



MGC Newsletter

JULY 2018

We create and maintain a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law.



MGC prepares for MGM Springfield grand opening in under a month

With under a month to go before the expected opening of MGM Springfield on August 24, 2018, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is in the final stages of ensuring the licensee's compliance to the Expanded Gaming Act and MGC regulations.

On Thursday, August 2, beginning at 12:30pm, MGC will hold an open meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. On the agenda are several items pertaining to MGM Springfield, including:

- MGM Springfield opening traffic plan presentation
- GameSense communications strategy
- MGM Springfield Operations Certificate status presentations
- Determination of final stage of construction
- Approval of MGM Springfield opening for testing and evaluation
- Approval of MGM Springfield compliance with Gaming Law, MGC Regulations, conditions of Gaming License
- Springfield Public Safety/Crime Baseline Report

View the full agenda [here](#).

Inspections

MGC's Gaming Agents have completed preliminary inspections of all 2,500 slot machines at MGM Springfield and have verified they are in their proper locations on the gaming floor. Gaming Agents are now conducting inspections of table games and surveillance.

Employee Licensing

As of July 18, 2018, more than 1,250 employees have been registered or licensed for work at MGM Springfield. This total does not include service employees who are exempt from MGC's registration requirements as a result of recent changes to the Gaming Law.

Tourism Plan

At an open meeting on July 19, 2018, MGC approved MGM Springfield's [Regional Tourism and Marketing Plan](#). Reviewed in consultation with the Greater Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT), the plan shall include, but is not limited to, making space available in the gaming establishment for state and regional tourism information, links on the Designated Licensee's website to the regional tourism council website, a joint marketing program with the regional tourism council and the MOTT, staff training in regards to the plan and the sharing of visitor data with the regional tourism council and the MOTT.



Bottom Left: The GameSense Info Center at MGM Springfield.

Top Left: MGC Gaming Agents inspect slot machines on the MGM Springfield gaming floor.

Right: The entrance to MGM Springfield's South End Market

COMING SOON: A brand new GameSense!

The GameSense Info Center at Plainridge Park Casino is getting a brand new look in time for Responsible Gaming Education Week!

In addition, MGC will soon unveil a brand new GameSenseMA.com, with videos, tips, and quizzes with information on setting budgets, how the games work, and information to take the guesswork out of gambling.

The re-launch of GameSense will occur prior to the opening of MGM Springfield and will be supported with a media campaign.

GameSense is an innovative, proven program designed to help keep gambling safe and fun for all players. Through a combination of education and engagement, the program motivates gamblers to embrace behaviors and attitudes that can reduce the risk of a gambling problem. In the United States and beyond, GameSense is recognized as one of the most robust and effective responsible gaming programs in the world.



Top Left: New GameSense branding

Top Right: Behind the scenes of a video shoot for the new GameSense ad campaign

Bottom Row: The newly-renovated GameSense Info Center at Plainridge Park Casino

Research Update: MGC receives comprehensive evaluation on GameSense program and activities at Plainridge Park Casino

At a public meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on July 26, 2018, researchers from the Cambridge Health Alliance, Division on Addiction presented Commissioners with the 2015-2018 Compendium of four reports describing the Division's evaluation of the GameSense program at Plainridge Park Casino. Among the findings:

- 98% of patrons surveyed who spoke to a GameSense Advisor reported they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the information they received
- 59% reported they learned something new about gambling
- 22% reported they changed how they gamble

Research Update: MGC presents social and economic impact data for first two years of operations at Plainridge Park Casino



MGC recently presented an in-depth report about the overall economic and social impacts of Plainridge Park Casino (PPC) on its host and surrounding communities. The information consists of a comprehensive review of PPC's first two years of operations.

The preliminary research findings are based on a five-year study of the economic and social impacts of Plainridge Park in the host community of Plainville and the surrounding towns of Attleborough, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleborough, and Wrentham. This study, funded and overseen by the MGC, is part of a larger legislatively mandated research agenda to study the effects of expanded gaming in Massachusetts.

Analysis of social impacts:

- **Problem Gambling:** No significant changes in problem gambling have occurred in the host or surrounding communities after the opening of PPC.
- **Public Safety:** No significant impacts on public safety have been identified as attributable to PPC. There was a temporary increase in credit card fraud as well as increased reports in suspicious activity and lost property which is likely attributable to PPC.
- **Attitudes:** There is evidence of a significant change in attitudes toward gambling in the host and surrounding communities.
 - A decrease in the percentage of people who think gambling is not available enough (27%-12%) and increase in the proportion who believes current availability is fine (61%-74%)
 - A decrease in the percentage of people who think that casinos are beneficial to Massachusetts (44%-33%) and increase in the proportion who believe they are neither beneficial or harmful (22%-32%)
- **Population Health:** There is no evidence of any change in population health.
- **Demographics:** There is no evidence that any differences in population or demographic characteristics are due to PPC.
- **Environment:** There is some evidence of environmental impacts from PPC.
 - There were increased noise complaints in Plainville associated with PPC construction, but not its operation.
 - Plainville has experienced increased traffic volume and complaints since PPC's opening.

Analysis of economic impacts:

- **Construction Expenditure:** \$150.2 Million spent by Penn National to build PPC, with 7% spent within Massachusetts.
 - 554 people on construction payroll, with 81% from Massachusetts.
- **Revenue:** Total operating revenue for PPC from 2015-2017 is approximately \$466 Million.
 - \$4 Million spent by patrons in 2016 on food, retail, shopping and other amenities in the local area as part of their visit to PPC.
 - PPC patron survey indicates the most significant source of revenue is recaptured from Mass residents who would have gambled out of state, if not for PPC. 58% or \$100 Million of revenue was repatriated spending.
- **Operational Expenses:** \$129.5 Million incurred in operational expenses in PPC's first year, with 7% spent in Mass.
- **Operational Employment:** PPC employee survey finds a significant portion of jobs are "new" jobs as 5% of people were unemployed and 34.7% were employed part-time before being hired. PPC employs approximately 500 people.

MGC releases updated list of job positions at MGM Springfield and Plainridge Park Casino exempt from registration requirements

Most job positions at casinos require the applicant to get licensed by, or register with MGC. As the result of a recent change in the gaming law that allows for increased eligibility, there are now some exempt positions for jobs under the "Gaming Service Employee" category.



- [View MGM Springfield exempt positions](#)
- [View Plainridge Park Casino exempt positions](#)

MGC grant leads to meaningful programs and results for small businesses, job seekers in Hampshire County

In April 2018, MGC awarded approximately \$75,000 in grants to six recipients statewide as part of an ongoing effort to aid the advancement of economic development. MGC's Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development Office developed this grant program to maximize equity, opportunity, and inclusion within the emerging gaming industry.



The [Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation \(QVDC\)](#) applied for and received a grant of \$7,722.00 from MGC. The QVDC is utilizing the funds to support business vendor opportunities and workforce development specifically for those interested in pursuing the many opportunities available with MGM Springfield. Jobs training and relevant courses are available at the Education to Employment Learning Center (E2E) in Ware, MA. The center, a collaboration between Holyoke Community College and the QVDC, provides Hampshire County residents and small business owners with training aimed at strengthening job skills and workforce readiness.

Colleen Nadeau is a Monson resident and owns a local bakery, [Creative Cakes by Colleen](#). Nadeau had completed most of the licensing steps necessary to become an eligible vendor to MGM Springfield with one exception; she had not completed the required ServSafe training and certification due to the program's cost. She was delighted to learn of the free class (made possible by the MGC grant) offered by the QVDC at E2E. Nadeau took the course and passed her ServSafe test! She is now certified and ready to sell her delicious, locally-made cupcakes and cake pops at MGM's soon-to-be-open South End Market.

Plainridge Park Casino Revenue Report

The month of June 2018 at Plainridge Park Casino generated \$14,858,491.45 in Gross Gaming Revenue. The category 2 slots-parlor is taxed on 49% of gross gaming revenue, of that total taxed amount 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% goes to the Race Horse Development Fund. To date, the state has collected \$242,222,236.43 in total state taxes and racehorse assessments from Plainridge Park Casino since its June 24, 2015 opening.



Fair Deal

Regulatory compliance is critical to the public's confidence in the Massachusetts gaming industry. Ensuring that all gaming activity is fair and ethical requires your assistance.

Do you have concerns or personal knowledge about unethical behavior or suspected violations of the Massachusetts gaming law or regulations? Tips are confidential and you may remain anonymous.

- Integrity Tip Line: 1.844.303.TIPS (8477)
- Send an Email: FairDeal@state.ma.us
- Online: massgaming.com/fairdeal



Table Games Rules

MGC has approved new and updated rules for the following table games:

- Baccarat – Chemin De Fer
- Baccarat – Midibaccarat
- Baccarat – Minibaccarat
- Blackjack
- Blackjack Switch
- Caribbean Stud Poker
- Casino War
- Chase the Flush
- Crazy 4 Poker
- DJ Wild Stud Poker
- Double Down Stud
- Four Card Poker
- Free Bet Blackjack
- Heads Up Hold
- Let it Ride Poker
- Mississippi Stud
- Poker
- Red Dog
- Roulette
- Spanish 21
- Texas Hold 'Em Bonus Poker
- Three Card Poker
- Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em



- DJ Wild Card Stud Poker
- Zappit Blackjack

Only games authorized by the Commission may be offered for play in a gaming establishment.

[VIEW ALL TABLE GAMES RULES](#)

IN THE NEWS

New England Public Radio: [Fueled by casino construction, campaign encourages women in join building trades](#)

22News: [Surrounding communities preparing for MGM Springfield's grand opening](#)

MassLive: [MGM Springfield launches advertising campaign featuring city skyline, Memorial Bridge](#)

MassLive: [As casino opening looms, MGM Springfield on course to meet hiring goals for diversity, Springfield residents](#)

MassLive: [MGM Springfield to showcase art inspired by local, regional themes](#)

New England Public Radio: [MGM says it's exceeding diversity goals in construction workforce](#)

Western Mass News: [Springfield police preparing for MGM Springfield's opening](#)

HarnessLink: [North America's top drivers call Plainridge home](#)

Cape Cod Times: [Gaming commission to discuss reconsideration of Brockton casino proposal](#)



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Constant Contact 

Try it free today