



# Division of Criminal Investigation

**FY 2024**

**Report regarding**

**Activities of the Division**

**Iowa Code 99D.14(2)e and 99F.10(4)f**

Prepared by

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Special Enforcement Operations Bureau

## **Report filed with the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on the Justice System:**

- **Secretary of the Senate W. Charles Smithson**
  - **Senator Julian B. Garrett, Chair**
  - **Senator Todd E. Taylor, Ranking Member**
  
- **Chief Clerk of the House Meghan Nelson**
  - **Representative Brian K. Lohse, Chair**
  - **Representative Eric J. Gjerde, Ranking Member**

As required in Iowa Code sections 99D.14(2)e and 99F.10(4)f, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is filing this report with the co-chairpersons and ranking members of the joint appropriations subcommittee on the justice system and concurrently with the legislative services agency. The report is intended to outline the activities of the Division during the previous fiscal year for each racetrack enclosure, excursion gambling boat and gambling structure.

During the three-year Gaming Reorganization that began in FY2014, the DCI staffing levels were adjusted by eliminating all but two Special Agent 1 positions. Prior to reorganization, each of the Riverboat Gaming facilities were authorized two Special Agent 2 positions and either four or five Special Agent 1 positions; depending upon the patron capacity of the facility. In addition, each of the track facilities were authorized three Special Agent 2 positions and no Special Agent 1 positions. At the conclusion of reorganization in FY2017, all licensed facilities were authorized three Special Agent 2 positions with a total of two remaining Special Agent 1s who were authorized to remain until they retire or otherwise leave their current job class. During FY2019, one of the remaining Special Agent 1 positions was eliminated through retirement.

As a result of reorganization, the DCI made significant changes to the priorities of the Agents. The remaining three Special Agents at each facility work primarily day hours and spend less time on front line law enforcement responsibilities such as responding to minor incidents and offenses. Instead, the Special Agents now focus their time on the background work related to the companies and individuals licensed to operate in the casino industry in Iowa, violations of chapters 99D and 99F, and financial crimes with a nexus to a gaming facility such as theft, fraud, or money laundering.

In 2019, the legislature enacted Senate File 617, which expanded regulated gambling activities to include sports wagering and fantasy sports contests by licensed entities. The addition of sports wagering to the Iowa market has proven popular for the Iowa gambling industry as evidenced by the increased number of sports wagering operators licensed in Iowa. Throughout FY2021 and FY2022, DCI Special Agents worked on numerous background investigations related to sports wagering companies seeking licensure in Iowa.

The introduction and rapid growth of the sports wagering industry created challenges in identifying and investigating violations of Iowa law. In October 2021, the DCI created a dedicated Sports Wagering Team consisting of five Special Agents and one Special Agent in Charge in an effort to address these challenges.

In 2021, the legislature enacted House File 861, which implemented a change in the funding utilized to support the gambling enforcement mission of the DCI using State General Fund dollars for seven Special Agent positions with a correlating reduction in the regulatory fees collected from Iowa casinos. This change provides financial relief each fiscal year to the seven casinos with the lowest revenue in the previous fiscal year.

All sports wagering companies licensed to operate in Iowa are required to report suspicious wagering activity occurring on their betting platforms. During FY2024, the DCI investigated 81 cases related to sports wagering or other forms of internet gambling activity.

In compiling the statistics for this report, the DCI analyzed logged activities of the Special Agents assigned to each of the nineteen licensed facilities operating in Iowa. Those results were condensed into eleven categories with the following statewide total numbers for the fiscal year 2024<sup>1</sup>:

- **296 Fraud/Theft Investigations**
  - Includes forgery, theft, money laundering, cheating investigations, falsifying an IRGC license application, unlawful use of a driver's license, counterfeit currency or chips and other fraudulent acts.
- **20 Drug Investigations**
  - Includes both felony and misdemeanor drug-related investigations.
- **20 Underage Entry Into a Casino**
  - Includes investigations and charges for entering or attempting to enter a casino under the age of 21.
- **2,006 Background Investigations**
  - Includes Class A (key personnel), Class D (corporate), Class C, Class O, Lottery backgrounds and personnel backgrounds for the DCI.
- **9,575 Surveillance Approvals**
  - Includes verification of individual camera coverage and overall system functionality in addition to a full system audit conducted annually at each location.
- **2,868 Regulatory Inspections/Reviews**
  - Includes card inspections, dice inspections, roulette inspections, pit stand inspections, table cover inspections, soft drop observations, soft count observations, jockey run inspections, starting gate and box inspections and barn/kennel inspections.
- **1,255 Other Incidents**
  - Includes all other criminal investigations, arrests and calls for service or assistance.
- **209 SAR Reports\***
  - Includes a Special Agent review of Casino Suspicious Activity Reports in relation to Title 31 Bank Secrecy Act compliance.
- **4,528 CTR Reports\***
  - Includes a Special Agent review of Casino Currency Transaction Reports in relation to Title 31 Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

\*Due to the confidentiality of BSA filings, a facility level statistic is not included

<sup>1</sup>In January 2023, the DCI made advancements to their activity reporting platform to better capture data and prevent duplicative entries. Moving forward, this will be a more accurate representation of DCI gaming activities.



**Iowa Department of Public Safety Division of Criminal Investigation Special  
Enforcement Operations Bureau  
Activity Report  
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**



CASINO	Fraud/Theft Investigations	Backgrounds	Surveillance Approvals	Regulatory Inspections/ Reviews	Narcotics Investigations	Under 21 in Casino	Other Incidents
<b>HARD ROCK</b> Sioux City	51	131	90	95	6	1	33
<b>GRAND FALLS</b> Larchwood	28	123	118	595	2	4	70
<b>WILD ROSE</b> Emmetsburg	-	51	69	25	-	-	30
<b>WILD ROSE</b> Jefferson	9	61	731	10	1	-	70
<b>HARRAH'S</b> Co. Bluffs	4	109	633	64	1	-	55
<b>AMERISTAR</b> Co. Bluffs	7	128	663	5	-	9	70
<b>HORSESHOE</b> Co. Bluffs	7	112	63	269	-	-	104
<b>LAKESIDE</b> Osceola	34	60	1,771	18	-	3	23
<b>PRAIRIE MEADOWS</b> Altoona	1	251	1,635	158	-	1	108
<b>DIAMOND JO WORTH</b> Northwood	21	114	327	71	2	1	25
<b>Q CASINO</b> Dubuque	2	54	896	61	-	-	33
<b>CASINO QUEEN</b> Marquette	-	62	45	4	-	-	35
<b>DIAMOND JO</b> Dubuque	35	81	434	1	-	-	60
<b>WILD ROSE</b> Clinton	19	46	370	60	-	-	73
<b>RHYTHM CITY</b> Davenport	8	88	363	313	7	1	187
<b>ISLE OF CAPRI</b> Bettendorf	5	67	231	276	-	-	34
<b>RIVERSIDE</b> Riverside	15	134	183	373	1	-	109
<b>CATFISH BEND</b> Burlington	16	64	78	221	-	-	48
<b>ISLE OF CAPRI</b> Waterloo	7	115	875	249	-	-	88
<b>DPS HQ</b> Des Moines	27	155	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>9,575</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,255</b>

At the conclusion of FY2020, the DCI filed a comprehensive report detailing a review of the number of special agents permitted for each facility and the activities of such agents as required in Iowa Code sections 99D.14(2)f and 99F.10(4)g. This report is available on the State of Iowa legislative website at the following link:

[DCI 2020 Report](#)