



LIGHT Comments on July DGE Report

For immediate release
August 16, 2022

Comments from Jane Bokunewicz, faculty director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism (LIGHT), Stockton University School of Business, on July 2022 numbers released today by the Division of Gaming Enforcement:

July 2022 showed indications of a strong summer season fueled by a return to normal operations and consumer behavior. At \$299 million, July 2022 brick and mortar gaming revenues for Atlantic City's nine casinos exceeded July 2021 by 8%. Unlike last summer, Atlantic City casinos in 2022 are operating without official public health restrictions, which were still in place at the start of summer 2021. There also isn't the "COVID-19 drag" of persisting public health concerns that kept some visitors from returning to pre-pandemic behaviors even after an end to the COVID-19 public health emergency in New Jersey.

Meetings, conventions and trade shows are back in full swing this summer. Data provided by Meet AC show some of the clearest indicators of an end to the COVID-19 drag and a return to pre-pandemic (or better) levels of activity. In the six months ended June 2019, Meet AC facilitated 134 conventions, trade shows and meetings, and welcomed 345,000. In the same period ended 2022, Meet AC facilitated 138 conventions, trade shows and meetings, and welcomed 453,000 – this represented a 316% and 1377% increase respectively over the same period in 2021. In 2021, Meet AC facilitated just 33 conventions, trade shows and meetings, and welcomed only 30,700 attendees.

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