

1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: With that, I'd like to go to our  
2 first speaker, Lee Kerley.

3 MR. KERLEY: Good evening, Madam Chair, and the rest  
4 of the commissioners. My name is Lee Kerley.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Lee, I'm going to interrupt just for  
6 a second, and I apologize, just to make sure that all of our  
7 speakers know to keep an eye on our timer over here.

8 And I want to say this ahead of time so that no one  
9 takes any personal offense, but my job is to make sure that all  
10 of our speakers have an opportunity to speak so I will be very  
11 precise with the timing. So please keep an eye on the timer.

12 With that, we're going to start our timing over and  
13 let you have your full time, Mr. Kerley.

14 MR. KERLEY: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Hi, I'm  
15 Lee Kerley and I am the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls  
16 Clubs of the Gulf Coast. We have six units on the coast. We  
17 have over 200 kids who use our facilities regularly.

18 We have over 15,000 kids who use our programs and the  
19 outreach program. And I have been in this position for the last  
20 16 years.

21 Coast casinos give generous amount of time, talent  
22 and money towards success of the Boys and Girls Club. Casinos  
23 sponsor special programs and make donations directly that  
24 benefits this youth organization.

25 Casino owners and executives realize the economic  
26 impact and importance of their industry to the livelihoods of  
27 thousands of residents and municipalities in which they live and  
28 work.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1           Therefore, a strong charitable base has been created.  
2 The casinos actively give back to the community and show a  
3 tremendous commitment to the Gulf Coast. For this, we, the Boys  
4 and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast, are grateful and looking  
5 forward to continue a long and rewarding relationship with the  
6 coast casino industry.

7           Corporate campaigns have given thousands of employees  
8 the chance to give to social service agencies and United Way of  
9 South Mississippi. In 1992, United Way total campaign was  
10 \$718,409. Casino gaming contributed to this total was \$9,748.

11           In 1997, United Way campaign was \$1,420,561. Gaming  
12 contributions to this total was \$428,259. Volunteers from  
13 casinos have been instrumental in the planning and implementation  
14 of special events at the Boys and Girls Club. Donation of  
15 products and services, time and talent from the employees and  
16 executives have been above and beyond expectation.

17           Serving on our board of directors are several key  
18 casino industrial decision makers who use their influence and  
19 knowledge to improve funding opportunity, fundraising and public  
20 relations. Some of these committed individuals serve on other  
21 boards of non-profit agencies as well, creating wonderful linkage  
22 and a strong commitment to community.

23           Additional support comes from their affiliation with  
24 local school boards. Some even join churches and I'm sure  
25 contributions to their collection plates has increased.  
26 Sponsorship of special individuals and special events and youth  
27 programs have helped to increase our operational budget and  
28 improve the overall service that we are able to provide to the  
29 community.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1                   Donation of advertising space, partnership in special  
2 events have skyrocketed the Boys and Girls Club and their message  
3 to the local media. For all this and more, the Boys and Girls  
4 Club says thanks to all of our friends and neighbors.

5                   CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)