



**PETER BURGELIS**  
ALDERMAN, 11TH DISTRICT

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### VICE-CHAIR

- Public Safety and Health Committee

### MEMBER

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Licenses Committee
- Board of Harbor Commissioners

April 1, 2025

## **Port of Milwaukee Will Seize Abandoned Boat Through Eminent Domain to Create Floating Sheephead Casino**

**Milwaukee, WI – April 1, 2025** – Harbor Commissioner Alderman Peter Burgelis, in collaboration with the Port of Milwaukee, is excited to announce a bold and unprecedented move: the Port will be exercising its eminent domain authority to seize the abandoned boat that has been stranded on Lake Michigan and repurpose it into a *floating sheephead casino* to benefit the local community.

The boat, which had previously been abandoned and left stranded near Bradford Beach, will now be transformed into “*The Port of Jackpot*,” a unique casino experience with one exclusive game: *sheepshead*. This bold new initiative is designed to bring together the community, provide a fun and nostalgic entertainment destination, and generate revenue to support critical infrastructure improvements at the Port of Milwaukee.

“The Port of Milwaukee plays a crucial role in our city’s economy, and this initiative will allow us to create an innovative solution that both entertains and supports local development,” said Alderman Peter Burgelis. “By utilizing eminent domain to repurpose this abandoned vessel, we’re turning a potential eyesore into a valuable community asset. This floating sheephead casino will be a beacon of fun, local culture, and economic opportunity on Lake Michigan.”

In a nod to Milwaukee’s love of the classic card game, *sheepshead* will be the exclusive game played at the new floating casino. Patrons will be able to compete in high-stakes sheephead tournaments, where they’ll enjoy a unique and friendly atmosphere with food, drinks, and music—all set against the beautiful backdrop of the Port and the lake.

“We’re creating a space that’s not only a tribute to Milwaukee’s card-playing traditions but also a modern take on the entertainment scene,” Alderman Burgelis added. “By focusing solely on sheephead, we’re honoring something that connects so many in our city. The floating casino will bring together locals and visitors alike, up to 20 at a time, and a portion of the proceeds will directly support the Port and its community programs.”

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The intimate venue will feature just five tables but will highlight panoramic views of Lake Michigan and downtown Milwaukee. Proceeds from the casino will be used to fund infrastructure improvements at the Port, environmental sustainability initiatives, and community outreach programs designed to support local families and businesses. The *Port of Jackpot* will also host special events, including *Sheepshead Championship Nights*, celebrity guest tournaments, and live performances, further enhancing Milwaukee's reputation as a vibrant entertainment destination.

**About Alderman Peter Burgelis**

Alderman Peter Burgelis is dedicated to enhancing the economic, cultural, and environmental vitality of Milwaukee's waterfront. As Port of Milwaukee Harbor Commissioner, he works to ensure the Port remains a hub of innovation, job creation, and community benefit.

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**Note to Editors:**

This announcement is part of our annual April Fools' Day celebration. While we are excited about the Port's future growth, there are no current plans to open a floating sheepshead casino on Lake Michigan. We appreciate your understanding and wish everyone a fun and safe April 1st! Remember to vote at the polls on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Find your polling place at <http://myvote.wi.gov>