

Press Release

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GAMING COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ST. LOUIS CASINO PROPOSALS

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri - The Missouri Gaming Commission announced today that it will conduct a meeting on May 24, 2004 to allow local government officials, special interest groups and the general public to comment on the six proposals for new casinos in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and take place at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2344 McKelvey Road. Public officials from St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County will be invited to speak during the morning session. After a lunch break, special interest groups and the general public will be given the opportunity to speak.

The Commission also announced a website that the public can use to register to speak at the meeting. Those groups and persons who pre-register will be assigned a general time slot in which to speak. The Commission urges those wishing to testify to pre-register through the Internet. Persons who wish to speak can find

the website at: <http://www.mgc.dps.mo.gov> and click on the link entitled "Registration Form for Public Meeting on St. Louis Casino Expansion". If time permits, the Commission will hear from those who register the day of the meeting. The Commission asks those sharing similar views to use a spokesperson and address the Commission as a group. All speakers must adhere to time limits assigned to them by the Commission.

The following companies are proposing casino developments: Harrah's (St. Louis County near the Jefferson Barracks Bridge), Isle of Capri (downtown St. Louis City and St. Louis County near the Jefferson Barracks Bridge), Pinnacle Entertainment (downtown St. Louis City and St. Louis County in Lemay) and Riviera (Jefferson County near Barnhart).

The Commission also announced a change in its timeline for a decision on the St. Louis area proposals. Commissioner Jack Gant will undergo hip replacement surgery in May and will be unable to travel for some time. Thus, the Commission now believes a meeting to decide which applicants to select as a priority for investigation will be delayed until early July.

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