

City of Detroit

On November 18, 1996, Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer announced the formation of a 16-person Casino Advisory Committee. The Committee was charged with the task of making recommendations to the Mayor on the implementation of the Act. After conducting public hearings in Detroit and site visits in existing casino states, as well as numerous meetings with gaming regulators and gaming industry leaders, the Committee issued its Report on June 12, 1997. The Committee recommended that the City of Detroit:

- "Cluster" all three casinos in a 100 acre area in Detroit's Central Business District
- Procure project development sites (by eminent domain, if necessary)
- Reject the establishment of temporary casinos
- Require that at least 30% of casino operations staffs be composed of Detroit residents and
- Establish Development Agreement requirements which assure that Detroit residents share in the profits of gaming in Detroit.

On June 23, 1997, Mayor Archer responded to the Committee's Report and issued a Phase One Request for Proposals/Qualifications. He rejected the Committee's "cluster" recommendation and established several areas (including Greektown) where the casinos could be located. (Note: In February 1998, the Mayor announced all three casinos could be located near the east riverfront.) The Mayor left open the issue of temporary casinos. He announced that he wanted at least 50% of casino operations staffs to be composed of Detroit residents. The deadline for submitting proposals was established as August 1, 1997. Eleven casino proposals were submitted, including proposals from several of the major Las Vegas and New Jersey casino companies.

On August 22, 1997, Mayor Archer announced seven semi-finalists in the application process and issued a Phase Two Request for Proposals/Qualifications. In announcing the seven semi-finalists, the Mayor also narrowed the areas where development of casinos could occur and, in addition, rejected the concept of land based temporary casinos, but did state that he would consider temporary river boat casino proposals. Phase Two applications by all seven semi-finalists were filed by the Phase Two filing deadline, October 11, 1997.

On November 20, 1997, the Mayor announced his choice of three proposed casino operators: Atwater/Circus Circus (Detroit Entertainment, LLC); Greektown/Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Greektown Casino, LLC); and MGM Grand (MGM Grand Detroit Casino, LLC).

After the three casino finalists were selected by the Mayor, he entered into Development Agreement negotiations with the three. The Development Agreements were consistent with the Ordinances adopted by the City Council, as well as the Act. Once the Development Agreements were finalized and approved by both the Mayor (3/12/98) and the Detroit City Council (4/9/98), the three casino licensee finalists were able to apply to the MGCB for casino licenses. The Board makes the final decision on all casino license applications.

The MGCB's license approval process is expected to take from four to 12 months, depending upon a variety of licensing and investigatory factors.

While the Mayor's Advisory Committee was performing its assigned task and the Mayor was implementing the Phase One and Phase Two Request for Proposals/Qualifications process, the Detroit City Council (which has ultimate local approval power of the three casino finalist Development Agreements) proceeded by forming a Casino Gaming Ordinance Subcommittee on November 27, 1996.

After extensive work, the City Council adopted a Casino Competitive Development Selection Process Ordinance on June 18, 1997 and a Gaming Enterprise District Ordinance on June 23, 1997. The Mayor's Request for Proposals/Qualifications casino licensee selection process is consistent with these ordinances.

In addition, the City Council is proceeding forward with the development of a comprehensive Casino Regulatory Ordinance.