

Casino developer Rock Ventures LLC is raising the ante on the percentage of local workers that its Caesar's Entertainment Corp.-branded casino will employ, boosting its projections above the 90 percent figure it has been touting since May.

"We're confident that we can achieve at least 95 percent," said **Matt Cullen**, president and chief operating officer for the Detroit-based Rock Ventures.

Cullen told Cincinnati Council's Job Creation Committee Monday that hiring will begin in 2012, in advance of a "grand opening at the end of the year."

Cullen said the percentage applies to the total number of employees within the casino. So, his projection is that fewer than 5 percent will come from outside the Cincinnati MSA.

Cincinnati Vice Mayor **Roxanne Qualls** asked Cullen what percentage of new hires will be residents of the city of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. She called that a "tougher number," but one council hopes the gaming enterprise can meet.

Cullen said he isn't sure what that percentage would be, but added that it will be "a big part of our focus."

City Manager **Milton Dohoney** said the police department is collaborating with casino developers on a security plan for the \$400 million casino complex. It will include a camera system to keep an eye on tourists inside and outside the facility.

"The Cincinnati Police Department will have no responsibility for securing inside the casino," Dohoney said. "They'll have a private security force to do that. We will be interfacing with them relative to the camera system that will be both inside and outside the operation to ensure that it is a safe and secure area. Once it's open, it is a 24-7 operation. It will never close. So the work force that they do hire will be provided a parking opportunity because they're building a very large parking deck to accommodate that."

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