

Jerry St. Pe'
Chairman

Nolen Canon
Commissioner

John M. Hairston
Commissioner



Larry Gregory
Executive Director

MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON, MS (July 21, 2011) – Allen Godfrey, a career state employee, with broad experience in the field of public body regulatory compliance, has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC).

Godfrey, 50, succeeds Larry Gregory who is retiring after 30 years of Mississippi public service employment, including 15 years as Executive Director of the MGC.

The three member Gaming Commission, comprised of Jerry St Pe', chairman, and commissioners Nolen Canon and John Hairston, announced Godfrey's appointment today saying he was selected from a field of more than 100 applicants who applied for the position.

"We were impressed by the number and quality and level of experience of the applicants who applied," the Commissioners said.

Godfrey brings to his new assignment 20-years of experience in auditing and regulatory compliance of Mississippi agencies, including the past eight years during which he served as Director of Compliance and Deputy Director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission. Prior to joining the MGC in 2003, he held director level and senior auditor positions with the Mississippi Alcohol Beverage Control Board and the Mississippi State Tax Commission. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Public Accountant.

"The staff of the Mississippi Gaming Commission has earned for our State the best of reputation for integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and fairness in the regulation of the gaming industry in Mississippi and we are confident that will continue under Allen Godfrey's leadership of the MGC," the commissioners said.

With a staff of 120 personnel and offices in Jackson, Biloxi, Vicksburg and Tunica, the Mississippi Gaming Commission regulates gaming activities within the State through the enforcement of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act and the Mississippi Gaming Regulations. The Commission is also charged with regulating charitable bingo activities.

Mississippi currently has 30 casinos, employing 25,000 employees. They generate \$2.4-billion annually in gaming revenue and produce in excess of 250-million in annual State and local tax revenue.

Godfrey will assume his position as Executive Director of the Gaming Commission on September 1.