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Chairman responds to appointment of special investigator

The following is a statement by Illinois Gaming Board Chairman Elzie Higginbottom:

"The Illinois Gaming Board and its Staff have worked tirelessly and openly to settle all matters with Emerald Casino Inc. and to reactivate the 10th casino license for the State of Illinois as responsibly and quickly as possible.

"The Board is confident it followed the Plan of Reorganization negotiated by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Eugene Wedoff. I have full confidence this Board acted within the law.

"The Board welcomes any review of this matter by Mr. Eric Holder or any recognized law enforcement agency to the extent permitted by the Illinois Riverboat Gambling Act or any other applicable law. On Tuesday, I contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and requested a review of the Board's decision to award the 10th license to the Isle of Capri by that office."