



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



Board Clerk PGCB
MAY 19 2006
FILED

WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Edward Lillon

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Sir or Ma'am,

I am writing to you to express my support for the Isle of Capri (IOC) bid for the Pittsburgh slots license. Not only would IOC's plan guarantee a new arena in Pittsburgh, it would generate new development in an area desparately in need.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Of course, IOC's plan is the only one that would guarantee a new arena for Pittsburgh without using tax dollars. It would also ensure the survival of the Pittsburgh Penguins NHL franchise. One cannot place a value on having an up and coming pro hockey franchise. I remember with fond memories the two Stanley Cup titles in 1991 + 1992, and would like to share those memories with my child in a new arena. We have a great opportunity to do this right. I implore you to support the IOC bid for the Pittsburgh slots license.

Respectfully,

Edward Lillion

I, Edward Lillion verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.





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Gaming Control Board**



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**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Sally Buchele

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: SomeWear Special (a boutique)

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am in favor of the Sale of Capri plan for the Pittsburgh casino license. This plan would be most beneficial to the area around the current Mellon arena. This area of the city could be very much improved by all the new development that is included in the Sale of Capri plan with its partners. Nationwide has proven that they can develop the area around a new arena - they have already done so in Columbus, Ohio. I proudly admit to being a Penguins fan and attend many hockey games in the city, but I do believe a new arena is so much more an asset to the city - not just for the fans. Many events take place at the arena, & this is a wonderful opportunity to get a new arena funded immediately without taking on a huge debt. This way the taxes (amusement, parking, income from workers, etc) can be used for other improvements to the city of Pittsburgh. Currently the area around Mellon arena seems to be an extremely depressed area. This is one part of the city of Pittsburgh that

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

development into this area that really needs help. The Sale of Capri, the Penguins, and Nationwide have devised a plan that truly benefits a large portion of the city and it reconnects this area to downtown. I think access to the Casino here is much better than in either of the other plans.

~~According to a recent local TV poll, 51% of the respondents~~
favor the Sale of Capri plan over the other plans. ~~While I am sure~~
this was not a scientific poll, it does show popular support for the Sale of Capri plan.

The Sale of Capri Casino plan keeps the Penguins in Pittsburgh, along with all the money that brings to the city. I have read that the year without Hockey cost the city about \$48 million. That is a huge amount of money for the city. Please consider awarding the Pittsburgh license to the Sale of Capri. It is by far the best plan for the citizens of this region.

Thank you,
Sally Buckele

I, Sally Buckele verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sally Buckele



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Board Clerk PGCB

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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Amy Bundy

Address: 

Telephone: (412) 681-1111

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Turtle Creek Sportswear

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Hello, My name is Amy. I'm a 25 year old female and I support Pittsburgh First and the Isle of Capri initiative. Myself along with thousands of others are nervously waiting to see who gets awarded the license for a stand alone casino in Pittsburgh, a city that is looking forward to legalized gambling but is also on the verge of losing our hockey team. As a result of the Isle of Capri, along with the Penguins and Nationwide Realty investors of Columbus has proposed a 1 billion project that should not be overlooked. This plan includes a 290 million dollar privately funded multi purpose arena, rebuilding the Lower Hill District and Uptown communities and a world class casino. This would add office, retail and residential space that would create thousands of new jobs, new businesses and also make homes to tons of people that would

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Only would the ISJE of Capri Plan build a casino, also rebuilds a community and ensures the Pittsburgh Penguins staying in Pittsburgh. Keeping the Penguins is very important to me. I have watched them play since I was 9 years old and have attended many games throughout the years. They have become a major part of me and it would be devastating to see them leave. They are a part of our history here and we want them to be a part of our future. To lose one of our major sports teams would be like losing one of our Three Rivers. It would be a disgrace and an embarrassing thing to hang over this city. Also adding that it would be a lucrative loss also. During the 2004-2005 lockout, Pittsburgh already experienced the economical impact of a hockey season. It was estimated by the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau at 48 million that year. Businesses, hotels, restaurants and retail shops also suffered without the games being played. We need our Pens, the city does too. People from around the world know Pittsburgh as a football town but I live here and love our hockey too. After the lockout the Penguins finished the NHL in increased attendance by 33%. They finished with a record of 22-46-14, the 2nd worst in the NHL but still managed to average over 15,804 per game. All including 12 standing room sellouts and 21 out of 41 games crowds of more than 16,000. That's pretty good considering the record. We need and want them to stay. Please consider of this before making your decision. Thank YOU!

L. Amy L Bundy

verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Amy L Bundy May 13, 2006



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



FILED

MAY 16 200

Board Clerk P

WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Steve Hotujac

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: HOK Sports Facilities Architects, PC

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am writing in support of the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan. I had the fortunate opportunity to be in attendance during the 2 days of public input hearings on April 18 and 19 regarding the awarding of a slots parlor license for the City of Pittsburgh, PA. I was impressed not only by the turnout but also by the passion exhibited by many of the speakers from the public sector. The point I was most able to take away from the hearings, first and foremost, is that the community loves their hockey team. While these hearings to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board were for the issuance of a gaming license it became quite apparent that it is so much more to the citizens of Pittsburgh.

All three of the competing gaming entities gave outstanding presentations with many compelling reasons why their business model was the best for the community of Pittsburgh from many perspectives including new jobs, tax relief, philanthropy, and new development. Only one of these entities however, "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri", had a plan in place that not only covered all of the above criteria but also offered a new multipurpose arena for the City of Pittsburgh, no strings attached.

I am employed by an architectural firm whose business is in the design and construction of major arena and stadia projects around the world and I can tell you first hand the many difficulties associated with a city being able to build a new arena facility. It is unheard of that a private organization is willing to offer such a great deal to a community using no public money or asking for a contribution from the major tenant. While the Majestic Star and Forest City contingents reluctantly offered some support of a new arena plan put forth by the Governor, the only group that had done the necessary planning and design was the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" team. The reasons are many that this is the best plan for the community of Pittsburgh.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Location

From a pedestrian and vehicular traffic perspective the Isle of Capri is situated on the east side of downtown. A proposed public green space would connect downtown with the proposed development over the existing freeway thus linking the Lower Hill District to downtown and promoting pedestrian movement. The existing traffic patterns are already in place and will not be affected during peak arena and casino use times. The addition of 5,000 structured parking spaces for the arena and casino ensure no additional load on the current parking inventory.

Revitalization of the Lower Hill and Uptown Neighborhood Districts

The plan calls for 28 acres of housing, retail and office on the site currently occupied by the Mellon Arena. The "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan will enliven a district that has been neglected for almost 40 years. Much was said in the presentation about correcting a wrong and destroying a neighborhood, but that is history. More importantly is the creation of a new and better neighborhood that will be the center for a quality, active district in the downtown urban core. The other two competing sites already are in a redevelopment mode with the two new stadiums on the north shore and Station Square development to the south. The addition of a casino on either site would do little to spur further private development. The concern over added traffic to these locations should be taken into account.

Synergy

The adjacent proximity of the arena/casino and proposed development in the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan will create a synergy that the other applicant's plans will not match. Locating these facilities closely together will promote additional use of the casino on arena event nights thus generating added tax revenues. The supportive retail housing and office development will offer a solid base of support right next door. It should also be noted that new private development and restoration of the blighted 5th Street corridor can be anticipated with the arena/casino placement in the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan.

New Arena

It was stated by Ken Sawyer of the Pittsburgh Penguins that the only plan that will guarantee the team remains in Pittsburgh is if the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan is awarded the gaming license. To his credit the Governor has stepped up and offered a proposed Alternate Plan B to address the new arena issue. This plan however falls short of the \$290 million offer on the table from the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri". The Penguins, under the proposed alternate plan, would be required to pay an annual amount of \$4 million to help pay down the arena debt. The "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan pays for the design and construction of the new arena in its entirety.

In my business I am keenly aware of potential movements of pro sport franchises from one city to another, largely the case of the inability of a community to agree to be taxed to help support arena funding. This is taken totally out of the equation in the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan. I have witnessed first hand in my own community of Kansas City what the loss of a pro sports franchise means having lost the A's to Oakland, the NBA Kings to Sacramento and the NHL Scouts now the New Jersey Devils. If the team would move and at a later time Pittsburgh is granted another franchise you would be shocked at what it will cost in terms of dollars to restart a franchise. It would definitely take a new arena facility for Pittsburgh to be considered again. Just ask the City of Charlotte how much they have spent in getting an expansion NBA team after the Hornets relocated to New Orleans.

In closing the only plan that makes sense for Pittsburgh is the "Pittsburgh First / Isle of Capri" plan. Let's do the right thing for the community.

I, Steve Hotujac verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Kurt J. Wilson

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: Google Inc.

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I had lived in the city of Pittsburgh for 25 years and ultimately want what is best for the city long term. I now live in California and wasn't able to attend the hearings.

The benefits, both financially and the introduction of new jobs, are my primary concerns. The location is also a concern as maximizing the amount of people able to visit the new site is crucial to fulfilling the promise of the facility.

The Forest City bid is in a poor location for expansion + will likely only add more traffic to an already heavily trafficked area, not to mention the amount of gridlock + delays during construction. Besides that, this location is already visited heavily by tourists and locals alike putting plenty into the coffers of local businesses, etc. located there.

My recommendation centers around building up and enhancing a part

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

perhaps in a similar manner to Station Square. Creating new life, a strong purpose + new jobs should be the objective for every part of the city, not just in one or two places.

The Isle of Capri bid is the aim that most closely fits my ideal for what this gaming license can do. It will immediately revitalize an area of the city that desperately needs it by providing locals with jobs + amenities. The promised "new" arena will bring in greater revenue streams than currently exist by attracting events throughout the entire year. Besides the slots + gaming venues, the other new amenities will be used by the people who attend arena events + are not just there for the gaming. By definition, an arena is "a place or area for the presentation of sports events + spectacles." If the aim is to revitalize an area of the city + benefit its populace, a brand new arena that is privately funded as the centerpiece is an extraordinary way to go.

In my view, the biggest + most generous "give back" that the city could receive is provided by the Isle of Capri plan. In its totality + thoroughness, it is, in my estimation, the most appropriate choice for the slots license.

I, Kurt J. Wilson verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.





Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Erica L. Gooding

Address:



Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: Old Republic Surety Company

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I wish to recommend that the awarding of the Pittsburgh area slots license go to the organization which would best serve the community - Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc/Pittsburgh First.

I believe their proposal will best serve this area - \$1 billion in development revitalization of the Lower Hill District, and a \$290 million dollar multi-purpose arena (at no tax payer expense).

The Isle of Capri Casino, Inc. proposal is the best plan for this city.

Thank you.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Erica L. Gooding verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Erica L. Gooding



Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: DAVID CAFARO

Address

Telephone

Organization, if any:

Employer: Allegheny County Controller's Office

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Dear PA Gaming Control Board:

As a resident of Pittsburgh for the last 30 years, I feel that I have a good idea of what will help this city. With one casino license to be AWARDED to Pittsburgh for the building of a slots parlor, it is important that a knowledgeable decision is MADE that will benefit this region. There are several criteria that I believe should be looked at when determining who to AWARD the casino license. First, how much revenue will be brought in by the slots parlor and second, how would the city benefit from the different plans as a whole.

As for the first criterion, any of the plans would generate substantial revenue for the city. While every plan is projecting a range that they believe their parlor would generate, it is impossible for any of them to guarantee that they will be able to reach their projected range as all of their statistics are based on projections and numerous factors. Therefore, I believe that this would make each plan nearly equal as there is no way to tell how much could be brought in by the different plans. One plan can generate more than the others.

This brings about the second factor which is how the rest of the plans benefit Pittsburgh. Which plan has laid out businesses that would be created in the surrounding vicinity of the slots parlor, the one plan that seems to give this area a little bit more beyond the new businesses I believe that plan that does this is the Isle of Capri plan.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Under the Isle of Capri plan, a new multipurpose arena would be built at no cost to taxpayers, the County, city, or state. As a result, funds that ordinarily would have been set aside to build a new arena in the near future would not be needed and could be used to benefit other projects. This would be a much needed relief for a city that is currently paying for multiple other stadiums with taxpayer money including Three Rivers Stadium, which has been demolished for a number of years. A new arena would have a positive trickle down effect for the city. First, it would ensure that the main tenant (Pittsburgh Penguins) would stay in town for the next several decades. This would be a benefit to the community as it is a revenue producer that generates tax money for Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While the Governor has proposed an alternative in case the Isle of Capri is not awarded the license, the unfortunate fact is that the Pittsburgh Penguins franchise would not be able to accept the plan and remain competitive since it calls for them to pay 10 million dollars each year over 30 years plus pay yearly concessions revenue. This would not be a viable option for any professional hockey team, as they do not generate enough profit. Secondly, there are other entertainment venues that use the arena. Due to the outdated facilities and tax structure, some entertainers are bypassing the use of the arena and in some cases not even coming into the city, due to the lack of a new, modern arena.

In addition to the new arena, which is sorely needed for the city, the Isle of Capri plan also benefits the Hill District. The plan offers one billion dollars to help revitalize this area of the city.

Thank you for this opportunity for me and others like myself from the Pittsburgh area to voice ~~our~~^{our} opinions on which plan is preferred. I hope you weigh these comments along with those from people who live in Pittsburgh very heavily in your decision process.

I, David Cafard verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Mike Valentine

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer:

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am very worried that the Pittsburgh Penguins will be forced to leave the city. I think it would be a great loss to the community and all the small businesses and women who would be effected. But I would support Isle of Capri Slots proposal even if the city of Pittsburgh didn't have a hockey team. I think that getting a new arena upfront is, by far, the biggest asset being offered by the three groups trying to secure the slots license.

I believe that the city of Pittsburgh needs a new arena whether the Penguins stay or not.

Building a new arena after the Pens leave would be silly because you would be searching for a tenant after you let a team leave, that would have occupied it 42 nights a year.

I'm worried that politics will prevent the best proposal from getting the slots license. I'm also worried because one of the groups has a history of exaggerating how much their slots will make. I hope that everyone involved does what's best for the area. It seems obvious to me that the best proposal is Isle of Capri. The city will build a new arena sooner or later no matter what happens with the slots. Why should the taxpayer pay for it when Isle of Capri will?

I, Mike Valentine verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mike Valentine

June 1, 2006



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P. O Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

re: Pittsburgh's gaming license and Isle of Capri

To the PGCB:

I am writing as a private citizen to express my support for awarding the Pittsburgh Gaming License to the Isle of Capri proposal.

The Isle of Capri proposal will directly benefit downtown Pittsburgh more than the others I have read about. The other proposals are removed from the downtown area by bridges and distance. The Isle of Capri's proposal is the one that will most likely help fill downtown hotels, restaurants, and parking garages.

There has been much development in recent years in suburban areas around Pittsburgh, but much of the downtown area is suffering. Downtown Pittsburgh needs to have this facility in its adjacent "Uptown" neighborhood to help rebuild the commerce that we had downtown when I was a child.

The inclusion of a new arena for the Pittsburgh Penguins and other entertainment is a secondary asset, but an important one.

I hope the Board will seriously consider the Isle of Capri proposal and accept it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Kunkle".

Robert B. Kunkle



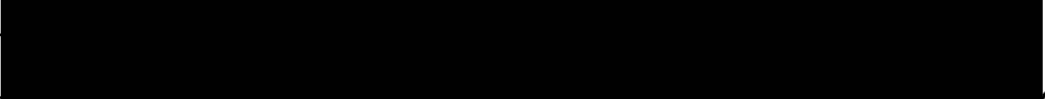
Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



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I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Diann E. Carney

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I fully support Pittsburgh First - Isle Capri Slots plan, I am a life long resident of the city of Pittsburgh. as such I will not stand by and let the Governor, Mayor and County Exec make behind your door decisions. I have fully supported Pittsburgh Penguins. I supported Plan for the Pirates. Now I want the free all purpose facility for the penguin + Lower Hill districts development.

I will not stay in Pittsburgh when I see condos built on the North Side or Station Square. The City / County wins with a free all purpose bldg. They win without having to gamble. Sidney Crosby is GOLD to Public Relations & Marketing people. People from US & Canada flock to see S Crosby play. They will only see in Pittsburgh at the IOC Slots Igloo. They will spend more. By Mayor O'Connor & Co. Exec Onorato in silence. I hear Harrish's absence of endorsement. They do NOT speak for the residents. Please look beyond the "official" to what the residents want. Thank you

I, Deane J Carney verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

May 31, 2006



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Derek Dragisich

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] m

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Sprint

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am writing to express my support of the Isle of Capri application for the slots license in Pittsburgh, and to encourage to you award the license to Isle of Capri. The issue boils down to a few basic points:

- All of the applicants will provide property tax relief. Even if one plan provides a marginally greater amount of tax relief, the amount of actual tax reduction to each individual property owner will be minor, when spread across the thousands of property owners throughout the area. The representative of the Forest City/Harrah's applicant who said at the meetings in April that Harrah's casino would put Pittsburgh in the same tourist attraction as their locations in Las Vegas, Paris, Lake Tahoe, etc. was lying - and anyone in the Pittsburgh area will tell you that much. A casino in and of itself will not make Pittsburgh anymore of a tourist attraction than it is today.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

- That said, we should look at other benefits to the area. Most importantly, Isle of Capri offers a one billion dollar development plan in an area that needs it desperately, the Hill District. This area is just outside of downtown and connects the downtown area to Oakland. Yet the Hill District is run-down, old, and declining. This development would help not only the Hill District area, but would lead to further growth in downtown and Oakland, possibly giving new life to the Fifth & Forbes development. Station Square is already an established attraction, and the North Side location proposed by Don Barden's group is already being developed on the heels of the Science Center and new stadiums in that area. Plus, you are already aware of the traffic studies which show that traffic at both Harrah's and Barden's locations will be major problems.

The Isle of Capri plan ensures 100% that a new arena will be built, and that the Pittsburgh Penguins will stay in Pittsburgh where they belong. Carnegie Mellon University did a financial impact study showing that the Penguins generate over \$100 million in annual revenue to the area. Can that much be made up year over year in property tax relief? Not likely. Plan B put forth by Gov. Rendell, Mayor O'Connor, and County Executive Dan Onarato is short-sighted and a house of cards. Pittsburgh should have learned its lesson on allowing debt service to finance a new venue, as tax money was still being used to pay for Three Rivers Stadium even after it was demolished because of the debt bonds. And there is no guarantee that Harrah's or Barden will live up to the \$7.5 million annual contribution for the entire 30 years. If they decide to no longer contribute that money, the burden will fall on the taxpayers.

- This goes beyond the Penguins as well. A new arena will allow NCAA Tournament games to be held here (which they currently can not because of the substandard facilities), better concerts, etc. This generated even more revenue to the area, and comes at not once cent of taxpayer money. Plan B can be touted as a tax-free cost, but it includes millions of dollars in gaming revenue contributions that could be used for other purposes if a new arena is funded up front by Isle of Capri.
- Perhaps the most compelling argument is this - Isle of Capri has been supported by over 30 local politicians, numerous local council boards, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, and thousands of residents both inside and outside of Allegheny County. To my knowledge, no politician has endorsed any of the other plans. These politicians know first-hand what is best for the region, and it is their job to ensure the best for the public. Why is it that all these people support Isle of Capri, and the other plans are only supported by those with a vested financial interest?

Again, I, along with thousands of people who live in this area, implore you to award the slots license to Isle of Capri. Thank you for your time.

I, Derek E. Dragisich verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Derek E. Dragisich



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: RYAN W. WERZYN

Address

Telephone

Organization, if any:

Employer: Ariba, Inc.

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am writing to voice my support for the Pittsburgh First (Isle of Capri) casino plan. I believe that their plan will do the most for the city of Pittsburgh and its local economy.

I am most excited about their proposed development of the Lower Hill area of Pittsburgh, which is sorely in need of investment. Also, their plan to set aside \$290 MM for the construction of a new arena is an added benefit. Our city would benefit greatly from a new arena facility that will bring people and their entertainment dollars to the city. Also, their plan will secure the future of the Penguins NHL franchise in Pittsburgh. Carnegie Mellon University has estimated that the Penguins generate over \$100MM annually for the local economy. While

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

franchises, the opportunity cost of losing the Penguins should be considered as part of the PGCB's decision.

As I am currently in the process of purchasing my first home, appreciate the importance of maximizing revenue as part of this venture. While Hurray's/Forest City claims that they will generate more revenue than the other applicants, I have a hard time believing that their projections are well-founded. Their projections of revenue per machine are OBSCENELY greater than industry standards. In addition, Hurray's/Forest City GREATLY under-estimate the effect that their plan would have on traffic and parking in the Station Square/South Side area of Pittsburgh, which is already quite congested... so much so that they assume ~~only~~ 2.5 persons per car, again well over industry standard. I believe that Hurray and Forest City have distorted the numbers to create a public relations advantage by touting themselves as the plan that would generate the most revenue.

Because the Pgh casino will be the only game in town, any well-run, well-marketed casino can expect roughly the same revenues. Therefore, the other development that goes along with the casino is an extremely important aspect of this process. Without hesitation, I support the Pittsburgh First plan and all promised develop

I, Ryan W. Weryn verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ryan W. Weryn



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: MICHAEL THOMAS GRANDE

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: MANDY FOODS, INC

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD:

I AM ADDRESSING YOU TODAY WITH REGARD TO THE SLOT LICENSE WHICH IS UNDER REVIEW FOR THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH. AS A CITY RESIDENT, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE MY COMMENTS WEIGHT IN YOUR DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO, SEVERAL APPLICANTS HAVE EMPLOYED TO COMPLETE FOR THIS LICENSE. IT IS MY BELIEF, AFTER ATTENDING MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS BY ALL THREE APPLICANTS, AS WELL AS FOLLOWING THE COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA OF ALL THREE VERY CLOSELY THAT ONE APPLICANT HAS CLEARLY EMERGED AS THE BEST CHOICE.

I BELIEVE THE BEST CHOICE IS THE PITTSBURGH FIRST/IS OF CARRI PLAN. (IOC) I HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

FIRST OF ALL, (IOC) BY FAR HAS PROVIDED THE MOST DETAILS

\$290 MILLION TO FUND A NEW ARENA FOR THE PITTSBURGH REGION. WE KNOW BY WAY OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND COMPUTER ANIMATION THAT THEY PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PITTSBURGH'S UPTOWN

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

HILL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOODS. AS A CITY RESIDENT, I WOULD FIND THESE TWO ASPECTS ALONE TO BE VERY ENTICING. HOWEVER, AS A BOARD MEMBER I WOULD ASK YOU TO CONSIDER ONE MORE ASPECT WITH RELATION TO THE (IOC) PROPOSAL. ALL OF OUR LOCAL AND STATE PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR THE MOST PART THAT OUR REGION NEEDS A NEW ARENA, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION WITH THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS. HOWEVER, A NEW ARENA FUNDED BY TAX REVENUES RECEIVED FROM GAMING VERSUS ONE THAT IS FUNDED DIRECTLY BY A CASINO IS NOT THE SAME. BY APPROVING THE (IOC), THE STATE AND COUNTY WOULD NOT HAVE TO USE GAMING REVENUES TO FLOAT BONDS FOR A NEW ARENA. THIS WOULD FREE THAT MONEY FOR OTHER USES SUCH AS PROPERTY TAX REFORM, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, ETC. MATTER WHAT SOME MIGHT SAY, THAT IS A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE.

IN MAKING YOUR DECISION, I WOULD ALSO ASK YOU TO CONSIDER THREE MORE POINTS. THE FIRST BEING THE REVENUE PROJECTIONS OF THE COMPETING APPLICANTS. HARRAM'S / FOREST CITY PROJECTS NEARLY THE SAME REVENUES THAN THAT OF (IOC) OR PITTS GAMING. THIS FRAMEWORK MAKES NO SENSE. ASSUMING THIS LICENSE IS FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF SLOT MACHINES (REGARDLESS OF LOCATION) AND THAT A CASINO MAY OR MAY NOT REMAIN OPEN THE SAME AMOUNT OF HOURS, IS IT NOT THEN LOGICAL TO ASSUME REVENUES TO AT LEAST BE SIMILAR? (IOC) AND PITTS GAMING FIGURES ARE IN FACT:

I WOULD ALSO ASK YOU TO CONSIDER AN INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC STUDY FOR ALL THREE LOCATIONS AS PART OF YOUR DUE DILIGENCE. AGAIN, THIS IS A PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH REGARD TO HARRAM'S / FOREST CITY. WHILE I DO NOT KNOW THAT THE APPLICANT HAS PROMISED TO IMPROVE W. CARLSON ST, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE GEOGRAPHY IN THAT AREA WILL ALLOW ENOUGH ABATEMENT TO SUPPORT THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT, A CASINO, AND A PROPOSED 1200 UNITS OF HOUSING.

I, Michael Grande verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Grande 5/31/06

FINALLY, AT THE PRESENTATIONS I HAVE ATTENDED, HARRAH'S / FOREST CITY HAS BEEN THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE APPLICANTS NOT TO BE FORTHCOMING IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS. THIS CAUSES ONE TO NOT ONLY QUESTION THEIR INFORMATION, BUT ALSO THEIR MOTIVES. WHILE IT IS REASONABLE TO BE SELF-CONFIDENT, HARRAH'S / FOREST CITY'S PRESUMPTIVE TO BE COUPLED WITH A LACK OF REAL ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS IS WHY MANY IN OUR AREA FEEL THAT A DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.

I, FOR ONE, DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE TRUE. I AM CONFIDENT IN THE INTEGRITY OF YOUR BOARD AND ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. I BELIEVE WHEN YOU WEIGH ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU WILL COME TO THE CORRECT DECISION. I SINCERELY HOPE I BELIEVE THAT DECISION WILL BE THE PITTSBURGH FIRST / ISL CAPRI RAN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

SINCERELY,

Michael Amodeo



Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Robert L. Wise, III

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: 84 Lumber Company

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Save of Capital / Pittsburgh First coalition's application for the Pittsburgh slots license.

I am a Pittsburgh Penguins season-ticket holder, and I would be devastated to see them leave town -- not only as a hockey fan but as a Pittsburgher!

I am sure that I am not going to say anything you have already heard, but I believe this a fantastic opportunity not only build a state-of-the-art arena and keep the Penguins in Pittsburgh; but, to also continue the revitalization of our city. I am sure it helps the Hill District.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Will I believe the applications of the Forest City group and Mr. Borden would undoubtedly provide a certain degree of tax revenue, they would inevitably serve to aid areas of Pittsburgh that have already been rejuvenated (Station Square & The North Side respectively). The Isle of Capri application would benefit a neighborhood that deserves a similar chance at renewal and revitalization; and once reconnected to Downtown, the Hill District can only expand the economic possibilities for Pittsburgh as a whole.

As for the proposed new arena, Mellon Arena is a dilapidated concrete dinosaur. It needs to be replaced at the earliest, most practicable moment. Logic seems to dictate that it will be replaced in the next 5-10 years, with or without funding from a slot machine. In light of that, why not grant the license to the group that is to construct an arena for you? Thus, saving a lot of trouble in the near future, and saving a fantastic city from having to deal a costly psychological blow because one of its beloved high-profile, and high tax-revenue generating Teams had to leave town. Please, I ask that you vote for the Isle of Capri application to help our inner-city neighborhoods and our Pittsburgh Penguins! Thank you for your time and consideration.

I, Robert L. Wise, III verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Robert L. Wise, III (5/31/06)



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Rick Silverman

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: D&S Insurance Agency - Self employed owner/partner

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I have ^{been} listening to all the information I could since the onset of three remaining organizations have been involved in their bid for the one Pittsburgh gaming license. I have lived in Pittsburgh for close to 60 years. I grew up here and have loved this city. Regardless what all the progress reports on each casino operator have been saying, anyone would have to know that the Isle of Capri is by far the one and only choice for the license. The downtown area is starting to grow again with other projects. The Hill district is addressed by IoC. It's become a horrible eye sore with crime drugs ruining that community. As far as getting a arena paid in full, this is a one time only opportunity for the city to take advantage of. Besides that, losing a major league franchise sports team will be much more

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

License. I appreciate your efforts, good Luck!

Sincerely,
Rick Silverman

I, Rick Silverman verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Rick Silverman



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Efthalia Sismanis

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: DAE'S CONSULTING

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

pls see attached

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Eftalia Sismanis verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Letter to PGB:

Thank you for your time and consideration.

As a visitor to the city of Pittsburgh, I may see the city a bit differently than those that live there. What I see is a city in desperate need of rebuilding – in many areas but especially the downtown – which is where I, as a visitor, spend most of my time. I see need for better access, more living space and more entertainment venues. Don't get me wrong, the outskirts/suburbs are nice, but as a visitor, I am more interested in being in a city where there are things to see and do.

I'll be honest. I am a Penguin fan and will continue to visit the city as long as the Penguins are there. If they go, then there is no reason for me to visit Pittsburgh – there are full-service casinos a lot closer to where I live, so going to a \$500 million slots casino 5 hours away isn't an incentive to visit. There is good shopping an hour away from me, so again, having nice stores/nice outlets, not an incentive. However, having a strong economy with available jobs, good access, great downtown living, plus the chance to live near the "home team" may entice me to move to Pittsburgh.

I have been closely following the process of the casino slots award and there are a few things that stand out. When considering each plan, it is folly to say you should not consider the arena issue. Why? Because any other possible plan means public funds – even a "bond" from the city that will be paid back over 20+ years means money that is going toward an arena instead of other items for the community.

The whole justification for the slots license was to provide tax relief. By strict definition, tax relief comes from a) bringing in more revenue to cover costs b) taking on less/no debt to complete necessary projects, such as a new arena; re-building part(s) of the city, or supporting a casino that needs more \$ to complete its construction.

All 3 proposals have submitted projections that will increase revenue to the city – the question is, which one is a more realistic amount of revenue? How would you budget your own personal expenses? By hoping for the best or preparing for the most realistic scenario? It appears odd that one plan projects a lot more revenue than the other two plans – the other two seem to make more sense.

However, only one has put forth a commitment that will mean less taxpayer money to public projects – public projects that will have to be done by this city.

A new arena is required in the Pittsburgh area – for concerts, conventions, etc. It's not a question of "if" but a question of "when". Those who say it's only for the Penguins are not correct. A city the size of Pittsburgh needs a place where concerts, car shows, Dora The Explorer, conventions, professional speakers, etc. can perform – a place that offers the residents entertainment and brings in tourists for the city and its businesses. Doesn't it make more sense to build one without taxpayer money now instead of doing it with taxpayer money a couple of years from now? And, doesn't it make more sense to do it while there's a waiting tenant to come in and pay a lease amount to the city each year for the use of such an arena? Why build it 3 years from now with taxpayer money and have it sitting empty for 90+ days a year?

Other considerations:

Location – you know the traffic issues of each location probably better than I, so I won't take up your time in going over them again. I will just point out again, that an independent engineer working for the Gaming Task Force has publicly stated the Harrah's casino would generate the most traffic issues, the IOC plan is best from a traffic standpoint. Traffic issues will mean more infrastructure costs, paid for by taxpayers, which goes against the rationale for a slots casino.

Jobs – Aside from the jobs generated from building the casino and the casino itself; there are the construction jobs for building an arena and the re-building of the hill district; additionally, the jobs from the arena itself and the new businesses in the hill district. All of these extra jobs have a cascade effect on the overall area's economy and create opportunities for young people in the area – a key ingredient in keeping and cultivating talent – and taxpayers for the future.

Tourism – Aside from the tourists that may visit the area to go to the casino – you have differing opinions on how many people actually will; again, where one is substantially higher than the other 2 – there are also the people who already come to Pittsburgh to see the Penguins. These are established fans (myself included) who contribute to the local economy – hotels, restaurants, shops, etc. an approximate \$70m a year – and will continue to do so if the team has a new arena to play in. These are not made up numbers – they are established numbers given the 30 years of the franchise's existence. These people may also visit the casino while in Pittsburgh, but will not likely come to town just for a casino. A loss of this amount of revenue will need to be made up somewhere – some through lost jobs/closures, some through charging more for other services.

Corporate citizenship – The issues in other cities where Harrah's has a casino are well documented – from revenue over-projections resulting in more public money to support them in places where they were to provide tax relief to labour issues. Majestic Star is implicated in making private deals with politicians to get favourable deals. To date, the only applicant that appears to have a good ongoing relationship with the cities they are located in is IOC. Additionally, they are really the only applicant that has stepped up to contribute more than a casino to the city without being asked or offered further incentives. The other applicants have offered most incentives only after being asked to. What kind of partner does the city of Pittsburgh want in a relationship that will potentially last decades?

Accountability – you have a great task in front of you; one that will impact the lives of Pittsburgh area residents for decades. If you strip the layers of political bantering and interest groups you are accountable to the people of the Pittsburgh area. Although you may not be elected to your position, you probably live in the area and will face the consequences of your decision for years to come. You are tasked with making the best decision for the city and its residents. Measure your influences determine the decision.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration.


Ethalia Sismanis



Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: MARK J. RATKUS, Ph.D.

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: DEPT. OF ECONOMICS

Employer: LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I ENCOURAGE THE GAMING CONTROL BOARD TO AWARD TO
PITTSBURGH-AREA LICENSE TO THE ISLE-OF-CAPRI APPLICANT
IT IS THE ONLY APPLICATION THAT CONTAINS WHAT ECONOMI-
DUB SIGNIFICANT "POSITIVE EXTERNALITIES" FOR THE
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGION. THAT IS TO SAY,
THE AREA WILL ^{RECEIVE} MANY BENEFITS, NOT THE LEAST OF
WHICH IS AN EXPANDED INCOME AND REVENUE ESTAB-
TAX BASE, SO CRUCIAL IN THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH'S
EFFORT TO COPE WITH A LONG-TERM FISCAL CRISIS

BEYOND THE ECONOMICALLY SALUBRIOUS IMPACT OF
CONSTRUCTION, THIS PROPOSAL IS THE ONLY ONE SUBMITTED
THAT WILL AFFORD THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH AND THE

RATKUS

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

WHICH WILL ENSURE CONTINUANCE OF THE PITTSBURGH
PENGUINS HOCKEY FRANCHISE AND A STATE-OF-
THE-ART ALL-PURPOSE ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY

THUS, WHEN ALL OF THESE MATTERS ARE INCLUDED
IN THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATIONS, I BELIEVE THAT
ITS MEMBERS CAN TAKE JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE
IN AIDING PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THAT GOES WELL BEYOND A NARROW
APPROACH TO SIMPLY AWARDED A GAMING
LICENSE.

I, Mark J Ratkus verify that the information contained in this written
comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

30 May 2006



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Jeffrey B. Lamm

Address: 

Telephone: 

Organization, if any: _____

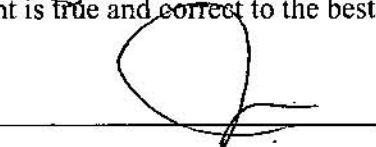
Employer: American Business Club

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

It is so obvious that the
role of Comm is best for Pittsburgh
(~~For~~ ~~States~~ ~~A~~ ~~face~~ ~~area~~ ~~s~~ which no
other plan come close) in development
of the lower Hill^{er} - I cannot
understand any problem. - Unless the
fix is in / TSIT

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, JERRY LANGRISH verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.





**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, Tom Balya, Tom Ceraso, Phil Light

Address:



Telephone:

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

We, the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, Tom Balya, Tom Ceraso and Phil Light, ardently support the Pittsburgh First proposal for a gaming casino in the city of Pittsburgh. This alliance, consisting of the Isle of Capri Casinos Inc, the Pittsburgh Penguins, Nationwide Realty Investors, Ltd. and the community, is dedicated to putting the interests of the people of Pittsburgh First in advocating and planning one of the largest economic development projects in the history of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Without question, the Pittsburgh First plan is the premiere proposal for a new gaming casino. It will:

- Invest more than \$1 billion in development
- Create thousands of new jobs – good paying jobs with benefits
- Revitalize the Lower Hill District and Uptown neighborhoods
- Reconnect downtown Pittsburgh with the Lower Hill District
- Privately fund the construction of a \$290 million multi-purpose arena
- Keep the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh
- Donate \$1 million annually to the Pittsburgh First Foundation

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Pittsburgh First is the best plan for Pittsburgh because it has the best location and the best access, as determined by an independent study completed by the Pittsburgh Gaming Task Force. It also will generate the most tax revenues because of the location and access, especially the synergies of having the casino located next to a brand new multi-purpose arena and a short walk from the convention center.

The Pittsburgh First plan *guarantees* \$290 million in private funding for a multi-purpose arena. Alternative plans will take \$7 million annually from the state Economic Development and Tourism program to pay for the cost of a new arena -- money that is desperately needed for smaller communities.

The Pittsburgh First Plan, unlike competing proposals, also enjoys widespread support, with endorsements from more than 80 state and local legislators and elected officials. In addition, a recently conducted petition drive throughout the greater Hill District community has gathered more than 2,000 signatures of support for the Pittsburgh First project.

This plan offers a redevelopment project that will rebuild the lower Hill District and reenergize and reconnect the neighborhood to downtown Pittsburgh.

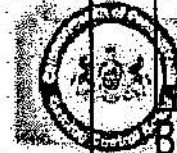
For these reasons, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board should award the slots license to the Isle of Capri, allowing this unprecedented economic development to proceed in Pittsburgh. We thank you for your consideration, and look forward to your decision.

I, Tom Balya, Tom Ceraso, ^{Phil}Light verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.





Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



FILED

MAY 24 2006

Board Clerk PGCB

WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: David C. Palmer

Address: [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]

Organization, if any: Bossa Nova Concepts

Employer: Bossa Nova Concepts

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

I have been a loyal resident of Pittsburgh for 46 years. I have seen the city go through seasons of growth and seasons of despair. My love for her compels me to celebrate in her victories and mourn in her days of gloom. Perhaps each of you considers your hometown a special cherished place, a place inseparable from your identity and central to your love of life. Then certainly you understand the desperate devotion I have to see that the right decision is made for my beloved Pittsburgh. Especially now, that as a doctoral student in Public Policy and Planning and Development, I have a better understanding of the tangible and intangible assets that enable an urban area to grow and thrive.

Rarely over these many years of romance with my fair city have I seen such an opportunity for revitalization and renewed hope for such a large cross-section of the Pittsburgh public as I do in the Isle of Capri proposal for building a slots casino, hotel, and new multipurpose entertainment facility, and upgrading a blighted neighborhood. I am not uninformed. I have reviewed the three proposals and considered their benefits and costs, and have concluded that Isle of Capri plan is vastly superior in what I call "the community value margin" - the accrued benefits and revenues minus all associated costs. In my view it is not even close.

Several important points underscore the superiority of the Isle of Capri plan:

The first is the fact that the Isle of Capri has committed \$290 million to build the entertainment facility, obviating the need to raise, transfer, or solicit taxpayer funds for such a facility. This statement needs

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

to be read several times to realize its full impact. In a city where businesses and residents are taxed to the extent that it gives rise to massive capital and human flight, an opportunity like this is the perfect salve for the tax-beleaguered Allegheny County public. Please do not let it pass through our fingers.

Secondly, no one should expect the new owners of the city's professional hockey team to exhibit sentimental loyalty to the city of Pittsburgh or to choose to keep the team in Pittsburgh if a superior economic opportunity is present elsewhere. A brand new arena with expanded revenue opportunities at no cost to the new owner will secure the team in Pittsburgh. The other plans, and plan B, all require the new owners to pay in several million dollars a year over an extended time period for a new arena to be built. Comparatively, that is not incentive, that is disincentive. When the owners are planning to buy the team at fair market value, their anticipated profit margin and estimated return on investment will not be sustained under a scenario in which they are required to payout millions of dollars year after year.

Regarding the team, I have learned that though the Penguins were the second worst team in the NHL this past season, their attendance averaged 94% capacity. That is remarkable. It reveals that there is not only a sizable and loyal fan base, but that there is tremendous 'hard' and 'soft' equity in having the team in Pittsburgh. 'Hard' in that this fierce loyalty will translate into direct revenue opportunities for the team, local businesses, and governments. The 'Soft' value involves the things that give rise to the quality of life in the city and county. I sense, from both the numbers and the buzz in the street, that there is a deep affiliation with this team and its legacy, and that the quality of life and the pride of being a 'Pittsburgher' are strongly associated with the Penguins. In addition, when employers make decisions about where to locate facilities they are concerned with attracting talent and want to promote a city that has several professional sports teams. Consideration of factors that expand employment and the tax base in Pittsburgh should be prioritized. Therefore great care should be taken with this precious asset, and that it should not be exposed to risks that could lead to the team's departure. The path of least risk, the only sure path, is to embrace the Isle of Capri offer.

Finally, you may be aware of the sentiments of the African American community regarding the blighted Hill District. Once a thriving center of black culture, entertainment, and business, it is now known for crime, drugs, and dilapidated housing. The deterioration of this region can be partly attributed to the construction of the Civic Arena in the 1960s, which removed key commercial and cultural zones. More than any other, the Isle of Capri plan commits to rebuilding efforts in this area, and the proximity of the proposed slots, hotel, and entertainment complexes provide many more job opportunities for Hill District residents. Of course the leaders of this community recognize this hope and support the Isle of Capri plan, but one can't help but also to recognize the great opportunity to help redress a past grievance and to contribute to the social and economic transformation so desperately wanted by this community.

Thank you for considering these factors as you ponder the choices set before you.

I, David C. Palmer verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

5/17/06

FILED

MAY 24 2006

Board Clerk PGC



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Jerome Dines

Address:



Telephone:

Organization, if any: None

Employer: Self

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Jerome Dines verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Jerome Dines

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

The decision as to where to issue the casino license comes down to whether it is based on what is the best for the City of Pgh., or other considerations. I am concerned about the City of Pgh., and what this city needs most. I feel the most important factor hopefully will be the one that will help spark the city to revitalize itself. The most important factor is lighting a spark that will flame the spirit of the people of Pgh., to believe that the city has the potential to turn itself around and regain its importance as a major city in this great nation. Sitting in the center between Chicago and New York we are perfectly located to become a super city. Sitting between downtown and Oakland is the key to the revitalization of a new renaissance reminiscent to the Mellon-Lawrence-Kaufmann sponsored era. Isle of Capri or any other entity can start the flame. It will take the spirit of the community to bring back this city. In my opinion only revitalization of the heart of the city will in the long run be looked back on as the right move. It will result in our local citizens the likes of Ed Goldston, Sal Williams and others as well as national investors to view his city as the type of turn around city worth investing in.

If given the inspiration, that the impetus of the Isle of Capri's plan would create, to rejuvenate the weak link in the 5th ave. corridor from Point Park six miles east to Point Breeze. You would put in place the chance Pgh. so badly needs to turn this city around.

Lets not forget how economically important the Penguins are to the future welfare of this city with the import of fans from a 150 mile area surrounding Pgh. We can ill afford to lose any of the monuments that make up the pride of this great city. We have lost enough already. Lets not forget Richard Mellon and David Lawrence and Edgar Kaufmann. We need to revive the spirit of their day.

I grew up on the 900 block of 5th Ave and watched as they tore down the buildings that made way for Chatham Center. At the hearings for people to voice their concerns about the building of Chatham Center a member of the York Furniture Co., located across the street in the middle of the 800-900 block. He explained to them the mistake they were making in not having retailing store fronts on 5th Ave. Instead they were facing Chatham in the other direction. He was right, but no one listened. The decision was made and no one had the wisdom to intervene. The mistake was a costly one for Chatham Center, and the people of the City of Pgh. They could have taken advantage of 5th Ave and still can. There is a wonderful theater in Chatham Center at the corner of 5th & Civic Arena Street, which has been closed for many years, that would thrive if the license was given to Isle of Capri.

In the 40's & 50's the 5th Ave. wholesale merchants influenced a swell of traffic into the city with merchants from over 100 miles away to purchase merchandise for their smaller town stores. I hope to see traffic like that again for many more diversified reasons.

Not only is the 5th Ave location the connecting link to the revitalization of Pgh., but the Penguins are the necessary link to making Pgh. a year round sports-entertainment-convention location for the nation.

I hope that those who have the power to make the decision on the casino license will have the wisdom and foresight to know they will determine the future of a wonderful and proud city with their decision. It has been a long time since this city has been what it once was. It may not get a chance like this again. The real question is which location will mean the most to Pgh. The Pgh. community knows which one they want and need. I hope the committee can hear them.

If they took a six mile drive from point park to point breeze they would understand that this street is the heart beat of Pittsburgh.

Jerome Dines





**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



FILED

MAY 24 2006

Board Clerk PG

**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: SUSAN GOJICH

Address: _____

Telephor _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: MELLON FINANCIAL

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Dear PA Gaming Control Board,

I believe that the Isle of Capri's proposal for the slots license is the best fit for the city of Pittsburgh. It is truly a win/win situation. The Isle of Capri is awarded the slots license and the city gets a new arena, a casino, and a neighborhood redevelopment deal for the hill district. All at no cost to the taxpayers. We would be remiss in turning down such an opportunity. I don't live in the city, but I do work in the city and I often stay in town after work for shows, sporting events, and dinner. The proposal is a great way to keep worker in town after five o'clock. I am also a Mellon volunteer for the Penguins. I saw first hand how important the team is to the city of Pittsburgh. Even though they had a dismal season this year, the fan support was incredible. Imagine the excitement when the team becomes competitive and shows off that talent in a new arena. The arena would also bring in a large array of shows and concerts that would also add to the attractiveness of the city to visitors. Please choose the Isle of Capri to receive the slots license. If the idea of a casino is to increase revenue to the city, the Isle of Capri's proposal could double that revenue. That would make a big

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, SUSAN GOSICH verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Susan Gosich 5/19/06



**Pennsylvania
Gaming Control Board**



FILED

MAY 24 2006

Board Clerk PGCB

**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Lindsay Stevens

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

I am writing this in regards to my support of the Isle of Capri to be granted the slots license. I have many reasons for this support, but the most important is the arena. The Isle of Capri is the only applicant that has a promised plan to build a new arena. Not to possibly give some money towards one, but to build it entirely for free, shortly after they are granted the license.

I am not from the Pittsburgh area, but I

Without an arena & the Penguins, the average amount of money that I spend per game of \$25.00-\$50 will be missed by the City. Multiply that by the number of other game attendants, and that's a lot of money.

I feel that the Isle of Capri is the only applicant that has truly involved the City and it's people. They put their information and intentions up front. I have traveled to every rally they have held, including the most recent during the public hearings held downtown. The number of people that showed from around the City and the people that live in the Mellon Arena Area, are strongly supporting Isle of Capri. I urge you to listen to the people who live in + support the City of Pittsburgh the most, and award the slots to the Isle of Capri

I, Lindsay Stevens verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Lindsay Stevens



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



FILED

MAY 24 2006

Board Clerk PGC

WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD OF THE PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

I request that the following comments be made part of the public input hearing record and considered by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to awarding licenses for slot operators:

Name: Suzanne Brewer

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Westmoreland County Community College

COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

Once a neighborhood was torn down to build an arena. Now there's a golden opportunity to tear down an aged arena and rebuild that same neighborhood. This same opportunity also will help ensure that Pittsburgh will not lose its NHL franchise.

To say that this is not about hockey is ludicrous. To the Penguins' faithful, it is about hockey. The potential economic impact of the Isle of Capri Plan has been well-documented. Their plans to redevelop the Hill District and to build a new multi-purpose facility (at no cost to taxpayers) where the Penguins would play are huge components of that impact.

Penguin fans love their team. That is evident from this past season's attendance. This team hovered near or at the bottom of the NHL standings the entire season; yet they showed the greatest increase in attendance in the NHL, including several sold-out games.

As a season ticket holder, I can vouch that Penguin fans make game day or night an event, which includes lunch or dinner and often, shopping. When there is a game scheduled, the entire area in and around Mellon Arena pulses with activity. To silence it would be catastrophic for the region.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Isle of Capri offers a true win/win for Pittsburgh. As a frequent visitor to the city and all it has to offer, I urge you to do what will truly best serve the needs of Pittsburgh and its citizens by awarding a slots license to the Isle of Capri.

Thank you.

I, Sharon L. Brewer verify that the information contained in this written comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

