



What's New and What's News

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LEGISLATURE & OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

November 2006

This newsletter is dedicated to keeping the legislature and other governmental agencies informed of "What's New" in the Gambling Commission and "What's News."

New Commissioner Appointed



Keven Rojecki began his duties as Commissioner in July 2006.

Commissioner Rojecki is a 15-year veteran firefighter with the SeaTac Fire Department and is a legislative liaison with the Washington State Council of Firefighters.

Deputy Director Appointed



Sharon Tolton-Reese was appointed Deputy Director in July 2006. She worked for the Gambling Commission from 1995 to 1997.

She has a degree in criminal justice. She is a member of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and the International

Association of Police Chiefs, and is a graduate of the FBI Leadership program.

Sharon will be working with Tribal governments and managing several service divisions of the agency. She looks forward to developing strong value-based partnerships with the governments, communities, and individuals the agency serves.

Staff Recognition

2006 Certified Fraud Examiners

The following Special Agents completed requirements for certification as fraud examiners in 2006:

Terry Bach, Joanne Chambers, Jim Greene, Leanne Leroux, Kevin Revoir, and Travis Vessey

2007 Agency Request Legislation

The Commission submitted three proposals to the Governor's Office for agency request legislation. The Governor's office conditionally approved the first proposal, subject to some small language changes. We are waiting to hear on the other two. The proposals would:

- 1) Change the Commission's Powers/Duties to allow:
 - The Director to issue temporary licenses to individual licensees and other businesses.** This would allow people who qualify for a license to receive a temporary license after the background process is completed, rather than waiting for approval at a monthly Commission meeting.
 - The Director to issue orders of summary suspensions to individual licensees and other businesses.** A summary suspension requires licensees to stop working immediately and is reserved for cases that involve cheating, theft, and other serious violations.
 - Military personnel to renew their licenses** if they have been deployed and their license expired during deployment. Department of Licensing and Fish and Wildlife make the same licensing exceptions for military personnel.

- 2) **Impose penalties against minors who gamble.** There are currently no penalties against minors, only against the business where they gamble and the dealer. The penalty would be a \$125 fine and could include community supervision and court costs.

- 3) **Allow the Commission to create a barring list** to keep known criminals from entering gambling facilities and require operators to bar them. The list is intended for individuals convicted of gambling crimes or crimes committed in connection with a gambling activity, such as a gambling-related theft.

If the Governor's Office approves these proposals, we will be seeking legislative sponsors.

Our Mission: Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.

Internet Gambling

We received about two hundred calls and e-mails after the law clarifying Internet gambling restrictions took effect June 2006. Most people were surprised to learn gambling on the Internet has never been legal. Unlike licensed gambling activities, Internet gambling sites are not licensed or regulated in Washington State, or anywhere in the United States. Players have no idea who is operating the gambling site.

There are many risks associated with gambling on the Internet. Unlike other licensed and regulated gambling activities, Internet gamblers have no idea who is operating the gambling site, if the games are honest, if winnings will be paid, or if the money wagered will be used for criminal purposes. Players have no recourse if they are not paid or cheated.

Players put themselves at risk of credit card fraud, identity theft, or other financial crimes by disclosing information that should be kept secure.

Internet gambling also creates an uncontrolled environment for those with gambling addictions and for minors.

The Commission spearheaded the creation of a multi-state/federal Internet Gambling Task Force in 2005. The Task Force met December 2005 in Indianapolis, March 2006 in St. Louis, and September 2006 in Seattle.

The mission of the Task Force is to reduce illegal Internet gambling through a coordinated sharing of resources, enforcement, and education.

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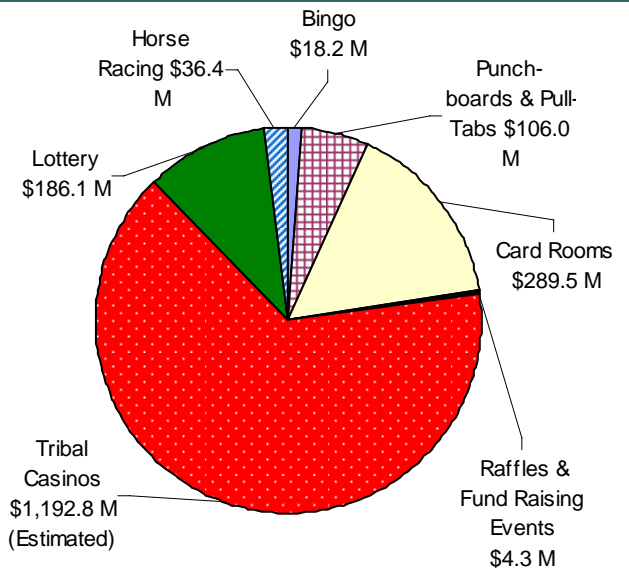
Interesting Investigation

A Special Agent was notified that a dealer stole \$100 chips from gambling tables at a house-banked card room. The local police department arrested the dealer and recovered \$900 in chips. The suspect was charged with 2nd degree theft. As a result of the agent's investigation, facts showed the dealer stole over \$2,300 and the criminal charge was increased to 1st degree theft.

The investigation revealed the suspect placed the "cut" card on the chip tray, covering a portion of the chips. When the suspect picked up the "cut" card he also picked up a chip from the tray and hid it under the cards. The suspect then, without clearing his hands, concealed chips in his waist band or pants pocket. Using the card room's surveillance system, the agent showed the suspect did this 24 times within one week. The agent also showed the suspect had cashed checks from his personal account at the facility. He then used the stolen chips to buy back his checks.

The suspect's card room employee license was revoked by the Commission. The suspect pled guilty to 3rd degree theft and served 30 days in jail.

2006 Gambling Net Receipts



Net Receipts = wagers minus prizes **Total: \$1.833 Billion**
2006 = 6/05 to 6/06