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BEFORE THE MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION
3417 KNIPP DRIVE
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65109

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

January 29, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Missouri Gaming Commission

3417 Knipp Drive

Jefferson City, Missouri

JAN ZIMMERMAN, Commission Chairman

DAVID W. HANE, Commission Vice Chairman

KEVIN SPAULDING, Commissioner

MIKE LEARA, Executive Director

PROCEEDINGS

1
2 CHAIRMAN JAN ZIMMERMAN: We don't have any team member recognitions this month,
3 so I'll now call the January 29th, 2026, Missouri Gaming Commission meeting to order.

4 Angie, would you call the roll?

5 ANGIE FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

6 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Present.

7 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

8 COMMISSIONER DAVID HANE: Present.

9 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

10 COMMISSIONER KEVIN SPAULDING: Present.

11 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: We have a quorum, thankfully. So, let's get started.

12 The first item this morning is the Adoption of the Agenda. I move that we adopt today's
13 agenda. Is there a second?

14 COMMISSIONER HANE: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any discussion? All right. Seeing none, Angie, would you call
16 the roll?

17 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

18 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

19 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

20 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

21 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

22 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

23 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted the Agenda.

24 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: The next item of business is Consideration of the Minutes from
25 the December meetings. I move to approve the Minutes of the December 3rd meeting. Is there a
26 second?

27 MS. FRANKS: Excuse me, sorry.

28 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: The second and third meeting. Is there a second?

29 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Second.

30 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Thanks Kevin.

1 Any discussion? All right, seeing none. Angie, would you call the roll?

2 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

3 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

4 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

5 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

6 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

7 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

8 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted the Minutes of the December 2nd and December
9 3rd, 2025, meetings.

10 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: We now have Consideration of the Hearing Officer
11 Recommendation, Resolution 26-001. Hearing Officer Tom Snider, welcome. You have the floor.

12 HEARING OFFICER TOM SNIDER: Chairman, Commissioners, Counsel.

13 The Commission received a request for hearing from licensee by the name of Richard Gaston.
14 He is a Level II occupational license. He is a slot machine technician at the time at Ameristar Casino
15 in St. Louis or St. Charles.

16 The proposed discipline from the Executive Director was revocation resulting from a physical
17 altercation at Ameristar Casino. The hearing was held on July 7th of 2025. The evidence included
18 multiple witness accounts, video footage and statements and admissions by the licensee, all
19 establishing that his involvement and instigation of the altercation. 11 CSR 45-10.030 states in
20 pertinent part as follows: At no time, under any circumstances shall any licensee or employee of the
21 licensee fail to immediately prevent or suppress any violent quarrel, disorder, brawl, fight or other
22 improper or unlawful conduct of any person upon the licensed premises.

23 Certainly, a violent quarrel and disorder was part of what happened that day. Mr. Gaston
24 immediately failed to prevent the quarrel or suppress it. And so, the recommendation is that he be
25 subject to discipline. Any questions?

26 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I don't. I don't have any questions.

27 COMMISSIONER HANE: No.

28 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I don't believe so. Thank you, Mr. Snider.

29 HEARING OFFICER SNIDER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Next, we'll hear from Deputy General Counsel Tom Venneman.
2 You have the floor.

3 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL TOM VENNEMAN: Thank you, Chairman, Commissioners.
4 On May 14th of 2025, the Missouri Gaming Commission issued a Preliminary Order for
5 Disciplinary Action, imposing revocation of Mr. Gaston's Missouri gaming license. Following the
6 administrative hearing on this matter, the MGC Disciplinary Review Board gathered, revisited the
7 facts surrounding the previously issued Preliminary Order and again recommend revocation of Mr.
8 Gaston's gaming license. Have any questions?

9 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I, I don't, Tom. I guess I, I would like to refer back to Mr.
10 Snider, if I may. Was there any suggestion of any alternative?

11 HEARING OFFICER SNIDER: Yes, the decision. Is it fine to sit?

12 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Sure. Certainly.

13 HEARING OFFICER SNIDER: That the Commission considered certain mitigating factors.

14 Mr. Gaston, first of all, this occurred shortly before Mr. Gaston testified that he had been
15 dealing with an angry customer half an hour prior. He testified that the customer was belligerent,
16 bullying and bothering him while he was working. Mr. Gaston testified that while dealing with the
17 customer, he received three other service calls indicating a stressful day at work. One of the service
18 calls was from his supervisor asking him to hurry up, asked him what he was doing so he could move
19 on to another call.

20 Mr. Gaston testified that annually there are three service technicians working. One of them
21 was not at work that day. Mr. Gaston testified that he received no training in how to deal with
22 someone who's in an intoxicated condition on the casino floor.

23 Additionally, Mr. Gaston is now working at Horseshoe Casino at the time of the hearing
24 anyway. He testified that he feels he has developed skills since the disturbance in dealing with
25 problematic customers. Mr. Gaston testified that he now immediately involves his supervisor in
26 situations like what occurred here. He developed some skills designed to diffuse similar situations.

27 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I understand, and I understand all the mitigating factors and
28 thank you so much for supplying that in the report. My question actually was an alternative to
29 revocation? I understand all the mitigating factors.

30 HEARING OFFICER SNIDER: (Inaudible).

1 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any other questions for Mr. Venneman or Mr. Snider?
2 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: I don't think so. No.
3 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: No, thank you, Tom.
4 HEARING OFFICER SNIDER: Thank you.
5 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I make a motion to approve Resolution 26-001. Is there a
6 second?
7 COMMISSIONER HANE: Second.
8 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion? Angie, would you call the roll?
9 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?
10 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.
11 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?
12 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.
13 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?
14 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.
15 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted Resolution No. 26-001.
16 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: And thank you, Mr. Snider. I appreciate it.
17 We now have Consideration of Licensure of Certain Level I/Key Applicants, Resolution 26-
18 002. Sergeant Sammy Seaton, I believe is here and be making that presentation.
19 SERGEANT SAMMY SEATON: Hi, I'm Sergeant Sammy Seaton with the Missouri State
20 Highway Patrol. Chairman Zimmerman and Commissioners, good morning.
21 Missouri State Highway Patrol Investigators and Missouri Gaming Commission Financial
22 Analysts conducted a comprehensive background investigation on Miss Natasha C. Chand, a Key
23 Person applicant who currently serves as a Non-Executive Director with Aristocrat Leisure Limited.
24 This investigation included, but was not limited to, civil, criminal, excuse me, financial and
25 general character inquiries that were made in the jurisdiction where the applicant has lived, worked
26 and frequented. The investigative findings were provided to the Missouri Gaming Commission staff
27 for their review, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.
28 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Sergeant Seaton, is she physically located in Australia or is she
29 here? Is she in the United States?
30 SERGEANT SEATON: She currently resides in Seattle.

1 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Ok. Too bad you didn't get a trip to Australia that week.
2 Any questions for Sergeant Seaton? All right. Thank you.

3 SERGEANT SEATON: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I move to approve Resolution 26-002. Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Second?

6 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion? All right, Angie, would you call the roll?

7 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

8 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

9 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

10 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

11 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

12 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

13 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted Resolution No. 26-002.

14 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Next, we have Consideration of Relicensure of Certain Key
15 Person Licensees, Resolution 26-003. Corporal Don Doza, you have the floor.

16 CORPORAL DON DOZA: Good morning, Chairman and Commissioners.

17 I'm Corporal Donald Doza with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

18 Missouri State Highway Patrol Investigators conducted a background investigation updates
19 on Key Person License Renewals. The investigations included an application review as well as civil,
20 criminal and general character inquiries made in the jurisdictions where the applicants currently
21 reside. The following renewals are being presented for your consideration: Ryan Eugene Lounsbury,
22 Affinity Interactive, Vice President and General Manager; William Michael Reeg, Caesars
23 Entertainment, Incorporated, Regional President. Investigative findings were provided to the
24 Missouri Gaming Commission staff for the review, and I will answer any questions you may have.
25 Thank you.

26 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any questions for Corporal Doza?

27 No? All right, thank you.

28 I move to approve Resolution 26-003. Is there a second?

29 COMMISSIONER HANE: Second.

30 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion? Angie, would you call the roll?

1 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

2 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

3 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

4 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

5 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

6 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

7 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted Resolution No. 26-003.

8 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN Next, we'll hear from Deputy General Counsel Tom Venneman
9 again, regarding Consideration of Disciplinary Action for HGI-St. Jo, doing business as St. Jo
10 Frontier Casino, DC-26-004.

11 Mr. Veneman, you have the floor.

12 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Thank you. Good morning again, Chairman
13 and Commissioners. Under Tab F we have a Preliminary Order of Discipline directed at St. Jo
14 Frontier Casino. The proposed discipline arises from a sponsorship agreement between St. Jo
15 Frontier Casino and Missouri Western State University, which is a school that consists of a large
16 population of students under the legal gambling age of 21.

17 On November 2nd of 2024, the casino ran two advertisements which were broadcast during
18 the homecoming football game from Missouri Western. The advertisements invited the audience to
19 the casino for an event, which required patrons to be A-Play Club members to participate. The A-
20 Play Club is a rewards club that allows patrons to earn points and redeem rewards for gambling at
21 the casino.

22 On February 17th of 2025, MGC General Counsel Nikki Evans received an e-mail from an
23 attorney on behalf of an unnamed casino client requesting guidance on a sponsorship agreement
24 being considered by a casino with a Missouri college.

25 On March 5th of 2025, Miss Evans responded and advised that the Commission believes such
26 a sponsorship would be in violation of 11 CSR 45 Chapter 5.053, subsection 3C.

27 Subsequent investigation revealed that on the same day this correspondence was forwarded
28 to the casino and Affinity leadership, including Joshua Carlson, Amy McCane, Donald Wren, Stefane
29 Nichols and Nicholas Fujita.

1 Over two months later, on May 23rd of 2025, MGC was contacted via phone call by casino
2 leadership regarding concerns about advertising their restaurant. It wasn't until a follow up e-mail
3 to that phone conversation that MGC discovered that the casino had entered into a contract with
4 Missouri Western State University on October 19th of 2024, and that the advertisements had
5 already been run. MGC staff further discovered that the outside attorney's e-mail from February of
6 2025 was related to the agreement that had already been signed and was not perspective in nature
7 at the time the e-mail was sent.

8 At no point after learning that the sponsorship agreement would be considered a violation by
9 the Commission did the casino report that the violation had already occurred.

10 The Disciplinary Review Board recommended a \$10,000 fine in this matter. I'm happy to
11 address any questions the Commission may have at this time.

12 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: And just for clarification, there was no response?

13 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: We did not receive a response.

14 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Ok. Other questions for Mr. Venneman?

15 COMMISSIONER HANE: Basically, they were asking for forgiveness rather than
16 permission.

17 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: So, it appears that, they kind of, they
18 realized that perhaps that agreement had been entered into without consulting the MGC first and
19 upon discovering that the Commission would consider that a violation, failed to disclose that
20 violation had already occurred. It wasn't until some further investigation that MGC discovered the
21 contract and the dates entered into and when the advertisements were in fact run.

22 COMMISSIONER HANE: Even after our correspondence?

23 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Even after our correspondence.

24 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: And how much time had elapsed Tom between, they had
25 already done it and then we found out they had done it.

26 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: So the, the agreement was entered into in
27 2024. I believe it was October 19th of 2024.

28 The e-mail that Ms. Evans received that was kind of prodding at that we have, it was an
29 attorney that we weren't familiar with asking a question, a generalized question about whether or
30 not it would be appropriate for a casino to enter a sponsorship agreement with a college in Missouri.

1 At that point, they had already entered that contract. And then on March 5th is when we
2 responded and informed them that we would consider that a violation. And it wasn't until over two
3 months later that we discovered all of that had happened prior.

4 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Ok and had they discontinued then by the time it was
5 discovered?

6 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: There were not any advertisements in the
7 meantime. The football season had ended and basketball season had not yet begun...

8 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Ok.

9 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: ...but those were some.

10 I did have a chance to review the contract and there were, there were other opportunities for
11 advertisements that just had not, there was kind of a dead space for their advertisement there. So,
12 no other, that we know of, no other advertisements were run in that timeframe.

13 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: But advertising a promotion, not a restaurant?

14 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Correct.

15 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: That you would have to be 21 to participate in?

16 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Correct.

17 COMMISSIONER HANE: Age of the student population is under 21?

18 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any other questions for Mr. Venneman? Ok, thank you, Tom.

20 COMMISSIONER HANE: Thank you.

21 DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL VENNEMAN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Ok, I move to approve DC-26-004. Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion?

25 All right, seeing none. Angie, would you call the roll?

26 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

27 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

28 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

29 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

30 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

1 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

2 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted DC-26-004.

3 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Next we have Consideration of Settlement for Bingo Licensee
4 West Plains Elk Lodge, Resolution 26-001-B. General Counsel Nikki Evans will be making that
5 presentation. Good morning, Miss Evans.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL NIKKI EVANS: Thank you. Good morning, Chairman and
7 Commissioners. Nikki Evans, General Counsel.

8 Under Tab F, we have Consideration of Settlement for a Bingo Licensee, the West Plains
9 Elks Lodge #2418.

10 On April 27th, 2024, the Lodge held a fundraising event involving gambling activities in
11 violation of the provisions of Chapter 572 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri and 11 CSR 45-30.270.
12 Specifically, during this event, players purchased chips for cash and used the chips to bet on
13 numerous gambling games, including blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps. forThe players then used
14 their winnings to bid on auction items. The Lodge advertised this event as a Casino Night and, in
15 social media posts promoting the event, noted that it was "gambling time."

16 After investigation, a Notice of Violation was sent to the Lodge on November 18th, 2024. The
17 Missouri Gaming Commission's Bingo Disciplinary Review Board recommended a \$1,000 fine from
18 non-bingo funds. The Lodge has acknowledged the Missouri Gaming Commission's jurisdiction in
19 this matter. While the Lodge neither admits nor denies the allegations, it has agreed to settle this
20 matter for the proposed \$1,000 fine and has agreed to pay that amount pursuant to the terms of the
21 signed Settlement Agreement that was provided to the Commission for review. And I'd be happy to
22 answer any questions that you may have.

23 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any questions for Miss Evans?

24 COMMISSIONER HANE: \$1,000?

25 GENERAL COUNSEL EVANS: Correct, yes. And they did agree to pay that amount.

26 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: I noticed that that fine was directed towards the county. Is
27 that right?

28 GENERAL COUNSEL EVANS: Yes, Howell County, which is where the Bingo Hall is
29 located.

30 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: And those funds go directly to them then?

1 GENERAL COUNSEL EVANS: Yes. yes, the check will be made out to the Howell County
2 Treasurer. So pretty standard as far as the fines are concerned with respect to even casino licensees
3 as well.

4 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Right, right. Any other questions?

5 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: No.

6 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: No questions? All right, thank you, Ms. Evans.

7 GENERAL COUNSEL EVANS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: I move to approve Resolution 26-001-B. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER HANE: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion? Angie, would you call the roll?

11 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

12 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

13 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

14 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

15 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?

16 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.

17 MS. FRANKS: By your vote, you've adopted Resolution No. 26-001-B.

18 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: We are now to the portion of our Agenda designated for public
19 comments per 11 CSR 45-2.010, RSMo. Any written petitions?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE LEARA: Chairman, we have not received any requests to
21 speak to the Commission.

22 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Gosh, that's shocking.

23 That completes all the items on our Agenda. So, I make a motion to adjourn the January
24 29th, 2026 meeting of the Missouri Gaming Commission. Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Second.

26 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Any further discussion? Angie, would you call the roll?

27 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Zimmerman?

28 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: Approved.

29 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hane?

30 COMMISSIONER HANE: Approved.

1 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Spaulding?
2 COMMISSIONER SPAULDING: Approved.
3 MS. FRANKS: We are adjourned.
4 CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMAN: All right, thank you everyone for coming.
5