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Atlantic City Meetings and Conventions Data

Source: MeetAC

Sept '20

Atlantic City Information

Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) launches EngageAC interactive website platform – According to a September 15 [press release](#) from the CRDA, the Authority recently launched a first of its kind interactive website platform containing demographic information specific to Atlantic City. This tool, [EngageAC](#), will assist the CRDA and other community leaders in making policy decisions driven by data.

New Jersey Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver would like to see state oversight of Atlantic City continue beyond 2021 – In a wide-ranging interview with [The Press of Atlantic City](#), Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver said she thought Atlantic City should continue its partnership with the state as there was still work to be done. The conversation also included discussion of the impact of the casino closures on the Atlantic City economy, as well as plans for economic development and improving public health outcomes for city residents in the future.

Showboat owner Bart Blatstein submits proposal to build beach bar – As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on September 9, Bart Blatstein submitted a plan to the city to be named the redeveloper of several city-owned beach lots between Delaware and New Jersey avenues. The plan includes the construction of a beach bar, which could complement the 100,000-square-foot water park that Blatstein hopes to build on vacant land between Showboat and Ocean Casino Resort. City Council sent the proposal to the Planning Board for review. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority will also need to review the plan as they have zoning authority over the land, which falls within the Tourism District. *The planning board met on Octn Der)Tj (.)Tj 03.810 Td ()Tj EMC /P <</MCID 126>>BDC -91*

Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approves request to split land lots containing the Wild Wild West Casino and parking garage structure from Bally's Atlantic City – As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on September 15 the CRDA approved a request to divide land lots currently owned by Caesars Entertainment Inc., facilitating the sale of Bally's Atlantic City to Twin River Worldwide Holdings. Caesars Entertainment Inc. will retain ownership of the Wild Wild West Casino and adjoining space containing the William Hill Sportsbook, incorporating it into Caesars Atlantic City. Bally's Atlantic City and the parking garage are to be sold to Twin River Worldwide Holdings for \$25 million.

New Jersey breaks national record for single month record sports wagering handle – As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), New Jersey sportsbooks (including casinos and racetracks) generated a record \$668 million in handle for the month of August 2020 exceeding the previous record held by Nevada with \$614 million generated in November 2019. This record hold resulted in \$326.3 million win and \$39.5 million in revenue for August 2020.

Smoking banned inside Atlantic City casinos – As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on September 4, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced a ban on smoking in indoor casinos citing COVID-19 related health risks. Before COVID, local ordinance permitted smoking indoors on 25% of a casino's gaming floor.

National Gaming News

Caesars Entertainment buys William Hill for \$3.7 billion – As reported by the [Associated Press](#), on September 30, Caesars Entertainment announced the purchase of bookmaking company William Hill. Caesars plans to keep William Hill's U.S. assets and sell off the company's interests in the United Kingdom and other countries. William Hill sports books operate in Ocean Casino Resort, Tropicana, Bally's and Harrah's in Atlantic City, and Monmouth Park racetrack in Oceanport New Jersey.

ESPN commits to deals with Caesars/William Hill and Draft Kings to integrate sports betting – According to [Legal Sports Report](#)

Michigan progresses toward launch of legal online gambling – As reported by **Online Poker Report**, as of September 25, online gambling had passed two important procedural steps (a state Senate committee meeting and a public hearing on iGaming rules) and was on path to launch by Thanksgiving. The original plan was to launch online gambling in 2021, but COVID-related closures of land-based casinos prompted the state to accelerate the timeline.

Nationwide commercial gaming revenue continues to recover – According to a September 4 release from the **American Gaming Association**, July 2020 marked the third consecutive month of ‘dramatically improving revenue conditions for commercial gaming’ as the industry continues to recover from revenue lows in April and May brought on by COVID-19 related shutdowns. While year-over-year total gross gaming revenue (GGR) was down 23.9% in July 2020, Sports betting GGR increased 86.2% and iGaming GGR increased 253.6% year-over-year for July 2020.

Ohio state senator proposes online lottery amendment be added to sports betting bill – According to **PlayOhio**, Ohio Senator Bill Coley would like to add an amendment to House Bill 194, which legalizes sports betting, that would permit the sale of lottery tickets online. **House Bill 194** passed the House in May and has been under consideration by the Senate since. Supporters of the bill have said they will push for a Senate Committee meeting before the November election with the hope of passing the bill before the end of the legislative session in December.

Sports betting on the ballot in Maryland – According to **Online Poker Report**, citizens in Maryland will have the opportunity to decide whether the state legalizes sports betting when they vote their general election ballots this year. Question 2 on the ballot asks “Do you approve the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland to authorize sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education?” If Question 2 passes, there will still be a lot of legislative work to do before sports betting is ready to launch.

Sports betting regulations approved in Virginia – According to **Legal Sports Report**, the Virginia Lottery approved sports betting regulations on September 15. The first sportsbooks in the state are expected to launch in time for the NFL playoffs in January 2021.

Tennessee on track to launch sports betting November 1 – According to **Legal Sports Report**, on September 24 the Sports Wagering Committee of the Tennessee Education Lottery announced BetMGM, DraftKings Sportsbook and FanDuel Sportsbook as the first operators granted online-only sports betting licenses in the state. The Committee will meet again on October 5 and 16 to license additional operators before a November 1 launch. Legal sports betting became law in Tennessee in May 2019.

Wynn Resorts building on-site rapid COVID-19 testing lab with plans to open by Thanksgiving – As reported by **Travel Weekly** and **Calvin Ayre**, in an effort to create “a safe zone” at their casino resorts, Wynn Resorts is in the process of building an on-site COVID lab capable of providing “thousands of accurate rapid tests daily.” The lab, expected to open by Thanksgiving, is the product of a partnership between Wynn Resorts and the University Medical Center (UMC) of Southern Nevada.

Hospitality & Tourism News

American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) releases report on impact of COVID-19 on hotel industry- According to the report, **State of the Hotel Industry Analysis: COVID-**