1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2	CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
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4	
5	SPECIAL/PUBLIC MEETING NO. 22-07-27
6	WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022
	10:30 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.
7	IN RE: The Plenary Qualification of
8	OCR Investment, LLC as a Holding Company of AC Ocean Walk, LLC
9	as a Holding Company of
10	casino licensee AC Ocean Walk, LLC (PRN 1762101, 3082101)
11	
12	
13	Wednesday, July 27, 2022
	Atlantic City Commission Offices
14	Joseph P. Lordi Public Meeting Room - First Floor
15	Tennessee Avenue and Boardwalk
16	
17	10:30 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.
18	Certified Court Reporter, Ronda L. Reinstein
19	
20	RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES
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23	HAMILTON SQUARE, NEW JERSEY 08690
24	TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652
25	www.RLResources.com No. 415286

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BEFORE:
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  CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
     JAMES T. PLOUSIS, CHAIR
 3
    ALISA COOPER, VICE CHAIR
     JOYCE MOLLINEAUX, COMMISSIONER
 4
  PRESENT FOR THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION:
 5
     DARYL W. NANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST, OPRA
     CUSTODIAN
 6
  OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:
 7
     DIANNA W. FAUNTLEROY, GENERAL COUNSEL/EXECUTIVE
     SECRETARY
 8
  DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT:
 9
    DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
10
    SARA BEN DAVID, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
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1	I N D E X					
2	WITNESS		SWORN	TESTIMONY		
3	BRUCE DALL,		19			
1	President,					
4	OCR Investmand OCRM, I	•				
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	Direct Exan Ms. Kaufmar			19		
	Ms. Kaulmai Cross-Exami			29		
-	Ms. Ben Day	_		2 3		
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	JOHN POLICI Executive \	•	38			
9	President,					
10	and Secreta	ary,				
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	and OCRM, I Direct Exam			38		
	Ms. Kaufmar			30		
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	Cross-Exami	-		5 5		
	Ms. Ben Dav Commissione					
10	Vice Chair			60		
16	Commissione	er Mollinea	ux	71		
17	Vice Chair	Plousis		78		
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22		Dated June On the ple	nary qualification	n		
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23		Holding Co				
24		AC Ocean W	атк, шьс			
	P-1	Power Poin	t Presentation	5 10		
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                MR. NANCE: Good morning.
                                            I'd like to
2
  read an opening statement.
3
                This is to advise the general public that
  in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of
  1975 entitled the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
  Meetings Act," the New Jersey Casino Control
  Commission on July 20th, 2022, filed with the
8 Secretary of State at the State House in Trenton a
9 notice of this hearing. On July 20, 2022, copies were
10 mailed to subscribers.
11
                Members of the press will be permitted to
12 take photographs. We ask that this be done in a
13 manner which is not disruptive or distracting to the
14 Commission.
15
                The use of cell phones in the Public
16 Meeting Room is prohibited. Any member of the public
17 who wishes to address the Commission will be given the
18 opportunity to do so before the Commission adjourns
19 for the day.
20
                Please stand for the Pledge of
21 Allegiance.
22
                 (Wherein the Pledge of Allegiance is
23 recited.)
24
                CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Good morning.
  to welcome everyone who are with us in person as well
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6 8 1 as those listening remotely. MR. SCHRIER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman 2 and Commissioners. Stephen D. Schrier of the Law Firm 2 In this Special Meeting, all meeting of Blank Rome on behalf of AC Ocean Walk, LLC and also participants and witnesses are present in the 3 4 Commission's Public Meeting Room. We are, however, Luxor Capital Group. 5 5 streaming this meeting and will continue to stream all CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. 6 of our public meetings. The public is able to listen 6 MR. SCHRIER: Good morning. 7 through access provided on the Commission's website as CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: At our October 14, well as through our YouTube channel. 8 2021 public meeting, we considered and granted the request of OCR Investment, LLC for Interim Casino We will accept public comments via 10 email. Public comments can be sent to 10 Authorization and related rulings to permit -- to permit and to complete a transaction whereby OCR 11 public.comments@ccc.nj.gov. I'll repeat that. Public 12 comments can be sent to public.comments@ccc.nj.gov, Investment would make \$175 million investment and 13 beginning now and anytime throughout the meeting, acquire a significant indirect ownership interest in a 14 ending at the time of adjournment. casino licensee AC Walk -- AC Ocean Walk, LLC, which 15 This meeting is being transcribed as well 15 does business as Ocean Casino Resort. 16 as recorded, and minutes will be available on our 16 The Interim Casino Authorization extends 17 website in due course. for nine months, a nine-month period, which the 18 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Good morning. Please 18 Commission may extend. 19 answer when I call your name for the roll, please. 19 At our July 7th, 2022 public meeting, the 20 Commissioner Mollineaux? 20 Commission extended the Interim Casino Authorization 21 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Present. 2.1 period to permit the matter to be heard today. 22 22 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Vice Chair Cooper? The Casino Control Act requires that the 23 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Present. 23 Commission determine whether OCR Investment and 24 MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis? 24 related entities as well as those individuals 25 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Present. 25 designated as qualifiers or key qualifiers have 9 MS. FAUNTLEROY: The matter on our agenda 1 established by clear and convincing evidence that they 2 for consideration today is the plenary qualification 2 meet the standards set forth in the Act for plenary of OCR Investment, LLC, as a Holding Company of the qualifications. 4 casino licensee AC Ocean Walk. It's Petition Number To guide us in that determination, we 5 1762101 and Petition Number 3082101. 5 will take testimony from witnesses and consider the Mr. Chairman, with your pleasure, the presentations of counsel. 6 6 7 Before we begin, I understand that there 7 matter can proceed. 8 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. 8 are two exhibits -- two exhibits that have been 9 Counsel, can your enter your names -premarked. Mr. Nance. your appearances on the record, please? 10 MR. NANCE: Chair, Commissioners, the 10 MS. KAUFMAN: Lynne Kaufman, Cooper premarked exhibits are as follows. The Division of 11 11 12 Levenson, for OCR Investment. 12 Gaming Enforcement submitted one exhibit premarked as 13 MR. LEVENSON: Lucas Levenson of Cooper D-1. D-1 is the report of the Division of Gaming 14 Levenson for OCR Investment as well. 14 Enforcement dated June 24, 2022, on the plenary MS. BEN DAVID: And Sara Ben David, qualification of OCR Investment, LLC, as a holding 16 Deputy Attorney General, on behalf of the New Jersey 16 company of AC Ocean Walk, LLC. 17 Division of Gaming Enforcement. 17 The petitioner submitted one exhibit premarked as P-1. P-1 is a Power Point. 18 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Mr. Chairman, I will 18 19 19 note that at the ICA proceeding, the Commission did Those are the exhibits that were 20 grant the motion for AC Ocean Walk to intervene. So I 20 submitted. 21 would ask that counsel for AC Ocean Walk enter their 21 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. 22 appearance. They need not participate in the 22 Ms. Kaufman, do you want to be heard on 23 proceeding verbally, but to have them enter their 23 that, on the ceiling? MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. I have nothing -- I 24 appearances on the record, counsel's appearance on the 24 25 filed papers which stand for themselves. And I 25 record.

1 respectfully request the Commission to grant the

2 ceiling request.

3 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. Division?

MS. BEN DAVID: Thank you, Chairman. I'd

5 like to move the Division's report into evidence at

6 this time. As indicated by Mr. Nance, it's been

7 premarked as D-1.

8 With respect to ceiling, Counsel for the

9 applicant as well as Commission staff have been

10 advised of the Division's position. The Division is

11 not interposing a formal objection and leaves the

12 ceiling matter to the discretion of the Commission to

13 decide. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you.

15 Commissioners, are there any questions

16 with regard to the ceiling request?

17 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: No.

18 VICE CHAIR COOPER: No.

19 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Hearing none, if there

20 is nothing further, I move Exhibits D-1 and P-1 into

21 evidence, granting Petitioner's ceiling request with

22 respect to D-1. Is there a second?

23 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I'll

24 make the second.

25 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Any further

1 the Division's report to show -- to obviously show you

2 why this OCR Investment should be plenarily qualified,

3 but instead of the Division telling us that our report

4 was overly optimistic, in the Division report, they

5 expressed that the forecasts were conservative. And

6 I'm very pleased to be presenting this today starting

7 with a conservative forecast.

8 As we said, we represent OCR Investment,

9 which is the indirect 50-percent owner of Ocean. OCR

10 Investment is owned through trust by the Ilitch

11 family. Marian Ilitch is very pleased with this

12 ownership and that Ocean has been added to her other

13 extensive family holdings, which we spoke about last

14 time and will refresh your recollection of.

15 In order to become an indirect owner of

16 Ocean, OCR Investment requested and was granted, as

17 you stated, ICA authorization on October 14, subject

18 to certain conditions, which we'll discuss later and

19 which we -- have been lifted, most of them. Those

20 conditions were in place due to the history of Ocean

21 prior to the time of Luxor's ownership.

22 As part of the ICA process, an ICA trust

23 was established to hold the indirect interests of

24 Ocean during the ICA process. And we appointed, and

25 the Commission approved, Bill Murtha to manage the ICA

11

1 discussion?

2 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

3 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Opposed? Ayes have

5 it.

6 Are there any other procedural matters to

7 be brought to our attention at this time?

8 Hearing none, we'll begin with the

9 opening statements.

10 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. Thank you,

11 Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

On March 26, 2012, I stood here and asked

13 the Commission to grant a casino license to Revel

14 Entertainment Group for the casino that is now known

15 as Ocean.

While the license was granted, at that

17 hearing, the Division expressed concerns about the

18 optimism of the forecast. They found them to be a

19 little too optimistic. There is definitely no need to

20 discuss that any further, nor is there a need to21 discuss the too many proceedings that had to happen

22 that Counsel -- and I will speak for Mr. Schrier, who

23 was involved in many of those proceedings -- all

24 counsel involved would rather forget.

25 Instead, we are here today to say that

1 trust at that time.

2 OCR Investment's purchase of 50 percent

3 of the equity of Ocean closed on November 24th, 2021.

4 On that same day, a management agreement between Ocean

5 and OCRM was entered into for OCRM to become the

6 manager of Ocean. Today, we are seeking plenary

7 qualification of OCR Investment in order to be a

8 casino holding company, pursuant to Section 84 and

9 Section 85.1 of the Casino Control Act.

10 Before I go any further, I am pleased to

1 say I'm very pleased to be here in person. And I'm

12 especially pleased that we have representatives of

13 Ocean also here in person. And if I may introduce

14 them. And I'm going to ask each one of them to stand

15 up, as they are certainly part of -- a good part of

16 the success of the property that you're going to hear

17 about.

18 So I will start with Bill Callahan. Bill

19 is the General Manager of the property.

20 Next we have Kelly Burke, who is Senior

21 Vice President of Marketing. She's the Chief

22 Marketing Officer of the property.

We have Joe Muscat, Chief Legal Officer,

24 Senior Vice President of the property.

25 And we have Betty Parker, who is our

13

13

1 Chief Compliance Officer. Thank you. I'll let you

2 sit.

4

11

3 MR. SCHRIER: One more.

MS. KAUFMAN: See, I knew I was going to

5 forget somebody. I always forget somebody.

6 Laura Pallotto. I'm talking about how

7 well we're doing financially and I forgot to introduce

8 the Chief Financial Officer, Betty Parker. And I know

I said her name wrong again. Laura Pallotto. Can I

10 leave now? All right.

In order to be granted plenary

12 qualification as a holding company, OCR must prove

13 that it meets the standards for qualification under

14 the Casino Control Act. And there are several

15 elements I'll briefly run by.

6 They must maintain the appropriate

17 financial stability, integrity and responsibility

18 under the Act. They must possess the requisite good

19 character, honesty and integrity. They must have a

20 sufficient level of business ability and casino

21 experience to operate and maintain a successful and

22 efficient casino. And then all the natural person

23 qualifiers must meet the standards of the Act.

You have the Division's report on the

25 qualification of OCR Investment and its qualifiers.

1 casino experience to establish the likelihood of

2 maintaining a successful and efficient casino

3 operation. And of course, individual qualifiers also

4 must be qualified.

5 These criteria must be proven by clear

6 and convincing evidence, as the Chairman indicated in

7 his opening remarks.

8 Originally, OCR was to make an investment

9 of up to \$175 million and acquire an indirect interest

10 of up to 50 percent in OC Ocean. Also, OCRM, LLC, an

11 affiliate of OCR, was to become the new casino manager

12 of Ocean Casino Resort.

For the investment and the management

14 agreement to proceed, certain steps were necessary.

15 First, the ownership structure of AC Ocean had to be

16 reorganized, which required new entities to be formed

17 and qualified. Those entities included Ocean Casino

18 Resort Holdings, LLC and New Ten Re, LLC. They were

19 found qualified on September 15th, 2021.

20 Second, to implement the new management

21 arrangement, the Management Agreement had to be

22 approved and a determination had to be made about the

 $23 \ \ licensure\ status\ of\ OCRM,\ LLC.\ \ The\ Management$

24 Agreement was approved on September 21st, 2021, and a

25 determination was made on the same date that OCRM, LLC

15

1 And it is recommending qualification, which brings us

2 here today.

3 In order to provide more detail and to

4 prove by clear and convincing evidence that we should

5 get plenary qualification, I will be calling two

6 people I did not introduce yet, who you have met on

7 Zoom and you are going to meet by testimony today.

8 And that is Mr. Bruce Dall and Mr. John Policicchio.

9 So thank you.

10

CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Division?

11 MS. BEN DAVID: Good morning again,

12 Chairman and Commissioners.

For the Commission's consideration today

14 is the plenary qualification of OCR Investment, LLC,

15 or OCR, as a holding company for AC Ocean Walk, LLC,

16 which operates Ocean Casino Resort.

OCR must meet the criteria set forth in

18 Section 84 of the Casino Control Act to be found

19 qualified as a casino holding company.

Ms. Kaufman stated the standard

21 correctly. First, OCR must demonstrate that it

22 possesses financial stability, integrity and

23 responsibility. Second, it must show that it has good

24 character, honesty and integrity. Finally, it must

25 show that it has sufficient business ability and

1 would need to seek a Casino Service Industry

2 Enterprise License.

Finally, to acquire its equity interest

4 within the new structure, OCR needed to obtain ICA.

5 As indicated by the Chairman and Ms. Kaufman, at the

6 conclusion of a two-day hearing on October 14th, 2021,

7 ICA was granted to OCR in order for it to consummate

8 the transaction by which it obtained an indirect

9 interest in Ocean Casino Resort.

On November 24th, 2021, the transaction

11 proceeded at one closing rather than two, as

12 originally planned, and the transaction closed on that

13 date.

On the same date, Ocean closed on a

15 revised term loan with its lender, JPMorgan. The new

16 loan was used in part to fund a 463-room expansion of

17 Ocean's hotel, which I'm sure we'll hear more about

18 today.

19 Through the ICA trust arrangement, OCR

20 currently holds a 50-percent indirect interest in

21 AC Ocean. It is here today seeking plenary

qualification, and it may then hold that interestdirectly rather than through the trust arrangement.

24 The Division has completed its

25 investigation of OCR and its affiliates, which must

17

- 1 qualify as additional holding companies. The
- 2 Division's investigation included an updated financial
- 3 analysis of Ocean, including a review of the impact of
- 4 the transaction, the hotel room project, and long-term
- 5 debt as well as an analysis of Ocean's financial
- 6 forecasts.
- 7 The Division's investigation is
- 8 summarized in a report dated June 24th, 2022, which
- 9 has been entered into evidence as Exhibit D-1.
- 10 Separate reports have been filed
- 11 regarding six individuals required to qualify,
- 12 including Marian Ilitch and her son Christopher
- 13 Ilitch.
- 14 Today the Commission will hear testimony
- 15 and arguments of counsel, which together with the
- 16 Division's report will allow it to evaluate whether
- 17 OCR meets the requirements of the Act. The Division
- 18 is prepared to proceed with today's hearing. Thank
- 19 you.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you.
- 21 Ms. Kaufman, please call your first
- 22 witness.
- 23 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. Bruce Dall. Yes, I
- 24 forgot to warn him.
- 25 MR. DALL: Good morning.

- 1 MotorCity Casino. I'm President of OCRM, Ocean
- 2 Casino Resorts Management. Those are really the two
- 3 positions I hold.
- 4 Q. Okay. And do you have a position with
- 5 OCRH?
- 6 A. Yeah. As part of our partnership with
- 7 Luxor, there's a management board. Both John and I
- 8 are on that four-person management board. Luxor has
- 9 the two other positions on that board.
- 10 Q. Okay, thank you. And can you give us a
- 11 little background? How long have you been at
- 12 MotorCity? What did you do before that?
- 13 A. I've been doing this for almost 34 years
- 14 in the gaming industry. I started in 1988 with
- 15 Caesars Palace as a Senior Internal Auditor. I spent
- 16 time in Lake Tahoe, which was pretty nice. Also with
- 17 The Desert Inn as their comptroller. Eventually
- 18 moved to the Hard Rock in Las Vegas from '96 to '99.
- 19 In 1999, I moved to Detroit to open
- 20 Greektown Casino. I spent 7-and-a-half years there.
- 21 Left in 2006 to move to MotorCity Casino, and I've
- 22 been there for the last 16 years. It's a good thing
- 23 I started when I was nine, so I look a lot older than 24 am.
 - O. As we talked about last time, Marian and

19

25

- CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Mr. Nance, will you
- 2 swear in the witness, please?
- 3 MS. KAUFMAN: I said I forgot to warn
- 4 you.

1

- 5 MR. DALL: There?
- 6 MS. KAUFMAN: Please sit.
- 7 MR. NANCE: Mr. Dall, please raise your
- 8 right hand.
- 9 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
- 10 truth, and nothing but the truth?
- 11 MR. DALL: I do.
- MR. NANCE: Please state your name for
- 13 the record.
- 14 MR. DALL: Bruce Dall.
- 15 MR. NANCE: Thank you.
- 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. KAUFMAN:
- 17 Q. Welcome to Atlantic City. Welcome to
- 18 the Casino Control Commission.
- 19 Could you tell us what your current
- 20 positions are both with respect to Ocean and in your
- 21 other job?
- A. Sure. First, actually I'd like to thank
- 23 Sara, the Division and the Commission for all their
- 24 efforts in this process. Thank you.
- 25 My current position is President of

- 1 Michael Ilitch founded Little Caesars in 1959, the
- 2 first pizzeria, and grew it from there, and the
- 3 Ilitch family still has ownership, full ownership.
- 4 They also have other significant holdings in the
- 5 food, sports and entertainment industries.
- 6 Could you talk -- give some highlights
- 7 about the large investments in that segment?
- 8 A. Sure. They grew one store into, I
- 9 think, well over 15,000 Little Caesars outlets across
- 10 the world now. They also own the Red Wings and the
- 11 Detroit Tigers. They own Blue Line, which is
- 12 actually a supplier to Little Caesars restaurants
- 13 across the world. They also have Olympia
- 14 Entertainment, which operates the Little Caesars
- 15 Arena, Comerica Park, the iconic Fox Theater, and
- 16 they're 50/50 partners in a company called 313
- 17 Presents, which books over 300 shows in the various
- 18 venues that they have across the Detroit or Southern
- 19 Michigan market, and then of course MotorCity Casino.
- Q. Okay, thank you. You mentioned your
- 21 role, after I asked, on the board managers of OCR
- 22 holdings. And you did mention that you and John were
- 23 two of the managers, and then there are two Luxor
- 24 managers.
- 25 Can you explain how that works? Is it

21

1 equal? How does the voting work?

- A. Sure. Yeah, through their 50-percent
- 3 control of OCR holdings, they have two members on the
- 4 board, Mike Conboy and Norris Nissim sits on that
- 5 board with John Policicchio and myself.
- 6 Today, we keep them updated on a regular
- 7 and ongoing basis. We've had two formal board
- 8 meetings since we -- since our initial approval, and
- 9 it's gone very well. Again, they appreciate, I
- 10 think, what we bring to the table from a casino
- 11 background, and they're very happy with their
- 12 investment and what's happened.
- 13 Q. And you keep in touch with them between
- 14 meetings?
- 15 A. Yeah, absolutely. We have regular
- 16 weekly contact with them to keep them up-to-date. I
- 17 do believe they actually get daily reports as well of
- 18 the success of the -- financial success of the
- 19 company.
- Q. Okay. So in that capacity you're an
- 21 owner representative, but you also have a position on
- 22 OCRM. So how does that fit together? And then I
- 23 know you have a very strong executive team that, you
- 24 know, has contributed to the success of the property,
- 25 that many of them are here today. How does that all

1 million went back to Luxor as part of their equity

24

25

- 2 investment in the property. And then the remainder
- 3 of it was used for fees and expenses.
- 4 Q. Okay. So you talked about repaying
- 5 debt. And Sara and you just mentioned the
- 6 JPMorgan loan.
- 7 So with all of that, how -- was the debt
- 8 reduced?
- 9 A. Yeah. So in 2020, the debt was roughly
- 10 at \$225 million. At the end of 2021, it was down to
- 11 \$118 million. So a significant portion got paid off.
- We did borrow basically \$185 million
- 13 from JPMorgan at the same time. Ninety of that was
- 4 used to repay debt as well, or part of the debt
- 15 process. So there was \$90 million of the 118 was
- 16 directly related to JPMorgan. We've started drawing
- 17 -- we also had 495 million available. Seventy of it
- 18 was originally earmarked for the hotel tower rooms.19 We've now expanded that to \$75 million. And we're
- 1) We've now expanded that to \$75 minion. This we've
- 20 also going to use the incremental \$25 million. So a
- 21 total of \$95 million for capital projects during this
- 22 year and the start of next year.
- Q. And how much have you drawn down so far
- 24 on that -- the 70, now 95?
- A. So of the 95, we've drawn about \$50

- 1 work?
- A. Sure. John and I really are a resource
- 3 for the team. We do have an excellent team led by
- 4 Bill Callahan.
- 5 We also monitor the daily -- what
- 6 happens daily on the property. We listen in on
- 7 almost all the construction meetings. Obviously with
- 8 building all 463 rooms, as we come in, we're in busy
- 9 season, we want to finish them and get them occupied.
- 10 That's really taken up the lion's share of our time.
- But we monitor daily what happens. We
- 12 have monthly financial reviews. Again, we
- 13 participate in whatever meetings and really look from
- 14 a strategic standpoint on where we want to go in the
- 15 future.
- 16 Q. Okay. So now switching from your
- 17 manager role back to the owner role. As you have
- 18 heard, and as you knew obviously before you heard
- 19 this today, OCR Investment paid \$175 million for a
- 20 50-percent indirect interest in Ocean.
- 21 How has that money been used?
- A. So when we closed -- and I think Sara
- 23 mentioned -- we also did the loan with JPMorgan at
- 24 the same time. But the \$175 million was really about
- 25 \$100 million was used to repay debt. \$54

- 1 million of it down as of June 30th.
 - Q. And so you mentioned, but I want you to
 - 3 confirm, because I think it is worth emphasizing,
 - 4 that the debt was about \$224 million, and at year end
 - 5 2020 and at year end 2021, it was hundred -- about
 - 6 \$118 million?
 - 7 A. Correct.
 - 8 Q. Okay. All right. So a significant
 - 9 decrease in debt.
 - 10 You talked about the hotel rooms. But
 - 11 you're borrowing money and it's expanded. Could you
 - 12 talk about some of the -- more specifically some of
 - 13 the other projects? I know some of them have been
 - 14 completed that we're going to see pictures later of
 - 15 other projects that that money has gone towards.
 - 16 A. Sure. I mean, the main one -- actually
 - 17 John's going to take you on a virtual tour of kind of
 - 18 the whole property so you get a feel, including what
 - 19 the room -- the room project that we have underway
 - 20 looks like.
 - 21 Specifically, we've spent about
 - 22 \$5 million to redo what we call The Center Bar. It's
 - 23 called The Gallery Bar, Book and Games now. We've
 - 24 added a gigantic center bar. I think there's
 - 25 approximately 12 or 14 table games in there now, as

- 1 well as the screens that were left over from the
- 2 sportsbook. So we took what I would consider a dead
- space in sportsbook, because sportsbooks generally
- are empty unless there's games going on -- so only at
- 5 night would you get some people -- and turned it into
- 6 really one of the best center bars probably in all of
- Atlantic City.
- Q. Okay. Well, we've obviously touched 8
- about capital expenditures. And one of the elements
- 10 to prove financial stability is the ability to make
- 11 all necessary capital and maintenance expenditures
- 12 timely adequate to ensure maintenance of a superior
- 13 first class facility.
- 14 A casino licensee is presumed to meet
- 15 that standard if its capital and maintenance
- 16 expenditures over a five-year period, including the
- 17 most recent three calendar years and then going
- 18 forward to calendar years, of at least 5 percent of
- 19 their net revenue.
- 20 Now, it sounds to me that you have met
- 21 the standard, but I would like to ask you on the
- 22 record. Do you believe that you are meeting that
- standard and can claim that presumption?
- A. Certainly. With the \$100 million that
- 25 we're investing this year, we're at 10 percent. I

- 1 it's a top priority for you in Michigan.
- Can you just update us on your
- compliance efforts and new hires?
 - Sure, sure.
- 5 Yeah. Because I keep talking about her
- 6 instead of Laura so...
- A. Certainly. I mean, there's clearly no
- 8 upside in the casino business to not be compliant.
- Our focus certainly in Michigan -- and we've had a
- long-term relationship with the Michigan Gaming
- Control Board in working with them to make sure that 11
- we do exactly what we're supposed to do.
- 13 So far we've attended both the
- 14 compliance and audit committee meetings that are
- established for Ocean Casino Resorts in person, 15
- because we thought it was that important. And
- actually I'll be back next week myself to attend the
- next meeting of both the compliance and audit
- 19 committees.
- 20 We were lucky enough and had the
- 21 opportunity and coaxed Betty Parker to come out of
- 22 retirement to work with us. I think the Division and
- 23 Commission are familiar with Betty.
- 24 She's working on a full review of all
- 25 our procedures across the whole resort to make sure

27

- 1 think the requirement is 5 percent. So we're double
- that. And with this \$100 million going forward, we
- still anticipate probably some restaurant operating.
- 4 So we'll still be spending \$25 to \$30 million a year.
- Q. Okay. So speaking of finances, the
- 6 projections that were used for the ICA, which were from April of 2021, showed projected EBITDA at the
- end of 2021 of \$39.9 million. And in 2021, that
- ended up being \$86.1 million.
- 10 When do you expect going forward can we 11 expect that? Kind of optimistic?
- A. I'd love to tell you we can keep growing 12
- 13 at that rate, but that's pretty hard.
- 14 It's a little hard?
- 15 It's a little hard. No. Again, just
- 16 per example what the team has been able to accomplish
- 17 here. I think on a go forward basis for 2022, as we
- 18 spent the time and energy on the rooms, we'll likely
- 19 see some improvements maybe in the \$90 to \$100
- 20 million range.
- Which already well exceeds the forecast 21
- 22 that the Division has for the 2022 revenue, correct?
- 23 Correct.
- 24 You mentioned at the ICA hearing a
- 25 commitment to compliance with regulations. I know

1 that we are in compliance and we have a plan to stay

29

- in compliance across again the property.
- 3 Q. And do those compliance efforts and
- policies include responsible gaming?
- A. Of course. I mean, we're AGA members,
- American Gaming Association members in Michigan. 6
- We've been able to use that resource at Ocean.
- 8 Certainly we're -- that's one of the top procedures
- we're taking a look at, at how we can augment,
- supplement and improve that process. 10
- 11 MS. KAUFMAN: Okay, thank you. No
- further questions. 12
- 13 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. Division,
- 14 your witness.

- MS. BEN DAVID: Thank you.
- 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BEN DAVID:
- 17 Q. So I'm just going to review some of the
- numbers that we've been throwing around. 18
- 19 So has OCR Investment, LLC purchased and
- currently holds through the ICA trust a 50-percent 2.0
- 21 ownership interest -- indirect interest in Ocean
- 22 Casino Resort, right?
- 23 Correct.
- 24 Q. Okay. And the amount of purchase was
- 25 \$175 million, right?

1 A. Correct.

4

- Q. And the purchase closed on
- 3 November 24th, 2021, right?
 - A. Correct.
- 5 O. And on the same date that the investment
- 6 closed, we've mentioned that Ocean also closed on a
- 7 new loan with its lender, JPMorgan?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And the amount of that new loan was
- 10 \$185 million, of which \$90 million, I believe you
- 11 said, was borrowed at closing, correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. Which was used to, I believe you said,
- 14 repay debt?
- 15 A. Correct.
- O. So as a result of the new loan
- 17 arrangement, did Ocean's annual debt service
- 18 decrease?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. You also mentioned the hotel expansion
- 21 project, right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And that project consists of 463 new
- 24 rooms, right?
- A. Correct.

- 1 a week. We're up to, I think, seven floors
- 2 completed. We have five left. Hopefully by the end
- 3 of August, with a floor a week coming online.
 - Again, it's just been supply chain and
- 5 getting deliveries of FF&E. Hard to rent a room
- 6 without a bed in it so...
- 7 Q. So you have seven floors completed, you
- 8 said?

10

- 9 A. Correct.
 - Q. And so how many rooms is that?
- 11 A. See, it's a mix. We have three floors
- 12 of suites and nine floors of regular rooms. So I
- 13 know there's one floor of suites complete. I don't
- 14 know. I guess -- well, I mean, round numbers would
- 15 be -- if you cut it in half, would be about 230 rooms
- 16 are online.
- 17 Q. On direct you talked about \$25 million
- 18 in additional capital projects. Do you want to
- 19 elaborate on what those other improvements would
- 20 consist of?
- A. Some of it was spent this year for
- 22 updating the casino. We've added the pathways. Last
- 23 year we finished the upgrades to the -- The Cove was
- 24 actually the high limit pit area was 2020. We moved
- 25 the high limit pit area in July of 2021. We also

31

- 1 added the -- and John's got this in his -- in his
 - 2 tour. On the 44th floor, there's a private gaming
 - 3 salon that we use as well. That finished last year.
 - 4 But this year, a little more -- about
 - 5 \$5 to \$6 million will be for The Center Bar of the
 - 6 \$25 million. And, again, there will be some
 - 7 additional purchases throughout the rest of the year
 - 8 that will -- we probably won't use the full \$25
 - 9 million. But as we look at next year in updating
 - 10 some of our restaurants, we likely may have the
 - 11 ability to draw that down.
 - 12 Q. So I feel compelled to ask the financial
 - 13 forecast question. I haven't been -- you know, I
 - 14 wasn't the attorney assigned to Revel. I'm not
 - 15 familiar with -- personally familiar with all of that
 - 16 history. But I've been assigned to Ocean for quite
 - 17 some time. And I'm sure you're aware of the
 - 18 financial history of the property. So I'm going to
 - 19 ask.

22

25

- You've reviewed the forecasts that Ocean
- 21 submitted to the Division, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you believe they're achievable?
- 24 A. Yes.
 - Q. On direct you also spoke a bit about the

O. I believe the initial estimate for the

- 2 that project was \$70 million. But you just testified
- 3 that the current estimate is \$75 million. Do I have
- 4 that right?

6

- 5 A. That's correct, yes.
 - Q. And the funding for that project is
- 7 still expected to come from draws on the new
- 8 JPMorgan loan, right?
- 9 A. It has.
- 10 Q. Can you clarify what you believe --
- 11 what will be the anticipated impact of that
- 12 additional room capacity?
- 13 A. We expect that it could mean as much as
- 14 \$10 million in cash flow on an annual basis.
- 15 Q. So in terms of dates and objectives, at
- 16 the ICA proceeding I recall you testified that you
- 17 were hoping to open the new rooms by Memorial Day
- 18 2022. Was that target achieved?
- 19 A. No.
- Q. Why not?
- A. Supply chain issues. I think we've all
- 22 heard of the supply chain issues. We pivoted and all
- 23 of the millwork came out of Canada. Actually, any
- 24 manufacturers had a hard time. We did have one floor25 open by Memorial Day. And we've added about a floor

33

1 50/50 ownership that property now has with, you know,

- 2 50 percent of Ocean being indirectly owned by OCR
- 3 Investment, LLC the ICA trust and the other 50
- percent being owned primarily by Luxor Capital Group,
- 5 LP, right?
- A. 6 Correct.
- And as a result of that structure, Q.
- 8 Ocean's new board of managers, which is situated at
- the level of Ocean Casino Resort Holdings, LLC,
- 10 there's two managers appointed by OCR Investment and
- 11 two managers appointed by Luxor Capital Group, right?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 You've already testified that the two
- 14 managers for the OCR Investment, LLC are you and John
- 15 Policicchio, right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- So understanding the new board has only 17
- 18 met twice, I think you said, do you find that you and
- 19 John work well with the two Luxor managers?
- A. Absolutely. I mean, obviously through
- 21 the investment process we've spent a lot of time
- 22 talking with Mike Conboy as well as Norris so...
- 23 And, again, the good news is certainly
- 24 the financial results makes it a lot easier for
- 25 everyone to be happy.

1 standard.

11

- 2 Q. So you're aware now, and you'll meet the
- 3 standard?
- We will. Α.
- Let's talk a bit about the management
- 6 arrangement. You testified on direct you're the
- 7 President of OCRM, right?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. You talked a bit about contact. But how
- 10 often do you personally visit Ocean Casino Resort?
 - A. Right now we're visiting about once a
- 12 month. The good news, with the pandemic and using
- 13 Teams and Zoom, it's pretty easy to jump on a call
- with anyone here in Atlantic City as necessary.
- 15 The Management Agreement provides for
- 16 the appointment of a General Manager, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. And I believe he was already introduced.
- The current General Manager of Ocean is Bill
- 20 Callahan, correct?
- 2.1 A. Correct.
- 22 So when you come to the property, do you
- 23 -- you meet with Bill?
- 24 We meet with the whole team. And John's
- 25 got us set up for about, I think, six meetings over

35

- Q. On direct you also spoke a bit about
- your awareness under the New Jersey Casino Control
- Act of the standard regarding capital expenditures,
- correct?
- 5 Correct.
- 6 I just want to clarify what that current Q.
- standard is.
- So if a casino licensee's capital
- 9 expenditures average at least 5 percent of a net
- 10 revenue on a rolling five-year basis, they're
- 11 presumed to meet the first class facility standard.
- 12 You're aware of that presumption?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And are you further aware that it's the
- 15 past five years that are looked at, not the past
- 16 three and the next two? We've had a recent amendment
- 17 in the law on that point.
- MS. KAUFMAN: No. Oh, I'm sorry. I did 18
- 19 not properly -- I did not properly advise him.
- 20 MS. BEN DAVID: Yeah, I just wanted to
- 21 clarify.
- 22 No. I thought it was again the two --
- 23 the three and the two. But certainly even if we look
- 24 back five years, at the end this year, certainly with
- 25 \$100 million investment we'll certainly have met that

- 1 the next day and a half.
 - 2 Q. So during the periods of time when
 - you're in Detroit rather than Atlantic City, do you
 - continue to communicate with Bill Callahan about
 - operations at Ocean? How often does that, you know,
 - contact at a distance occur? 6
 - 7 Almost daily.
 - 8 O. So you testified earlier you also serve
 - 9 as President of MotorCity Casino Hotel, which is
 - 10 owned by the Ilitch family, correct?
 - 11 Correct.
 - 12 Q. At the ICA proceeding, I recall you had
 - 13 testified that you communicate at least weekly with
 - the Ilitch family about MotorCity, and that you
 - anticipated communicating frequently with Christopher
 - 16 Ilitch about the Ocean investment.
 - 17 Do you recall that testimony?
 - 18 A. Yes.
 - 19 Okay. And After ICA was granted and the
 - transaction closed, have you in fact been in frequent
 - contact with -- or frequent communication with 21
 - 22 Christopher Ilitch about Ocean?
 - 23 A. Yeah, absolutely. We do a monthly what
 - 24 we call business review. And now along with
 - 25 MotorCity, it includes Ocean, that's on a monthly

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2

6

- 1 basis. Then I have a weekly update call with Chris
- 2 where anything that has come up related to Ocean we
- 3 talk about.
- 4 MS. BEN DAVID: I have nothing further.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Ms. Kaufman, redirect?
- 6 MS. KAUFMAN: No, sir.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. Thank you,
- 8 sir.
- 9 MR. DALL: Thank you.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Can you call your next
- 11 witness, please?
- 12 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. John Policicchio,
- 13 please.
- 14 MR. POLICICCHIO: Hello, everyone.
- MR. NANCE: Raise your right hand,
- 16 please. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
- 17 truth, and nothing but the truth?
- 18 MR. POLICICCHIO: I do.
- MR. NANCE: Please state your name for
- 20 the record.
- 21 MR. POLICICCHIO: John Policicchio.
- MR. NANCE: Thank you.
- 23 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. KAUFMAN:
- Q. John, could you tell us your current
- 25 positions?

- 1 A. Something.
 - MS. FAUNTLEROY: We would just need you
- 3 to say when to advance, John.
- 4 MR. POLICICCHIO: Okay.
- 5 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay?
 - MR. POLICICCHIO: Sure. I think -- okay,
- 7 cool.
- 8 I mean, rather than kind of spending a
- 9 whole bunch of time on each slide, I think kind of the
- 10 overall theme of this deck is, obviously anybody who
- 11 doesn't know the facility, it's obviously -- it's
- 12 pretty spectacular to begin with. But I think what is
- 13 -- we don't want necessarily to get lost -- and
- 14 obviously Bruce talked through a lot of the numbers --
- 15 is that we're going to continue to invest in it. The
- 16 team on the ground is very good at knowing what types
- 17 of customers we want to attract and what type of 18 facility we need for that. So it's kind of like a
- 19 never -- we're never done kind of situation. We
- 20 continue to weekly investing.
- 21 If you just kind of -- you can just kind
- 22 of flip through them slowly. Obviously it's a
- 23 6 million square foot facility. The Atlantic City
- 24 boardwalk is beautiful. The building is beautiful.
 - Right now obviously in the middle of peak

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- A. Sure. I am the Vice President,
- 2 Secretary and Treasurer of OCRI and OCRM. I'm one of
- 3 the board members at OCRH. And I am the General
- 4 Manager of MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit.
- 5 Q. Okay. And could you give us a little of
- 6 your background before you became a general manager?
- 7 A. Sure. I think we did this last time.
- 8 Q. Yes
 - A. We to go back to birth, right?
- 10 Q. No. It can be -- it can be briefer. It
- 11 can be a little bit briefer.
- 12 A. So in I the ca -- I started at MotorCity
- 13 Casino in 2010. I've been there throughout my casino
- 14 career. I started in the marketing department,
- 15 digital marketing, but really just kind of rose up
- 16 through the ranks in marketing.
- 17 Player Development, CRM. And then I
- 18 took on more and more business development roles on
- 19 my way to becoming General Manager.
- Q. Okay. I think now while everybody
- 21 remembers what Bruce said, before we get too much
- 22 into other things, I think it would be a great time
- 23 to show everyone the Power Point, if we may.
- A. Oh, yeah. Do I have...

25

Q. I was going to say, do we have...

- 1 season. I got to see it a couple of times over the
- 2 past few years at this point. But it's really
- 3 starting to really come together in terms of what we
- 4 were thinking a couple years ago, even just the
- 5 pathways and the casino, which you see right now.
- 6 Those were added to just add a little bit better kind
- 7 of flow. So we thought of everything in terms of
- 8 everything from where people go and what they're doing
- 9 to.

- 10 If you keep flipping through. Obviously
- 11 Bruce talked about The Cove. That's the high limit
- 12 slot product. There's the high limit room.
- And on the next slide, there's the loft
- 14 at the top of the hotel tower, which is kind of for
- 15 the ultra VIP customer. A very, very nice product.
- 16 The rooms from the beginning were beautiful.
- 17 Obviously they were arguably a little overbuilt. But
- 18 it's basically a very striking world class facility.
- 19 And we knew we needed to finish out the rest of the
- 20 rooms because if we were kind of under-roomed, we
- 21 decided that was... So that was a big focus of the
- 22 investment going into it was to make sure we had
- 23 enough hotel products. So we were going to add
- 24 460-some rooms because of kind of the views and
- 25 there's going to be the business floor.

This is the Presidential Suite bedroom.

2 Just kind of keep flipping through the hotel. This is just a rendering. If you go back

3 just one. That was a rendering of -- just kind of a

basic rendering of one of the new rooms.

I encourage everyone to go visit the property at some point. But these are coming online -- Bruce was talking about the supply chain issues.

9 We're seeing it everywhere. The same thing in

10 Detroit. We're working on a couple of big projects.

11 What the team was actually able to accomplish in terms

12 of what they got online by the beginning of July was

13 actually very, very impressive, based on those issues,

14 basically international issues all over the place.

15 It's kind of crazy.

16 But there will be obviously new photos 17 and all that kind of thing done once we're able to.

You can keep flipping through. And for

19 anybody who doesn't know, the pool facility, the

20 indoor-outdoor pool, the cabana, we did have -- I 21 don't want to steal Lynne's thunder on one of the

22 questions, but we did have a VIP come visit the

23 property, and the feedback was just a laundry list of

3 the spa, just some pictures of the spa. We did send

our customer in there. We got some really, really

5 tremendous feedback about that. Which just the

overall experience, it's definitely a place you --

8 Atlantic City, which is the gaming industry in

10 proud of the facility. It kind of speaks for itself.

13 talked about it. The next couple of years we'll 14 probably see an evolution of the food and beverage

20 the old high limit tables. You can keep going.

15 product because it's kind of one of those we're never

16 done things. And, you know, the customers we do want to attract, what do they expect in terms of food and

This is the VIP lounge. It used to be

11 These pictures are pretty striking.

18 beverage is a very big piece of it.

12

19

21

it's definitely a feather in the cap, I would say, in

general. Obviously in our corporation, we're very

The food and beverage product. Bruce

24 very positive comments. It was very cool. They spent

The spa. For anybody who hasn't been in

25 a lot of time in the cabana.

Nola's, this is just one of the bar

2 offerings. In addition to this, we were still

under-barred, which is the evolution of The Center

Bar. We very much needed a place. First of all, it

was obviously the best real estate in the building.

6 But we very much needed a place for people to, you

7 know, get drinks, listen to some music, have some fun.

Just as we bring -- once you bring on 460 more rooms,

you're obviously going to have an average of 900-plus

more people on property. And you've got to feed them

and give them a place to go. And that's what kind of

12 the spirit of the last, you know, couple of years has

13 been.

14 And then this is actually a rendering of

15 the what we call The Gallery Bar, Book and Games.

This is the old William Hill Sportsbook. It's -- for

anybody who hasn't seen it, it's really nice. We were

there last night. We finally got to see it finished in person. We obviously visited a few times during

20 the construction. We got to see it come alive. It

21 was very cool. So we went and checked it out last

22 night.

There's an area upstairs. The balcony 23

24 part of that can basically be used as a banquet space

25 or just kind of a VIP space for the actual Center Bar.

45

You can keep going. Yeah, keep going.

1 But with pride I would say it's the nicest center bar in the city, for sure. But it's up there with the

3 nicest center bars in our industry.

4 Obviously Ovation Hall. We'll talk a

5 little bit about entertainment. It's been a big

focus. There's been a lot of concerts. Even, you

know, kind of like the likes of Hard Rock putting on

very big shows, drawing people down to North Beach,

9 Atlantic City. It's been a very interesting summer

10 for that.

11 I think the next few shots are of the day 12 club or the beach club or the nightclub. We've had

some pretty big acts lately that have drawn all sorts 14 of -- a lot of people, all sorts of crowds.

15 This is the parking. You kind of see it as you're walking through to the hotel check-in. This

was done right outside there. It's really nice. 17

Obviously the ocean kind of speaks for itself in terms 19 of it's part of your experience no matter where you

20

21 This is the park at night.

22 I think there's -- the nightclub and day

23 club, just kind of interesting kind of where it's been

and where it is now. And just the number of people

25 that go through there and the excitement and the

43

This is another one for the VIPs upstairs 22 using -- this is brand-new. You wouldn't have thought 23 we needed something like that, but absolutely we 24 needed it. It was the absolute right call from the

25 team on the ground. Keep going.

- 1 energy, and even just the posts online and social
- 2 medial and all the stuff that we're seeing and the
- 3 things that we're hearing anecdotally, completely
- 4 separate of being a part of the business arrangement
- 5 of this place, we're starting to hear about it more
- 6 and more, which has been the goal since the beginning.
- I think that's it.
- 8 Q. Thank you. We saw a center bar
- 9 sportsbook. Bruce mentioned it generally. But when
- 10 did that open?
- 11 A. The first week of July. July 1st.
- 12 Q. Okay. So, fortunately.
- 13 A. That was -- everything was -- all roads
- 14 were leading to July because of what happens in the
- 15 city in July, all the people. We wanted to be ready.
- 16 The team pulled it off. That was -- that was
- 17 definitely a big challenge.
- Q. And even looking past July, we know the
- 19 NFL season strikes in August. And how important is
- 20 that and the fact that you've gotten the sportsbook
- 21 open?
- 22 A. Yeah. Sportsbook, making sure the
- 23 sportsbook is operational the football season is
- 24 basically the most -- it's the most important season
- 25 to play sportsbook, in the U.S. at least. So it was

- 1 message and with a look that I think is just
- 2 absolutely the right direction for Ocean. So I think

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- 3 it's been doing really, really well. And I think
- 4 she's been doing a great job. So yeah, I'm very
- 5 proud of where they are with that.
- 6 Q. And you also touched on the strength of
- 7 the player development team. How -- how has that
- 8 been developing? What have you seen with that since
- 9 you've gotten into the property?
- 10 A. Very similar. I mean, leadership at the
- 11 top. Obviously Bill Callahan's background is player
- 12 development, so that was naturally going to be --
- 3 that was going to have some very good support at the
- 14 top. And from what I've seen in terms of just, you
- 15 know, either numbers or how it's panned out, they're
- 16 doing a very, very good job with player development.
- 17 There's obviously opportunities there. But they've
- 18 been doing a really good job.
- 19 Q. I mean, I know I'm asking you if you
- 20 have done all these things and, you know, how much
- 21 you've looked into all these operations. And
- 22 everyone is very aware that this property was closed
- 23 at the end of November, and you've gotten the rooms
- 24 -- a lot of the rooms up -- the rest are coming --
- 25 and the sportsbook up. So we do realize you've also

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- 1 good to get online. And then obviously work through
- some of the kinks in terms of the sportsbook
- 3 operation leading into August and September. Then
- 4 you're ready for NFL and college football.
- 5 Q. At the ICA hearing, you testified that
- 6 you thought that the Ocean marketing team was in the
- 7 right direction. That, you know, maybe with your
- 8 marketing background, when you got into the property
- 9 there would be some tweaks, but you were very happy
- 10 with the direction that it was going.
- Now that you have been in the property
- 12 for a few months, could you -- are you sticking by
- 13 what you thought before you came in? You know, I
- 14 imagine you're offering guidance. But, you know, I
- 15 want to see, what have you seen? Did it pan out?
- 16 A. Yeah. So I would say I'm definitely
- 17 sticking to that. The marketing team is led by Kelly
- 18 Burke, who is obviously very experienced in that
- 19 world. She's been doing an awesome job. The whole
- 20 team has.
- I don't know if anyone's seen the new
- 22 campaign, but even the TV commercials and the brand
- 23 in general. So from the brand perspective, we're
- 24 reaching out to customers that we should have been 25 reaching out to in a way that we -- you know, with a

- 1 been a little busy.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- Q. So you did mention that you did not --
- 4 you were not looking into combining loyalty programs
- 5 between MotorCity and Ocean.
- 6 Have you -- again, have you changed your
- 7 mind on that? Do you -- how do you view that now
- 8 that you've seen the property?
- 9 A. I think that's similar. I don't -- I
- 10 don't see a huge opportunity in combining the loyalty
- 11 programs; therefore, it's never going to be at the
- 12 top of the list of initiatives. It just doesn't --
- 13 if it made sense, if it does make sense, if it ends
- 14 up making sense, we'll do it.
 - Something like that is a very large
- 16 undertaking. And it's very disruptive. The cost
- 7 benefit analysis needs to make sense. It just didn't
- 8 at the time. I don't think it does now. And like
- 19 you said, everybody's really -- the goal has been to
- 20 open the rooms, get the center bar developed, get the
- 21 food and beverage outlets ready for the increased
- 22 traffic. And, you know, even without those things, I
- 23 don't think it made sense.
- Q. Okay. Well, combining the loyalty
- 25 programs is one thing. But the other item -- another

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1 item that was discussed was your customer base, your 1 A.

- 2 MotorCity players, higher end players. You know,
- 3 were you considering marketing to them and bringing
- 4 them out to Atlantic City?
- A. Yeah. So I think I talked about this at
- 6 the ICA hearing. I want to make sure --
 - Q. Yes.
- 8 A. I don't want to contradict myself. But
- 9 at the time, what it feels like is it's such a
- 10 beautiful place and it offers so much as a
- 11 destination that at the high end in Detroit, you
- 12 know, the VIP players, I think -- I believe there's
- 13 an opportunity to expose them to Atlantic City and to
- 14 Ocean and to bring them out here. And we've done
- 15 that.
- So we did have our first VIP player come
- 17 out. And it was a very successful trip. Very, very
- 18 good feedback. And we do have -- preliminarily we do
- 19 have a trip scheduled for fall or winter of this year
- 20 to bring a bigger group of the VIPs.
- 21 So the goal is kind of -- I believe
- 22 there's a big opportunity in terms of, you know, a
- 23 select few folks would, you know, have a much better
- 24 time here. That kind of makes sense. Yes, we have
- 25 been working toward that.

- 1 A. That should be pretty exciting.
 - Q. Okay. Another item that we discussed
- 3 was the proprietary intellectual property that
- 4 MotorCity had developed for the customers, you know,
- 5 kind of an all-in-one customer app. And under the
- 6 Management Agreement, Ocean can license that.
- 7 Obviously every property is different
- 8 and things need to be -- to be effective need to be
- personalized towards that property.
- 10 Again, you haven't had much time. But
- 11 have you been looking into technology or, you know,
- 12 other ways to maximize not only necessarily from
- 13 intellectual property or technology but also based
- 14 on, you know, your experiences and, you know, your
- 15 knowledge of vendors, software vendors and the like?
 - A. Right. So those meetings have also
- 17 taken place, lots of them. We have not deployed any
- 18 of our technology out here. Everyone would kind of
- 19 know about that in this room.
- 20 But in terms of strategy discussion, how
- 21 we approach things there and kind of the systems that
- 22 are in place here, yes, those -- that kind of -- I
- 23 don't want to call it synergy yet because we're not
- 24 quite there -- but those discussions have taken
- 25 place. They've also been a little busy here. The IT

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- 1 Q. Because, you know, we do like people to 2 come here off season as well.
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. You also spoke about live entertainment
- 5 and the -- bringing some of the -- hopefully starting
- 6 to plan to bring some of the excitement of what you
- 7 have at MotorCity and make use of the contacts, the
- 8 relationships and ownership interests you -- the
- 9 Ilitch family has and bringing them to Atlantic City.
- 10 Now, I certainly know that you can't just snap your
- 11 fingers and get entertainers booked and booked far in
- 12 advance. But have you started the plans for that?
- 13 A. Yeah. So we have started that as well.
- 14 So Olympia Entertainment, which is the booking agent
- 15 under the Ilitch company umbrella, they have -- it
- 16 took -- it took quite a few months, but they have --
- 17 they're officially registered. And those meetings
- 18 are now beginning in terms of, you know, how do we
- 19 leverage either the buying power, or the reach, or
- 20 the agency contacts, the relationships to bring
- 21 people here.
- But yeah, the first step was to get OEI
- 23 registered. And we got that done a few weeks ago.
- 24 So all those meetings have also started so...
- Q. Okay, great.

1 department headed up by John Ferrelli, who's very,

- 2 very strong, they just did a big hotel upgrade, hotel
- 3 system upgrade. Which in this town where you have
- 4 such big hotel buildings, it's kind of the lifeblood
- 5 of the back end system, the hotel system. So they
- 6 also have things going on.
- 7 But, yeah, there's all sorts of
- but, your, there's air sorts of
- 8 communications going on in terms of strategy and, you
- 9 know, how do you guys think about this, look at this.
- 10 Those -- those are progressing, yeah.
- 11 Q. Okay. Switching over to online sports
- 12 and online gaming. I know that when you were here
- 13 last, you had just started with your land-based and
- 14 the casino had to shut. And you were more of a newby
- 15 in terms of online. Obviously time has passed. And
- 16 I know that Ocean doesn't operate their skins, but it
- 17 is important market segment.
- 18 So combining your new knowledge of
- 19 online gaming and online sports and your marketing
- 20 experience, what kind of opportunities, you know,
- 21 have you identified, and, you know, have you started
- 22 -- has that marketing been started?
- 23 A. Yeah. Ocean does have -- they do
- 24 operate one casino skin. But the -- basically the
- 25 biggest move there was we now have somebody heading

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- 1 that area with a little bit more experience in that
- 2 world. And yes, there's a big opportunity there.
- It's very early and there's not really anything to
- kind of speak to.
- 5 We have -- in Detroit where our
- partnership is with FanDuel it's a completely 6
- different setup. Here it's five casino skins and
- three sports skins. There it's just one skin per
- vertical, so casino sports. And out there we are
- 10 number -- we're number one in the sports and number
- two in the casino, but everybody just has the one.
- 12 And we have FanDuel as a partnership.
- 13 It's a completely different setup here.
- 14 There's definitely an opportunity. It's early on. I
- think we made the right moves from a personnel 15
- standpoint to put ourselves in the position to grow.
- Right. Of course going back to making 17
- 18 improvements in the property and the rooms, I know
- that that's all tied to getting certain things done,
- you know, fuels the marketing effort and fuels more
- money into the property --
- 22 Definitely. A.
- 23 -- and be able to keep doing it so...
- 24 And do you have anything you want to
- 25 close with, anything I didn't mention?

- 1 Ocean responsibilities, you're also the General
- 2 Manager of MotorCity, right?
- 3 A. Correct.
 - Q. During the ICA proceeding and again just

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- 5 now today, you testified about the Management
- 6 Agreement. And through that agreement you may grant
- 7 Ocean a license and right to use some of the
- 8 intellectual property you've developed at MotorCity,
- including the mobile app.
- 10 Do you recall that testimony?
- 11 A. Yep, I do.
 - Okay. Then during your direct, I
- 13 believe you said you've had meetings about deploying
- 14 the mobile app, but it's not -- not in place at this
- 15 time, correct?

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- 16 A. Yeah. Not even that specifically. The
- 17 meetings were just about kind of the infrastructure,
- 18 the IT, you know, what -- how does that look, how
- 19 does that app look here, how is that whole system
- 20 evolve. We're not -- we're not there yet. We
- 21 wouldn't be ready to deploy for that.
- 22 To the extent you can review it, is
- 23 there any other intellectual property that you're
- 24 considering at Ocean?
- 25 A. Not at the moment.

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- A. I'd like to thank everyone in this room.
- 2 I know this has been -- it's been going on for it
- feels like quite some time now. So thank you for all
- your efforts. I'm happy to answer your questions.
- 5 I think Sara will have a few for you.
- Okay. 6
- MS. BEN DAVID: I do have
- 8 a few. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 9 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BEN DAVID:
- 10 Q. So to review, you are the Vice
- 11 President, Secretary and Treasurer of OCRM, which is
- 12 the new casino manager of Ocean, right?
- 13
- Okay. I believe Bruce had testified
- 15 earlier that he visits the property once a month. Is
- 16 that the same for you? How often do you personally
- visit Ocean?
- 18 A. Yes. We tend to visit together. For
- example, he'll be out next week without me and I came
- 20 up once without him. But typically it's both of us.
- Q. And a similar question that I asked
- 22 Bruce as well. So are you in frequent contact then
- 23 with the General Manager, Bill Callahan?
- 24 A.

25

And you've testified that outside your Q.

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- Q. Like Ms. Kaufman, I too recall your
 - positive view of the player development and marketing
 - 3 team at Ocean. During the ICA proceeding, you had
 - testified that you would like to see Ocean continue
 - to pursue customers, particularly high value
 - customers, in the outer markets of New York City and 6
 - 7 Philadelphia.

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- Do you recall that testimony?
- 9 A.
- 10 Q. So has Ocean pursued those markets then,
- 11 and what have been the results?
- 12 Yes, they have. And the results have
- 13 been positive.
- 14 O. Do you want to -- do you want to
- 15 elaborate?
- 16 A. I mean, kind of, right? Because it's in
- 17 terms of, you know, saying too much. But the
- campaigns have stretched to those outer markets. The
- investment in the property is tailored to attract 19
- 20 higher worth customers. I mean, you can see the
- pictures. Like, you know -- you know, we wouldn't 21
- put, you know, \$5 \$6 million into a center bar or
- 23 \$75 million into the rooms that look like that
- 24 without trying to get that higher worth customer.
 - So slowly but surely that has been

1 definitely working. And you can kind of -- you can

- 2 see it in the overall performance. But to kind of
- drill down into the smaller -- you know, into the
- granular parts of the databases, you know, not
- something I would do right now unless you wanted me 6 to.
- 7 No thanks. During the ICA proceeding,
- 8 you had testified about cross-marketing opportunities
- between Ocean and MotorCity. And you testified today
- 10 that in fact you've brought one VIP player from
- 11 Detroit to Ocean. So it's just the one so far?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 During your direct testimony today, you O.
- 14 mentioned perhaps some further developments with
- 15 respect to I-Gaming. Do I have that right?
 - Yeah. Online, yeah.
- 17 Okay. Are you aware then that the
- 18 Division of Gaming Enforcement has various
- 19 requirements with respect to internet platform
- 20 providers and licenses, registrations, that need to
- 21 be evaluated and obtained?
- 22 Oh, definitely, yeah.
 - And will you comply with that process?
- 24

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In terms of marketing and customer

- 1 I do agree with that, yes.
 - MS. BEN DAVID: I have nothing further.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Ms. Kaufman, any
- 5 redirect?

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- 6 MS. KAUFMAN: No. Thank you.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Commissioners, any
- 8 questions for Mr. Policicchio?
- 9 VICE CHAIR COOPER: I do.
- 10 All right. First, thank you for being
- 11 here today.
- 12 Mr. Dall as well as yourself, we've heard
- 13 a lot -- we've heard about the rooms, different
- numbers, et cetera, et cetera, and what's going on
- 15 with the delay, understanding that.
- 16 If you would, though, could you elaborate
- 17 on what the rooms will look like? And I know it's now
- 18 ten years since the original Revel. We're looking at
- new rooms. You mentioned -- I believe you mentioned a
- -- you've got suites, new suites. You mentioned a
- 21 business floor. Did you mention a business floor?
- 22 There was another word.
- 23 MR. POLICICCHIO: Oh, The Loft was -- it
- 24 was -- it's the -- that one?
- 25 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Yes.

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- 1 experience, you spoke on direct a bit about, you
- know, plans to bring entertainers to Ocean. During
- 3 the ICA proceeding, I recall you emphasized the fact
- 4 that, you know, both properties that you are involved
- 5 have been available.
- 6 Have you at this time realized any
- benefits or advantages to having the venues in both
- properties, MotorCity and Ocean?
- A. Not yet. That's kind of -- that's what
- 10 we're working on. So step one was getting Olympia
- 11 Entertainment registered, which is half the... Now
- 12 the next steps are discussing all of that. It's
- 13 really about our buying power. And even though it's
- 14 in Michigan, it's quite large. There's a lot of
- 15 venues there. So it helps, you know, maybe attract
- 16 or even talk to agents, attract other, you know, acts
- 17 that might not come, that kind of thing. So we'll
- 18 see. I'm hoping for progress there.
- 19 Q. In addition to serving as the Vice
- 20 President, Secretary and Treasurer of OCRM, LLC, you,
- 21 like Bruce, serve on Ocean's new board of managers,
- 22 right?
- 23 Correct.
- 24 So do you agree with his comments that
- 25 you and Bruce work well with the two Luxor managers?

- MR. POLICICCHIO: That's basically a
- gaming area on the 44th floor of the hotel proper.
- 3 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Forgive me. So if
- you would, elaborate on what we can expect to see?
- 5 Again, I understand things are, you know, delayed.
 - MR. POLICICCHIO: Sure.
- 7 VICE CHAIR COOPER: What can we expect to
- 8 see? What's going to separate your property from the
- other properties? I don't mean that with any
- disrespect. But what's going to make Ocean so very
- special with the new -- with the new rooms, the
- amenities and what you're going to be offering to
- people coming to Atlantic City, as well as letting
- other knows about even your clientele in Michigan, so
- to speak? What's going to say, well, you've got to
- 16 see Atlantic City? So please elaborate, if you would.
- 17 MR. POLICICCHIO: Sure. So before we
- 18 started the room construction, there was 1,399 rooms,
- 19 which is quite a bit of rooms. But when you look in
- the context of the market and what our facility can 20
- 21 handle, it's actually not enough. We were
- 22 under-roomed.
- 23 Obviously the 12 floors that were
- 24 basically canceled when Revel went bankrupt, you know,
- 25 they were empty. So obviously there was always a plan

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1 to get over 1,800 rooms in there.

2 But when we were looking at it from the

- 3 beginning we said do we actually need the extra rooms?
- 4 Because there's no point in deploying \$75 million in
- 5 capital if there's not a demand for that product.
- 6 But if you look at the facility and
- 7 everything that we're building, everything that the
- 8 team has been working on in terms of the center bar
- 9 and the restaurants, we can absolutely handle -- we
- 10 believe we can absolutely handle another 463 rooms
- 11 worth of people.
- Now, when I talk about the marketing
- 13 strategy and the facility -- and there is a rendering
- 14 in there. It's just -- it's a photo. It's not --
- 15 it's not a real photo yet of the rooms. But there is
- 16 going to be a lot of kind of just regular rooms, king
- 17 rooms, things like that. But then there's going to be
- 18 more suites, which even if it's just the adjoining
- 19 room and kind of the living area. And that's because
- 20 we were under-suited. So we actually kind of
- 21 re-evaluated how many suites we needed out of the 12
- 22 floors and increased them in the beginning. So we'd
- 23 rather have fewer rooms and more suites because we're
- 24 going for that, you know, higher end customer who kind
- 25 of demands that type of product.

- 1 middle of September.
- 2 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. And, again,

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- 3 not holding you exactly to it.
- 4 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah. Like Bruce said
- 5 -
- 6 VICE CHAIR COOPER: A lot of facts.
- 7 MR. POLICICCHIO: -- you can have the
- 8 whole floor done, and if you can't get door locks, you
- 9 can't open one room. So it's just the reality of our
- 10 business right not. It's not really just our
- 11 business. It's just if you're building anything right
- 12 now, you're --
- 13 VICE CHAIR COOPER: You're waiting for
- 14 something.

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- 15 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah.
 - VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. Another
- 17 question. And, again, I would just -- I'm going to
- 18 say, I would like you to elaborate -- again, I've
- 19 heard from Mr. Dall as well as yourself. And I always
- 20 -- I always say this. I was in the entertainment
- 21 business.
- MR. POLICICCHIO: The entertainment
- 23 world, I remember that.
- 24 VICE CHAIR COOPER: For 30-plus -- for
- 25 30-plus years. So entertainment is always -- I'm

- . .
- 1 So everything in the last couple of years 2 and everything in the next couple of years is going to
- 3 be -- essentially converge on the idea bringing out,
- 4 you know, outer market higher quality customers, you
- 5 know, who are more discerning in terms of they want
- 6 certain brands when they look at the restaurants, and
- 7 they want certain types of amenities when they look at
- 8 the hotel.
- 9 So, I mean, to kind of come to Ocean and
- 10 the north end of the boardwalk for a few days, it's a
- 11 pretty -- I mean, that's like a world class
- 12 experience. It's not just something for -- like, when
- 13 we sent somebody from Detroit, it was just the first
- 14 statement was, "When can I go back?"
- 15 I think kind of the facility speaks for
- 16 itself once we get people here. And obviously
- 17 marketing and brands' job obviously is to get that
- 18 word out, which is what we're doing.
- 19 So the rooms are really kind of just of 20 -- they just represent that whole strategy in terms of
- 21 getting more people down here.
- VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. And, again,
- 23 I've heard different dates. A total completion of
- 24 this project, what are we looking at?
- 25 MR. POLICICCHIO: The end of August or

- 1 going to say it's important to me. Of course it's
- 2 important to the industry. But I'm also concerned the
- 3 extra, like, what's going on.
- 4 You did mention, okay, Olympia
- 5 Entertainment. You're 313. I've read the reports.
- 6 You've got a magnificent -- the Ovation Hall, et
- 7 cetera. And the deal was just signed, you said, for
- 8 the Olympia?
- 9 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah.
- 10 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Are you able to share
- 11 with us, so to speak, some of the acts once everything
- 12 is firmed? And I know you talked to the manager,
- 13 talked to... Can you share maybe some of the big
- 14 names or some of the like wow entertainers or things
- 15 that we can expect to see?
- MR. POLICICCHIO: I should have a better
- 17 list for you because I knew you were going to ask me
- 18 this.
- I can't -- on the one hand, I can't
- 20 really show our hand too much. On the other hand, I
- 21 don't necessarily know yet. It really comes down to
- 22 what can -- what can the facility and the business
- 23 kind of handle.
- In terms of the names, I mean, if you
- 25 even just look at the 313 events for the Detroit

1 calendars, we basically have everybody. Like, anybody

- 2 who tours in the United States come through Detroit
- 3 right now because of that group, because of our
- 4 entertainment group.
- 5 It really is, I mean, in the last -- I'm
- 6 not saying this is happening at Ocean at all. But,
- 7 you know, Elton John was just there. Red Hot Chili
- 8 Peppers are coming. Green Day is coming there. There
- 9 isn't -- there isn't somebody who tours who won't
- 10 cross through Detroit now because of that group.
- Now, Atlantic City doesn't necessarily
- 12 have that issue, because of Borgata and Hard Rock, and
- 13 there's big buyers in this market. But Ocean
- 14 theoretically, or even MotorCity, if we were on our
- 15 own island, we'd be at a disadvantage for competing
- 16 with kind of the live nation and the big venues that
- 17 monopolize -- you know, MGM can book entertainment
- 18 across the entire country, so it's hard to compete
- 19 with that. But we make it a little bit easier to
- 20 compete with that.
- 21 So attracting people when Olympia calls
- 22 is theoretically a little bit easier. So I'm hoping
- 23 -- I'm hoping that develops. I will send you
- 24 personally a list once we start.
- VICE CHAIR COOPER: The lineup.

- 1 When I say here, you know, it will be 30 to 50 people.
- 2 And that level of customer makes perfect sense,
- 3 because the facility is gorgeous. It's a great few
- 4 days out of town kind of thing.
- 5 When I talk about things that don't make
- 6 sense, it's, like, if you had a player's card and you
- 7 put it in at Ocean and you're earning comp and points
- 8 and everything, and you pull it out and you go to
- 9 Detroit and you put it in, like, those aren't going to
- 10 be the same system. Because to make that happen, it's
- $11\,$ a tremendous amount of work. And I don't think that
- 12 pearl is worth the dive quite yet. Because there's
- 13 not a ton of people flying from Detroit to Atlantic
- 14 City all the time. That's the only reason, yeah.
- 15 It's just not practical.
- 16 VICE CHAIR COOPER: I didn't mean to
- 17 actually say -- not negative. But I just wasn't sure
- 18 of the explanation, so to speak, between Atlantic City
- 19 and Detroit.
- 20 I don't know if this is for you or
- 21 Mr. Dall, but let me pose it to you.
- Aside from the casino and everything
- 23 connected with the casino, what involvement can we see
- 24 from Ocean with regard to Atlantic City and the
- 25 community?

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- 1 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah.
- 2 VICE CHAIR COOPER: A moment ago you
- 3 mentioned -- we've heard about cross-marketing. And I
- 4 -- just as elaborate, explain a little bit more.
- 5 Almost -- I almost got a feeling that there was a
- 6 little bit of a negative to what -- to the
- 7 cross-marketing with your clientele in Detroit and
- 8 Atlantic City.
- 9 Share with me your thoughts. Just is it
- 10 -- are you going to be including some -- is there
- 10 -- are you going to be including some -- is there
- 11 going to be more cross-marketing, more interaction
- 12 between --
- 13 MR. POLICICCHIO: Oh, yeah. No, it
- 14 shouldn't be negative at all.
- 15 VICE CHAIR COOPER: I got that -- well,
- 16 not exactly negative. But I just wasn't sure. What
- 17 can we expect?
- MR. POLICICCHIO: So the kind of the
- 19 crawl-walk-run strategy to make sure it makes sense.
- 20 I believe the facility here is at the -- very, very
- 21 worthy of our VIP customers.
- So the first part of the strategy is the
- 23 player development team is working together to bring
- 24 VIPs from Detroit here, which we did once already and
- 25 we're planning a bigger trip at the end of the year.

- 1 MR. POLICICCHIO: Sure. So actually we
 - 2 talked to -- I believe her name is Lisa who heads up
 - 3 Ocean Cares at Ocean. It's actually very similar to
 - 4 what we have in Detroit. We call it Helping Hands.
 - 5 And all the kind of community servicing issues for our
 - 6 property roll up through that. It's similar with
 - 7 Ocean Cares.
 - 8 But kind of the overarching message is
 - 9 that it's more of a community focus. So if you're
- 10 going to deploy resources, it's things like cleaning
- 11 the beach or, you know, if there was a -- there was a
- 12 bunch of examples she gave me this morning. But
- 13 basically they're all kind of focused in this area for
- 14 the most part. But it's everything from Boys & Girls
- 15 Clubs to kind of doing things out in the community.
- 16 But it's -- literally if you go to the Ocean Cares
- 17 website, there's all the local -- they're all local
- 18 charities. That's what Ocean supports.
- 19 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. And, again,
- 20 this -- I don't mean to say in your own words. But
- 21 you've been with the company for, I think you said,
- 22 about ten years, correct?
- 23 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah. MotorCity
- 24 started in 2010, so 12 years now.
- 25 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. With regard to

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70 72 1 Atlantic City -- I know you don't have a magic ball in 1 MR. POLICICCHIO: Oh, man, I messed up 2 big time. 2 front of you. And, again, I know it's been very 3 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: It came off 3 fragile and uncertain in recent years because of 4 COVID. 4 kind of negative. It did come off kind of negative. 5 But putting COVID aside, if you would, 5 MR. POLICICCHIO: I think it was my 6 where do you personally see Ocean -- Ocean in the next 6 lawyer's fault. three to five years? 7 MS. KAUFMAN: Yeah. MR. POLICICCHIO: Ooh. In terms of 8 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: I'm glad you 9 Atlantic City, I think we're -- I mean, we're in the 9 cleared that up. 10 top three right now, and I suspect we will stay there. 10 MR. POLICICCHIO: Okay. 11 And the goal is to move up so... And I think we have 11 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: I'm going to 12 the facility for it. I think we have the team for it. 12 start off with -- I went to Detroit. I've been to 13 And that's kind of the goal. You know, we should be a 13 Detroit, and I saw the casinos. 14 -- you know, a one or a two probably in this market. 14 MR. POLICICCHIO: Cool. When was that? VICE CHAIR COOPER: Okay. And I'll just 15 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: It's been --16 finish. And this is actually goes with that question 16 it's probably been about eight years. where I said where do you see it in the next three to 17 MR. POLICICCHIO: Okay. 18 five years. 18 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Yeah. And the 19 What differentiates your property from 19 smoke was filled -- it was a smoke-filled room. I 20 the others? 20 mean, I couldn't hardly breathe there. We don't have 21 MR. POLICICCHIO: So two main things. 2.1 that here. And we didn't have it here then. 22 One of them is a little bit cheesier, but it's true. 22 So how will you -- how will the smoking 23 It's the team, what Bill and Kelly and everybody kind 23 ban, if any, affect your decision planning? 24 of is there now. Because I kind of saw it. I saw it 24 MR. POLICICCHIO: In Detroit? 25 starting in '19 and to now, and just kind of the 25 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: No. 71 73 1 culture in terms of the staff has gone in a 1 MR. POLICICCHIO: Or here? 2 tremendously positive direction. I think that 2 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: In Atlantic 3 automatically translates to better customer 3 City. 4 interaction, customer service. It's kind of the like 4 MR. POLICICCHIO: Well, in terms of 5 -- it's that intangible positive thing. When people 5 smoking, it basically comes down to -- it's funny, the 6 are happy at their work, you just -- you just wind up one thing you said in terms of smelling it, some getting better customer service. And I think that's 7 facilities are at an advantage and some are at a awesome. And I see that continuing. disadvantage. I would -- I would put Ocean at an But the one thing that really nobody has advantage of that in terms of it's just newer, taller 10 on us -- I can say it on the record -- is the facility 10 ceilings, ventilation is a lot easier to pull off. 11 just. You can't -- like, walking through that place, 11 So that might be -- that's a huge 12 it's hard to not be completely in awe of it everywhere advantage in terms of if we -- if there is a ban and 12 13 you go. And I've been in every single property in we are allowed to put a smoking area in, and the team 14 Atlantic City. And there's a lot of nice properties thinks the customers want a smoking area, then we'll 15 here. But I think we have absolutely best facility. put in a smoking area. If we have to -- if it's 16 And that's really, really hard to compete with. 16 completely banned from the floor, then we'll ban it VICE CHAIR COOPER: Thank you so much. 17 17 from the floor. 18 Thank you. 18 It really comes down to what the 19 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Commissioner 19 regulations say and what the customers want. So right 20 Mollineaux? now in Detroit, we're non-smoking for right now. 20 21 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Good afternoon. 21 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Oh, good. 22 MR. POLICICCHIO: Good afternoon. 22 MR. POLICICCHIO: But if we were to turn COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: I kind of felt 23 it back on, there's all sorts of different ways to do 24 the same way that the commissioner did concerning the 24 it. You can do it in like an isolated area, or you

25 could -- you could do a whole floor, that kind of

25 -- it seemed like there was something there about...

1 stuff. So it really depends on your facility. Like

- 2 you said, I think there's a big advantage in terms of
- 3 Ocean. Just the facility itself can handle a lot
- 4 there.
- 5 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Yeah. I have
- 6 visited the Ocean. I think it was last month. I was
- there to get the tour around the whole building.
- 8 MR. POLICICCHIO: Cool. What did you
- 9 think?
- COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Well, I always 10
- 11 thought the building was a piece of art anyway.
- 12 MR. POLICICCHIO: It really is.
- 13 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: It is. It
- 14 really is. And I was kind of impressed on what you're
- 15 going to get done.
- 16 But you're saying none of -- there's a
- 17 lot of rooms that haven't finished yet --
- 18 MR. POLICICCHIO: We're getting there.
- 19 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: -- to date that
- 20 you wanted them to be there. And I can understand
- 21 that because of what's going on in the country itself
- 22 about materials and everything being -- not being
- shipped and et cetera, et cetera.
- But you're doing good things there. Just
- 25 that really you haven't been able to get the rooms to

1 especially if the local community, you know, could use

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- 2 the help.
- 3 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: And your
- employee status is where?
- 5 MR. POLICICCHIO: My employee status?
- 6 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: No, not you.
- 7 The casino itself, the employee status.
- 8 MR. POLICICCHIO: Oh, yeah. In terms of
- 9 numbers, a couple thousand employees. It swells up in
- 10 the summer months obviously to meet the demand of the
- peak season. Then it tapers off a little bit. 11
- 12 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: And you're
- 13 projecting us to go where from here?
- 14 MR. POLICICCHIO: Up.
- COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: From this 15
- 16 forward?
- 17 MR. POLICICCHIO: I'm projecting us to go
- 18 up. I think we're just going to keep improving. We
- keep improving the facility. We keep -- you know, we
- try to make some money and then reinvest what we need
- 2.1 to in the areas that we need to, whether it's food and
- 22 beverage, you know, hotel rooms, facility, getting
- 23 things, you know, the systems up-to-date. Like,
- 24 there's a lot of capital that keeps places like that
- 25 operational. And we've just got to keep doing that.

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- 1 where you want to get them to at this point in time.
- 2 The engagement with the local Atlantic
- 3 City. What kind of engagement do you have with the
- 4 local? I know you're saying -- and it seemed like to
- me you're saying that you have special -- special
- identities that you're dealing with.
- Are you dealing with the local, the
- 8 mayor, the organizations that are in the city?
- MR. POLICICCHIO: Yes. I don't know them
- 10 all offhand, but mostly the organizations we deal with
- 11 are local. And there's a lot of different ways. I
- 12 mean, there's kind of the donations from the customers
- 13 when they put the slot ticket in the little box.
- 14 There's payroll deductions for the employees. There's
- 15 donations from the actual corporate, you know,
- 16 checkbook itself. There's a lot of different sources
- 17 of funds.
- Then there's the community -- the 18
- 19 community groups that are supported by that are
- 20 usually the local community ones.
- 21 So, I mean, that's kind of how we do it
- 22 in Detroit too. We usually focus local. We don't --
- 23 there's definitely bigger organizations that we do
- 24 things with, like the American Heart Association,
- 25 things like that. But typically we focus on local,

- 1 And I think it will just speak for itself. Then
- 2 people, it will keep -- you know, the momentum there
- 3 right now is pretty -- very, very positive. And we've
- just got to keep building on that.
- COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Yes. Because
- 6 summertime we're doing great. It's the...
- MR. POLICICCHIO: We had a pretty good
- overall year actually. I mean, the summertime for
- 9 sure is peak. But I was very impressed with the
- numbers in, you know, off-peak season. I mean, it's 10
- definitely there's a big difference between July and 11
- 12 the non-July months.

- COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Right.
- 14 MR. POLICICCHIO: But I think there's
- 15 year-round business there, especially with
- 16 entertainment, food and beverage. It's still a great
- place to go in December if you live if New York, you
- 18 know. It's quick. It's easy to get to. You can kind
- 19 of just be there for a couple of days. I don't think
- 20 this is a one-season market.
- 21 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: And it would
- 22 help with the Detroit VIP coming in during that
- 23 particular time.
- 24 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah. The VIP trip was
- 25 specifically not in July, the big VIP trip. Because

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- 1 this place is plenty busy in July, and our customers
- 2 would be fine with coming in November and December.
- And that's when we're going to do it, so I totally
- 4 agree.
- 5 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Great. Thank
- 6 you.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: I have a few
- 8 questions.
- Sir, when you say you have a marketing
- 10 message, what is that message?
- MR. POLICICCHIO: Well, right now it's 11
- 12 "Go to Ocean, Go for the Wind," That's kind of the
- 13 tag line.
- 14 What I thought versus a couple of years
- 15 ago -- and this is just kind of keeping it a little
- 16 broad. It's hard for me to say broad with marketing.
- 17 But it was a little too playful. And now it's more --
- 18 I don't want to say elegant, but it's closer to that.
- 19 And I think Kelly has done an awesome job with
- 20 morphing it to that message.
- 21 So like that's kind of it. It's like
- 22 what's the brand feel? What are people expecting from
- 23 -- like, you know, is it glamorous? Is it -- is it a
- 24 good value? So I think, like, where the brand shifted
- 25 is really kind of the secret to the success, is that

CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Do you envision down

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- 2 the road having charters to bring in your Detroit high
- rollers; is that your plan?
 - MR. POLICICCHIO: I don't envision that.
- 5 That's not like a great experience. I think it's -- I
- 6 think that was actually one of the challenges is
- 7 getting them here. So if it's one or two folks, you
- know, I'll fly them into Philly, and shuttle. But
- we'll probably charter a plane at the end of the year
- 10 to the Atlantic City Airport, I mean, to be honest.
- Because then I can bring a group and it's a little bit
- more controlled. I mean, our VIP customers were very
- careful, like, with the experiences we deploy them.
- 14 It has to be very comfortable. So I think a charter
- bus from Detroit -- I drove with Bruce during one of
- our trips. He got to hear a lot of my stories. And
- that on a charter bus would not be pleasant. He had a 17
- good time, I promise. But the VIPs would probably...
- 19 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: So you're saying
- you're not going to do buses from Detroit? 21 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah, correct.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: We've been there. In
- 23 regards to employment, how big a challenge is it for
- 24 you to fill your positions that you have open now?
 - MR. POLICICCHIO: It's challenging. It's

- 1 kind of thing.
- CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: When you were here in
- 3 the past, you said you would grow the market. Did you
- grow the market?
- MR. POLICICCHIO: The market is growing
- 6 by a mile at this rate.
- CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: The market has grown.
- But was that taking from other bus -- other properties
- 9 or?
- 10 MR. POLICICCHIO: I mean, I think yes and
- 11 no. I think it's in terms of -- in terms of new
- 12 members or new gamblers, you know, new customers, new
- 13 hotel stayers or concert goers, yeah, I can't -- I
- 14 mean, we're still close to Philadelphia and New York
- 15 and these gigantic markets that there's always
- 16 potential to attract new people. So yes, the hope is
- 17 that that's primarily where it comes from. Because we
- 18 want to see all of Atlantic City do well. And then
- 19 we're all pretty competitive.
- 20 So we obviously want to take where we
- 21 can, you know. I think that's kind of the honest
- 22 answer. I think we -- we obviously want to capture
- 23 market share. If it all came from the other markets,
- 24 that's fine. But we still want to, you know, increase
- 25 our market share.

- 1 definitely challenging. And that's everywhere. And
- it's not just our industry. It's just not
- 3 restaurants. It's everywhere. You guys, I'm sure,
- have seen all the stories. It's difficult.
- 5 So what can you do? If wages are set by
- 6 a union contract, those don't get changed too much,
- right? You can't really mess with those. You can
- have a culture. You can be a culture. Your benefits
- 9 can be good.
- 10 I think, like I was talking about
- earlier, if people are happy to come to work, I mean,
- 12 there's just a buzz where people are like, oh, I work
- 13 at Ocean now. So if you create that culture, I think
- you have a little bit of an advantage for sure. But I
- 15 think also we just need to come up with creative
- solutions to the extent that we can, or weather the
- 17 storm to the extent that we can.
- 18 I mean, we're having the same challenges
- 19 in Detroit. You know, it's not unique to any one
- 20 market.
- 21 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Were there any best
- 22 practices that you brought from Detroit here?
- 23 MR. POLICICCHIO: I think the best
- 24 practice part, it's not really that granular. I think
- 25 when we sit down with the high level team, when we sit

- 1 down with Bill and Kelly and we sit down and talk
- 2 about what's next and how do we approach X, Y or Z,
- 3 the thing is like there are things that work here that
- 4 don't work in Detroit and vise-versa. So we just --
- 5 we don't like going into a market -- and this is
- 6 really our first expansion. But we kind of knew going
- in. We weren't going to come here and necessarily say
- this is how we do it there, let's do it here.
- So it's really more about strategy.
- 10 Yeah, like the strategies, okay, who do you attract
- 11 right now as a customer, whether it's based on worth,
- 12 or location, or whatever. There's a million different
- 13 versions of that. And you say, who do want to
- 14 attract, and who do we need to be, and who are we?
- And I think when we sit down and discuss
- 16 those things and we talk a year out or three years
- out, I think we're a good sounding board for them. I
- 19 And then really I think the biggest thing
- 20 we bring to the team is we try to get decisions made
- 21 quickly. Which, you know, the big guys typically
- 22 can't do that. It's harder with a gigantic corporate
- 23 umbrella telling you this is how you're supposed to do
- 24 things, this is what we do in Phoenix. Like, it just
- 25 doesn't work.

1 -- you know, all the other ancillary debt. And if we

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- 2 do \$90 million, which is conservative, we'll be two
- 3 times levered, it's called. That's probably the best
- -- probably. I'm not officially saying this. But
- that's probably the best debt level in the city.
- That's actually probably the best level in our
- 7 industry.
- 8 MS. KAUFMAN: Chairman, may I add to
- 9 that?
- 10 In the projections now, there -- there is
- 11 a lot of room. There's cash and there's also
- projected equity distributions. There's a lot of room
- for play. Not that we think this will happen. But
- there is a very nice cushion before we would even have
- to get to going to ownership. And obviously ownership
- is well funded and has a no history of not stepping up
- 17 to the plate. So thank you.
- CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. That's all 18
- 19 I had.
- 20 Commissioners, do you have any questions
- 21 for Mr. Dall? I failed to...
- 22 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Actually, my
- questions were fairly similar which I was going to ask 23
- Mr. Dall. But I believe Mr. Policicchio answered --24
- 25 answered everything for me.

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- So I think it's more about strategy,
- getting things done quickly, and making sure
- 3 everyone's aligned in terms of, you know, what that
- 4 is.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: And then just to go
- 6 back. So you come monthly, is that...
- MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah, roughly. That's
- 8 what we're averaging, yeah.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: And I know with
- 10 technology you can be in contact.
- 11 MR. POLICICCHIO: Yeah. We're working on
- 12 Ocean, so to speak, daily. I mean, that's a fair
- 13 statement. Whether we're on meetings or doing emails
- 14 or whatever. But we visit roughly every month.
- CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: What funding sources 15
- 16 would be available if Ocean fell short on cash needs
- 17 at the property?
- 18 MR. POLICICCHIO: That's a bigger
- 19 question. That's a tough one to answer in terms of,
- 20 you know, would that roll all the way up to ownership?
- 21 That's not something I can answer.
- 22 I can say that -- you know, Bruce went
- 23 through the numbers. But call it we'll have \$185
- 24 million in debt by the end of the year when we draw 25 down on everything, let's say, when we pay off all the

- 1 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Commissioner
- 2 Mollineaux?
- 3 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: I'm good.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: You're good. Thank
- 5 you. Do we need a break?
- MS. FAUNTLEROY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, if 6
- 7 the Counsel has any questions based on the
- Commissioners' question, then I would recommend that
- 9 those be asked now. And then I would, with your
- 10 permission, perhaps a 15-minute break, and then come
- back for closing and then another break after closing. 11
- 12 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. No other
- 13 questions?

15

- 14 MS. KAUFMAN: None for me.
 - CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Okay. Well, then we
- 16 will -- we will take a ten-minute break beginning now.
- 17 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Okay. Is that enough
- 18 time, Counsel, to reset for closing statement?
- 19 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes.
 - MS. FAUNTLEROY: I assume that it's the
- 21 representation that you do not wish Mr. Dall to be
- 22 recalled?
- 23 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: No.
- 24 MS. FAUNTLEROY: Everybody is good?
- 25 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Okay, we'll reconvene

1 at 12:15, 12:17.

2 (Brief recess was taken.)

3 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. We'll

4 reconvene. We're ready for the closing statements.

5 Division?

6 MS. BEN DAVID: Thank you, Chairman. The

7 Division has investigated the qualifications of OCR

8 Investment, LLC and its associated entities and

9 individuals.

10 The Division also has conducted a

11 financial analysis of Ocean, including a review of the

12 transaction which resulted in OCR Investment, LLC's

13 acquisition of a 50-percent indirect interest that

14 through the ICA trust it holds today in AC Ocean.

Based on the Division's report and the

16 testimony that you have heard today, the Division

17 submits that OCR Investment, LLC has met its burden of

18 proof in demonstrating that it meets the statutory

19 criteria for qualification as a holding company of

20 casino licensee AC Ocean Walk, LLC, and that its

21 affiliates have met the standards for qualification as

22 additional holding companies.

23 Based on separately filed reports, the

24 Division further submits that the natural person

25 qualifiers of OCR Investment, LLC have demonstrated

1 FF&E. That's the supply chain issue right now. I

2 personally think it's a miracle with everything that's

3 happening in the world and the supply chain problems

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4 all over. And the items that we are ordering are not

5 ordinary items and are coming from places all over the

6 world. I really do think it's, you know, a miracle.

7 But miracles only happen again with hard work of

8 everyone that as many rooms did get open and are open

9 now. So I wanted to correct the record on that.

Bruce and John and OCR have been immersed

11 in Ocean since the closing. And as indicated by my

12 questions, they are looking at everything. And there

13 is -- they have a lot to offer. And they want to make

14 sure that, you know, they're not just throwing out

15 ideas but everything is done carefully and, you know,

16 intently.

17 And, you know, on that note, saying

18 something from the entertainment industry, I

19 personally feel the best is yet to come, and we are

20 going to be seeing that.

As for the legal part of this, we know

22 that in order to get plenarily qualified as a holding

23 company, we had to approve by clear and convincing

24 evidence that we met the standards for qualification

25 under the Casino Control Act. I'm not going to go

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1 that they meet the criteria for individual

2 qualification under the Act.

The Division notes that by the provisions

4 of the ICA trust, the trust is to terminate

5 automatically upon a grant of qualification.

6 Nevertheless, if you deem it necessary as part of your

7 determinations in this matter, the Division consents

8 to such dissolution of the trust and the discharge of

9 William Murtha as trustee upon a favorable

10 qualification ruling by this Commission.

In closing, I would note that the

12 Division has been provided with -- well, I'll comment

13 upon that later. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you.

15 Ms. Kaufman?

MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. Good afternoon now.

17 I would like to start my closing by

18 saying that I really want to emphasize the tremendous

19 turnaround of this property in the past few years and

20 the work of Luxor and the Ocean executive team, now

21 with the addition of OCR Investment, the Ilitch

22 family, and Bruce and John and OCRM.

Also, I found out a little more

24 information on the rooms when we took a break. The

25 remaining rooms actually are done and they're awaiting

1 through each of them one by one again. But I submit

2 that through the testimony and all of our submissions

3 that we have indeed done that.

4 I wanted to also emphasize the business

5 experience of Bruce and John and then of certainly the

6 Ilitch family. And you heard about some of their

7 holdings today.

8

I wanted to thank the Division,

9 particularly Sara Ben David and everyone here, Mary Jo

10 Flaugherty and Tracy Richardson, Chris Glom that's

11 left, and obviously the Director and the Commission,

12 particularly Dianna and of course the commissioners

13 for holding this meeting today.

John mentioned that it seemed that this

15 process was going on for a long time. And the reason

16 that he thinks the process was going on for a long

17 time is because we started interacting with the

18 regulators well before we submitted our ICA

19 application. And it is only, I believe, when the

20 industry and the regulators work together that a

21 casino can have the type of success that we are now

22 seeing with Ocean.

23 So I respectfully request that you grant

24 plenary qualification. And as Sara said, I do

25 understand that the ICA trust dissolves by operation

1 of law. So that really I don't believe needs to be

granted. But thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you.

Commissioners, are there any additional

questions for Counsel?

6 Counsel, are there any other matters that

7 we need to be brought to our attention now?

8 MS. BEN DAVID: I would ask,

9 Mr. Chairman, that the Division be given the

10 opportunity to comment on the draft resolution and of

11 any edits. If I could preserve that right for the

12 Division. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Fair enough. With

14 that being said, we are going to take a 15-minute

recess to deliberate. So we will be back at 12:45. 15

(Brief recess was taken.)

17 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Good afternoon. We're

18 back in session. I understand there are a few

amendments in regards to the draft resolution.

20 Do the parties consent to that adoption?

21 MS. FAUNTLEROY: I believe the Division

22 just wanted to put on the record that it still

matters come to our attention.

reviewing and may have some amendments.

MS. BEN DAVID: That's correct. Thank

MS. KAUFMAN: No, Chair.

25 you, Ms. Fauntleroy.

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1 the likelihood of maintaining a successful and

2 efficient casino operation.

3 When we granted ICA to OCR, it was

contemplated that OCR's investment would be made in

two phases, an initial investment of \$110 million

during phase 1, followed by an additional investment

7 of \$64 million during phase 2. \$30 million of the

initial investment was slated to complete a

164-hotel-room expansion. The additional amount would

10 be primarily used to pay a Luxor Capital loan and

increase Ocean's cash on hand. 11

12 However, as we have heard from witnesses,

13 OCR decided to eliminate the second phase investment

approach and instead invested the entire \$175 million

upon the initial closing of the transaction in late

November of last year. At the same time, Ocean and

its affiliate, ACOWRE, LLC, entered into a revised 17

loan agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank. The revised

19 loan provided Ocean \$185 million in borrowing

20 capacity. Of that amount, AC Ocean borrowed a little

21 over \$40 million to support the hotel expansion

22 project. As noted by the witnesses, additional

23 borrowing is anticipated to support the hotel room

24 expansion.

25 OCR's investment and the JPMorgan

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CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Are there any other

1 refinancing also enabled AC Ocean to repay existing loan obligations resulting in a significant decrease

in its long-term debt obligations. 3

MS. FAUNTLEROY: I don't believe so, 4 In addition to the hotel expansion

project, Ocean recently completed a redesign of its

casino floor and opened a new restaurant and retail

sportsbook venue, all using available cash generated 7

8 from operations.

9 With the ongoing support of Luxor, and 10

now OCR, Ocean is thriving and is proving itself a

strong competitor in both the Atlantic City and the

12 Regional gaming markets. Its revenue results remain

encouraging, with strong signs of post-pandemic

recovery. As the Division noted, the ongoing 14

15 improvements of the Ocean's financial position

supported by the elimination of most of its remaining

financial conditions imposed by the Commission on 17

Ocean at the time it was its initial licensure in 18

19 2018.

20 OCR represented during the ICA hearing

21 that it was committed to Ocean and to Atlantic City.

Its willingness to invest in Ocean to increase its

hotel room inventory, re-configure its gaming floor,

erect a state-of-the-art sportsbook venue, and refresh

25 its non-gaming offerings proves its commitment. As

5 Mr. Chairman. Thank you. CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: On October 14, 2021, 6 we granted Interim Casino Authorization, referred to 8 as ICA, to OCR Investment, LLC, allowing it to make a 9 \$175 million investment in, and thereby acquire a 10 significant ownership in, AC Ocean Walk, LLC, known as 11 Ocean Casino & Resort. Pursuant to the Casino Control 12 Act, we are required to hold a hearing and render a 13 decision on the qualification of OCR within nine 14 months after the ICA is granted. Unless that time is 15 extended by the Commission, as it was on the July 7th, 16 2022 meeting, we extended the ICA to facilitate 17 considering this matter at today's Special Meeting. 18 We must now determine whether the OCR and

19 related entities and individuals have established by

20 clear and convincing evidence that they meet the

21 essential criteria for qualification as a holding 22 company of a casino licensee, that being financial

24 character, honesty, and integrity, and sufficient

25 business ability and casino experience to establish

23 stability, integrity and responsibility, good

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- 1 Atlantic City begins to re-emerge post-pandemic, a
- 2 significant part of its future will be the ability of
- its casino properties to grow their customer base and
- 4 thereby bring visitors and new customers to this
- market. Toward that end, capital improvement projects
- are critical to maintain quality and enhance customer
- appeal. OCR is on the right track. We expect it to
- continue to positively contribute to Ocean's financial
- recovery and resurgence.
- The Ilitch family, through its vast 10
- 11 holdings, represent -- representing leading brands in
- 12 the food, sports and entertainment industries,
- 13 including Little Caesars, the Detroit Red Wings, the
- 14 Detroit Tigers, Olympia Development, and of course
- 15 MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. Their
- 16 companies employ tens of thousands of people across
- 17 the world and have shown a deep commitment to the
- 18 communities in which they operate. Through its
- 19 networks of brands, the Ilitch companies have the
- 20 capacity to create synergies between its Atlantic City
- 21 operations and its other operations. During the ICA
- 22 hearing, the witnesses noted that immediately upon
- 23 public announcement of its investment in Ocean, they
- 24 began to receive requests from existing customers. A
- 25 tremendous opportunity exists to create an atmosphere

- I want to thank Mr. Murtha for his
- 2 service as the ICA trustee for OCR. We appreciate his

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- service during this ICA period.
- 4 With that being said, I will entertain a
- 5 motion on this matter.
 - VICE CHAIR COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I'll
- 7 make the motion. I move to adopt the draft resolution
- and A, find OCR Investment, LLC plenarily qualified as
- the new holding company of casino licensee AC Ocean
- 10 Walk, LLC; and B, find its designated entity and
- 11 natural person qualifiers to be qualified; and C,
- issue initial casino key employee licenses to the
- 13 following officers, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:12-89; and
- 14 find them plenarily qualified to serve in their
- 15 respective positions for OCR Investment, LLC, and
- 16 OCRM, LLC -- and those individuals are Bruce Dall, as
- 17 President, and John Policicchio, Vice President,
- 18 Secretary and Treasurer -- in accordance with the
- 19 findings and rulings set forth therein.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Is there a second?
- 21 COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Mr. Chairman, I
- 22 second the motion.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Any further
- 24 discussion?
- 25 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Mr. Chairman, I'd

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- 1 of excitement, energy and community engagement. I,
- for one, look forward to seeing the future benefits to
- 3 Atlantic City and the State of New Jersey.
- 4 Today we must decide whether OCR has met
- 5 its burden to demonstrate to the Commission by clear
- and convincing evidence that it meets each
- qualification standard set forth in the Casino Control
- Act as a new holding company of a casino license. Has
- 9 OCR established its financial stability, integrity and
- 10 responsibility, as well as good character, honesty and
- 11 integrity, and sufficient business ability and casino
- 12 experience to establish the likelihood of maintaining
- 13 a successful and efficient casino operation?
- 14 The Division reported to us the results
- 15 of its plenary investigation into qualification of OCR
- 16 Investment and its qualifying entities, and by
- separate reports, its individual qualifiers and casino
- 18 key qualifiers.
- 19 Based upon the Division's reports and
- 20 considering the entire record of this proceeding,
- 21 including the testimony of today's witnesses, I, for
- 22 one, am satisfied that OCR has met its burden by
- 23 establishing by clear and convincing evidence that it
- 24 meets the criteria for plenary qualification as a
- 25 holding company of a casino license.

- 1 like to just say something.
 - CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Commissioner Cooper.
- 3 VICE CHAIR COOPER: Thank you. I would
- 4 just like to add that it's very hard to believe that
- Ocean, the original Revel, is already ten years old.
- I'm just sitting here and thinking wow, hard to
- believe.

- 8 But with that, it's still the most recent
- addition to the casino industry in Atlantic City.
- It's certainly been an interesting ten years. A lot 10
- of words can be used to describe the past decade.
- It's been very fragile, uncertain. It's weathered a
- lot of financial ups and downs, a wide variety of
- owners, potential owners, financial investors, just to
- 15 highlight the recent years.
- 16 But sitting here today and listening to
- 17 all of the testimony, it's very apparent that this
- property is doing well. It has shown its stability
- 19 and integrity and has met the appropriate criteria,
- 20 and definitely has exciting plans for the future. 21 I personally am very pleased and
- 22 confident with what I've heard today. I'm always
- 23 happy when I hear positive and exciting plans for the
- gaming industry here in Atlantic City. And there's no
- 25 doubt in my mind that what has been presented here

	98	100
1	today is definitely positive, exciting and most	1 CERTIFICATE
2	impressive. Thank you.	2
3	CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Any further	3 I, RONDA L. REINSTEIN, a Certified Court
4	discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.	4 Reporter of the State of New Jersey, authorized to
5	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Commissioner Mollineaux?	5 administer oaths pursuant to R.S.41:2-2, do hereby
6	COMMISSIONER MOLLINEAUX: Yes.	6 certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
7	MS. FAUNTLEROY: Vice Chair Cooper?	7 transcript of the testimony as taken stenographically
8	VICE CHAIR COOPER: Yes.	8 by and before me at the time, place and on the date
9	MS. FAUNTLEROY: And Chairman Plousis?	9 herein before set forth, to the best of my ability.
10	CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Yes.	10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a
11	MS. FAUNTLEROY: In accordance with	11 relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any
12	Resolution 20-12-09-03, the next closed session shall	12 of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a
13	be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in	13 relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and
14	the Commission offices.	14 that I am not financially interested in the action.
15	CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Do we have any public	15
16	comment?	16 17
17	MS. FAUNTLEROY: We do have one,	17
18	Mr. Chairman. It is from excuse me. It's from	19
19	Mark Clayton.	20
20	"Have you considered completing the second	21
21	tower? If not, why not? The thinking seems to be the	22
22	more rooms built, the more money made. How much would	23
23	the second tower cost to build?"	RONDA L. REINSTEIN, CCR No. 30X100217800
24	I guess that question can be recorded for	24
25	the record and forwarded on to Ms. Kaufman for her	25 Dated: August 1, 2022
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1	client.	
2	CHAIRMAN PLOUSIS: Thank you. No other	
3	further comment?	
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4 5		
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