

## **815 Entertainment, LLC**

### **Response to Section 5.1 (Disclosure of Records) of the Riverboat Gambling Act**

1. Name: 815 Entertainment, LLC  
Business Address: 2800 S. River Road, Suite 110, Des Plaines, IL 60018  
Business Telephone: (847) 268-4964
2. Applicant: 815 Entertainment, LLC  
  
Members:
  - Rockford Casino Development, LLC, 2902 McFarland Road, Suite 400, Rockford, IL, 61107
3. Does not apply.
4. Does not apply.
5. Applicant has not had any license or certificate denied, restricted, suspended, revoked or not renewed.
6. Applicant has never filed or had filed against it a proceeding in bankruptcy or has never been involved in any formal process to adjust, defer, suspend or otherwise work out the payment of any debt.
7. Does not apply.
8. There are no public officials or officers of any unit of government, or relatives of said public officials or officers, who, directly or indirectly, own any financial interest in, have any beneficial interest in, are the creditors of or hold any debt instrument issued by, or hold or have any interest in any contractual or service relationship with Applicant.
9. Does not apply.
10. The counsel representing 815 Entertainment, LLC in matters before the Board regarding licensing is:
  - Terence Dunleavy, O'Rourke & Moody LLP, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60601, Phone: 312-849-2020; and
  - Donna More, Fox Rothschild LLP, 321 N. Clark Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60654, Phone 312-517-9205.

## 11. Project Description

The Applicant's permanent casino location is the site of the former Clock Tower Resort & Conference Center in Rockford, which served as a major hotel and conference center in the region for many years, as well as a landmark for travelers along the bordering Interstate 90. The address for the site of the permanent casino location is 7801 E. State Street in Rockford.

The proposed casino development will be branded a Hard Rock casino and will be called Hard Rock Casino Rockford ("Hard Rock Rockford"). Applicant intends to leverage the power of the Hard Rock brand, with a focus on entertainment, for the concept and design of the building.

The permanent casino facility will consist of approximately 187,000 square feet of total enclosed area, and will be comprised of the following:

- Approximately 2,000 total gaming positions (offering a mixture of slot machines and table games) and a sports book area
- 6 restaurants with total anticipated seating of 660, 18,970 square feet of dining area and 8,397 square feet of dedicated kitchen space
- Approximately 23,415 square feet of casino support area
- Approximately 8,750 square feet of casino amenities
- A 1,600 seat "Hard Rock Live" event center, configured to serve as a 23,500 square foot conference center when seats retracted
- Approximately 2,000 square feet of retail space
- Approximately 22,000 square feet of back of the house space; and
- A center bar connected to the proposed Hard Rock Café in the heart of the gaming floor.

Hard Rock will assume the lead role for all property development responsibilities and has an internal development team with extensive experience across the globe in the design, construction and retrofit of casinos with a robust mix of gaming, entertainment, dining, and lodging.

The temporary casino will be located at Giovanni's Restaurants and Banquet Center located at 610 N. Bell School Road in Rockford. It is expected to take 3 months to remodel and could be open to the public as early as summer 2020. The applicant anticipates the permanent facility will be completed in 15 months after commencement of construction. The City of Rockford has approved all zoning and variances for the project, and site work could begin within days of being awarded a license from the Illinois Gaming Board.

### Economic Benefit

Through the Host Community Agreement, the applicant has agreed to payments to the City of Rockford not less than \$7 million each calendar year, and will pay the city percentages of temporary casino payments and permanent casino payments in the amounts of:

- Temporary Casino Payments - an amount equal to 15% of net income but no less than \$1,820,000 during the first 12 months of operations and 5% of net income but no less

than \$1,070,000 during each subsequent 12 months

- Permanent Casino Payments - an amount equal to 1% of “Adjusted Receipts” (casino and sports wagering gaming revenues) during the first 24 months of operations and 0.5% of Adjusted Receipts during each subsequent 12 months.

The City of Rockford has indicated that these casino payments will be used to mitigate certain community impacts from the construction and operation of the project, as well as support development in high risk and low economic growth neighborhoods and establish a local foundation. Please see the Innovation Group study in this application for additional and more specific information about projected visitor numbers and gaming and overall revenues.

### Employment Plan

The Applicant’s proposed permanent casino facility is expected to generate approximately 1,000 full-time direct positions (or their equivalent). Each full-time position will have a living wage of over \$37,000. In total, the development of the Applicant’s project is estimated to support more than 2,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Rockford area and labor income of \$98 million on an ongoing annual basis, with an additional nearly 1,600 jobs during construction of the permanent casino facility. Please see the attached generic organizational chart for the proposed management level positions.

### Affirmative Action

Hard Rock will leverage its 48 years of experience in contracting with and sourcing from minority-owned and women-owned businesses, including programs to elevate the recruiting, training, hiring, and promoting of minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans of the armed services. Hard Rock will initiate its sourcing plan by ensuring all outbound communications encourage and explain that Disadvantaged Businesses Enterprises (DBE) meeting the qualifications of a business with minority ownership of at least 51% will be a focus. The applicant will ensure all documents and forms allow DBEs (including minority-owned business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises, veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran owned small businesses and small businesses) to be easily identified and selected in the competitive vendor bid process to:

- Ensure non-discrimination in the solicitation, award and administration of contracts
- Create a level playing field on which DBE firms can compete fairly
- Ensure that only certified DBE firms participate through the submission of proper certification
- Ensure all aspects of the bid - cost, qualifications, experiences, etc. - are considered
- Exercise a “preferred vendor process” to ensure DBE’s are extended fair opportunities within their specific areas of expertise with additional opportunities to win awards increasing their economic value with manufacturers and distributors; and
- Run workshops as necessary to ensure vendors are aware and able to sufficiently bid the project.

The diversity goals and commitments will include the development and construction of the proposed project.

Hard Rock provides equal employment opportunity for all applicants and team members, without regard to race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation or preference, national origin, age, citizenship status, marital status, domestic partnership status, veteran status, mental and/or physical disability, pregnancy, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law.

This policy prohibits team members from creating a hostile work environment or engaging in harassment. Team members who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to inform Human Resources, which will investigate the complaint and take appropriate disciplinary action if necessary. No team member will be subject to any adverse employment action for informing Human Resources of a concern.

To create equal employment opportunities for all, including residents living in economically depressed areas, we have set-up a centrally-located Hard Rock information center in downtown Rockford to ultimately be a place where people can learn more about employment and vendor opportunities.

Hard Rock will also initiate its Women in Leadership program that has seen much success in other markets. Since the inception of the program, female directors have risen from 28 to 32% and female VPs have risen from 20 to 27% of leadership. For the second year in a row, Hard Rock was named among Forbes "Top Employers for Women" in 2019.

#### Projected Admission and Adjusted Gross Gaming Receipts

We project the annual admissions to be approximately 1,500,00.00 and the projected adjusted gross gaming receipts to be approximately \$200,000,000.00 annually.

**12. does not apply**