

MGM Springfield exceeding diversity targets on construction



By [Gintautas Dumcius | gdumcius@masslive.com](#)

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on March 17, 2016 at 2:13 PM, updated March 25, 2016 at 2:59 PM

BOSTON – MGM Springfield is clearing its diversity targets for construction commitments, officials with the \$950 million project told the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Thursday.

The project now has 17 women-owned businesses, 11 minority-owned businesses and five veteran-owned businesses, according to data officials provided to the commission as part of an update on diversity targets.

The project goals were to have 10 percent women-owned businesses and they hit 12 percent through Feb. 29, five percent minority-owned businesses and they hit 15 percent, and 2 percent veteran-owned businesses, and they're at 2.9 percent.

They are also hitting workforce diversity marks. "It's partnering with the unions and putting a framework in place," said Jason Rosewell, executive director of design and construction for MGM Springfield.

Among the companies that have already worked on the project site: Ayala Excavating and Trucking LLC, a minority-owned business in Springfield; BECO Electrical Contractors, Inc., a veteran-owned business in Monson; and CK Flooring Solutions, Inc., a women-owned business in Chicopee.

Rosewell appeared in front of the commission with Chelan Brown, diversity specialist for construction on MGM Springfield, and Jason Garand, business manager of Local 108 of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters.

Gaming Commission chairman Stephen Crosby said when Massachusetts legislators passed the 2011 expanded gambling law, allowing one slot parlor and up to three casinos, workforce and supplier diversity was a "very high priority."

"Because of our law, we're taking this probably more seriously than it's ever been taken before in any construction project in the country, in the state certainly," Crosby said. "It's an important by-product."

There isn't a veterans-owned business certification agency in Western Massachusetts, so the gaming commission has had to come up with its own process, Crosby said.

Crosby said he would like to see the MGM Springfield numbers spur Wynn Boston Harbor, a \$1.7 billion project in Everett, north of Boston.

CASINOS

[Ruling on Caring Health Center request for casino mitigation funds possible this week](#)

[Plainridge Park Casino take declined in June as slots parlor turned 1](#)

[Has Plainridge Park Casino plateaued?](#)

[Here are your Mass. ballot questions for Nov. 2016: Charter schools, marijuana, farm animal cruelty, and 2nd slot parlor](#)

[MGM Resorts International to invest in Holyoke for culinary training, downtown Springfield for gaming training center](#)

“We hope that they’ll try to demonstrate they can beat your numbers,” Crosby told the MGM officials.

MGM is also exceeding goals on the design side of the project, which mirror the goals for the construction side, according to their presentation. They have commitments from 11.1 percent of women-owned businesses, 6.5 percent from minority-owned businesses, and 2.9 percent from veteran-owned businesses.



MGM Springfield trailing slightly in meeting diversity targets for veterans, meets targets for women and minorities

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

© 2016 MassLive LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of MassLive LLC.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

[▶ Ad Choices](#)