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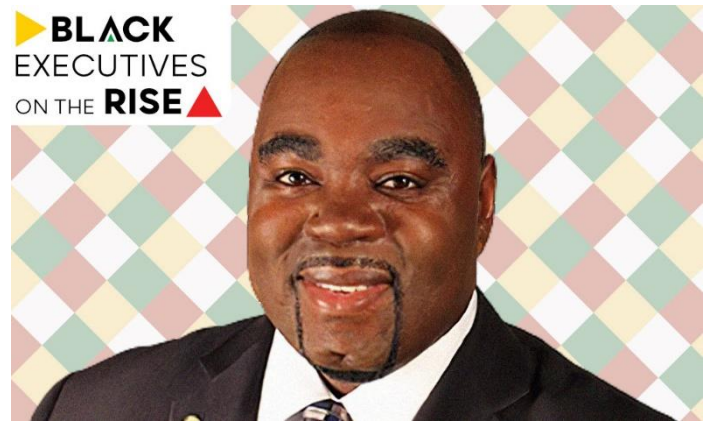
Contact: MGCB-Media@michigan.gov



Michigan Gaming Control Board Executive Director Henry Williams recognized as Black Executive on the Rise by CDC Gaming Reports

DETROIT, Aug. 5, 2024 — The Michigan Gaming Control Board is pleased to announce that Executive Director [Henry Williams has been recognized by CDC Gaming Reports](#), in conjunction with African Americans in Gaming, as a [2024 Black Executive on the Rise in the gaming industry](#).

With a career spanning an impressive 23 years in the industry, Williams has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, leadership, and innovation in shaping the future of Michigan’s gaming regulations and responsible gaming initiatives.



“I am so honored to be recognized by CDC Gaming Reports and African Americans in Gaming, and to be in the company of such accomplished gaming industry leaders,” **MGCB Executive Director Henry Williams** said. “I would especially like to thank Kim Barker Lee, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Bally’s Corporation, who was recognized with this same honor last year and wanted to pay it forward by recognizing me this year. I get up every day to go to a job I love where it’s a privilege to witness—and be part of—an industry that thrives on progress.”

Having begun his journey as a regulation officer at MotorCity Casino, Williams quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing extraordinary talent in ensuring the integrity and fairness of gaming operations. His unwavering commitment to fostering a safe and responsible gaming environment for Michigan citizens has been a cornerstone of his career, driven by a profound understanding of the impact the industry holds on individuals and communities.

Before entering the gaming sector, Williams worked as a social worker in Detroit, an experience that deeply shaped his perspective on the importance of safeguarding players from the harmful effects of problem gambling. It was during this time that he encountered a single mother with only \$30 left for groceries, facing the heartbreaking decision of spending it at the casino in hopes of a financial turnaround. This encounter fueled Williams’ determination to prioritize responsible gaming initiatives and support those in need.

In light of this well-deserved recognition, Williams emphasizes the importance of aspiring leaders in the gaming industry to work hard, take chances, and fearlessly explore different areas and aspects of gaming.

“In the world of gaming, I oversee a multibillion-dollar industry that requires individuals who are determined, focused, and resilient,” **Williams** added. “My advice to others who want to do the same is to not be defined by the struggles you may face, do not let anyone tell you what you can and can’t achieve, and don’t ever stop believing in yourself. I never thought I’d have the job that I do today, but I do and I’m so proud to serve the great State of Michigan.”

[According to recent research from the American Gaming Association](#), while the gaming industry’s workforce has a greater degree of racial diversity compared to both national and hospitality industry benchmarks, Blacks represent only 5.6% of executive and senior-level management positions, highlighting the significant contributions and underrepresentation of Black professionals in the industry. This recognition serves as a testament to the remarkable talent and potential within the Black community and underscores the need for continued efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in the gaming sector.

Williams has been recognized along with Demi Adebowale, Director of Casino Operations at Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa; Kieron A. Frazier, Associate Attorney at Greenberg Traurig, LLP; Marcus Glover, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Bally’s Corporation; Darnell Johnson, Vice President of Global Product Management at IGT; Khalid Jones, Executive Director of the Virginia Lottery; and Dyani Marvel, Vice President of Marketing Strategy & Operations at Wondr Nation.

*Gambling in any form is for entertainment purposes only. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at **1-800-GAMBLER**, text 800GAM, or visit www.1800gamblerchat.org. Help is available 24/7 and is free and confidential. Michigan citizens can also visit the [Responsible Gaming page of the MGCB website](#) for information on self-exclusion programs including the Disassociated Persons List and the Internet Gaming and Sports Betting Responsible Gaming Database, and DontRegretTheBet.org for additional tools to game responsibly.*

The Michigan Gaming Control Board shall ensure the conduct of fair and honest gaming to protect the interests of the citizens of the state of Michigan. Learn more at Michigan.gov/MGCB.