From the Commission

We are pleased to present the National Indian Gaming Commission fiscal year 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021). The purpose of the 2021 Annual Report is to provide an overview of agency activity, accomplishments and initiatives of our agency and to inform the public on how the Agency is achieving its statutory mandates by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) to promote tribal economic development and self-sufficiency; maintain the integrity of the Indian gaming industry; and ensure that Tribes are the primary beneficiaries of their gaming activities. Through this annual report, the Commission displays the achievements of this past year and the day-to-day accomplishments in fully realizing the purposes of the IGRA.
The NIGC continued implementing the Commission’s five primary goals outlined in the 2018 Strategic Plan consisting of: (1) protecting against gamesmanship; (2) maintaining a strong workforce both within the agency as well as with NIGC’s tribal regulatory partners; (3) leveraging reliable and emerging industry technology trends to support tribal economic development and self-sufficiency; (4) developing and executing a rural outreach plan; and (5) achieving operational excellence.

The NIGC strategic plan is located on the NIGC website at https://www.nigc.gov/commission/strategic-plan.

The strategic plan is an outline to guide the agency in its daily responsibilities to protect the integrity of Indian gaming. The NIGC continues to review its strategic objectives and strategies to ensure it reflects the NIGC’s continued commitment to regulatory compliance and gaming integrity. The NIGC is currently in the process of implementing its strategic plan for 2022-2026. In addition to the strategic plan, the Agency focused its work in four areas: Industry Integrity, Agency Accountability, Preparedness and Outreach.

The Commission initiated a three-part consultations series and held Series A and B with tribes in FY2021 on potential regulatory and policy changes. Series C will be held during FY2022. The consultation efforts will bring more certainty to Agency policy, identify flexibilities in Agency operations beneficial to the NIGC and the tribal stakeholders.

The NIGC initiated and engaged in key outreach efforts throughout FY2021, focusing its training activities and agency resources by identifying partnerships, improving training offerings, and utilizing technology to enhance outreach to intended audiences.

The Commission completed 48 training events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>National Virtual Training Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>National Training Topic of the Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Professional organization events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Site-specific training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CJIS Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Human Trafficking outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Employee training events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These events provided instruction to 29,303 individuals including tribal stakeholders and NIGC employees.
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About the NIGC

The National Indian Gaming Commission was created in 1988 with the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which was enacted to support and promote tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments through the operation of gaming on Indian lands. The Act provides a statutory basis for the federal regulation of Indian gaming. IGRA establishes the Commission to regulate and support tribal gaming as a means of generating revenue for tribal communities. See 25 U.S.C. § 2704.

The Commission consists of three full-time members, including a Chair and two Associate Commissioners. The Chair is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The two Associate Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Commission selects a Vice Chair by a majority vote. At least two members of the Commission must be members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe and only two may be of the same political party.

The National Indian Gaming Commission is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities by:

- regulating and monitoring certain aspects of Indian gaming;
- coordinating its regulatory responsibilities with tribal, state and federal regulatory agencies;
- providing training and technical assistance to tribal regulatory agencies and operations;
- reviewing and approving tribal gaming ordinances and management agreements;
- reviewing the backgrounds of individuals and entities to ensure the suitability of those seeking to manage or invest in Indian gaming;
- overseeing and reviewing the conduct and regulation of Indian gaming operations;
- enforcing violations against the IGRA and its regulations; and referring criminal matters to appropriate tribal, federal, and state entities.
Organization Structure

The National Indian Gaming Commission is comprised of a Chair, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and two additional commissioners appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The NIGC’s organizational structure is composed of two main branches, the Office of General Counsel which handles legal affairs, and the Office of the Chief of Staff, which manages day-to-day activities and includes the Division of Compliance, Division of Finance, Division of Public Affairs, Division of Technology and Administrative support functions.
Fiscal Year 2021 Accomplishments

Office of General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is led by the General Counsel and two Associate General Counsel(s). The Office of General Counsel serves as the legal staff of the National Indian Gaming Commission. The OGC represents the Chair and the Commission in all agency matters, including providing the Commission and its staff with legal advice on the agency’s activities, coordinating litigation with the Department of Justice and other agencies, reviewing tribal ordinances and management contracts, and providing counsel on other matters that arise as the NIGC fulfills its regulatory mission. The OGC also provides legal opinions to tribal gaming industry stakeholders on a variety of issues, including Indian lands, game classification, and whether a particular agreement implicates management.

Key Accomplishments

1. Consultation Series A, B, and C
   - Identified numerous agency regulations for consultation.
   - Prepared draft changes to proposed regulatory changes
   - Participated in Consultations, reviewed comments, and prepared summaries of comments reviewed and NPRMs for Commission consideration.

2. Bulletin issuance*
   - No. 2021-3 (Submission of Agreements for Review)
   - No. 2021-4 (Submission of Loan Documents and Financing Agreements for Review)
   - No. 2021-5 (Submission of Sports Book Agreements for Review)
   - No. 2021-6 (Sole Proprietary Interest)
   *All issued on October 5, 2021

3. Declination Letter review
   The OGC reviews certain agreements to determine whether or not the agreements constitute a management contract requiring the approval of the NIGC Chair. The OGC also reviews certain agreement to determine whether they violate the sole proprietary interest mandate of IGRA. Such legal opinions are more commonly referred to as “declination letters.”
   - 74 Declination letters issued

4. Game opinions
The OGC receives requests for legal opinions on other matters, such as whether certain lands are Indian lands eligible for gaming under IGRA or whether a specific game is considered class II or class III gaming.

- 2 game opinions issued

5. **Indian lands opinions**

   Indian lands advisory opinions are issued by the NIGC and the Department of the Interior regarding whether a tribe may game on certain lands.

   - 2 Indian lands opinions issued

6. **Self-Regulation Petitions assisted with 1**

   - self-regulation petition review

7. **Management contracts**

   - assisted with 9 (3 closed; 6 open)

8. **Ysleta del Sur, et al v. Texas CVSG**

   Worked with the Solicitor General’s Office, Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior on this matter before the United States Supreme Court.

   Assisted in updating various Agency policies and procedures;

9. **NIGC’s Fingerprint processing MOU**

   Assisted and advised on updating the NIGC’s Fingerprint processing MOU to ensure compliance with the FBI’s CHRI requirements.

**Division of Compliance**

The Division of Compliance is led by the Chief Compliance Officer, Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, and Deputy Assistant Chief Compliance Officer and consists of eight (8) regional offices and the Audit Program. The Division of Compliance monitors compliance of tribal gaming operations in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act by working closely with the more than 5,000 tribal regulators.

Compliance is monitored through tracking, training, audit, site-visits, observation and reporting in conjunction with established relationships with our fellow regulatory partners. The Division develops training materials, provides technical assistance and training, conducts site visits, performs investigations, compiles yearly Gross Gaming Revenues from submitted audited financials, reviews Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) audits and performs Internal Control Assessments (ICA). The Compliance Division also works with other NIGC Divisions, the Office of General Counsel, and the Chair when enforcement is required under IGRA.

**Key Accomplishments**
1. COVID-19 Pandemic Response
The Division, in concert with the other NIGC Divisions and OGC, developed resource documents and training for internal and external stakeholders. Key resources include: COVID-19 Frequently Ask Questions, a model Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan, gaming facility re-opening checklists and assessments, and COVID-19 specific virtual Emergency Preparedness Health and Safety training. Collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) in reviewing and developing the NIGC’s COVID resources throughout the pandemic.

2. Cybersecurity Preparedness and Response
In FY21, gaming tribes reported eight separate cyber-attacks affecting tribal gaming operations, tribal gaming regulatory authorities or other tribal systems. The Division works in partnership with the Division of Technology to track, respond, provide technical assistance and document compliance with NIGC minimum internal control standards and other guidelines related to information technology and cyber security.

3. Letters of Concern
Prior to the Chair taking an enforcement action, a letter of concern may be provided by NIGC staff, detailing concerns regarding compliance with the Act, this chapter, or any tribal ordinance or resolution approved by the Chair. A letter of concern describes the available facts and information, includes a preliminary assessment regarding the incident or condition, and indicates that it may be a violation. A letter of concern will provide a time period for the respondent to respond. If the letter of concern is resolved without enforcement action, NIGC staff may send a letter of concern satisfaction letter. See 25 C.F.R. Part 573.2

The Division issued seven Letters of Concern in FY21 to address serious non-compliance issues. Five outstanding Letters of Concern from FY20 were resolved and closed during FY21 as well as two FY21 Letters of Concern.

4. Audit Waivers
IGRA and the NIGC regulations require tribes to conduct annual audits of each gaming operation and submit the results of those audits to the Commission. However, an operation with less than $2 million in gross gaming revenues may satisfy the annual audit requirement by (1) submitting reviewed financial statements and (2) either the operation submitted financial statements to the Commission for the past three years in accordance with 25 C.F.R. § 571.13, or the Commission issues a waiver to the operation to submit reviewed financials.

Compliance collaborated with OGC in the streamlining, preparation and issuance of five audit waivers for FY21.

5. Networking with Other Governmental Agencies
The Division continued to maintain regular communication with Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and their law enforcement, the United States Attorney’s Offices, Indian Health Services (IHS) and the Centers on Disease Control (CDC) to share trends / BOLO information and enhance working relationships.

6. Site Visits
As part of the Region Offices Annual Compliance Plan, site visits are conducted at gaming operations and with tribal gaming regulatory authorities. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Regions conducted 471 remote/virtual site visits, 54 internal audit checklists, and 258 licensing reviews. The Regions conducted 130 remote/virtual Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) audits.

7. Technical Assistance
Region Office staff provide technical assistance to tribes, operation staff and TGRAs through in person meetings, phone calls, emails and letters of technical assistance. For FY21, the Regions recorded 2,387 such events for a total of 1,172 hours in technical assistance provided.

8. Background/Licensing
Region Offices successfully completed the following actions in FY21:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY21 Licensing Actions</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deficiency Letter</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingerprint Cards from the FBI</td>
<td>54,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingerprint Cards to the FBI</td>
<td>54,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed by Tribe</td>
<td>32,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Check to FBI</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Check from FBI</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Objection LTR Sent</td>
<td>37,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOR Received</td>
<td>38,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Licensed by Tribe</td>
<td>6,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objected</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal Notification</td>
<td>13,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Investigations
The Division undertook six investigations and twelve preliminary investigations in FY21.

Audit Program
The Audit Program within the Division of Compliance is composed of an Audit Manager, two Supervisory Auditors and Auditors. Audit staff are stationed throughout the Regions. The Audit Program is responsible for audits and assessments, training, review and compilation of annual audited financial statements and agreed upon procedure reports, investigations and special assignments.
The Audit Program worked on and/or completed 42 reviews and evaluations:
  • 1 Internal Control Assessment
  • 2 Internal Audit Reviews
  • 8 Investigative Audits
  • 1 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles Audit Review
  • 12 Internal Control Assessment Follow-ups (including Rural Internal Control Assessments)
  • 1 Internal Audit Review Follow-up
  • 1 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles Audit Review Follow-up
  • 14 Site Visit Assistance events for a total of 4,752 hours worked.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2021 Compliance Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Summary</th>
<th>FY2021</th>
<th>FY2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Audit Checklists</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing Reviews</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJIS Audits</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Licensing Submissions</td>
<td>236,673</td>
<td>222,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Investigations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Investigations</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Investigations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement Actions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Referrals</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Concern Issued</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Concerned Closed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Settlement Agreements</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Agreements Monitored</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance Events</td>
<td>2,387</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance Hours</td>
<td>1171</td>
<td>972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUPs Received and Reviewed</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFSs Received and Reviewed</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Waivers Processed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Control Assessments Completed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Control Assessment Follow Ups</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Audit Reviews (IAR)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigative Audits</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAAP Review (GAR)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Audit Review Follow up</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAAP Audit Review Follow up</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Training Program

During FY21, the Training Program was transferred to the Division of Public Affairs to better align with agency resources and organization structure. The Training Program is led by the Training Manager, who is supported by Training Specialists and a Training Coordinator. The Training Program coordinates, organizes, provide support and tracks all training both internally and externally for the Agency.

The Training Program, in coordination with the Commission, Offices and Divisions offered 48 training events, proposed, and coordinated presentations at 12 association conferences and trade shows, hosted two National Virtual Training Conferences, 11 site specific training events, 1 CJIS Symposium, 1 fingerprint video, and 6 employee training sessions. The Training Program administrates the learning management system for security awareness training and local area security officer training for our criminal justice information services thru a third-party vendor. Additionally, the Training Program administrates the learning management system for internal training thru DOI TALENT. The results of all instruction resulted in a combined total of 29,303 individual attendees across all courses and presentations.

In addition to the external & internal training the Training Program with cooperation of the Division of Public Affairs, recorded all trainings and hosted them on a secured YouTube platform for additional viewing. There are currently 58 recorded training session on this platform which have received an additional 549 views. Pre-recorded training sessions can be found on the NIGC webpage at https://www.nigc.gov/compliance/recorded-training-session-request-forms

Summary of Fiscal Year 2021 Training and Outreach Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of events</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
<th>Combined Attendance</th>
<th>NIGC Employee Attendance</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>National Multi-Day Virtual Conference</td>
<td>7774</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>8526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Training Topic of the Month</td>
<td>3582</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>3818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Site Specific Training</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Boot Camps</td>
<td>5990</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>6255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Industry Organizations &amp; Associations</td>
<td>1553</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CJIS Symposium</td>
<td>5099</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>5610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Human Trafficking Outreach</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CJIS Security</td>
<td>2330</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NIGC Fingerprint Instructional Video</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>27094</td>
<td>2209</td>
<td>29303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Division of Finance

The Division of Finance is led by the Chief Financial Officer. The Division handles the Commissions fiscal and budgetary matters, supports the agency’s day-to-day accounting and financial activities, reviews management agreements, and conducts background investigation. The Division is located at the NIGC headquarters office in Washington, DC and performs the following key tasks as part of the NIGC’s statutory and regulatory duties.

Key Accomplishments

1. FY21 Key Statistics
   - 910 fee payment checks were processed in FY21.
   - 725 fee submissions were received and processed through Pay.gov, which represents a 13% increase over the 641 fee submissions processed through Pay.gov in FY20. The submission of fee payments via Pay.gov continued to grow since it became available in 2014.
   - 1,440 fingerprint payment checks were received and processed in FY21.
   - Five new contract/amendment submissions were received, 1 management contract was completed and approved, 3 were on hold, and 7 were in varying stages of review in FY21.
   - 15 Interagency Agreements (IAA) and 10 Purchase Orders (PO) were reviewed, processed, and awarded.
   - 20 applications for background investigations were received in FY21, including 16 individuals and 4 entities.
   - 16 investigations (12 individual and 4 entities) were completed, and 5 applications were withdrawn during the investigation process in FY21.

2. Gross Gaming Revenue analysis and announcement
   The Division analyzes the Indian gaming industry’s gross gaming revenues submitted on the gaming operation’s annual audited financial statements, summarizes the data, prepares key graphics depicting the results and trending, and presents to the Commission on an annual basis.

   The final FY20 gross gaming revenue information was released via tele-conferencing on August 17, 2021. The industry’s FY20 GGR of $27.8 billion was down 19.5% from FY19’s GGR of $34.6 billion.

3. Fee rate and fingerprint processing fee analysis and announcement
   Finance Division analyzes the agency’s carryover balance, annual operating budget requirement, and the gross gaming revenue trending, to calculate the annual fee rate. In addition, the staff reviews annually the costs involved in processing fingerprint cards and calculates a fee based on fees charged by the Federal Bureau of
Investigation and costs incurred by the Commission including agency personnel, supplies, equipment costs, and postage to submit the results to the requesting tribe.

As a result of the FBI fingerprint audit, the agency’s overhead costs associated with processing fingerprint in FY21 changed significantly comparing to previous years. FY21 fingerprint processing fee increased from $22 to $45 per card as a result of updating the agency’s fingerprint system/network equipment and additional measures necessary to ensure compliance with FBI’s audit requirements. FY21 final fingerprint process fee was announced on 11/13/2020.

FY21 fee rate analysis was completed in a timely manner and announced on 11/30/2020. The fee rate remained the same at 0.062% for FY21.

4. **Pay.Gov**

Finance Division initiated the fingerprint online payment project (Pay.gov) with the Treasury, led the discussion with the agency’s executive leadership, completed the necessary paperwork, and submitted to the Treasury in FY21. The project is expected to be completed in FY22 (pending Treasury’s resource availability).

5. **Agency’s budget**

The Division kicks off the agency-wide internal budgeting process by preparing and distributing the budget templates to each functional area within the agency in the beginning of summer each year. Finance staff provides agency staff with instructions/answers questions, reviews/analyzes submissions, corrects errors, consolidates/summarizes the proposed budget from each functional area, and presents the final results to the Commission for review/approval. FY22 budget process was completed and approved by the Commission on September 30, 2021 before the beginning of the new fiscal year. Below is the chart illustrating the components of the Commission’s FY21 budget:

![FY21 Budget Chart]
To assist tribal leaders with understanding how the agency is balancing its responsibilities, the Finance Division assisted the Commission to hold periodic presentation sessions on its operations and provided opportunities for tribal feedback on the NIGC’s budget objectives starting with the FY21 NIGC budget. This new outreach effort has helped to communicate and explain the impacts of how the NIGC is managing ongoing uncertainty for the pandemic and addressing emerging needs. In FY21, there were two Operational Briefing to Tribal Leaders completed: 3/18/2021 live conference and 9/21/2021 video presentation.

In addition, the Finance staff works with DOI and OMB on the preparation and completion of the agency’s Budget Justification as part of the annual President’s Budget process. The NIGC Budget Justifications and Performance Information for Fiscal Year 2022 was cleared by DOI/OMB and subsequently published to the general public in May 2021.

**Accounting Service Group**

The Accounting Service Group partners with IBC, DOI, and Treasury to provide daily accounting support to the agency, including general ledger reconciliation, fee/fingerprint payment processing, monthly fingerprint invoice distribution, quarterly fee statement distribution, Pay.gov management and maintenance, travel reimbursement transactions, internal/external financial reporting, NIGC fund allotment and balance management, charge card coordination and support, and financial reporting in response to DOI/OMB’s data calls.

**Financial Service Group**

The Financial Service Group is responsible for the coordination of management contract submission and review process which includes receiving, distributing, reviewing/processing, working closely with OGC to prepare issues lists/letters, and recommending approval or disapproval decision to the Chair related to management contracts and contract modifications submitted by tribes and management contractors in a timely fashion. The staff reviews documents to ensure the submission is complete, prepares submission/issues lists, ensures all issues are properly reviewed by OGC, communicates with the parties during the review process, and drafts issues letter to require contract changes (if necessary) to ensure compliance with 25 C.F.R. Parts 531, 533, and 537.

In addition, the Financial Service Group is responsible for the agency’s procurement and intra-agency agreements (IAA) activities. The staff partners with IBC/AQD and is responsible for the daily support of the agency’s procurement activities including processing IAA’s and contracts with external vendors, reviewing/submitting purchase acquisitions to AQD, and processing payments based on terms of the agreements/contracts in a timely manner.

**Background Investigation Group**

The Financial Background Investigators perform background investigations of individuals and entities with a financial interest in, or management responsibility for, management contracts entered into between tribal governments and prospective management companies. The staff prepares reports to summarize findings based on investigations, makes suitability recommendation of management contractors, and presents to the Chair for his approval or disapproval decision.
Division of Public Affairs

The Division of Public Affairs is led by the Chief of Public Affairs and consists of the public affairs, communications, and the training program. The Division of Public Affairs provides tribes, tribal regulators, Congress, the public and industry stakeholders with clear and accurate information about the National Indian Gaming Commission’s programs and activities. As such, the division is responsible for planning, coordinating and managing the agency’s media relations, community engagement, internal information, and legislative affairs programs, which increases understanding of Indian gaming and the agency’s regulatory role.

The Division of Public Affairs not only carried out its core responsibilities but also demonstrated teamwork and responsiveness in supporting the entire agency by representing and completing a list of media responsibilities.

Key Accomplishments

1. Email Correspondence Data
   - Reviewed over 125,000 emails from the general and contact us mailboxes to determine agency relevancy and authenticity.
   - Responded to over 220 emails and forwarded over 150 emails for agency action and response.
   - Email distributions reaching over 1.7 million contacts

2. Virtual Employee Retreat
   The Public Affairs team collaborated with two volunteers from OGC to create and implement the first ever NIGC employee retreat virtually.

3. Internal Intranet Growth
   The Public Affairs team manages and are the administrators for the agencies internal intranet. Over FY21 the team built out over 30 pages and uploaded over 130 documents to ensure agency employees have relevant information in one easily accessible location.

4. Social Media Growth
   Social media is essential in getting the agency messaging in front of the targeted audiences. Many industry experts and stakeholders rely on social media for their news and updates. Ensuring we at the NIGC are using the most efficient and effective channels of communication is key to agency mission and success. The top 5 posts from Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter reached 43,175 users.

5. Top 5 Videos
   - Vital Voices - views 341
   - NIGC Monthly Training Promotions Fraud - views 194
• NIGC Awareness Training TAT- view 175
• NIGC Budget Resources and Update Video - view 149
• Chairman Simermeyer’s Consultation message – views 123

6. YouTube Data breakdown
• YouTube Number of Video views = 4,653
• YouTube- Watch Time (In Hours) = 858.1
• 103% increase of views over FY20
• 54.5% of views were direct from links
• 34.7% of views were external (searched or clicked through website link)

Division of Technology

The Division of Technology (DoT) is led by the Chief Information Officer. The Division is responsible for managing the agency’s networks and communications infrastructure, fingerprint applications and services, and delivers technical operations and support to internal and external stakeholders. Tribal community support includes Information Technology Vulnerability Assessments (ITVA) and Regulating Gaming Technology resources and training events. DoT also supports the agency through technology research on emerging technologies affecting gaming and operations. In addition, the Division Processes Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and enforces Records Management and Privacy Act compliance for the agency. The DoT is currently composed of three program areas covering Information Technology and Support, Information Technology Audit, and Records and Information Management.

Key Accomplishments

1. Successful Procurement for technology initiatives
   In collaboration with the Division of Finance and DOI Acquisitions, IT successfully executed on $1.5M in procurement actions and awards for FY21 Technology initiatives. These procurement actions enabled the Agency to sustain operations more effectively by leveraging professional services and maintenance support.

2. Fingerprint Modernization
   Fingerprint Modernization project was initiated in late FY21 and has completed the initial requirements and gathering phase. The vendor and IT are working in close collaboration with key stakeholders, have started the design phase and will begin testing the initial prototype of the application in the development environment contained within Azure Government cloud.

3. IT Support
### Performance Measure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>FY21 Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of unplanned data outages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of major applications updated</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of network security patches implemented</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IT service requests created</td>
<td>2976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IT service requests resolved</td>
<td>2675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **IT Audits**

- 4 – Internal Controls Assessments
- 1 – CJIS IT Audits (6 initiated)
- Worked with 20 different tribes on 41 different IT issues from CJIS, MICS, to general IT questions by email and/or phone providing guidance

5. **Established Tech Alert’s Page on NIGC Website**

- 4 – Alerts to the Tech Alerts and Warnings page
- 2 – Internal cybersecurity preparedness from OCIO
- 5 – Updates to Useful Links

6. **Privacy Program formalized**

In FY21, the agency designated a Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP). The SAOP is charged with developing the agency’s privacy program to achieve compliance with federal regulatory requirements (FISMA, Privacy Act). The Privacy Threshold Assessment and a Privacy Impact Assessment were completed in FY21 and the development of a privacy policy catalog has been initiated.

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**Information Technology and Support Program**

Division of Technology’s core IT Support team is centralized at the NIGC headquarters office in Washington, DC and is responsible for providing Information Technology services and support to eight regional locations throughout the continental United States. Our commitment is to continuously advance the agency’s use of technology to support the Commission’s regulatory mission and to support the tribal community. We manage the agency’s core network and communications infrastructure and ensure timely delivery of core services to include the following:

- Tribal Information Management and Access Portal
- Fingerprint Processing System and Services
- Agency Email and Cloud Collaboration Tools
- Managed End User Systems and Support

**Information Technology (IT) Audit Program**

The IT Audit program provides a wide range of IT audits, vulnerability and internal controls assessments, and technical training and assistance. The services provided by this program ensures compliance to various federal and statutory requirements.

**Records and Information Management (RIM) Program**
Records and Information Management (RIM) provides support and guidance to ensure the agency adheres to standards set forth by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for electronic records management and works to ensure the agency is on schedule to meet records management priorities for the Commission. The program is also responsible for responding to FOIA requests and works with agency divisions and staff to process to completion.
The National Indian Gaming Commission’s mission is to support tribal self-sufficiency and the integrity of Indian gaming through effective regulation. Together with tribes and states, the NIGC regulates more than 510 gaming establishments operated by 243 tribes across 29 states. To learn more, visit www.nigc.gov and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.