. Richardson? Your witness. 5 person would have such actual or potential domination 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 Commissioner Cooper, and good morning Dr. casino licensees or adversely impact the economic 8 Watts. 9 stability of the casino industry in Atlantic City. THE WITNESS: Good morning. Do you have a conclusion regarding that? 10 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: A. Yes. My conclusion is that the merger 11 11 Q. You mentioned in some of the post-report would not result in undue economic concentration as 12 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. 13 14 just read. What specifically did you do there? 15 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 16 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 not a lot of data available to do an analysis. For 19 A. Yeah. So regarding the broader market, 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 21 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. Q. Dr. Watts, the two reports you prepared 23 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. 39 41 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 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 that? A. That -- that's correct. 4 5 5 And these are the conditions regarding That's correct. There was one 6 the removal of deed restrictions, that New Caesars 6 commissioner that wrote a dissent in that decision. won't permit any new deed restrictions to be held or 7 And looking at your slides on this, the 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? 10 2017 was higher than the HHI was here after the merger 11 That's right. 11 if it's approved; is that correct? Now that you're aware of those 12 A. That's correct. 12 13 conditions, how does that, if it does, change your 13 And in 2017, you're aware that the 14 view regarding the effect of this merger on Atlantic 14 number of casinos was seven, and that was a result of four casino closures in 2014 and one in 2017? 15 City? 15 16 So, it doesn't change the bottom-line 16 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 Are you aware that in 2014, then the 19 think that these conditions can be viewed as an 19 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 Yes. I'm aware of that. 22 or they would reduce costs for certain existing 22 And then in 2017, Taj Mahal closed? 23 opportunities for entry or expansion. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Thank you. 24 So the overall statistics for 2017 were 25 MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have, 25 not the result of any mergers or other transactions

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- 2 through which the Commission addressed by request of
- 3 approval for a merger as is the case today?
- 4 A. That's right. So 2017 statistics aren't
- 5 meant to be something of -- you know, a decision
- 6 resulting from the Commission. But I think they are a
- 7 useful benchmark to look at because, you know, one of
- 8 the other things that I talked about is, we looked
- 9 over the recent history of Atlantic City. There's
- 10 been a number of changes in concentration such as the
- 11 ones that you just talked about of closing of casinos
- 12 and others that resulted --

13

- Q. And you also noted --
- 14 A. Oh, go ahead.
- 15 Q. I'm sorry. I think your video was
- 16 delayed there. Did you have something else to say?
- 17 A. Yeah. So I was just saying that there's
- 18 been a number of changes. And throughout the -- you
- 19 know, throughout the recent period, I haven't seen a
- 20 relationship between those changes in HHI and
- 21 different price measures. And so if we look at 2017
- 22 and the market is operating competitively in 2017, it
- 23 seems that's a good benchmark to consider in
- 24 evaluating this merger now.
- Q. And with those benchmarks you also noted

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- Q. And you've discussed your consideration
- 3 of the overall geographic market being warranted as
- 4 considered larger than Atlantic City; is that correct?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. And with Atlantic City being the only
- 7 gaming spot in New Jersey, doesn't that not present a
- 8 unique market in of itself?
- 9 A. So -- so not necessarily. You know, the
- 0 boundaries of an antitrust market don't necessarily
- 11 conform to, you know, state boundaries or county
- 12 boundaries. You know, one of the important facts in
- 13 my consideration was looking at the players who played
- 14 in Atlantic City and where they come from. And I
- 15 think there's a table in my first report that shows
- 16 that only five percent of the rated theoretical win
- 17 for Atlantic City casinos is coming from players that
- 18 actually live in the Atlantic City metropolitan area.
- 19 So that means, you know, the balance is coming from
- 20 players outside of that area. And, you know, the
- 21 largest sources of players for the Atlantic City
- 22 casinos are the New York City area and the
- 23 Philadelphia area.
- Q. And the statutory factors that you've
- 25 addressed summarized on the slide here, No. 2, the 11

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- 2 that the overall HHI for 2015 after the Icahn group
- 3 acquired Taj Mahal and then therefore became a
- 4 two-facility operator, was higher also than the HHI
- 5 which would be encountered if this merger is approved;
- 6 is that correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
  - Q. And in that case, it was a transaction
- 9 seeking to allow a single operator to move to two
- 10 operations while at the same time Caesars
- 11 Entertainment was already a three-facility operator;
- 12 is that correct?

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- A. Yes. Those facts sound right.
- 14 O. So while the overall HHI increased, the
- 15 largest multi-casino operator as Caesars Entertainment
- 16 remained as it was; is that correct?
- 17 A. That's right. So the restructuring of
- 18 the Taj Mahal didn't affect the size of Caesars.
- 19 Q. So Caesars Entertainment with three, and
- 20 then you have the Icahn group with two, after that was
- 21 approved by the Commission, was in second place, and
- 22 that was in the market of eight casinos; is that
- 23 correct?
- 24 A. Yes. I -- I believe that -- that's
- 25 correct.

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- 2 factors, as well as the other statutory
- 3 considerations, include all the factors that are
- 4 related to data that necessarily comes from New Jersey
- 5 casinos; isn't that correct?
- 6 A. So I -- I think -- I guess, you know,
- 7 the first three factors, you know, when they're
- 8 talking about shares. My understanding is those are,
- 9 you know, shares of -- you know, shares within
- 10 Atlantic City. A number of these other factors have
- 11 to do with Atlantic City, although, you know, I think
- 12 several of them are essentially influenced by things
- 13 that are going on outside of Atlantic City.
- 14 And then the 11th factor is really, you
- 15 know, allows the Commission to consider any other
- 16 evidence that they deem to be relevant. So I think,
- 17 you know, potentially that could include considering
- 18 the competitive from beyond Atlantic City.
- 19 Q. And you've mentioned -- Mr. Schrier
- 20 questioned you about your conclusions overall in
- 21 different forms throughout your testimony. You've
- 22 concluded that there is no undue economic
- 23 concentration implicated by the merger transaction;
- 24 correct?
- 25 A. That's right.

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- 2 Q. And your first amended report that you
- issued in May of 2020 indicates that the proposed sale
- of Bally's Atlantic City would reduce the post-merger
- HHI in a material way; is that correct?
- That's right. 6
- You mentioned also that you had reviewed
- 8 Dr. Perry's report that he prepared dated May 27,
- 2020.
- 10 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Do you recall in that report that Dr. 11
- 12 Perry has a calculation of the average HHI based on
- several divestiture scenarios?
- 14 Yes. I remember that there's a part of
- 15 his report where he looks at -- I think, you know,
- potentially divesting any of the individual casinos
- 17 currently cold by Caesars or Eldorado, as well as, you
- 18 know, maybe some -- some divestitures would involve
- 19 combinations of casinos.
- 20 Q. And in making those comparisons, if you
- 21 recall reviewing that table, as well as the narrative
- 22 itself, a sale of Bally's essentially has the lowest
- 23 impact on reducing the average HHI; is that correct?
- A. Yeah. That's correct. You know, I
- 25 should point out that those calculations are based on

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS
- 2 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
- 6 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
- 10 properties had.
- 11 Q. I think in these general analyses,
- wouldn't you agree, though, that you don't have the
- opportunity to hypothesize how statistics may change
- 14 under a different owner? You have to rely on that
- 15 data?
- 16 A. So I -- I guess I would say, you know,
- 17 the HHI is using the historical data, are certainly a
- 18 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,
- 21 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
- 25 casinos that we haven't, you know, observed before.

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- essentially the current sales or whatever other
- current metrics exist for those casinos. And that
- 4 might not be an indication of -- or the best measure
- 5 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.
- Well, you calculated the resulting HHI
- from a sale of Bally's; is that correct?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 So while the resulting HHI is slightly
- 12 different between Dr. Perry's divestiture scenario of
- 13 Bally's and yours where yours actually is a little bit
- 14 higher, it is still regardless the lowest HHI
- 15 difference among the different possibilities of a
- 16 divestiture?
- A. Yeah. I -- I agree with the point that
- 18 you're trying to make -- or I think what the point
- 19 you're trying to make is, you know, if you calculate
- 20 HHI using historical performance statistics of, you
- 21 know, different casinos, then divesting Bally's is
- 22 going to have less of an impact than divesting other
- 23 properties because Bally's historical, you know,
- 24 performance is -- or historical share of, you know,
- 25 revenue or some other measures is lower than some of

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- So, you know, he haven't observed before a single
- company controlling the combination of casinos that
- 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.
- 8 Q. And to your knowledge, the sale of
- 9 Bally's is pending. That has not yet been approved;
- 10 is that correct?
- 11 Yes. That's correct. Α.
- You have noted in your report that one 12
- of the criteria for conducting an undue economic
- 14 concentration analysis is considering barriers to
- 15 entry; is that correct?

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- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And Mr. Schrier discussed with you
- different conditions that the Division has proposed in
- 19 the event this merger is approved. Are you aware of 20 that?
- 21 A. Yes. I'm aware of those conditions.
  - So are the presence of deed restrictions
- 23 prohibiting casino gaming on potential sites barriers 24 to entry?
- 25 A. You know, they are not necessarily

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 barriers to entry in and of themselves because, to the
- 3 extent that there are other sites available, you know,
- 4 casinos could enter there and, you know, casinos have
- 5 entered in the past. So I think you could say they
- 6 are a barrier to entry to entering onto, you know,
- 7 those specific plots of land that they -- that they
- 8 apply to.
- 9 Q. So you'd agree that exerting control
- 10 over future possible casino sites would be barriers to
- 11 entry as well; correct?
- 12 A. Yes. In the same -- in the same sense
- 13 that I discussed for, you know, the current covenants.
- 14 Q. And in speaking about the proposed
- 15 conditions that the Division has prepared in the event
- 16 the Commission approves the merger, you indicated your
- 17 agreement with those avenues to further be pro
- 18 competitive measures; is that correct?
- 19 A. Yeah. So if you're referring to -- for
- 20 example, the, you know, commitments to capital
- 21 expenditures -- well, actually, is that what you're
- 22 referring to?

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- 23 Q. I was referring specifically to the
- 24 areas that we just discussed, the deed restrictions
- 25 and exerting control over potential future sites?

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 WATTS
- 2 performance. And, therefore, that same poor
- 3 performance that was evidenced by Bally's could occur
- 4 there. So that there really we're trying to predict
- 5 the future here in determining economic concentration
- 6 and how the market will react. Is that -- is that
- 7 fair to say?
- 8 A. Certainly. You know, the impact of
- 9 putting Bally's in the hands of a new operator or
- 10 putting any casino in the hands of a new operator is
- 11 going to depend on, you know, how that operator
- 12 decides to use that asset to compete in the market.
- 13 And, you know, if they operate it differently,
- 14 than the past owner, past operator, then they may
- 15 achieve different performance, for better or for
- 16 worse.
- 17 Q. I think you noted for example, the Hard
- 18 Rock situation where that facility was sold and at a
- 19 pretty reasonable price, I would say, and the new
- 20 owner expended substantial sums of capital. And as a
- 21 result we have seen substantial uptick in their
- 22 performance; is that correct?
- 23 A. Yes. The -- you know, the Hard Rock
- 24 entry has been -- has been very successful and, you
- 25 know, certainly has performed better than its

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- 2 A. Yes. I agree that that -- those -- you
- 3 know, those conditions would be pro competitive.
- 4 Q. But you did not encourage any pro
- 5 competitive measures of that -- either of those types
- 6 in your reports; correct?
- 7 A. No, I do not.
  - Q. Thank you.
- 9 MR. RICHARDSON: I have no further
- 10 questions.
- 11 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.
- 12 Mr. Schrier?
- 13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER:
- 14 Q. Dr. Watts, I think if I'm trying to
- 15 crystallize what you were driving at with your
- 16 questions from Miss Richardson. I think what you were
- 17 saying was even though Bally's is the property that is
- 18 being sold and that's where the agreement is, in Dr.
- 19 Perry's report where he said, well, you could sell
- 20 Caesars or you could sell Tropicana or you could sell
- 21 Harrah's and there might be a different outcome. Was
- 22 it your point that it really depends who acquires that
- 23 property. Because you could -- you could sell
- 24 Tropicana, but the new owner of Tropicana that
- 25 acquires it might not pay attention to operations or

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  - 2 predecessor.
  - Q. Just one last question. You were asked
  - 4 whether or not the FTC had a unanimous decision or
  - 5 there was a dissent, and I think you indicated that
  - 6 there was a dissent; correct?
  - A. That's right.
  - 8 Q. And that was Commissioner Chopra; is
  - 9 that right?
  - 10 A. That's -- yes. That's right.
  - 11 Q. And to your knowledge, did that dissent
  - 12 address in any way any of the issues pertaining to
  - 13 Atlantic City?
  - 14 A. No. You know, as I read the dissent, it
  - 15 didn't relate to, you know, anything to do with
  - 16 Atlantic City specifically. It was -- it was more
  - 17 concerned with really the remedies that are required
  - 18 in other parts of the country. So the divestitures
  - 19 that are required in Lake Tahoe and Bossier City and
- 20 the process that, you know, that the Commission had
- 21 gone through to approve those divestitures.
- O. Thank you. That's all I have.
- 23 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.
- 24 Ms. Richardson?
- MS. RICHARDSON: Just one question.

54 56 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: 2 THE WITNESS: That's right. When I was 3 3 Q. Dr. Watts, we've gone over already that a graduate student, I taught in courses in 4 the Horizontal Merger Guidelines are useful -- have 4 microeconomics. 5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Could you 5 been considered useful by this Commission in the past 6 as utilized by the Department of Justice and the 6 explain what exactly is microeconomics? 7 THE WITNESS: Sure. So microeconomics Federal Trade Commission; is that correct? is -- I guess there's two broad categories of That's correct. 8 9 economics. There's microeconomics and there's Q. Nevertheless, though, with the statutory 10 criteria in our Casino Control Act, we're doing an 10 macroeconomics. Microeconomics has to do with 11 undue economic concentration analysis for the 11 decision-making by individual actors. So we 12 Commission to make a finding on that, not exactly an 12 can think of individual actors as being 13 antitrust determination as the Federal Government 13 consumers, and they are choosing, you know, 14 would: is that correct? 14 what product to buy or what jobs they have or, 15 A. So, I guess I would agree that -- yes, 15 you know, how much schooling they have. So 16 it's not the same criteria as -- as the FTC or the DOJ 16 that would be a microeconomics question. And 17 it also includes decisions made by firms. So, 17 would use to evaluate a merger. I think there is an 18 antitrust element to it. I mean, certainly the undue 18 you know, how do firms set prices? How do 19 economic concentration language and criteria do 19 firms decide how to introduce a new product? How do they interact with each other? So all 20 describe competitive and competitive conditions so I 20 21 think there's an antitrust element to it. But I agree 21 of those questions are covered by 22 22 that the standard is different. It's defined microeconomics. 23 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Very 23 differently than the standard that is used in, you 24 interesting. Because I heard the word, and I'm 24 know, a merger proceeding before the FTC, for example. Q. Thank you. 25 25 like, well, I'd like a little bit -- little bit 55 57 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 2 MR. RICHARDSON: I have no further 2 more of explanation. Thank you so much. 3 3 Keeping in that thought of a little questions. 4 4 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. more, explanation and background, I know I 5 5 MR. SCHRIER: One followup, Mr. have -- again, my personal background. Or I've 6 6 Chairman, if I may. read the documents. I've read the reports. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. 7 And I am -- I'm going to say intrigued by 8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER: 8 the -- and I hope I'm pronouncing this 9 Q. Under either of those particular tests 9 correctly, the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index. 10 or methods of determining competition, whether it's 10 Again, I know what I've read. And the the Casino Control Act criteria or the FTC's criteria, importance of this index is -- again, it's used 11 12 your conclusion is still the same, is it not? 12 to access the impact of mergers and 13 A. That's correct. 13 acquisitions. There are 11 guidelines; am I 14 MR. SCHRIER: Thank you. 14 correct? 15 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 15 THE WITNESS: That's right. So for 16 Commissioner Cooper? 16 measuring the HHI, you know, in the Casino 17 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. Dr. 17 Control Act, there are 11 different metrics of 18 Watts, thank you for joining us today and 18 performance that are, you know, meant to be 19 participating in this. I have some questions 19 used to assess shares and the HHI. 20 for you. 20 COMMISSIONER COOPER: And if you would, 21 At the beginning when you stated your 21 just -- and again I'm going to say maybe in 22 educational background and went to college, et 22 layman's terms. Would you just state those 11 23 cetera, et cetera. I don't mean et cetera, et 23 guidelines? 24 cetera, but you mentioned that you teach THE WITNESS: Sure. So if -- bear with 24 25 microeconomics; is that correct? 25 me. I need to get my table here.

58 60 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. 2 you calculate the share of all the participants 3 3 in a given industry, and then you add up the THE WITNESS: So there's -- there's, I 4 square of the shares. So you get an index that 4 guess, 11 statistics in total that -- that I 5 5 used and that are generally used in these undue 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 up to 10,000 is there is a single competitor 7 HHIs. And they can be thought of as divided 8 into two categories. So some categories have 8 because that would be a hundred percent, you 9 9 know, if the square is 10,000. So it's an to do with kind of the physical facilities that 10 the casinos have. And others have to do with 10 index that, you know, is one way to quantify 11 competition. 11 operational measures. 12 So the facilities statistics include the 12 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. 13 13 My next question, I'll present it to gaming square footage of the casino. The 14 number of hotel rooms that each casino has. 14 you. There are actually a few parts, but I'll ask the whole question, and you can answer 15 The number of slot machines. The number of 15 16 table games. The number of employees. And 16 however you feel comfortable, let's say. 17 You presented documentation, 17 then just a count of the number of casinos. So 18 18 that's -information, details today about the upcoming 19 And thank you for bringing my slide up 19 merger. You've mentioned -- you discussed the 20 words "horizontal merger," competition with 20 here. 21 So that -- those statistics are kind of 21 competitors. My question for you is, I would 22 22 the top half of the table. And then the bottom 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 24 I'd like your opinion, if you would, on other outcomes. So revenue-based or wager-based 25 potential attractions in Atlantic City and 25 outcomes. So those include the slot machine 59 61 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 4 The slot machine win, the table game win. And we're talking about the casinos, but I would 5 5 then the overall net revenue for a casino. So 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, but there was a story about a gentleman by the 7 7 categories. 8 8 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And again, 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 necessary? Are families important to Atlantic 17 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So they were two 18 City? Do we just have the casinos with what 18 economists, and I think they were, you know, 19 19 they offer? Or do we need other attractions? active in the early 1900s. And they -- I think 20 I'm going to say noncasino attractions. 20 maybe -- I can't remember if they came up with 21 And again, something that really I don't 21 this concept independently from one another or 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 background -- I'd like to get your viewpoint on 24 used to measure concentration. And the way 25 other -- other attractions in Atlantic City. 25 that they came up with calculating is, first

62 64 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 2 sports betting, in addition to the casinos 2 THE WITNESS: Sure. Well, I think you 3 3 being able to offer sports betting, and the know, if you're thinking of Atlantic City and 4 4 its, you know, wellbeing overall, then I do racetracks can offer sports betting. 5 5 think there are benefits to, you know, So I think excepting the effect -- by 6 diversifying in a sense the number -- you know 6 looking at concentration of casino statistics 7 7 does a good job of thinking about, you know, is the types of attractions or the types of --8 types of things that are offered. There's 8 there an undue concentration in internet 9 9 gaming? And one other feature of internet also, I guess, a consideration if -- even if 10 10 gaming is, the way that internet gaming license you're primarily focused on the casino industry 11 works is, you know, you've got the license. 11 and the, you know, the wellbeing of the casino 12 industry and the customers of casinos, in that 12 But then you can allow more than one operator 13 13 to have what are skins that operate on your there's a relationship between casinos and 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 gaming companies, but I have other companies 17 because the more demand there is for casinos, 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 20 water park who bring in customers who will also number of competitors and options for internet 21 patronize -- patronize casinos. 21 gaming in New Jersey than there are for brick 22 22 You know, I think one of the reasons and mortar gaming. 23 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you 23 that Atlantic City was and is the, you know, 24 24 very much. the gaming destination that it is, is because 25 Mr. Chairman? 25 of, you know, an important other amenity that 63 65 ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS 1 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 4 because it had these other entities already. Dr. Watts, have you done any other work 5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. Thank you. 5 in the Atlantic City market? 6 6 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't. This is And one other -- talking about gaming. 7 7 I'm just wondering. Was internet gaming a part my -- I guess my first time to do a competitive 8 8 of your evaluation, studies? Was it something analysis of Atlantic City. 9 that was included, considered? Or was that 9 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 10 10 COVID-19, do you see that -- the just a separate issue? 11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So --11 Atlantic City market bouncing back better than 12 12 other markets or worse? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Pardon me. 13 13 Separate issue. Does internet gaming have an THE WITNESS: You know, I think -- I 14 14 think that's a very hard question to answer. impact on what's being presented today? 15 15 THE WITNESS: So internet gaming -- you 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 when things are going to improve, if things are 17 the 11 metrics don't include a specific measure 18 going to get worse again, when they are going 18 for internet gaming, but it was something that 19 to get worse again. So I think it's a very 19 I considered. The way that internet gaming 20 hard question to answer. 20 works in New Jersey, as you are aware is that, 21 You know, one thing I'll say, I live 21 you know, all of the casinos can have licenses 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 24 how things have been going on locally in New offer online table games. And more recently, 25 York and in New Jersey. And while this region 25 they can offer online sports betting. And

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1	ITEM NO. 14 - WATTS	1	00
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	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	5	
	kind of most successful responses in terms of	6	Tracy, are you there?
6	managing the virus and, you know, turning	7	MS. RICHARDSON: I'm here. I'm ready to proceed if the Commission wishes to. I see Dr.
7	things around. So I'm not sure how that will	8	•
8	interact with, you know, with the demand for		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.
	67		69
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	1	AARTIN K. PERRY, PhD, having been
15	you have any followup based on the questioning		irst 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.	1	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON:
21	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Do you guys want to get	21	Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Perry.
	started on Mr. Perry or take a quick break?	22	A. Good morning.
22	started on wir. I ciry of take a quick oreak.		
22	CHAIR PLOUSIS: We can take an early	23	Q. Would you please tell us about your
I	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	23	Q. Would you please tell us about your ducational background?
23	CHAIR PLOUSIS: We can take an early	23	

1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 of Missouri, and then I went to graduate school for
- 3 economics at Stanford and got my PhD there in 1976.
- 4 Then I went to work for Bell Labs. And later in the
- 5 early '80s, I went to law school at Rutgers University
- 6 Law School at night and got a JDM, 1994.
- 7 Q. And you mentioned that you worked at
- 8 Bell Labs. Can you tell us some more about your
- 9 employment background?
- 10 A. So I joined Bell Labs in January of 1976
- 11 and was there until the breakup in -- so that would be
- 12 January 1984. That was an economic research group
- 13 that had been started a few years before I joined.
- 14 And so most of my -- sort of, you know, over half of
- 15 my work was just doing economic research. And but
- 16 some years there was some internal consulting projects
- 17 to benefit the company.
- 18 Then in 1984, I think in August, I
- 19 joined a company called Bell Communications Research,
- 20 which was part of the breakup of the Bell system. And
- 21 it was also an economic research group -- not just
- 22 economics, some other groups -- that was jointly owned
- 23 by the seven regional Bell companies at that point in
- 24 time. And I stayed there until 1989 when I joined
- 25 Rutgers as a professor of economics.

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 Division on casino mergers and acquisitions.
- Q. Can you tell us about the other times
- 4 that you were retained by the Division as an expert?
- 5 A. So 1995, that was the -- the Trump Plaza
- 6 was -- had been running the Regency Hotel, and they
- 7 were going to acquire it and reopen as a casino. So
- 8 the issue there was reopening of that casino, the
- 9 former Atlantis. And that didn't go well or for long,
- 10 but it wasn't really a controversial case because it
- 11 was a reopening the casino. The tricky part was
- 12 counting the casino in the old Atlantis Casino as part
- 13 of the Trump Plaza Casino which required building an
- 14 enclosure across the front of the Convention Hall.
- 15 So the next merger case I worked on was
- 16 five years later in 2000. That was the case in which
- 17 the -- the Claridge had gone into bankruptcy, and
- 18 there was an asset that going to be acquired. And
- 19 Park Place was interested in acquiring the Claridge,
- 20 as was the Sands. So it was a contentious hearing on
- 21 which of those two parties would be approved by the22 Commission. And Park Place ended up being the
- 22 Commission. And Park Place ended up being the 23 ultimate acquirer. So in 2000 -- that was in 2000.
- 24 2005 I was hired by the Division to
- 25 write a report for the -- the Caesars/Harrah's merger.

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- 2 I stayed at Rutgers for some 22 years.
- 3 And then 2011 I came out here to be head of the
- 4 Economics Department at the University of Illinois,
- 5 and I've been here ever since. I have for nine years,
- 6 but unfortunately, that that's going to end shortly.
- 7 Q. And you have research experience as 8 well; right?
- 9 A. So I -- yeah. So I've done research on
- 10 various topics on vertical integration, vertical
- 11 restraints, mergers, auctions. Those things. For the
- 12 last nine years, I haven't been doing any research.
- 13 I've been doing administrative work. So I hope to get
- 14 back to some old topics soon.
- 15 Q. And you frequently served as an advisor
- 16 or an expert, haven't you?
- 17 A. Yeah. I wouldn't say frequently
- 18 relative to some of my friends in the profession. But
- 19 I worked on various merger cases for the Department of
- 20 Justice. And mostly from -- it's on my CV. Over a
- 21 ten-year period. Most of the cases I worked on there
- 22 were industrial product mergers. And since 1995 when
- 23 I was first engaged by the Division to -- for the
- 24 Trump acquisition of the -- what was the Regency
- 25 Hotel, that's when I began writing reports for the

1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 Then I worked for some private parties, too, before
- 3 that. With respect to that, 2010 was the last time I
- 4 wrote sort of a report of -- you know, the statistics
- 5 about the industry. But that was in the context of
- 6 the Trump bankruptcy.
  - Q. Uh-hum.

7

- 8 A. I was hired by the debtor possession,
- 9 basically the second lienholders who held about \$2
- 10 billion worth of debt that had been issued a few years
- 11 earlier, and they were proposing a reorganization.
- 12 And Carl Icahn at the time was the owner of the
- 13 Tropicana, and he was -- he was a holder of the first
- 14 lien. And he was also proposing an alternative
- 15 reorganization. And so I -- I -- that testimony was
- 16 pretty simple. I just simply pointed out that if the
- 17 Icahn proposal was adopted, there would have to be a
- 18 hearing on undue economic concentration.
- 19 Q. And you have prepared a report for this 20 proceeding; is that right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. And just for purposes of the record,
- 23 that report has been marked as Exhibit D-2 in
- 24 evidence.
- 25 Can you tell us what you were tasked

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 with for that report?
- 3 A. Well, the task was just to evaluate
- 4 whether this merger would create undue economic
- 5 concentration and -- you know, and if there were the
- 6 need to protect economic competition, what the
- 7 possible alternative remedies might be.
- 8 In the report I also updated all the
- 9 prior tables and for -- from my prior reports.
- 10 Q. And it's been discussed this morning the
- 11 Casino Control Act and the various categories that
- 12 need to be considered in order to evaluate changes in 13 the market share. You were present for Dr. Watts'
- 14 testimony?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. So how many criteria are there to
- 17 consider?
- 18 A. So there's the 11 criterion.
- 19 Q. And in your report, did you note
- 20 initially that you focused on five of those in
- 21 particular?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And which ones were those?
- A. Well, two of the physical measures. So
- 25 the casino square footage and the number of hotel

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 merger? Is that what your question is?
- 3 Q. Yes.
  - A. I don't think so. Not dramatically.
- 5 Q. And so as part of your analysis and
- 6 preparation of your report, did you conduct analysis
- 7 of industry concentration?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What method did you use to evaluate that
- 10 industry concentration?
- 11 A. Well, I used -- like Dr. Watts, I used
- 12 the merger guidelines, Herfindahl Index.
- Q. And what today is the current HHI of the
- 14 Atlantic City market?
- 15 A. Before the merger?
  - Q. Yes.
- 17 A. It's something in the neighborhood of
- 18 2,000.

16

- 19 Q. Could you tell us about the merger
- 20 guidelines, what the particular thresholds are for HHI
- 21 levels in relation to classifying the concentration of
- 22 a market?
- A. Sure. Originally the first versions of
- 24 the guidelines had lower thresholds. So up to 1,000
- 25 was a unconcentrated industry. And then an 1800

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- 2 rooms. And then three there go to revenue and
- 3 performance, net revenue table drop and slot machine
- 4 drop.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. Those are the five that I sort of chose
- 7 to focus on early on in my earlier reports. And in
- 8 those reports, I looked -- earlier, I looked -- in
- 9 earlier years, I looked at the other measures and felt
- 10 that these five sort of best summarized both the
- 11 physical and the revenue aspects of the industry.
- 12 Q. So based on your past conclusion that
- 13 those were the best summary, you still maintain that
- 14 today and in your present report?
  - A. Yes, I think so.
- Q. And does your focus on the five in
- 17 particular as being representation versus the 11 in
- 8 total, does that effect or alter your conclusions or
- 19 analysis?

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20

- A. I'm pretty sure not.
- 21 O. And neither view of those creates a
- 22 particular favorable or unfavorable view for either
- 23 Eldorado or Caesars. Would you agree with that?
- A. Your question is, is one particular
- 25 measure more favorable or less favorable to the

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
  - 2 was -- thousand to 1800 was a moderate concentrated.
  - 3 And over 1800 was a concentrated industry. Those were

- 4 increased. I can't remember the exact year, within
- 5 the last ten years, so that nonconcentrated industry
- 6 would be measured by Herfindahl up to 1500. And then
- 7 2500 -- the 2500 would be a moderately concentrated.
- 8 And over 2500 would be a concentrated industry.
- 9 I saw that gradual evolution when I was
- 10 the Chief Economist of the Federal Communication
- 11 Commission. We were evaluating a large merger in the
- 12 wireless industry, and 2500 was informally used as the
- 13 cutoff for when the -- the Federal Communication
- 14 Commission, which had joint authority over the merger,
- 15 was usually when they would start worrying about the
- 16 merger. In local markets. Right.
- 17 Q. So you said up to 2500 would be
- 18 moderately concentrated and over 2500 would then be
- 19 highly concentrated?
- 20 A. That's their -- yes. That's their
- 21 definitions of the merger guidelines.
- Q. So you said that the current market in
- 23 Atlantic City as exists today before and if the merger
- 24 is approved, the market -- the HHI is around 2,000. I
- 25 think you had calculated in your report that it was an

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY
- 2 average of 1944. So that number is considered
- moderately concentrated right now?
  - A. Yes.

4

- 5 So what do the 2010 merger guidelines
- 6 say about changes in overall HHI as a result of a
- transaction?
- 8 A. Well, you're asking a question about
- 9 basically the magnitude of the merger. So these are
- 10 the deltas as a change from the Herfindahl to the
- 11 pre-merger to the post-merger. And basically that's
- 12 trying to get at is this -- the industry could be, you
- 13 know, moderately concentrated or highly concentrated
- 14 but it could be a small merger. So the HTs wouldn't
- 15 worry about a small merger, and only increase the
- 16 Herfindahl by small amounts. So, you know, I forget
- 17 the numbers in the older guidelines. I think they
- 18 were -- well, I think the new guidelines of the merger
- 19 in a moderately concentrated industry is over -- well,
- 20 in a concentrated industry, it's over -- well, it's in
- 21 my report. Over presumptively, okay, up to a hundred.
- 22 But if it's over 200, then certainly, you know, going
- 23 to worry about a more complete analysis of other
- 24 aspects, barriers to entry, and things like that.
- 25 Efficiencies.

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- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 Q. Well, in your Figure 19 on Page 61 of
- 3 the report, calculated the post-merger HHI average as
- at approximately 2641. So that delta there is listed
- as 697. 5

7

9

- 6 Right. Yeah. I see it. A.
  - That's correct?
- 8 A. Yeah. Yes.
  - And in your report you discuss industry Q.
- 10 concentration by reviewing trends as well, not just
- 11 the statistical calculations; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 So for industry performance, can you
- 14 tell us about what trends you have seen?
- 15 You want me to go back to the beginning?
- 16 So.
- 17 Well, the trends in particular that Q.
- 18 you've seen --
- 19 The Herfindahl. Yeah. A.
- 20 O. -- from performance that resulted in
- 21 benefits to consumers?
- Well, the trends in Herfindahl's or 22 A.
- 23 trends in performance?
- 24 Trends in performance. Q.
- 25 Performance. Okay. Well, the -- in my

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Basically saying that even in a highly concentrated industry, a small acquisition is not going to raise enough concerns to go into a very detailed analysis of efficiencies and barriers to 6 entry.

- So are you saying if there's a change in 8 the overall HHI of more than 200 resulting from a merger that, warrants particular scrutiny and could change other factors? 10
- Yeah. I think that's the number. I'd 11 A. 12 have to check my report, you know.
- And with the pending merger as its 14 overall HHI that would result across all the categories in the merger was approved?
- 16 Say it again? What would the delta be across these categories? 17
- The total -- well, both. The total HHI, 18 19 and then tell us what the delta is.
- 20 I think the HHI would move somewhere 21 around 2500. And the deltas -- I'd have to look up
- 22 the deltas from my report. Let's see if I can
- 23 calculate them.
  - I can't quite remember. Well over 200.
- 25 You want me to look them up?

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- report I define sort of various periods. You know,
- sort of nothing is perfect, but I think they help
- 4 conceptualize certain parents of the industry. And
- 5 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 '90s and up until the middle of 2005 or something.
- I'd have to look at my exact numbers. And since then,
- 12 it's been pretty stable, depending on the denomination
- or the average. And even gone up a little bit in
- 14 recent years.
- 15 O. And how about their relationship of 16 competition to slot percentages?
- 17 Well, the way I would interpret this is
- 18 that you're not going to get an exact change in one
- year of the Herfindahl as a result of a merger. It is 19
- not going to be immediately reflected in -- say
- 21 Herfindahl goes up and an increase in slot percentage
- 22 or if a Herfindahl goes down for some reason in
- 23 entries. But the trend is showing that in respect to
- slot percentages that during the periods where there
- 25 was the most competition is roughly reflected by the

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1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 Herfindahl Index is -- those were the periods in which
- we saw dramatic at the beginning and then modest
- declines in the slot percentages.
- 5 And what conclusion do you draw as to
- increases in competition and how that relates to slot 6
- percentages?
- 8 A. Well, so that's I sort of tried to
- 9 explain it a second ago. What my conclusion is, is
- 10 that during the periods in which we had more
- independent operators and as reflected by lower
- 12 Herfindahls, those were the periods in which we got
- 13 benefits of lower slots percentages. And during the
- 14 periods. The more recent periods since -- mostly
- 15 since 2005, the slot percentages were sort of stable
- 16 and then sort -- and had been drifting up. I think if
- you look at the average slots -- it's summarized in
- 18 one of the tables -- slot percentages dropped about
- 19 eight percent overall. Up until 2005 or so. And then
- 20 sort of crept up to nine percent since then.
- 21 Q. So it's fair to say from what you're
- 22 telling us that if there's an increase in competition,
- 23 that's going to lead to lower slot percentages and
- 24 benefit the customers?
- 25 A. Well, you know, I wouldn't -- you know,

- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- promotional trends or the promotion losses that are

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- 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
- 2000s 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
- 11 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 13
- 14 declining.
- 15 So it's a little hard to infer that much
- 16 about this, I think. The fact that promotional
- allowances are going down could be -- could be a 17
- competitive issue but it could be because there's
- less -- less -- less visitors and less gambling. And 19
- 20 thus fewer opportunities to give promotional
- 21 allowances to customers.
- 22 Did you also look at the trends in
- 23 casino win per square foot?
- 24 A. Yes. Yeah. That's -- that's one of
- 25 the -- which I found one of the most interesting

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## ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- I'm not disagreeing with Dr. Watts, but I wouldn't
- sort of expect that if I have an immediate change in
- 4 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
- 10 which we got better performance in terms of lower slot
- 11 percentages.

1

- 12 And how about the same effects when it's
- 13 looked at with regards to promotional spending?
- A. Well, promotional spending is a
- 15 harder -- harder to -- to infer. I mean, it's -- I
- 16 mean, promotional spending is -- I mean, I have to
- 17 look at my report. But promotional spending is --
- 18 is -- well, let me glance at my report. I just did,
- 19 but. (Reviewing.)
- 20 Q. Page 33, I believe, that you address
- 21 this particular area.
- Okay. So I have a table on Page 34.
- 23 Okay. So if you look at the trends, if you divide
- 24 the promotional expenses by the casino drop, so you're
- 25 having some major of the -- gaming activity and the

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- things to look at with respect to performance of the
- 3 casinos.

- Q. What trends did you find in that area?
- 5 Well, there's been a general decline in
- 6 the casino win per square foot since the Great
- Recession began. But that's not surprising because
- of -- just -- fewer -- fewer gamblers. The -- what
- you see is that -- when somebody opens a large casino,
- for example, like the Wild Wild West, and that casino
- underwent per square foot declines, but what you want
- to look at is over longer periods of time, you would 12
- expect the casinos with a higher casino win per square
- foot would be the ones that would invest in new casino
- space, which may have to be matched up with new
- hotels. And those with lower casino wins per square
- 17 foot are the ones that won't have an incentive to
- 18 invest.
- 19 In my earlier reports in 2005, I -- you
- 20 know, I think I discussed as certainly 3,000 or \$3500
- per square foot per year was kind of a cutoff that, 21
- you know, casinos that had casino win per square foot
- 23 higher than that would be having incentives to make
- investments, and casinos lower than that would not.
- 25 But now the casino win per square foot is much lower

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY
- across the industry than that period of time, so. 2
- Q. And what have the Caesars properties in 3
- particular experienced in this area as far as trends? 4

A. Let me pull up my report again. Which

- page are we referring to now? (Reviewing.) 6
  - Q. It starts at 36.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. I believe in that section you concluded
- 10 that Caesars properties in particular had downward
- trends on the win per square foot that we're
- 12 discussing.

5

- 13 A. For years, yes. Yeah. For years
- 14 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
- 19 Q. Do you believe that capital investment
- 20 contributes to this particular factor in the trend?
- 21 A. Well, I do think that investment is
- 22 important for attracting visitors and gamers,
- 23 definitely. And so I do think that's important. And
- 24 we have -- you know, we have seen examples
- 25 historically of casinos making major investments and

- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 I think, since 2010.
  - Q. So I want to turn to consideration of
- the relevant market that you use. So we heard that
- Dr. Watts focused on the relevant geographic market as

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- 6 being regional rather than Atlantic City only. You
- heard that? 7
- 8 A. Yes.
  - Q. Did you review -- did you view the
- 10 market the same way?
- A. Well, I guess -- not to contradict Dr. 11
- 12 Watts, but I would think about it differently.
- 13 Should I elaborate.
- 14 Yes. Please.
- 15 A. I mean, obviously transportation costs
- of visitors is an important component of this
- industry. And if you look at any particular part of
- this -- of any of the northeast, you think about the
- 19 consumers there, you know, they're going to have -- in
- general, you know, they're going to choose between
- 21 going to Macau or Vegas or going to their local casino
- 22 or going to Atlantic City. And different people with
- different income levels are going to have different
- choices there. But, you know, New Jersey does draw 24
- most of its visitors from the Northeast area.

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#### ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- then -- not necessarily with expanding the casino
- floor because that's going to increase the
- denominator, but other parts of the casino, better
- renovations, newer amenities, have benefitted their
- casino win per square foot.
- It's hard to -- in any situation, it's
- 8 hard to say because if the casino does a major
- renovation, it also major expands the casino square
- 10 footage, then that's going to increase the
- denominator. But you are going to see there are
- 12 various points of investment have benefitted the
- 13 casino by increasing the casino win per square foot.
- 14 And you looked at the comparisons of
- 15 levels of win per square foot among the properties.
- 16 And did you draw any conclusions about Bally's and
- 17 Caesars in this particular area in comparison to their
- 18 competitors?
- 19 A. Well, I think the general observation is
- 20 that both -- particularly Caesars -- but both Caesars
- and Bally's were -- before 2005 and 2000 were one of
- 22 the highest in terms of casino win per square footage,
- 23 but now they are among the lowest. And most of that
- 24 decline has occurred -- well, most of that decline has
- 25 occurred since the beginning of the Great Depression,

#### 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 Now, if you open up casinos in
- Pennsylvania and other states and most of those are
- put not -- not conglomerated in one place like
- 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. 12
- And, of course, though, that casino is going to pick
- 14 up customers in around its location.
- 15 Now, so what you would see is, like from
- Dr. Watts map, which is a nice depiction, is around
- each of those new casinos would be people that are 17
- attracted to that casino, different settings, because 18
- 19 of its locational advantage as opposed to going to
- 20 Atlantic City.
- 21 Now, that doesn't mean that -- that all
- 22 of those casinos are now in all one big market.
- 23 Because each of these other casinos in the Northeast
- 24 are going to have a locational advantage, which is a
- 25 broader market that Atlantic City draws from.

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY
- 2 So you if you want to do -- Dr. Watts
- nicely described the SSNIP test. If you're going to
- do a hypothetical price increase by all the casinos in
- 5 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
- 10 would be difficult, would be to ask the following
- 11 question: Given the casinos that are located in these
- 12 other jurisdictions and given the local markets that
- 13 they have, the question would be then, if Atlantic
- 14 City -- all casinos in Atlantic City -- raise prices
- 15 by some percentage, what would -- how would the
- 16 boundaries of those consumers who are in some sense
- 17 indifferent between coming to Atlantic City and going
- 18 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,
- 22 but what would change if you did that?
- 23 And so I haven't done that analysis. I
- 24 think that would be a hard analysis to do. I mean,
- 25 you would -- you would certainly have to have private

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY
- 2 Q. Did the statutory requirements on
- reviewing undue economic concentration and the factors
- that go into that, did that also influence your
- choosing of the relevant market as Atlantic City,
- being that that's New Jersey law?
- 7 A. Well, I mean, I think -- I mean, it had
- 8 to because the statutory requirement required me to
- analyze it as, you know, as if it was a relevant
- 10 market. So in my prior reports and also briefly in
- this report, you know, I referred to what's going on 11
- in other jurisdictions. That's what I wanted to do, 13
- but also the Division was supportive in doing that in
- 14 its prior reports.
- 15 With that said, I think Atlantic City is
- 16 sufficiently unique, and the casinos are all here so
- there's no real -- there's no locational cost, 17
- transportation cost difference between them, that they
- are sufficiently -- well, whether it's a relevant
- market as defined by the FTC, I mean, I think it's a 20
- 21 local geographic market justifiably to discuss. And
- since the nature of the merger is affecting just the 2.2
- 23 parties -- mostly the parties in this city, then
- that's -- I think that's appropriate. 24
  - Q. And you mentioned the FTC review. So

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- 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.
- So, in other words, what I'm saying is
- that five percent or ten percent increase in all the
- slot percentages in Atlantic City is not going to
- 10 change all those boundaries of which consumers are
- 11 choosing between Atlantic City and some local casino
- 12 enough to make Atlantic City not be considered a
- 13 market on its own. So basically, I would be stunned
- 14 if a five percent price increase in Atlantic City
- 15 wouldn't be profitable for the casinos in Atlantic
- 16 City.
- I mean, another way to think about this 17
- 18 I suppose is, would these other casinos in
- 19 Pennsylvania be competitive? I mean, envision a
- situation, hard to envision, but hypothetical now.
- 21 Suppose that casino is as built was located -- was
- 22 dropped somewhere right near in Atlantic City. How
- 23 competitive would that casino be relative to the other
- 24 seriously competitive casinos in Atlantic City? Well,
- 25 my conjecture is not very. Not very competitive.

- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
  - 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?
  - 5 A. Well, I think the statute mandates that,
  - 6 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 12
  - their income and their preferences or taste for gaming
  - 14 and various other amenities, there -- some people will
  - 15 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. 19
  - 20 In certain locations around the Northeast.
  - 21 Q. And to your knowledge, in cases that
  - 22 you've participated in, the Commission has used in the
  - 23 past only Atlantic City as the relevant geographical
  - 24 market; is that correct?
  - 25 A. I think that's right. I don't recall

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- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 the -- well, I can't remember all the Commission
- 3 opinions. But I don't recall the Commission opinions
- 4 being decisive. Some decisive acts of those opinions
- 5 being based on competition elsewhere. But again, I
- 6 can't recall all the final reports of the decisions of
- 7 the Commission at this point.
- 8 Q. Are you aware of the 2015 event when
- 9 Carl Icahn's affiliated entries acquired Taj Mahal?
- 10 A. Yes. To a certain extent.
- O. And that transaction, that was going to
- 12 make Mr. Icahn's group a two-facility operator in
- 13 Atlantic City. Is that your understanding?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Do you know what the Commission view of
- 16 the relevant market in that case was?
- 17 A. Well, I read that. I read that decision
- 18 last night, and I think there -- that decision says
- 19 that, you know, the Atlantic City market is the market
- 20 that they want to discuss for the purposes of that --
- 21 that merger. Well, merger -- acquisition.
- 22 O. And --
- A. I think that's right.
- Q. I'm sorry. Go ahead.
- A. I think that's right.

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 knowledge or discussions about their views at the
- 3 time.

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- Q. Understood.
- So going on toward the end of your
- 6 report, you make certain recommendations. But do you
- 7 recommend whether the merger should be approved or
- 8 not?
- 9 A. Well, I think, you know, the way -- the
- 10 way I would interpret mine is presenting alternatives.
- 11 And from my past experience and my previous reports,
- 12 you know, I -- I made -- recommendations maybe, but to
- 13 me they may have been more suggestions for the
- 14 Commission to consider would be the way I would
- 15 describe them. But, you know, we title them
- 16 "recommendations".
- 17 Q. So why don't you go through what you
- 18 think the Commission should consider as options for
- 19 handling this merger?
- 20 A. Well, I -- I think this is a -- you
- 21 know, a huge merger in the -- well, it's huge in the
- 22 nationwide, but it's also huge in the context of
- 23 Atlantic City. And if you look at the -- I mean, it
- 24 is true, Professor Watts is correct that there are
- 25 various instances in which the Herfindahl Index in

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## ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 Q. And the Division, as far as you're
- 3 aware, didn't retain an expert in that matter?
- 4 A. I don't know that they did. There was
- 5 no reference to one.

1

- 6 Q. Are you aware that we included as a
- 7 comment in that report that given the expansion in
- 8 gaming that a limited geographical view of the market
- 9 is no longer reasonable or justified?
- 10 A. Well, in my previous answer, I was
- 11 talking about the Commission. Yes. No. I saw -- I
- 12 saw that. But I didn't read -- I didn't have a copy
- 13 of the Division's recommendations to read. But I
- 14 think that was referred o in the Commission -- the
- 15 Chairman's decision.
- 16 Q. Right. So in the Commission's
- 17 determination that you're aware of, the Commission did
- 18 not agree with any of those comments that would have
- 19 been in the Division report. And it went ahead and
- 20 continued to consider the relevant market as Atlantic
- 21 City. Is that --
- A. That was my interpretation of the
- 23 decision. Yeah. But I wasn't involved in the case,
- 24 so, you know, I didn't have -- you know, I wasn't
- 25 retained by the Division, so I didn't have any

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
  - 2 Atlantic City only since 2005 has been in, you know,
  - 3 approximately 2500 or even above in this highly
  - 4 concentrated industry. And most of those situations,
  - 5 they arose from some kind of merger acquisition
  - 6 involving Caesars.
  - 7 And so the -- in 2005 when we were
  - 8 considering the Caesars/Harrah's merger and I wrote a
  - 9 report, I didn't recommend against the merger. And
  - 10 the AC Hilton and the Dunes property were divested
  - 11 prior to the final decision. But in that -- in that
  - 12 case it probably would have been better to have
  - 13 divested the Showboat. But that generated a huge
  - 14 merger and a dramatic increase in the Herfindahl. And
  - 15 the subsequent performance of Caesars and Bally's
  - 16 wasn't exactly what the Commission or the -- would
  - 17 have hoped for.
  - In this case, I'm realistic in the sense
  - 19 of what is feasible to happen. Of course, the
  - 20 acquisition of Harrah's is a major -- major impact.
  - 21 But Harrah's has been a successful casino with major
  - 22 investments in general. And my view is that Caesars
  - 23 and Bally's properties are in some sense sort of24 integrated or easily integrated. And so that could
  - 25 have been a larger -- potentially larger major resort

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- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 hotel that would be competitive with Borgata and
- 3 things.
- 4 So but the divestiture of Bally's is
- sort of the least attractive divestiture from my point
- 6 of view. And I understand that the maintaining the
- 7 Wild Wild Casino's property makes the -- that block
- consistent with Caesars. But that certainly does
- mitigate some of the potential anticompetitive effects
- 10 of the merger.
- 11 I guess my hope and the sense is that by
- 12 splitting Caesars property and the Bally's property
- 13 that either one or both would be able to expand in the
- 14 different directions and become a more competitive,
- 15 larger resort with more amenities, and therefore be
- 16 more competitive with the Borgatas and Ocean and Hard
- 17 Rock. Whether that will happen is pure conjectural,
- 18 but that's also why I recommended the properties
- 19 neighboring Caesars and Bally's not be encumbered in
- 20 any other way by somebody else that would prevent
- 21 either of those two properties from expanding
- 22 independently from each other.
- 23 I'm not sure I answered your question,
- 24 but.

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25 O. I think that gives an overview to the

- ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 So the fourth choice would be the
- divestiture of Bally's that I just discussed.
  - Q. So are you saying that you would have
- recommended the merger not be approved absent certain

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- 6 remedies such as the divestiture being imposed by the
- 7 Commission?
- 8 That would have been better. Yes. A
- 9 divestiture of some sort.
- 10 So we talked about earlier the -- the
- 11 200-and-over threshold that the 2010 merger guidelines
- give as an indicator that they -- a transaction needs
- to be looked at more closely. Can you recall what you
- told the Commission earlier of what the change in the
- every all HHI would be without any divestiture of
- 16 Bally's here?
- 17 A. Well, I think it was close to 700.
  - Q. Right. And so given that being so far
- 19 over the 200 threshold, what do you think that that
- 20 indicates?

18

- 21 A. Well, mainly it indicates that this is,
- 22 you know -- this is a large merger, so both parties
- 23 are large.
- 24 And as you know, that sale is pending
- 25 for now. It hasn't been completed. Is that your

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## ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- Commission. So let's just go through some particulars
- about what you were saying. 3
- 4 Without the proposed sale of Bally's,
- 5 what would your conclusion about the merger have been?
  - Well, I think I -- I think I would
- 7 recommended that there be a divestiture. A Harrah's
- 8 divestiture would have been, just in terms of
- 9 competition, would have been my preferred
- 10 recommendation. I understand the financial aspects of
- 11 why that's an important part of the merger.
- 12 Then my second preferred would have been
- 13 the divestiture of the combined Caesars and Bally's
- 14 properties because there's -- seems to me that they
- 15 have an ideal location, and there's no reason why
- 16 whatever major investments -- I'm not the one to
- 17 dictate or even recommend what kind of investments
- 18 would be necessary. Could be, you know, a combined,
- 19 very serious resort. Not that it isn't close to that
- 20 now. But that has the most potential. So that would
- 21 have been my second choice.
- And my -- you know, the last choice,
- 23 well, of course, Tropicana is the acquiring company
- 24 initially, but that would be the same there. But
- 25 then --

1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 understanding?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 So what other -- what other guidelines
- 5 or mandates do you think it's important for the
- Commission to consider if they approve the merger? 6
- 7 A. One of the -- one of the most important
- 8 features, since I've been looking at this since 1995
- and all my prior reports I did extensive travels
- through the -- through the casino district and the
- support district with various members of the Division.
- And just always seemed to me that protecting large
- sites -- potential sites for future large resorts was
- 14 one of the things that the Commission should have a --
- you know, maintain importance. 15
- 16 I mean, obviously accumulating sites has
- 17 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 19
- hard -- it's hard to imagine another major investment
- 21 in the city. But if you look at it over, like, you
- 22 know, for me, so I look every five years. If you look
- 23 at over a long period of time, it's just been an
- 24 amazing success story in terms of the investments that
- 25 have been made.

1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

2 The Revel, that was -- at the time that

- 3 property was -- I think it was called the North Beach
- 4 property in the old days. That property was -- I
- 5 think it was owned by MGM and it sold, and that
- 6 property was most attractive site everybody agreed to.
- 7 And but it didn't get built on, and but now it has.
- 8 And so over the long period of time, I mean, amazing
- 9 things have happened and been built.
- Now, some of the bondholders haven't
- 11 always -- bondholders didn't receive all the returns
- 12 they expected, but that's always part of the economic
- 13 downturns. So and -- but then I've also seen examples
- 14 in which things didn't happen. So the classic example
- 15 historically was the Traymore site which was owned by
- 16 Caesars. And that's -- that property basically
- 17 blocked the Sands from having a larger casino that
- 18 fronted on the boardwalk. And that property just sat
- 19 there as a parking lot and now it's still vacant. So
- 20 that's an example of, you know -- in those days would
- 21 have been an attractive casino. Now it's probably
- 22 that one block is probably too small for anything you
- 23 should build now. But so protecting those sites from
- 24 ownership by the existing casino operators who might
- 25 not have an interest in selling those sites for -- for

- 1 ITEM NO. 14 PERRY
- 2 developments. I mean, those developments are 20 years
- 3 away. It's important to -- 10 or 20 years away, it's
- 4 important to eliminate those.
- 5 Q. What's your view about the presence of
- 6 independent operators staying in the Atlantic City
- 7 market?
- 8 A. The presence of particular independent
- 9 operators you're referring to? Of single -- single
- 10 casino --

11

14

- Q. Yes. Single.
- 12 A. -- operators.
- 13 Q. Single facility owners, operators.
  - A. Well, another thing that's really become
- 15 clear in the last 15 years is that very large casino
- 16 resorts can be successful and very small old ones that
- 17 don't invest are going to die. And I mean, I'm --
- 18 it's the closure of Trump Plaza. Okay, well, I --
- 19 obviously that was poorly run for years. The closure
- 20 of the Sands. That was blocked by the Traymore site.
- 21 That was inevitable. But these things actually closed
- 22 sooner than I would have even expected.
- So I mean, so that -- so that's my point
- 24 of trying to protect large potential sites. Because
- 25 we're just -- I just don't think -- and we haven't

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ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 a new competitor seems to be particularly an important
- 3 thing. You know, just trying to do little things to
- 4 try to protect these potential sites.
- 5 And so that's why I, you know, if the
- 6 merger is approved in some form, I think with what the
- 7 Division has proposed in protecting sites and keeping
- 8 track of ownership and outside the main footprints of
- 9 the existing casinos is really very important.
- 10 Q. And how about some other considerations
- 11 that you would suggest the Commission take into
- 12 account here?
- 13 A. Well, the other -- most surprising thing
- 14 that occurred to me from the last time I really
- 15 focused on this in 2010 was the deed restrictions on
- 16 the various casinos, several of which arose from sales
- 17 of properties by Caesars. And I mean, that's --
- 18 that's, you know, I find that just incredibly perverse
- 19 in terms of competition. I mean, in some sense that
- 20 ought to be illegal since it violates the existing
- 21 zoning for the casino district, but I guess that's
- 22 another type of lawsuit.
- But those -- I mean, one way or another,
- 24 those really have to be eliminated in order to protect
- 25 the possibility of accumulating property for future

1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY

- 2 seen one -- of a basic 500 hotel room, basic casino
- 3 being built like the proposal of Pinnacle to built
- 4 just on the Traymore site. I just -- that got created
- 5 because of the Great Recession I understand. But I
- 6 just didn't think that was a sufficiently large site
- 7 for -- to be competitive with Borgata and Harrah's and
- 8 now Ocean and Hard Rock.
- 9 Q. In this area in your report you've also
- 10 included a concern about preserving the symmetry of
- 11 competition in the market. Can you explain that?
- 12 A. Well, that's why the Herfindahl Index
- 13 squares the market shares. Because that -- by
- 14 squaring them, that accentuates the number we're
- 15 adding up. And larger numbers get squared to larger
- 16 numbers. So that makes -- and smaller numbers square
- 17 to smaller numbers. So that the squaring in the
- 8 Herfindahl Index would -- creates the asymmetry, what
- 19 makes -- asymmetry makes the Herfindahl Index larger
- 20 and is trying to capture the notion that smaller firms
- 21 are less competitive -- you know, provide less
- 22 competition than larger firms will.
- Note that you wouldn't have to square
- 24 the market share. You could cube it or quartic it,
- 25 but there are some theoretical justifications for

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- 2 squaring the shares. So that's the -- that's the
- 3 notion of symmetry. And so -- so sort of more
- 4 broadly, we see that smaller -- smaller operators,
- 5 smaller casinos -- this is also true with other
- 6 industries -- can't provide all of the amenities in
- 7 the gaming industry, but any other industry, they
- 8 can't compete in every dimension of providing the
- 9 products with larger firms. And -- and so they are
- 10 just not -- don't have the same many competitive
- 11 impact on the industry.
- 12 Q. And do you have an opinion on the
- 13 effects that encouraging major investments will have
- 14 on preserving competition?
- 15 A. Well, I think, you know, major
- 16 investments these older properties serve is crucial
- 17 for their survival. So I guess my hope is that if
- 18 this merger is approved that, you know, that Eldorado
- 19 recognizes that. And it sounds like the conditions
- 20 that they agreed to are really ratifying that, that,
- 21 yes, these properties have to be invested in if we're
- 22 going to be competitive with the other major resorts
- 23 in town. And -- and also that's consistent with my
- 24 view that you're not going to get just a basic hotel
- 25 casino built in town anymore. It's going to have to

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- 2 from being blocking of a major development.
  - Q. Yes.
  - A. Let me add to my answer about the deed
- 5 restrictions. So even if -- if those -- the deed
- 6 restrictions are on the smaller hotels. You know, the
- 7 Showboat and Claridge and what used to be the AC
- 8 Hilton. Even if a new operator wanted to open those
- 9 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
- 11 least there would be -- there's neighboring property
- 12 that could -- that those operators could potentially
- 13 expand into if they are available for sale. So the
- 14 notion of limiting deed restrictions is -- could
- 15 result in some -- some of those casinos being opened.
- 16 But my main concern is that those are -- those17 existing smaller casinos are located with neighboring
- 18 property. And opening the old casino could help jump
- 19 start the development of a larger resort.
- Q. And it's been mentioned several times
- 21 that the Division proposed conditions for the
- 22 Commission's consideration if the merger is approved.
- 23 Have you seen those?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have them with you?

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- 2 have at least 20 acres or more and be, you know -- I
- 3 mean, that may not occur any time soon. But that's
- 4 what the next step would be for the development of the
- 5 industry. I think.
- 6 Q. So to help summarize for the Commission,
- 7 you've essentially outlined three major areas of
- 8 recommendations here that you said, I think, that if
- 9 the Bally's sale was not pending, you would have
- 10 recommended that a particular -- not a particular
- 11 divestiture take place but that a divestiture be
- 12 required. Was that right?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- 14 Q. And that you also think it's very
- 15 important to encourage new entrants to the market and
- 16 competition. Was that right?
  - A. Yeah. Definitely.
  - Q. And you went over for the Commission how
- 19 important you think it is to remove the deed
- 20 restrictions that exist?
- 21 A. Absolutely.
- Q. And also that there should be
- 23 prohibitions on the ability to restrict development on
- 24 future on competitive casino sites; is that right?
- 25 A. Well, restrict from -- preventing them

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- 2 A. Yeah. I might have them on the file. I
- 3 could pull them up.
- 4 Q. Okay. Well, just generally, though, you
- 5 discussed also that capital improvements are very
- 6 important to preserving competition. You said that;
- 7 is that right?

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- A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Are you generally aware that the --
- 10 excuse me -- the Division has proposed several
- 11 conditions going toward setting up a fund for
- 12 extensive capital improvements over a three-year
- 13 period for the Caesars properties?
  - A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And you also recall looking at the
- 16 conditions and noting that the Division has
- 17 recommended release of the restrictive covenants that
- 18 are on the sites that we're talking about?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And also that the Division has proposed
- 21 a condition to protect -- to prevent, I should say --
- 22 land blocking that you're talking about by the parties
- 23 here and the REIT companies?
- 24 A. Yes
  - Q. Thank you, Dr. Perry. I have no other

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2 questions.

4

3 A. Okay.

CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier? Your

5 witness.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHRIER:

7 Q. Dr. Perry, I think you said that you and

8 Dr. Watts used the same guidelines really in

9 evaluating this merger. And those guidelines were

10 obviously the Casino Control Act, Section 82, and the

11 criteria there and the HHI and the Horizontal Merger

12 Guidelines; right?

13 A. Well, I wouldn't -- wouldn't say I use

14 them. I mean, they are -- they are just -- become

15 such an important reference point for the analysis of

16 mergers. But technically they apply only for how --

17 you know, for how the agency is going to evaluate

18 mergers. But they began in 1968. But over a long

19 period of time, they are just an important reference,

20 so it's kind of unavoidable to use that as a

21 reference.

Q. Okay. And I think when you were asked

23 by Miss Richardson about the regional market, I think

24 you said, you know, historically, while the statute in

25 Atlantic City and the Commission has relied upon, of

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2 provision but that -- that would be wise.

3 Q. Okay. So with regard to your report and

4 your testimony today, I'm going to read from the

5 Division's report on this merger. Have you reviewed

6 the Division's report?

Yes, I've read it.

Q. Okay. And I'm just going to quote. It

9 says on Page 106: In brief, and subject to the fuller

10 explanation in Dr. Perry's report and testimony at the

11 hearing in this matter, Dr. Perry does not recommend

12 outright approval or disapproval of the merger on

13 undue economic concentration grounds alone. Instead

14 he recommends that the merger -- that if the merger is

15 to be approved, the Commission should impose

16 conditions designed to preserve or enhance

17 competition, certain of which would affect integral

18 components in this merger.

Do you agree with that summary?

20 A. I think that's a -- that's a fair

21 summary of my views. I mean, I view myself as

22 providing alternatives and suggestions.

Q. So essentially you're not recommending

24 denial. You're not recommending approval. But you're

25 providing suggestions for the consideration of the

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course the law that exists in Atlantic City that there

3 have been considerations to a regional market as well;

4 correct?

5 A. Well, I -- my work with the Division in

6 the past has always been, yes, that what's happening

7 outside of Atlantic City is important because it

8 clearly has taken customers away. Whether it's really

9 resulted in a competitive impact as strong as the

10 existing conditions casinos in Atlantic City with

11 respect to each other, that's a different story. But,

12 yes, it effects -- you know, the profitability and

13 viability and the growth of Atlantic City, and that's

14 not surprising.

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O. So is it fair to say that while the

16 Casino Control Act delineates certain criteria that

17 wouldn't be necessarily prudent to ignore sort of the

18 surroundings in the regional market as well in

19 thinking about what the impacts might be of a merger?

A. Yeah. Yes, of course I agree with that.

21 I mean, you know, the open question -- okay.

Q. Yeah. And I think the 11th item in

23 Section 82e is that the casino Commission can consider

24 any other relevant evidence it has; is that right?

A. Well, I'm not aware of that specific

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2 Commission, including potential conditions if the

3 merger is approved; correct?

4 A. Yes. I think that's the right way to

5 describe it.

6 Q. Okay. And you're aware -- because you

7 talked about a little bit so far -- that there are

8 conditions that have been proposed. And are you aware

9 that the conditions that have been proposed have been

10 agreed to by New Caesars?

11 A. Yes. The Division told me that

12 recently.

Q. Okay. So you're aware that New Caesars

14 has agreed to expend the \$400 million over three years

15 to improve the properties that it will hold -- or the

16 properties that it will operate that it will acquire

17 and hold after the merger; correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And --

20 A. Yes.

Q. That they also agree after the

22 three-year period to expend five percent of revenues

23 on capital expenditures thereafter.

A. Yes. I'm aware of that. Yeah.

Q. Okay. And isn't it true that that would

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114 116 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: 2 address the recommendations that you raised in your 3 Q. Dr. Perry, I just wanted to ask you report regarding capital spend? 4 A. Well, I don't -- I didn't really make about the 11th factor that Mr. Schrier was referring 5 any specific recommendations on capital spending. I 5 to, that the Commission under the statute is to take 6 mean, nor did I -- I recommend any particular into account other relevant information. And the provision like the Division has agreed with New implication that by not expanding the geographical Caesars. I mean, general capital spending is a good market to be considered, is that, in your view, ignoring any surrounding information? thing in terms of improving the success of a property 10 A. No. I don't think so. I think the word 10 and making it more competitive. 11 "relevant" is is a term from the guidelines. I think 11 O. Okay. And I think Miss Richardson asked 12 you that question, whether spending capital was the -- you would look at competition in Atlantic City, 13 helpful to foster the competitive environment; and that's direct competition head-on-head, just 14 correct? independent of any locational, transportation costs to consumers. That's -- that's going -- that's going to 15 Yes. It has been. I mean, there are some examples of failed expenditures. But there's -be there. It's always going to be there. That's 16 Agreed. going to be important for the Commission -- the 17 Q. 18 A. -- more examples of successful primary importance. But the effect of other casinos 19 expenditures. in neighboring jurisdictions is relevant because it 20 Good point. Good point. Okay. 20 affects the financial ability of the casinos in 21 And you're aware that New Caesars has 21 Atlantic City to -- to make investments. Because it 22 agreed to remove the deed restrictions on the three is taking -- it will take away consumers, visitors who properties that you mentioned; correct? have a particular locational closeness to one of the 24 new casinos in the other jurisdictions. 24 Yes. That's correct. 25 O. And that addresses one of your 25 Q. So you're saying that you did look at 115 117 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY recommendations, does it not? 2 that information, but you found it not necessarily to 3 It does. be relevant to pressure considerations or competitive And you're aware that New Caesars has 4 factors but rather other, you know, societal or 4 5 agreed not to undertake any new deed restrictions; 5 individual factors as well including economic, you correct? 6 know, conditions? 6 Yes. That's correct. Well, I think a way to say that is the Α. 8 O. And you're also aware that New Caesars 8 casinos in Atlantic City are directly competing with

9 has agreed not to block development, I think is how we

10 were characterizing it, but there's a condition that

11 New Caesars has agreed to that it will not block

12 development and will sell land at fair market value if

13 there's a party that wishes to develop or expand

14 development of a particular casino. And that

15 addresses one of your recommendations as well; is that

16 correct?

18

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17 A. Yes, it does.

> So it's fair to say that by entering O.

19 into these conditions, New Caesars has essentially

20 removed the barriers for entry of new competitors in

21 Atlantic City in a manner that you have recommended?

That's right.

MR. SCHRIER: That's all I have. Thank 23

24 you.

25 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? 9 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

important from the point of view of the statute and 16

17 the Commission, I think.

Q. Thank you.

19 MR. RICHARDSON: I have nothing further.

CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?

21 MR. SCHRIER: Nothing further. Thank

22 you.

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23 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Commissioner Cooper?

24 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

25 Thank you.

118 120 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 2 2 about, you know, changes and mergers and when Dr. Perry, once again, thank you for 3 3 did these transaction occur in the middle of joining us today and participating in this 4 4 hearing. I have several questions for you. year, do with put -- which year do we count 5 5 First I'd like to know in your career, 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 7 you done? Now, I know it can be a longer say how many hours I spent because --8 report or shorter report. The depth -- I mean 8 COMMISSIONER COOPER: It's variable. 9 9 THE WITNESS: I might get gassed. But there are a lot of variables. But ballpark, 10 10 it's pretty -- yeah. It's time consuming. But how many of these reports have you done? 11 if you have support to work with, put together 11 THE WITNESS: On casino matters or just 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 something can change, something is updated. A 17 was the bankruptcy proceeding on the Trump 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 "divestitures." And again, I've read the 20 testified on the -- remember the old -- well, 21 before your time in the Commission -- the 50 21 documents, the paperwork, the reports. But if 22 22 percent rule. That's -- those are listed in you would, could you please explain the 23 23 difference or the highlights of what exactly -my, the -- the beginning of my report. My CV 24 24 what is a divestiture? is on -- at then end of the report, and it has 25 THE WITNESS: Well, it would be -- it 25 a more comprehensive list. I -- I worked for 121 119 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 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 4 looked at slot machines. I don't think -- I parties in order to resolve competitive issues. 5 5 can't remember exactly details, but it would be That's the essence in which it's used in merger 6 6 on my CV. analysis. So, you know, divestiture could be, 7 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Okay. And again, 7 like, really small, but in this -- in this 8 8 this is just an approximate -- approximate. 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 14 you to do research on one of these reports? 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 19 THE WITNESS: So when did I start 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 24 tables is a little bit easier to update them. 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

122 124 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 3 particularly when you mention Trump Regency -nice if it wasn't in the casino district but 4 and this is with no disrespect, don't get me 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 7 Sands, I'm hearing again, you've got a little attractions. 8 more history. Or at least that's what you've 8 You're just -- got a little bit of 9 9 presented, you know, with Atlantic City. 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 independent operator. And again, as I said, I 17 COVID. 17 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. 123 125 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 4 is it important at this current time? eventually, they'll be shopping on those, 5 5 remodeled to include shopping along the --And I'm adding that because again, I 6 6 along the boardwalk frontage, whether it be mean, there is so much going on right now. But 7 how important what a family attraction be at 7 high end or low end or middle or something. 8 8 this junction in Atlantic City? And your 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

126 128 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 2 2 the names names that come right now. I mean, Thank you so very, very much. 3 3 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. in July comes to mind with what he's planning 4 4 to do in Atlantic City. So I wanted to get a CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Commissioner 5 5 little more -- some more of your comments and 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 restrictions an issue, or did you recommend not 9 again, you know, it's going to be another --10 it's going to be an addition, something else 10 having them back then? with Atlantic City. 11 THE WITNESS: I don't -- I don't recall 11 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 17 belong for the development of another casino. boardwalk. It's beautiful. 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 was owned by Park Place and Caesars. 20 the analysis that you did. Where does internet 20 2.1 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 THE WITNESS: I haven't worked on a 25 focus -- in of my reports, this one didn't 127 129 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 4 from the -- the difficult issues about sports 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 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 and also gambling. But that will be hard to 11 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 happening with respect to, like, the Zoom 15 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 19 expand them. 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.

130 132 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 1 ITEM NO. 14 - PERRY 2 And there's been a general move since 1980 2 last, either. 3 3 CHAIR PLOUSIS: That's a great that -- that it just takes a few firms to make 4 4 a market sufficiently competitive. I won't observation with your expertise that, you know, 5 5 name the number. So, no, I wasn't surprised. 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 7 interesting to think about Atlantic City being marketing in the future. 8 in a larger geographic market, and then have 8 My last question is, in regards to the 9 9 the FTC ask for divestitures in very small COVID-19, do you think that we'll be able to 10 10 recover faster than other jurisdictions or markets. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. That filled 11 11 slower? 12 it in. 12 THE WITNESS: You know, that's a good 13 13 question. We're also thinking about that in Earlier you stated a number of times you 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 17 so that's why I can't really give an answer. a larger casino here to draw people? 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 I mean, the minor evidence of that, you going to add amenities around it like 22 23 restaurant and other entertainment, that's 23 know, I'm sitting at the Lake of the Ozarks in 24 24 Missouri. We have a little house down herer. really going to be best done if it's on the 25 same floor. So you can get as many hotel rooms 25 I've got a nice view. But, boy, when they 133 131 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 here. Like people showed up like there was no 4 accessible amenities on one floor, then 20 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 restaurants. People will want to go out to lots of other amenities and attractions. So 7 7 8 8 that's where I came up with that number. 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. distinct advantage that we have in Atlantic 13 13 That's all I have. Miss Richardson? Did you have any 14 City that we -- we create a resort rather than 14 15 15 just a simple building and throw slot machines followup? 16 in it and call it a casino. 16 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman THE WITNESS: Well, I think that's what 17 just very briefly. 17 happened. And that's -- and that's now 18 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. RICHARDSON: 18 19 19 inevitable. I mean, it's really clear. You Q. Dr. Perry, there were a lot of questions 20 know, with the closures in 2014, those were all 20 by Commissioner Cooper about divestiture, and I just 21 want wanted to clarify for the pending sale of just like the original standalone 500 room 21 22 Bally's, that is not the entire facility of Bally's. 22 casinos. They're gone. So. 23 I mean, the AC Hilton became the 23 Is 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 25 include 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
	135		137
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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
		1	

138 140 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 3 position that they can meet the statutory airline travel. 4 standard of financial stability, On the critical areas of capital 5 5 responsibility, and integrity as well as all 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 8 result in undue economic concentration. properties, and restrictive covenants, you 9 9 In reflecting on the testimony heard testimony from several witnesses on these 10 presented, the Division's concerns as they 10 matters, and Eldorado representatives indicated relate to the overall uncertainty associated repeatedly the company's commitments in those 11 11 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 not share Eldorado's optimism that New Caesars' 19 19 proposed minimum requirements the Division 20 operating performance will return to 20 carefully prepared for the Commission's review, 2.1 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 24 One, the length of time and the nature held in trust for much-needed capital 25 and extent of restrictions and limitations in 25 expenditures at the Atlantic City CEC 139 141 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 4 visitation trends subsequent to reopening, considered from the perspective that this 5 5 amount will bring those properties to a state particularly in the Las Vegas market that 6 relies heavily on air travel; 6 of improvement where they already should have 7 Three, the length of time it will take 7 8 8 for revenues to return to pre-closure levels; 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 13 exist post-merger and through 2022; 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 19 testimony related to No. 2 regarding business 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. as Mr. Reeg and Mr. Yunker indicated Eldorado 21 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

142 144 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 considering Atlantic City because of the 2 in relation to the Atlantic City properties, 3 3 expansion in gaming in the Northeast. But such remove barriers to entry to maintain 4 a concept has not been adopted by this 4 competition, and require New Caesars to adhere 5 5 Commission in the past. 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 9 in the Casino Control Act, which by their very Mr. Schrier? 10 statutory nature, apply only to Atlantic City 10 MR. SCHRIER: Is that better? CHAIR PLOUSIS: We can hear you now. casinos. 11 11 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 20 for a year. And as you have heard, this matter 2.1 As set forth in our report and 2.1 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 143 145 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 4 after inquiry, prodding, or prompting in some the COVID crisis and the multitude of 5 5 cases, repeated inquiry,, and explanations 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 8 discussed with Mr. Carano about some regulatory 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 19 Commission decides to approve this merger. 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 21 and continued financial oversight of proposed 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

146 148 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 that this combined company will succeed in the 2 with the sale of land in Las Vegas, and a new 3 3 mortgage note and \$210 million of incremental future. commitments to Eldorado's revolving credit 4 The Division's report raised many 5 5 questions which I will address, but the two 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 9 not result in undue economic concentration 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. which is the largest among public company peers 11 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 heard Mr. Yunker testify that post-reopening 16 16 any expectation that the company or the 17 operating results and cash flows are Division had in late April. The post-June 17 significantly ahead of the April expectations. 18 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. 2.1 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 were met with tremendous demand from investors. 25 25 addresses the concerns raised by the Division 147 149 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 the combined company's \$2 billion of revolving already started to be implemented by the 11 11 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 2024, and that was also indicated in the will be realized from purchasing consolidation, 15 15 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

150 152 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 3 reductions in full-time employees or part-time 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 5 submitted approved by the Division. There are 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 7 individual casino facility in Atlantic City. instrumental in working through these 8 However, in the future, if there would be, 8 conditions with Eldorado. But in working with 9 9 Eldorado, New Caesars has an agreed to obtain them, Eldorado or New Caesars committed to put 10 10 \$400 million into a fund and spend that on the approval. 11 Another area the Division raised -- and three properties it will own over that 11 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, merger. In that regard you heard Anthony 15 15 they will invest \$150 million in Caesars 16 Carano, Tom Reeg, and Steve Calllender 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 20 Significant integration planning efforts 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 24 integration plans are being executed across all Atlantic City properties after the first three 25 key functions of the business such as 25 151 153 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 4 Lastly, senior leadership has been an independent trustee who can step in if they 5 5 confirmed, and the leaders were selected from fail to meet their commitment. This, as Miss 6 6 Richardson said, is unprecedented. What does both legacy Eldorado and Caesars teams at the 7 corporate and property level. Key executives 7 it mean? What does it mean? It means that New 8 8 of both companies understand and have 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 15 properties in Atlantic City and as part of the 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 19 ownership might encourage undercapitalization, expenditure. 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

154 156 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 3 an approved master lease by the Casino Control years where operators have held three, as CEC 4 Commission. does as we sit here today, and even four 5 5 The reality is -- and the Division has 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 9 not getting better. As we sit here today, what 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 occur? I can assure you that there would not 11 only committed a massive dedicated capital 11 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 it acquires CEC. And they've agreed not to 16 promises but with enormous dedicated and 16 implement any new deed restrictions. 17 set-aside funds to prove it. 17 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. transaction and offers 11 statistical 25 25 Lastly, they are committed to the sale 155 157 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 4 Watts, saying that there is in his view no 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 8 want to take into account, like the FTC does, 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 but under Section 1b(13) of the Act to also conditions to foster competition if the 15 15 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.

158 160 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 I have one additional housekeeping item, 2 MR. SCHRIER: Yes. I've spoken with Mr. 3 3 and that is that if you agree to the merger, we Casiello. 4 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Is there any 4 have created a capital expenditure trust. And 5 5 that Trust Agreement has been submitted in preferred timeline to address that matter? 6 evidence as P-5. If you do agree to the 6 From your perspective? 7 7 MR. SCHRIER: Having not seen what the merger, then I would ask that you approve the 8 Trust Agreement and, in addition, qualify the 8 filing is going to say, it's a little difficult 9 9 for me to respond. Trustee, John J. Farmer, to serve as Trustee 10 over the capital expenditure trust. So I would 10 MS. FAUNTLEROY: I understand. ask that you kindly do that as part of your MR. SCHRIER: But, obviously, my goal is 11 11 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 2.1 the Director and the Director's staff for all 2.1 on everyone? And make your decision on that so 22 that when we recess for the evening, we know if of their hard work and efforts over the past 22 23 23 you're deliberating with that brief or not. year. 24 24 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Excellent. Thank you. Thank you. 25 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. Schrier. 25 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Is everyone available 159 161 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 Commissioner Cooper, any last questions? 2 to reconvene later? 3 COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'm fine. 3 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes. 4 MR. REBUCK: Yeah. The Division will 4 CHAIR PLOUSIS: You're fine? 5 5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Thank you. 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 a.m. We'll see if 7 give them until 4:00? 8 8 MS. RICHARDSON: That would be okay. we get that -- the documents in regard to that 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? MS. MENDES-FERREIRA: MaryJo, I think 14 participate. And if you do agree -- well, 14 they -- the parties should be allowed to be 15 you're muted. 15 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 Lunderstand 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	20	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
	Then we will we will recess until	23	consider that and pention diffred 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	MC EAINTIEDOV. Cardafamara	13	Division by the Petitioners and that nothing
13	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Good afternoon		
14	everyone, again.	14	would be added to the proceedings by the
			·
14	everyone, again.	14	would be added to the proceedings by the
14 15	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter	14 15	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.
14 15 16	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk,	14 15 16	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.
14 15 16 17	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as	14 15 16 17	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.
14 15 16 17 18	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger	14 15 16 17 18	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara. Miss Richardson?
14 15 16 17 18 19	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger proceeding through the filing of a letter	14 15 16 17 18 19	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.  Miss Richardson?  MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger proceeding through the filing of a letter brief.	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.  Miss Richardson?  MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and Commissioner Cooper.  The Division does not formally oppose
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger proceeding through the filing of a letter brief.  Their action is pursuant to Rule	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.  Miss Richardson?  MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and Commissioner Cooper.  The Division does not formally oppose the request for participation, but I would note
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger proceeding through the filing of a letter brief.  Their action is pursuant to Rule 1:1-16 6. Rule 1:1-16.4 of the	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.  Miss Richardson?  MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and Commissioner Cooper.  The Division does not formally oppose the request for participation, but I would note that we really do have to echo what Mr. O'Gara
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	everyone, again.  Since the break, we have received letter petitions filed on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, also known as Hard Rock, seeking to participate in the merger proceeding through the filing of a letter brief.  Their action is pursuant to Rule 1:1-16 6. Rule 1:1-16.4 of the Administrative Rules consistent with the	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	would be added to the proceedings by the participation of either of these parties.  Thank you.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. O'Gara.  Miss Richardson?  MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman and Commissioner Cooper.  The Division does not formally oppose the request for participation, but I would note

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

	166		168
1	ITEM NO. 14	1	
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	
	167		169
1	ITEM NO. 14	1	
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 Re	porter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey,
6	CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll make a motion.		tify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
7	Do I have a second?		nscript of the proceedings via remote technology.
8	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that.		I further certify that I am neither
9	CHAIR PLOUSIS: All in favor, say aye?		orney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed
10	(Ayes.)		any of the parties to the action; further that I am
11	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed?	-	t a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
12	(No response.)		ployed in this case; nor am I financially interested
13	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Ayes have it.		the action.
13	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. So find out if	14	ine action.
15	there's anything else.	15	
16	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Are there any other	16	
		17	
17	matters pertaining to this from the Division or		
18	counsel?	18	M DADI ENE ENCEL CCP
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	. 1 1 21 2020
22	MS. FAUNTLEROY: So this is the last		ted: July 21, 2020
23	recess.		Notary Commission Expires
24	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes.		vember 21, 2024
25	MS. FAUNTLEROY: 10:00?	25 ID	No 50117353

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2	CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
3	
4	CONTINUED
5	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
6	VIA REMOTE TECHNOLOGY
7	
8	
9	Friday, July 17, 2020
10	Atlantic City Commission Offices
11	Joseph P. Lordi Public Meeting Room - First Floor
12	Tennessee Avenue and Boardwalk
13	Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
14	11:30 a.m. to 12:26 p.m.
15	
16	
17	Certified Court Reporter: M. Darlene Engel
18	
19	
20	RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES
21	Court Reporting, Videography & Legal Services
22	2277 STATE HIGHWAY #33, SUITE 410
23	HAMILTON SQUARE, NEW JERSEY 08690
24	TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652
25	www.RLResources.com No. 330970

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  BEFORE:
  CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
3
      ALISA COOPER, COMMISSIONER
4 PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
       DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST
5
  OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
       DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
 6
        SECRETARY
7
  DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
8
    DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
       TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
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APPEARANCES:
  ITEM NO. 14 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
              TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
 3
                                    GENERAL
              BLANK ROME, LLP
 4
               STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
                    CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION,
 5
               CEOC, LLC, CAESARS GROWTH PARTNERS, LLC,
               CAESARS RESORTS COLLECTIONS, CAESARS
 6
               INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT NEW JERSEY, LLC,
              HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY OPERATING COMPANY,
 7
              LLC, BALLY'S PARK PLACE, LLC, BOARDWALK
              REGENCY, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS, INC.,
 8
              AND COLT MERGER SUB, INC.
  ITEM NO. 15 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
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                                    GENERAL
              BLANK ROME, LLP
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               STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
                    BOARDWALK REGENCY, LLC, BALLY'S
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              PARK PLACE, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY
              OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC
13
              CITY PROPCO, LLC, ELDORADO RESORTS INC.,
              VICI PROPERTIES, LP, HARRAH'S ATLANTIC
14
              CITY, LLC, AND CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY, LLC,
              AND BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY, LLC.
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              BALLARD SPAHR, LLP
              BY: MICHAEL D. FABIUS, ESQ.
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              FOR:
                    VICI PROPERTIES, INC.
17 ITEM NO. 16 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
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              PAUL M. O'GARA, ESQ.
              FOR: CEOC/NON-CPLV
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  ITEM NO. 17 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
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              TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
                                    GENERAL
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              BLANK ROME, LLP
              STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
23
              FOR: ELDORADO RESORTS, INC., AND
              CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION
24
25
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A P P E A R A N C E S Continued:
1
 2
   ITEM NO. 18 DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL
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                TRACY E. RICHARDSON, DEPUTY ATTORNEY
                                       GENERAL
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                BLANK ROME, LLP
                STEPHEN D. SCHRIER, ESQ.
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                FOR: TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY
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CONTINUED AGENDA
1
                 PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15
2
                   JULY 17, 2020, 11:30 a.m.
  ITEM
                                                PAGE
                                                       VOTE
3
   CONTINUED
                                                    9
4
      Joint petition of Caesars Entertainment
                                                         23
      Corporation, CEOC, LLC, Caesars Growth
5
      Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts
      Collections, Caesars Interactive
      Entertainment New Jersey, LLC, Harrah's
6
      Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC,
7
      Bally's Park Place, LLC, Boardwalk
      Regency, LLC, Eldorado Resorts, Inc.,
8
      and Colt Merger sub, Inc., for approval
      of: (I) The merger of Caesars
9
      Entertainment Corporation with Colt
      Merger sub, Inc., and (II) The
10
      qualification of the New Entity and
      Natural Person Qualifiers and (III)
      other declaratory relief pursuant to
11
      NJSA 5:12-2, et seq. (PRN 2481902)
                                                   23
12
  15
      Joint Petition of Boardwalk Regency,
                                                        33
      LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Harrah's
1.3
      Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC,
      Harrah's Atlantic City Propco, LLC,
14
      Eldorado Resorts, Inc., VICI Properties
      LP, Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC,
15
      Caesars Atlantic City, LLC, and Bally's
      Atlantic City, LLC, for: (I) A
16
      declaratory ruling pursuant to NJAC
      19:40A-3.7 determining the licensing
17
      status of Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC,
      to serve as the landlord of Harrah's
18
      Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC;
       (II) Approval of the sale of certain
19
      parcels of real property and the
      buildings and other improvements
20
      constructed thereon; (III) Approval of
      the lease as amended by and among
21
      Harrah's Atlantic City, Caesars
      Atlantic City, LLC, and Bally's
      Atlantic City, LLC, as landlord, and
22
      Harrah's Opco, Boardwalk Regency, LLC,
23
      and Bally's Park Place, LLC, as tenant;
       and (IV) additional relief (PRN
24
       3571901)
25
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1 CONTINUED AGENDA PUBLIC MEETING NO. 20-07-15 2 JULY 17, 2020, 11:30 a.m. ITEM PAGE VOTE 3 CONTINUED 4 16 Petition of CEOC/Non-CPLV for approval 33 36 of the amendments to the master lease 5 (PRN 1542001) 17 Joint amended Petition of Eldorado 36 41 6 Resorts, Inc., and Caesars Entertainment Corporation for 7 temporary casino key employee licensure and qualification of certain 8 natural persons (PRN 1882001) 18 Petition of Tropicana Atlantic City 42 45 9 for approval of the amendments to the master lease (PRN 1892001) 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	1 ITEM NO. 14 2 DIVISION EXHIBITS 3 NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD 4 D-1 Report to the Casino Control Commission X on the Petition of Caesars 5 Entertainment Corporation, LLC, Caesars Growth Partners, LLC, Caesars Resorts 6 Collections, LLC, Caesars Interactive Entertainment, LLC, Bally's Park Place, 7 LLC, Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, 8 Eldorado Resorts, Inc., and Colt Merger, Sub, Inc., for approval of the merger of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with Colt Merger Sub, Inc., 10 and related relief, PRN 2481902 (Redacted) 11 10 D-2 Dr. Martin K. Perry's May 2020 Report X 12 on Undue Economic Concentration Analysis Related to the Proposed Merger of Eldorado and Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey 14 15 Indiana Racing Commission 16 D-4 The Division of Gaming Enforcement X Recommended Conditions 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
1 ITEM NO. 14 2 PETITIONER EXHIBITS 3 NUMBER DESCRIPTION EVD 4 P-1 Dr. Timothy Watts September 6, 2019, X Economic Analysis of the Competitive 5 Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment Corp. with 6 Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic City Casino Operations 7 P-2 Dr. Timothy Watts May 13, 2020, X 8 Economic Analysis of the Competitive Effects of the Proposed Merger of Caesars Entertainment Corp. with Eldorado Resorts, Inc., on Atlantic 10 City Casino Operations: First Amendment to Analysis of September 6, 11 2019 12 P-3 New Jersey Casino Control Commission X Exhibits to Testimony of Timothy Watts, PhD 14 P-4 Slide Deck Presentation X 15 P-5 Trust Agreement between Eldorado X Resorts, Inc., a Nevada Corporation 16 (to be renamed Caesars Entertainment, Inc., and converted to a Delaware 17 Limited Liability Company), Caesars Resort Collection, LLC, a Delaware 18 Limited Liability Company and John J. Farmer, Jr., as Trustee (Redacted) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	1 ITEM NO. 14 2 (Public Meeting 20-07-15 was reconvened 3 at 11:30 a.m. via remote technology.) 4 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Good morning. We're 5 resuming our July 15th meeting. 6 Mr. Schrier, do you have any other 7 matters or any other issues on this matter? 8 MR. SCHRIER: I do not, Mr. Chairman. 9 Good morning, Commissioner Cooper. Thank you, 10 but I have nothing further. 11 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Miss Richardson? Do you 12 have any other matters? 13 MS. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. 14 Chairman and Commissioner Cooper. No, thank 15 you. 16 CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you. 17 On June 24th, 2019, Eldorado Resorts, 18 Incorporated, and Caesars Entertainment 19 Corporation entered into an agreement and a 20 plan of merger which was amended on August 15, 21 2019. To implement the merger, Colt Merger 22 Sub, Incorporated, was created and will merger 23 into Caesars. Caesars will be a surviving 24 corporation as a wholly owned subsidiary of 25 Eldorado. Eldorado will become a holding

10 12 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 2 2 company of Bally's Atlantic City, Caesars made changes to remedy those missteps. 3 3 CEO Thomas Reeg unabashedly acknowledged Atlantic City, Harrah's Atlantic City, and 4 Caesars Interactive Entertainment New Jersey, 4 shortcomings in the properties -- properties 5 5 in addition to Tropicana Atlantic City. 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 7 it once, once was, he called it "sad" and vowed Entertainment, which throughout this hearing 8 was frequently and informally referred to as 8 to rebuild it. When concerns were raised about 9 9 the "New Caesars." The Petitioners also seek the relatively low level of employment at the 10 various rulings from the Commission related to 10 properties compared to the market average, he said they fully understood and will work to 11 11 the proposed merger. Eldorado has been engaged in 12 12 remedy that. acquisitions over the past several years. 13 I found their testimony to be 13 14 Since 2014 Eldorado has increased its gaming 14 forthright. In my view, the Petitioners have been honest about the challenges that lie 15 assets almost fourfold, including its 2018 15 16 purchase of Tropicana Entertainment which 16 ahead. They have made commitments to restore 17 the proud history of the properties they would included Tropicana Atlantic City, New Jersey. 17 acquire, and they acknowledge the importance of 18 Now with this 17.3 billion agreement to merge 18 19 two of the nation's largest publicly traded 19 Atlantic City to their success. 20 On the second day of this hearing, we 20 gaming companies, a combined Eldorado and 21 Caesars would control a significant portion of 21 turned our attention to the merger's -- to the 22 22 merger's potential impact on competition in this market. There are legitimate concerns 23 that New Caesars, if left unchecked, would be 23 this market. 24 24 in a position to harm fair competition in the We heard testimony from two economists. 25 The first, Dr. Timothy Watts, who was retained 25 Atlantic City casino market. 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 spaces to limit human contact and slow the 7 impact on Atlantic City. spread of COVID-19. In New Jersey, the 8 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 country. The level of uncertainty regarding 11 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 one of the casinos weighs heavily in their 17 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

Caesars Entertainment placed on former casino

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the -- into this market two years ago and has

14 16 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 3 his report he called for the State to lift the part of these proceedings on the merger of this 4 restrictions while noting existing operators 4 transaction. 5 5 have an incentive to block competition from 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 9 deed restrictions among its recommended proposed transfer of Harrah's Atlantic City's 10 conditions as Condition 37, and the Petitioners 10 real estate assets to VICI Real Estate agreed to do so upon the agreement of the 11 Investment Trust or VICI REIT. After this 11 12 current owners. 12 transaction, all of New Caesars Atlantic City 13 casinos will be leased from one of two REITs. 13 Other parties, namely Hard Rock Casino 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 it previously owned. The methodology to 16 of the brief on the Division's -- on the 16 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 23 As reported by the Division since Nevertheless, I have significant 24 24 Bally's AC and Caesars AC have been owned by reservations regarding the appropriateness of VICI and operated under leases, they have 25 requiring the restrictions be lifted as a 25 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 4 decision with hypotheticals. Are there 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 8 Tropicana AC over a three-year period. If exercise seeking to remedy perceived ills that 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 New Jersey has begun, but there has been 14 14 a trust administered by an independent trustee setbacks in other states. The level of here in New Jersey. And after the three-year 15 15 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 19 could not predict whether New Jersey's casino 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

18 20 ITEM NO. 14 1 ITEM NO. 14 1 2 Entertainment New Jersey, in addition to 2 the performance of these properties and restore 3 3 Tropicana Atlantic City. them to be the exceptional facilities as the 4 Commissioner Cooper, do you have any 4 Casino Control Act requires and this State 5 5 expects. comments? 6 The Petitioners have agreed to these 6 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, yes, 7 7 conditions, and their commitment to invest 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 9 estate of each casino, is now a matter of introduced to the Carano family and its team of 10 10 executives in Eldorado in the course of record. 11 securing our approval to purchase the 11 This Commission expects to be kept aware 12 of the Petitioner's progress regarding the 12 Tropicana. Now we are here to consider capex expenditures and any shortcomings in 13 approval of a merger between Eldorado and 13 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 company in the United States. The stakes could 16 Petitioners to provide through their counsel 17 not be any higher. 17 copies of the capex plan, any amendments, and 18 Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has 18 all stipulated notices to the Commission 19 Chairman. 19 been devastating, resulting in tragic loss of 20 lives and countless travesties, shuttered 20 The Division has reported to us on the 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 24 the financial stability of a merged Caesars and conditions be placed on our approval, and we 25 Eldorado given the magnitude of the impact when 25 have heard through sworn testimony the 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 4 The conditions put great responsibility I listened intently to the testimony on the Division. It's the Division's duty to 5 offered over the last two days which was 5 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 8 responsibilities under the New Jersey Casino 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 13 I also heard the comment from one of the authority to reopen license hearings before 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 Atlantic City gets my attention. It's 16 and resume hearings whenever necessary. 16 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 19 all testimony, I am satisfied that the 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	Propos to VICI and the lease back of that land
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1	ITEM NO. 15	1	ITEM NO. 15
2	conditions identified as 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
	-	l	•
10	Do I have a second?	10	provisions under the Act.
10 11		10	provisions under the Act.  And I think on behalf of of VICI that
	Do I have a second?  COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call?	1	•
11	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call?	11	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to
11 12	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that.	11 12	And I think on behalf of of VICI that
11 12 13	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper?	11 12 13	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
11 12 13 14	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.	11 12 13 14	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius,
11 12 13 14 15	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?	11 12 13 14 15	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
11 12 13 14 15 16	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is	11 12 13 14 15 16	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Bally's Park Place,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates.
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates. It appears that my video is not showing, but I hope that you can hear me?
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is Boardwalk Regency, LLC, Bally's Park Place, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC, Harrah's Atlantic City Propco, LLC,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates. It appears that my video is not showing, but I hope that you can hear me? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, we can.
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is 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,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates. It appears that my video is not showing, but I hope that you can hear me? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, we can. THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll proceed if
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is 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	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates. It appears that my video is not showing, but I hope that you can hear me? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, we can. THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll proceed if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	COMMISSIONER COOPER: I'll second that. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Roll call? MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Cooper? COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes. MS. FAUNTLEROY: Item No. 15 which is 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,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	And I think on behalf of of VICI that Mr. Fabius is also present, and he may want to address the licensing issue. MR. FABIUS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Cooper. I am Michael Fabius, representing VICI Properties, LP, and its affiliates. It appears that my video is not showing, but I hope that you can hear me? CHAIR PLOUSIS: Yes, we can. THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll proceed if

26 28 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 3 as I know Mr. Schrier has already covered the and professionalism handling this petition, all request for approval of the sale and the 4 4 the matters before you today, and for managing 5 5 approval of the lease, which we certainly join 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 9 you, and I just want to close by saying thank declaratory ruling as to the licensure status 10 of Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, which would own 10 you. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you, sir. the real estate for Harrah's and lease it back 11 11 12 to New Caesars through a passive triple net 12 Miss Richardson? 13 13 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chairman. lease. 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 Caesars and Bally's in Atlantic City that would highlight some of the those points here. 17 17 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. 2.1 estate of Caesars as well as is that of a 2.1 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 27 29 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 4 on the real estate, and that, therefore, CSIE also the entire brick and mortar casino hotel licensure is required. The Commission's 5 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 8 Consistent with the Commission's prior 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 substantial capital expenditure projects since 12 include enhanced financial requirements. We've 12 13 provided a written submission to the Commission it entered the VICI REIT in 2017. Similarly, 13 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 19 financial stability. 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
1 2	investments, what would be the incentive for	$\begin{bmatrix} 1\\2 \end{bmatrix}$	landlord entities, and those same conditions
		3	which are recommended by VICI REIT in its
3	Eldorado to choose to improve the property it	4	written submission here in order to enhance the
4	doesn't own instead of the equally deserving	5	
5	property it does where it would be the	$\begin{vmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{vmatrix}$	financial stability requirements applicable to
6	beneficiary of the increase in overall value		the Harrah's landlord entity.
7	obtained through such improvements?	7 8	Thank you.
8 9	There have been attempts to equate the	9	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.
10	\$400 million capital expenditure trust and the	10	Any further questions for counsel? COMMISSIONER COOPER: No, thank you.
11	ongoing requirements thereafter as entirely	11	-
	resolving any capital expenditure concerns	12	CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, is there a motion?
12	which can result from a REIT structure. To the		
13	contrary, the need for such a fund to be	13 14	COMMISSIONER COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I
14	established through this merger proves the	1	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 17	NJAC 19:40a-3.7 determining the licensing status of Harrah's Atlantic City, LLC, as a
17	requirements provided for under it gave any	18	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
18 19	comfort that Atlantic City properties would	19	CSIE [sic] to serve as the landlord of Harrah's
	benefit from those requirements, the additional	20	Atlantic City Operating Company, LLC;
20	imposition of such conditions here would be	1	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.	1	
5	MB. RICH HUBBOTT. Thank you, Chairman.	4	Jersey, regarding temporary key licensure and
	As you know, capital expenditures have	4 5	Jersey, regarding temporary key licensure and qualification matters.
6	•		Jersey, regarding temporary key licensure and qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?
6 7	As you know, capital expenditures have	5	qualification matters.
	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division	5 6	qualification matters. CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?
7	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have	5 6 7	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this
7 8	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have ruled on them this morning and imposed the	5 6 7 8	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this petition was filed in as a means of
7 8 9	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have ruled on them this morning and imposed the conditions that we requested.	5 6 7 8 9	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this petition was filed in as a means of effectuating the approval of the qualifiers and
7 8 9 10	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have ruled on them this morning and imposed the conditions that we requested.  Initially we did not believe that the	5 6 7 8 9	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this petition was filed in as a means of effectuating the approval of the qualifiers and key employees necessary to fulfill your ruling
7 8 9 10 11	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have ruled on them this morning and imposed the conditions that we requested.  Initially we did not believe that the request that Mr. O'Gara has just addressed was	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this petition was filed in as a means of effectuating the approval of the qualifiers and key employees necessary to fulfill your ruling on merger.
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	As you know, capital expenditures have been one of the main concerns of the Division related to these merger matters, and you have ruled on them this morning and imposed the conditions that we requested.  Initially we did not believe that the request that Mr. O'Gara has just addressed was appropriate to hear in advance of this merger, and it was held until today.  Now that the Commission has ruled on the merger and incorporated the Division's detailed conditions regarding capital expenditures, the Division does not object to the proposed amendments since capital expenditures as they relate to the Atlantic City properties subject to the VICI lease will be wholly governed by the merger rulings today and the requirements set forth in conjunction with that.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	qualification matters.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Mr. Schrier?  MR. SCHRIER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this petition was filed in as a means of effectuating the approval of the qualifiers and key employees necessary to fulfill your ruling on merger.  What we are seeking in the petition is the issuance of a temporary key employee license to Kevin Fulmer to perform duties as the Vice President Digital Sports on behalf of CIE NJ and also approve a waiver of residency requirement for Mr. Fulmer.  And secondarily, to permit the temporary qualification of certain other individuals who will assume positions and titles in Caesars Entertainment, Inc., or New Caesars, and that would be Keith Causey, Brandi Ellis, Eric

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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.
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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
	* * *		

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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;
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	about regarding VICI.	5	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the
6			
	about regarding VICI.  The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability	5	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the
6	The Petition seeks the approvals of	5 6	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease
6 7	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability	5 6 7	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings
6 7 8	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain	5 6 7 8	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions
6 7 8 9	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms.	5 6 7 8 9	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.
6 7 8 9 10	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms.  None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic	5 6 7 8 9 10	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.
6 7 8 9 10 11	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms.  None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms.  None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms.  None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed?
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.  The matter before you does not implicate	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.)
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.  The matter before you does not implicate any of the terms of the lease regarding the	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.)  MS. FAUNTLEROY: That didn't need to be a roll call. That's fine.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.  The matter before you does not implicate any of the terms of the lease regarding the provisions that are required under Section 82c	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion?  (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed?  (No response.)  MS. FAUNTLEROY: That didn't need to be a roll call. That's fine.
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.  The matter before you does not implicate any of the terms of the lease regarding the provisions that are required under Section 82c of the Act and you, as Chairman through delegated authority, may approve the amended	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.)  MS. FAUNTLEROY: That didn't need to be a roll call. That's fine.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: In accordance with
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	The Petition seeks the approvals of certain rent adjustments and also the ability of Eldorado to replace or sell certain properties that are subject to the lease terms. None of those properties are Tropicana Atlantic City.  And we also in that Petition or in the amended lease would seek certain other relief under the operating the capital expenditures and the financial covenants contained in the lease.  The matter before you does not implicate any of the terms of the lease regarding the provisions that are required under Section 82c of the Act and you, as Chairman through delegated authority, may approve the amended and restated master lease upon receiving a	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	And, B, delegate to Chairman Plousis the authority to approve amendments to the lease subject to the extent set forth in the findings and rulings and subject to the conditions provided in the resolution.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: I'll second that.  Any further discussion? (No response.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Hearing none, all in favor?  (Ayes.)  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Opposed? (No response.)  MS. FAUNTLEROY: That didn't need to be a roll call. That's fine.  CHAIR PLOUSIS: Thank you.  MS. FAUNTLEROY: In accordance with Resolution 19-12-11-03, the next closed session

46 48 1 **PUBLIC** 1 **PUBLIC** 2 2 participation portion of the meeting. Are CHAIR PLOUSIS: Let me to address that. 3 3 there any comments? The industry has worked with AtlantiCare as 4 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. well as the Division of Gaming Enforcement and 5 5 This public comment is dated July 15, 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 7 merger as it would help to make Caesars/ gentleman and advise him of those safety 8 Eldorado more efficient and would allow for 8 protocols, which include testing and where 9 9 tests are available. I know Unite 54 is Caesars to be better managed than it has been 10 10 involved with testing as well as some free historically. 11 testing in the city. So we will address that 11 However, Caesars did a lot of damage to 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 17 in the casinos as well as visits the casinos The deed restrictive properties include the 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 2.1 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. This is from 7 -- July 15, 11:28 a.m. 24 24 Caesars were to pay less taxes. Caesars owner 25 25 from Moshed Math: To whom this may concern, Icahn. 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 6 for approval of the merger? buildings with deed restrictions are eyesores 7 or have underperformed because they cannot be 7 I know Senator Chris Brown, believed 8 8 utilized as they were designed and to their 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 (transparency purposes) in this matter. 12 well. More options as a result of additional 12 13 13 investment would further increase tourism to 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 a.m. from 17 addressing this question. Appreciatively, 18 Charliepig: What are the general protocols for 18 Mosheh. 19 19 coronavirus testing for gaming employees? In 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 21 heard the Division repeatedly state during its so, will the test results be disclosed publicly 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,
7	This is July 17, 10:45 a.m. Pascal	7 certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate 8 transcript of the proceedings via remote technology.
8	Forest: Hi, the meeting was supposed to start	9
9	45 minutes ago at 10 a.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
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 Dated: July 21, 2020
23	and we apologize for the delay. We were in	24 My Notary Commission Expires
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		
24		
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