

Chairman Brandt's Opening Remarks for SWARC Meeting — 2/16/2022

- I'd like to begin today by recapping where we are in our process, as many in the state are anxious for SWARC to invite applications for additional Class B facility licenses and mobile sports wagering licenses.
- The May 2021 law requires SWARC to seek to achieve racial, ethnic and gender diversity to the extent permitted by law, encouraging applicants who qualify as minority business enterprises or who are small, minority- or women-owned business entities to apply for sports wagering licenses.
- So to comply with state and federal law, we were advised last September that a survey of the industry must be conducted for SWARC and its advisors, indicating whether disparities exist in the sports wagering industry between the availability of, and the utilization of, firms owned by minorities and women. Upon its completion, our commission can determine whether it has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender- conscious measures when issuing the new licenses. The State's Office of the Attorney General has been cautious in commissioning such a study, and we will get an update on that today.
- In the meantime, SWARC and the Maryland Lottery Agency are continuing to prepare regulations for the application process, and evaluation criteria for the license awards, so that we may issue license applications and commence the bidding process for the sports wagering licenses as quickly as possible after receipt of the industry survey.
- At our January meeting, we authorized a request for information to known participants in the sports wagering industry inviting input on matters relating to SWARC's approach to licensing sports wagering in Maryland. Responses are due at the end of this week and they will be considered in establishing Maryland's licensing process. We'll get an update on that work today too.
- Our advisors have also summarized general information for prospective applicants concerning the sports wagering opportunities in Maryland. This has been posted to the SWARC website provided by DLS and will be posted to SWARC's new improved website, which will be available soon. The staff are also working to create public presentations, webinars, FAQs, and other materials to educate Maryland businesses on steps they can take to begin the gathering application information so that they may be prepared to respond once we establish the process.
- We have asked our staff and advisors to use information developed from these processes to curate a list of businesses interested in participating in Maryland's sports wagering industry.
- So with that background, are there any objections to the agenda which was published in advance of this meeting?

Summary of Mr. Stamper's Disparity Analysis Update

David Stamper (Office of the Attorney General) updated SWARC on the status of the industry analysis procurement. He informed SWARC that there are some minor details to work out, but he expects that those details will be resolved quickly, and shortly thereafter a finalized contract will be submitted to the Department of Legislative Services for approval.