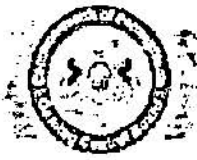




Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board



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: NANCY D. EVANS

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: Chestnut CC - Market St, Bellefonte, PA

Employer: Entertainment Publications

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

I strongly disagree with the inclusion of gambling in Bellefonte, PA. See these reasons:

- * It will ruin the Integrity of our local community!
- * It will definitely increase Crime due to increase in Drugs, Alcohol, Addictions & gambling.
- * It will destroy the educational success of our local community - Lehigh University, Moravian College, and Public & private schools in the area.



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 slots operators:

Name: LINDA KARAMAR

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

50V

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Beth. Health Bureau

COMMENTS: (Please use reverse side if more space is required)

I am voting against gambling in Bethlehem because ① it's too close to the College Campus and may become a bad influence on our youth ② We do not need any more traffic in our "little town of Bethlehem." The roads are already too crowded. All the roads on the South Side are narrow + over-crowded. 30,000 more people + cars would be a disaster!

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Linda Kalama



**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: Anthony Piergiovanni, Jr.

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: New Covenant Christian Community

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

*I am opposed to a casino in Bethlehem.
As an alumnus of Lehigh University, I believe
a casino within 1 mile of the university will be
highly detrimental to recruiting efforts as well as socially
irresponsible because of the risk to college students.
Surely, there must be a better location for a casino
in PA than this site which is embedded in a neighborhood
and college community.*



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: mrs. Shawna Serpe

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Dance Plus Inc.

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

my first response to the idea of controlled gambling coming to an area within walking distance of my new home was fear & grief. I pictured the low-income dads & moms of south side Bethlehem using their last few dollars to grasp a chance for wealth, but to no avail. I pictured the children left alone to care for each other while the adults spend hours away from them. This pattern destroys marriage & family. Then, selfishly, I pictured a desperate out-of-

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

money for their "big break" at the slots!

I have two teenage boys that I do not want exposed to the lifestyle of people in that desperate state of mind.

I don't even want them exposed to the people not-so-desperate, but indulging in drugs, alcohol, prostitution and gambling. Let's all be honest, those things do go very nicely

together. - on a completely different note - my

family has always "seen" what we call "the ruins" of the old Bethlehem Steel area and have had many brilliant ideas as to what could be done with the area. A go cart area, Paintball facility family activity center is one. The other is a community run, sponsored Arts facility; ~~is one~~ musicians, dancers, actors, artists, sculptures, can pay a participation fee and use the space for rehearsals, shows, expos, conferences, classes, education, community & church projects.

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

Shauna Serpe

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I witnessed a homeless man fondling his self on the side walk.

I walked past a couple screaming about a drug deal. And, the saddest thing, I saw a young guy ~~with~~ approached by a prostitute and leave with her.

These things all occurring in the middle of the Day!

We have enough problems in our area, especial this area.

We don't need to add to all the rest of the vices we already struggle with daily.

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

Iris Kale



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: DAVID EVANS

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

I AM OPPOSED TO SLOTS IN BETHLEHEM, AS
THEY WILL DETRACT FROM THE CHARM OF
THE CHRISTMAS CITY.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Paul Corns 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: Carolyn A. Pattexson

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: n/a

Employer: Pammer Chiropractic

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

I, Carolyn Pattexson, am writing you to express my disapproval of the casinos.

Southside Bethlehem is full of poverty stricken and lower class families.

Introducing gambling facilities will only heighten and broaden poverty.

Gambling is like throwing your money away on terrible odds to begin with. People will ~~be~~ be spending their money, and not saving it or buying everyday necessities.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

that promote morality and prosperity, not wastefulness and debt. Please listen openly and unbiasedly to all those opposed to these casinos. Southside needs businesses that will help their bank accounts grow, not vanish.

Thank you for listening.
God Bless.

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

Carolyn A Patterson



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: Mrs. Polly P. McClure

Address:

Telephor

Organization, if any: —

Employer: Retired

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

Because of its rich cultural heritage and already heavy traffic, Bethlehem is not a good place for slot machines.

The site being considered is just a few blocks from Lehigh University and close to other schools and churches.

The Sands organization proposes building a complex of retail, residential, etc. buildings, but there is no guarantee there will be anything beyond slot machines and eventually a full casino. There are several other proposals for the Bethlehem Steel land which are more productive and useful.

Slot machines bring social problems, and social services here are already taxed to the li-

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

low paying jobs, and there is not adequate low cost housing available.

The people who come to play slot machines just play slot machines — they are not much interested in seeing anything else or patronizing local businesses. Food, drink and cigarettes are available in the casinos — often free.

In a few years the \$10,000,000 gift to the city of Bethlehem will not be adequate to cover the increased costs of crime, traffic, social problems, etc. It's really the billionaires in Las Vegas who will profit. The Lehigh Valley would be better off without slot machines.

I, Polly McClure, 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 slots operators:

Name: Richard Schilling - Township Manager

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: Springfield Township

Employer: _____

COMMENTS: (Please use reverse side if more space is required)

Please see the 25 MAY 06 Letter to
Mr. Decker - RE: SANDS Bethworks Gaming Co
License Application

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Please see attached
letter dated May 25, 2000

I, Richard Schilling verify that the information contained in this written ^{attached} comment is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Richard Schilling



Springfield Township, Bucks County

May 25, 2006

Mr. Tad Decker, Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P. O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

RE: SANDS BETHWORKS GAMING CASINO LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Decker:

At their last regular meeting on May 23, 2006, the Springfield Township Board of Supervisors discussed at some length the anticipated impacts to the Township if the Gaming Control Board decides to award a slots casino license to the Sands Bethworks Gaming applicant in the City of Bethlehem.

If a slots casino license is approved for the City of Bethlehem, Springfield Township, which is in close proximity to the City, anticipates that there will be severe impacts to the Township. For example:

- Traffic to the casino, which the applicant's Local Impact Report estimates would have peak numbers of 14,000 weekdays and 36,000 Saturdays, does not address the traffic impacts to Routes 212, 309 and 412 south of Bethlehem in Springfield Township. Further, visitors to the casino, in order to avoid congestion on Routes 212, 309, and 412 corridors, will choose to travel over the Township's two-lane country roads, thus increasing traffic movements, accidents, and deterioration on these roads.
- The increase in traffic generated by the casino would also tax the Township's volunteer emergency responders and equipment who would be called on to respond to an increased number of traffic accidents, car fires, and potential mass casualty incidents due to the predominance of bus traffic to the casino during peak travel times, which will further exacerbate their chronic shortages of sufficient daytime volunteers to respond to these incidents.
- Increases in traffic and in the number of people traveling through the Township to the casino will increase DUI incidents, drug-related crimes and criminal activity requiring additional staff and equipment in our Police Department.
- Decline in sales at Township retail and service businesses due to the casino, which will decrease tax revenues to the township.

Based on these impacts, the Springfield Township Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the following motion:

"We oppose the granting of a slots casino license in the City of Bethlehem due to the severity of impacts on the Township's roads, infrastructure, municipal services such as police, fire and emergency services, and the

loss of tax revenue due to declining sales at the local businesses, which we anticipate will occur with the location of a casino in the City of Bethlehem, and which have not been adequately identified or quantified. We are concerned that if these "off-site" impacts are not adequately addressed up front, the burden of mitigating them will fall disproportionately on the shoulders of the taxpayers of Springfield Township."

Sincerely,



Richard Schilling
Township Manager

RS/lb

cc: Springfield Township Board of Supervisors
Senator Lisa Boscola
Representative Bob Freeman
Representative Karen Beyer
John Stoffa, Northampton County Executive
Mayor John Callahan, City of Bethlehem
J. Michael Schweder, Council President, City of Bethlehem
Mayor Richard Fluck, Borough of Hellertown
Anthony Branco, Council President, Borough of Hellertown
Allan Robertson, Chairman, Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners
John Diacogiannis, Chairman, Hanover Township Board of Supervisors
Mayor Stephen Repasch, Borough of Fountain Hill
Lawrence Rapp, Council President, Borough of Fountain Hill
Mayor Gerald Yob, Borough of Freemansburg
Donald Lasso, Council President, Borough of Freemansburg
Jane Balum, Chair, Saucon Valley Partnership



**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: Heather Trovasso

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Sanofi - pasteur

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

I am against the slots casino proposal for Bethlehem. There is poor infrastructure to support it and it would ruin the character and current revitalization underway.

Allentown would be a better site and would have more to gain. I support the Allentown slots casino proposal

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Heather L. Trapasso



**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: William T Henry

Address:

Telephor

Organization, if any: Psychologist

Employer: self

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

As a clinical psychotherapist I am clearly
against a license for gaming in the city of
Bethlehem. The social devastation to our
city would be so negative that our culture and
community would never survive - I feel our
community far outweighs the presumed
good proposed by the Sands Casino.

- William Henry 5/30/06

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

William T Henry Whorfberry



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:

James M. Frank

Address:

Telephc

Organization, if any:

Employer:

NL4

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

I believe it is a really bad idea to bring slot machines to Bethlehem, PA. The main highways in & out of Bethlehem are already jammed because of the increased population of families moving down from New York. Adding more cars to the roads will only create long backups at the exits & more traffic on the city streets that are also not adequate for the extra traffic. More cars means more accidents.



**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: Sandra Wallander

Address:

Telephor

Organization, if any:

Employer: Cooper Lighting

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

Please see attached.

The proposal by Sands to create a casino in Bethlehem is entirely unworkable. Major obstacles include: lack of road and street infrastructure; inadequate police and fire protection; incompatibility with the Lehigh Valley's integrity and quality of life; and the influx of undesirable people, pollution and crime.

The proposed location for the casino on the South Side of Bethlehem off of Daly Avenue is not wide enough to sustain the inevitable barrage of cars and buses. At least two additional lanes (each way) would need to be created, significantly altering the landscape and encroaching on existing structures. Furthermore, the roads that lead into the area (412, Stefko Blvd. and the surface streets of the South Side and Hellertown) are very narrow with frequent stoplights. The congestion would be choking and immense.

Bethlehem's small police and fire protection squads would be under tremendous pressure. The increased amount of resources and staffing these organizations would need would be a considerable drain on the city's coffers, offsetting many tax gains from the casino.

Bethlehem was a great place to grow up as a kid. My friends and I would stay out in downtown Bethlehem all day long and well into the evening without any fear for our safety, even during Musikfest. The cultural advantages I grew up with as a result of my exposure to the diversity of music, languages and food was pretty unique. Our city has so many influences – German, Moravian, Celtic and Hispanic are just a few. A casino would change all this. Kids obviously can't patronize a casino, and the undesirable people such an establishment brings about, would certainly make the area unsafe, especially during Musikfest, when police are already stretched thin. Polka, Festplatz and compulsive gambling? One of these things is clearly not like the other.

The influx of people, pollution and their associated vices would completely tarnish "The Christmas City" image. The casino will be located near what is already Bethlehem's most crime-ridden section –

the South Side, with its drive-by shootings and gangs. However, the poor people in this location mean only one thing to the Sands developers – cheap labor. The casino's so-called "highly-paid" jobs wouldn't compare with the Bethlehem Steelworker's quality of life in the 1960s. Following the precedent of Las Vegas and Atlantic City, which have large swathes of poor people just outside the gambling districts, the only people that stand to benefit from casinos are the politicians and casino owners themselves. No, there is no improvement here - not to mention all the other social ills a casino breeds – alcoholism, prostitution and drugs.

At best, the casino will definitely attract massive numbers of elderly and retired patrons spending their children's inheritances. Their large tour buses will clog our streets and pollute our air. Does St. Luke's have enough hospital beds when granny has a heart attack after she loses her Social Security check in the slot machine? How glamorous indeed.

In conclusion, a Sands casino in Bethlehem is an extremist measure that was created by poor budgetary management and continues to propogate fiscal recklessness. The Lehigh Valley seems to how to do nothing but overspend and borrow, and now they are encouraging their residents to empty their savings as well. The Sands casino proposal is merely a short-term, expedient effort to ignore the city's underlying profligate spending problem. Instead of state-sanctioned casinos, I suggest Pennsylvania lawmakers endorse a basic Personal Finance class in Liberty and Freedom High Schools, so that the future Bethlehem leaders will know how to balance the budget.



**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: Fran Harka

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

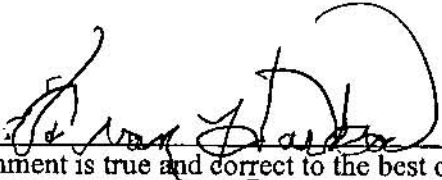
Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

I do not think casinos should come on the S.S. of Beth beings it a bad neighb to begin with due to drugs + gang related issues. you should think more about placing it where there are no children or young adults to be~~ing~~ wrongly influenced.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I,  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: JUDITH M. FLOYD

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: NONE

Employer: RETIRED

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

My husband + I moved to Bethlehem from Richmond VA, 4 years ago, AND if this casino was a possibility at that time, we NEVER would have moved here! This small-city offers a lot of history + cultural activities in addition to a beautiful + successful downtown area. A slots parlour would NOT offer anything positive to this area +, in fact, would be a detraction. The typical type of person who frequents slots parlours would come here only to play the slot machines - not to add anything to the community of any value. I do not believe the average tax payer will see much difference in the property taxes they pay if this

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

the ones who would benefit the most monetarily.
I do not think a slots/gambling casino would
benefit this community in any way — please
go somewhere else!!

1. James M. Flay 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: Kathryn Ostusis

Address

Telepho

Organization, if any:

Employer:

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

A life long resident of Bethlikem, as were my parents and grandparents, we have lived in and enjoyed the many priviledges and blessing bestowed on us by those early Moravian pioneers who sacrificie so much so that we have been able to live in and enjoy the fruits of their hard labor.

Clear Pa Gaming Comision must serdly take this into Careful Consideration before opening up this precious town to all that we know well accompany licenses for slot operators.

The only advantages that can possibly make any sense would be to triple our police & fire (more info) to handle the

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Kathryn A. Ortwein

BRIDGET GEORGE

Michael P. Edmiston, Esq.
Director of Hearings and Appeals
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Mr. Edmiston,

I want to congratulate you on the organization of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board hearings at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Allentown, Pa and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It is vitally important that the public should have a voice on the important issue of casinos in Pennsylvania and these hearings have given the public a voice both on the issue of casinos as a whole and local concerns on specific potential sites for casinos.

I testified against the Sands Bethworks Gaming proposal at the hearing on May 22, 2006 and am sending you the written comments I prepared for this testimony since in spite of my careful preparation, I needed to speak just a little faster to include the whole testimony in a 3-minute oral presentation.

I hope these comments are helpful to you, especially in considering the hotly debated issue of a casino on the former Bethlehem Steel land in the heart of Bethlehem—a vibrant, diverse city that is a historic, artistic, and educational jewel of Pennsylvania. Our city is strong, innovative and creative, but can be easily destroyed by the wrong kind of development. I urge you not to choose this site for the granting of a gaming license.

Sincerely,


Bridget George



**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: Bridget George

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: The Bach Choir of Bethlehem (Executive Director)

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

Written comments prepared for the 5/22/06 public input hearing, Crowne Plaza Allentown.

My name is Bridget George and my husband and I now live in Moore Township, Northampton County. We lived for 21 years on the Southside of Bethlehem and raised our two children there. I have worked in Bethlehem for thirty years, first as co-founder and producing director of Touchstone Theatre on the Southside of Bethlehem and for the past nine years as the executive director of the world-renowned Bach Choir of Bethlehem, founded in 1898. I speak as an individual, since neither of these institutions has a position statement on the issue of gaming in Bethlehem but my work informs my topic—the conflict of a casino with Bethlehem's culture and quality of life. A casino may bring short-term economic growth but in the long term it will detract from and deter the kind of community and economic development by which Bethlehem has forged and continues to forge its own unique path to success as an innovative and healthy community.

I am a passionate proponent of Bethlehem as a city that offers extraordinary testimony to the American Dream with the juxtaposition of its historic Moravian settlement, numerous fine educational and cultural institutions and the fragile but vibrant and diverse Southside culture built by immigrants who came here initially to work in Bethlehem Steel—a city built on creativity and honest hard work and not on a money engine that depends on people losing money and often people who can't afford to do so.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Today's sub-heading in the Morning Call article on casinos in the Lehigh Valley stated that the opposition of "the faithful" had been silenced. I go on record as saying that "the faithful" have in no way been silenced and by "the faithful" I do not mean just the churches, I mean the thousands of people from all walks of life who have spoken eloquently against a casino on the former Bethlehem Steel land. In "the faithful" I include people like John Howell, retired President and CEO of the former First Valley Bank (now Bank of America) and a bankers' role model through his tireless efforts in community development. Mr. Howell spoke at a Northampton County organized hearing last year on the shortsightedness of thinking that a casino was good for community and economic development in the long term and the need for patience in building on the development work already in progress. I also include the leadership of Binney & Smith, a corporation that does have a position statement against casinos because of its parent company Hallmark's experience with the impact of the casino boats on the Mississippi River and their negative effect on the local business community. In "the faithful" I include exemplary teachers like Susan Lucrezi at Donegan Elementary School in Southside Bethlehem where my children attended school—people who know that a healthy and creative environment for parents and children makes much more positive difference to the community than dollars offered to the school district from a money engine that is proven to increase addiction, crime, poverty, and other symptoms of an unhealthy community.

While I appreciate the architectural integrity of Newmark's plans to preserve the historic buildings of Bethlehem Steel, I must disagree with Newmark's insistence that no good version of the plan can be executed without a casino, and that the Sands Corporation is necessary as a money engine to drive the rest of the retail and other development. Barry Gosin insists that the casino will be hidden architecturally and therefore won't conflict with Bethlehem's culture, but you cannot separate the money engine that he states must be the driving force to attract people and business to Bethlehem from the long-term outcome of the whole project. Please say "no" to the Sands Corporation and casinos in Bethlehem. We should hold out for casino-free development that the whole Bethlehem community can be proud of for hundreds of years to come, instead of opting for a plan that will destroy the jewel that Bethlehem already is.

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

Bridget George



**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: Jeanne T. Long

Address:

Telepho:

Organization, if any:

Employer: Retired

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

5/29/06

Gaming Control Board of Pa.:

I have lived in Bethlehem most of my life. I was born here, attended schools here, worked 34 years at St. Luke's Hospital. Bethlehem to me is "The Christmas City" founded by the Moravians and Count Zinzendorf and named on Christmas Eve 1741. It is the home of the world renowned "Bach Choir" and "Moravian Trombone Choir". We have musicfest every August for 10 days, and Christkindmarkt prior to Christmas. Busloads of people come to see the Christmas decorations, see the Star on South Mountain, and tour the Moravian buildings. Bethlehem is a wonderful place to live.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

Why would you want to ruin this wonderful Heritage we have by bringing gambling to Bethlehem? Gambling doesn't bring anything worthwhile to a community. It brings additional crimes, increased traffic, negative impact on small local businesses and restaurants, negative impact on universities, colleges and students and reduces quality of life for residents. People will not want to come to see all the wholesome things we have if gambling is brought here.

I, Jeanne T. Long 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: RICARDO J. FORERO

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: _____

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

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW OR AWARD LICENSES FOR SLOT OPERATION IN ANY AREA OF BETHLEHEM, PA. THE TARGETED AREA IS POPULATED WITH LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO WOULD BE TEMPTED TO GAMBLE TO IMPROVE THEIR "ECONOMIC" SITUATION

IN ADDITION, THERE IS MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT GAMBLING SITES ATTRACT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. THIS WOULD THREATEN THE SAFETY OF OUR CITY AND INCREASE THE COST OF DEALING WITH ADDITIONAL CRIME.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, RICARDO J. FORERO 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 slots operators:

Name: Carol A. Miller

Northampton

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Organization, if any:

Employer: Farmer

COMMENTS: (Please use reverse side if more space is required)

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I think this Building + Casino will be so close to Lehigh University + the School's on Southside Bethlehem - Bethlehem is a Historic City and Area - and should be kept in this same manner. You know what kind of extra trouble comes along with this type of business. It might be ok if the owners would do what they promise to + for the area - But that never happens. They only seem to look out for their own deep pockets - No gaming in the Bethlehem Area - PLEASE!

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

Carl A. Miller



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: Steven Frei, M.D.

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Lehigh Valley Physician Group - (working in Bethlehem)

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

As an Emergency medicine physician, I wish to express my concerns about slot operators in our area:

1. I believe the presence of slot operators will increase the need for Emergency Medical services, straining an already burdened system with already long wait times in Emergency departments.
2. We don't have a good way to objectively measure the "social fabric", but my opinion is that a social fabric of law abiding, hardworking people taking care of their families is crucial to our area. Slot operations will certainly not help and will likely damage this.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

3. As a physician working in the Emergency Department with the largest number of psychiatric visits in the Lehigh Valley, I am concerned about the effect of slot operations on those with alcoholism and various mental disorders (including gambling related). I see only bad effects for these people. Will the slots operators pay for the increased care needed, or explain to others who are turned away for lack of capacity?

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

Steven Frei MD



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 ORTWEIN

Address: _____

Teleph: _____

Organization, if any: _____

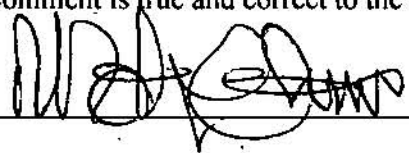
Employer: CHRISTIAN ARCHITECTS (OWNER)

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

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED SANDS BETHEWORKS PROJECT, IN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA. I BELIEVE THAT THE GAMING PORTION OF THIS PROPOSAL WILL HAVE LONG TERM NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES ON OUR CITY.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, MARK J. ORTWEIN 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: Martin A. Romer

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: N/A

Employer: Self-employed

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

To the Members of The Gaming Control Board,
I moved to the City of Bethlehem in 1975 when I was ten years old. Within a year I was volunteering at the historic Sand which was in the beginning stages of preservation as a historic landmark. By 1977 I was also serving as a volunteer tour guide for Historic Bethlehem Incorporated. During this time my

Martin A. Romer

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

parents restore the residence they purchased. I have invested much of my life in this city and have extensive knowledge of the historic character of the community, which was founded by the Moravians in 1741.

A casino in Bethlehem will be a burden to this community. It will create drive-through traffic in volumes our roads will not support. A recently retired Fire Chief of Bethlehem has said that the casino operators have refused to cooperate with planning that is necessary to provide the residents of this city with coverage from the Fire Department.

A casino is not appropriate near the schools and colleges that are barely a few miles away. No preservation has been done in the years the developers have owned the property in question. Ninety-percent of the steel land has been developed into tax producing industrial park proposals.

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

Our community does not need the burdens this Casino will

Martin A. Romer force us to bear



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: RICH SWIRSDING

Address:

Telephor

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: MICROSTAR TECHNOLOGY CORP.

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

I oppose Casino in Bethlehem for
the following reasons

- 1- Increased crime
- 2- increased drug use
- 3- Location is close to schools
- 4- Negative effect on elderly poor. They will spend money gambling.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Rich Swirsdint



**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: LAWRENCE P. SERBAN

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Organization, if any: NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Employer: N/A

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

I AM AGAINST ANY + ALL CASINOS COMING TO BETHLEHEM. THE GAIN FOR THE FEW IS GREATLY OUTWEIGHED BY THE EVIL THAT WILL CREEP INTO THE SOULS OF THIS GREAT CITY, A CITY BUILT BY THE SWEAT + BLOOD OF MANY. SELL YOUR SOUL TO SATAN + MAY NEVER RECLAIM IT! KEEP THE MONSTER OUT OF BETHLEHEM BEFORE ITS TRUE INTENT AND



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: Christine Serban

Address:

Telephor

Organization, if any: _____

Employer: Palisades School District

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

I am opposed to the proposed casinos for Bethlehem, PA. I believe these casinos are in too close proximity to residents and while people may enjoy traveling to play the slots, it is a very different story when "the slots" are in your own back yard. In addition, I believe the moral, and financial damage that will come to our community as a result of casinos and all that come with them, far outweigh the possible gain in employment. Please vote

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

I, Christine Serban 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: Janet A. Lewis

Address:

Telephone:

Organization, if any:

Employer: None

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

I am opposed to slots casinos being built & operated in Bethlehem because of the proximity of colleges & universities to the proposed site. I am also concerned with the residents of the south side because many live in poverty & will be enticed by the hope of hitting it big. Many will sink deeper into poverty. I believe that all who live in areas surrounding Bethlehem as well as all Bethlehem residents, "one day" rue the day they sold their souls to the casino if they are granted the site in Bethlehem.



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: Gail Meyer

Address:

Telephone

Organization, if any: UNITE HERE

Employer: UNITE HERE

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

*Please see the attached information
regarding the Sands Bethworks
application.*

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Gail Meyer

SHELDON ADELSON

A REVIEW OF HIS BUSINESS PRACTICES AND HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

"Adelson is so intense and arrogant he's easy to dislike. He's such a notorious micromanager that he drives his people bananas."
—John L. Smith, *Las Vegas Review Journal*¹

"Sheldon Adelson is perhaps the most vilified man in Nevada."
—Steve Sebelius, *Las Vegas Review Journal*²

Las Vegas Sands, Inc. (LVSI) was formed in 1988 by Sheldon Adelson and his partners in Interface Group to purchase the Sands Hotel and Casino from MGM Grand. In 1996, LVSI imploded the Sands to make way for a new mega-resort, the Venetian. Today LVSI's successor, Las Vegas Sands Corporation, and its subsidiaries own and operate the Venetian Casino Resort, which includes a hotel, gaming facility, a meeting and conference facility, and the Sands Expo Center. General Growth properties, a Chicago based real estate investment trust, bought the Venetian's Grand Canal Shoppes mall on May 17, 2004.³ Las Vegas Sands, Corp. employs about 5,600 employees in Las Vegas. Net revenue for the year ending December 31, 2004 was \$1.19 billion.⁴

Sheldon Adelson is the primary shareholder and the chair of the board and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands, Corp. He and family trusts he established own 70.5% of the outstanding shares.⁵ Mr. Adelson is also the chair of Interface Group—Massachusetts Inc. and is the president of Interface Group—Nevada Inc.

Mr. Adelson is currently expanding his companies outside of Las Vegas seeking to build a national and global gaming company. Mr. Adelson sells himself as an ideal business partner however, many may not be aware of Mr. Adelson's controversial business practices and record in Nevada:

- Mr. Adelson has come into repeated conflicts with governmental and regulatory agencies and has sued government agencies, including the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.
- Mr. Adelson is extremely litigious. He uses lawsuits so regularly in the course of business that Mr. Adelson and the companies he represents have been involved in over 150 lawsuits in Clark County District Court alone in the last ten years. Mr. Adelson and the business he controls have been in lawsuits with each other, with contractors, with family members, with customers, with former employees, and with government agencies.
- Mr. Adelson has come under fire for working conditions in the Venetian, failing to pay proper back pay to workers, and for attempting to arrest workers and their supporters for

protesting on the sidewalk outside the Venetian. Although the Venetian claims in advertisements to have "an unparalleled benefits package,"⁶ many of the employees at the Venetian are not eligible for those health and welfare benefits.

- Mr. Adelson uses his wealth to oust politicians who cross him, or, as one columnist noted, who "refuse to bow to his every wish."⁷ Mr. Adelson has used his money to try to influence federal, state and local governmental elections and his aggressive lobbying tactics have caused trouble for some legislators.
- Mr. Adelson has been repeatedly characterized as difficult to work with and "terrorizing those who get in his way."⁸

1. REGULATORY AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

"He's [Sheldon Adelson] threatened lawsuits that could cost Clark County taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars..."

—Gary Thompson, Las Vegas Sun⁹

"He doesn't play by the rules. He likes to make his own rules."

—former Clark County Commissioner, Paul Christensen¹⁰

Mr. Adelson has come into repeated conflicts with various regulatory and government agencies over the years that he has done business in Nevada. Mr. Adelson's businesses have repeatedly sued government agencies. The Venetian has been fined by the Nevada Gaming Commission for rigging contests; is involved in an ongoing investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and has sued the commission; has been in legal battles with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; and has sued Clark County over the release of a traffic study and for failing to arrest peaceful picketers.

Licensing in Nevada

Mr. Adelson, his partners in The Interface Group Inc., a trade show and travel company, and various venture partners came under intense scrutiny in 1989 when they sought permission from the Nevada Gaming Control Board and later the Nevada Gaming Commission to purchase the Sands Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip for \$127 million, run the property and later redevelop it. The board unanimously recommended Interface investor and Mr. Adelson's boyhood friend Irwin Chafetz 'disassociate' himself from gay bar owner Henry D. Vara, Jr.¹¹ and several other individuals¹² in order to secure licensure. The gaming board also recommended that the gaming commission deny approval to former Hilton Hotel executive Heinz G. "Henri" Lewin and associate Paul F. Klapper to participate in management of the hotel-casino. The board denied Mr. Lewin on the basis "that the applicant lacks good character, honesty, and integrity" and found Mr. Klapper unsuitable "given his prior activities, specifically wagering with illegal bookmakers, as well as Mr. Klapper's lack of adequate business probity...."¹³

Mr. Vara has never been convicted of organized crime activities. "Allegations that he was connected with the mob surfaced in the early 1980s, when he and his brother Carmine, were charged by the federal government with skimming liquor and admission receipts" from two of their establishments. Both Varas were found not guilty in 1985.¹⁴ The other individuals Mr. Chafetz was required to 'disassociate himself' from were Carmine Vara, Frank Cashman, Jordan and Gloria Friedman, Larry Reservitz, and Staniford Sorrentino.¹⁵

Mr. Chafetz agreed to disassociate himself from Mr. Vara in order to secure a license and Mr. Klapper withdrew his application.¹⁶ The gaming commission granted Mr. Lewin a two-year limited license that included restrictions on his involvement in the casino and personnel matters.¹⁷ Las Vegas Sands' first management team was Mr. Lewin's Aristocrat Hotels, which sued Las Vegas Sands for breach of contract after its dismissal. The case was settled out of court after four years of litigation.

From 1989 to 1995, Mr. Chafetz was a vice president and director of Interface Group—Nevada, Inc., which owned and operated the Sands Expo and Convention Center. During the same period, he was also a vice president and director of Las Vegas Sands, Inc. In March 2005, Mr.

Chafetz joined the Board of Directors of Las Vegas Sands, Inc. and Las Vegas Sands Corp.¹⁸

Nevada Gaming Commission

In March 2004, the Nevada Gaming Commission imposed a \$1 million fine on the Venetian for rigging contests and violating other state gaming regulations. The settlement comes from 12 charges that date back to 2002. Peter Bernhard, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission, called the complaint against the Venetian, "the most serious complaint I've seen since I've been on the commission."¹⁹ The Venetian was charged with faking three separate drawings, granting gamblers more credit than allowed by law and failing to account for promotional disbursements among other violations. "The issues go to the heart of the integrity of the industry," said Chairman Bernhard.²⁰ The Venetian admitted to nine of the 12 charges. State Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Neilander said the Venetian admitted to "serious violations" in the case that "would tend to undermine the public's confidence (in the industry), which is the worst kind (of violations) you can have."²¹

The Venetian claimed that rogue employees were to blame for the rigged contests and other violations. However, Chairman Bernhard argued, "no rogue employees benefited, so they (must have) thought they were acting for the benefit of the hotel."²²

In January 2005, the Las Vegas Sands agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine after a minor was caught gambling and drinking at the Venetian. According to a Nevada Gaming Control Board complaint, the minor gambled at the megaresort for more than an hour. Three dealers, a floor person, a security guard and cocktail waitress who served the minor failed to ask for his identification. The casino learned the minor was not 21 when he attempted to cash his chips. The board said the minor was 19 years old at the time of the incident. In its settlement with the Nevada Gaming Commission, the company admitted the minor had been drinking and gambling at the casino.²³

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), ten individuals who applied for work at the Venetian but were not hired filed charges of age discrimination in 1999. The EEOC is a federal agency in charge of the administrative and judicial enforcement of federal civil rights laws. The Venetian, however, refused to comply with a subpoena issued by the EEOC and filed a complaint against the agency in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaration that it was not required to comply with the subpoena because the EEOC might disclose to third parties information the Venetian claimed was confidential.²⁴ The District Court dismissed the case but the dismissal was reversed on appeal on May 27, 2005. The Court of Appeals held that the case was ripe for decision, disagreeing with the District Court on this point, but remanded the case for further hearing because the record before it was inadequate to determine the merits of the Venetian's claims.²⁵

On March 14, 2001, the EEOC filed its own lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada to compel the Venetian to comply with the subpoenas. This case was stayed pending the decision of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.²⁶

Last September, the EEOC stated in a court filing that "the Venetian has successfully stalled the EEOC's investigation for several years now" through pre-emptive litigation even though the "EEOC has prevailed on all nine of ten counts" in the amended complaint that have been adjudicated to date.²⁷

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

Mr. Adelson has had a contentious relationship with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), a quasi-governmental agency established by state law. The LVCVA is respected by the gaming industry as instrumental in bringing tourism and business to Las Vegas. News reports even say that Mr. Adelson "wants to destroy the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority"²⁸ in order to "gain a business advantage for his convention hall."²⁹ In 1992, Mr. Adelson's attempt to sell his Sands Expo to LVCVA was declined by the authority.³⁰ In 1997, Mr. Adelson lobbied the Nevada Legislature to try to privatize the authority or cap its growth. Mr. Adelson successfully delayed construction of two projects of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: the expansion of the Las Vegas Convention Center and the creation of a monorail system on the Las Vegas Strip. All of these actions demonstrate the lengths that Mr. Adelson is willing to go in order to squash competition with his business.

Las Vegas Convention Center Expansion

In July 1999, Venetian Casino Resorts, LLC filed a lawsuit against the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and Clark County, Nevada alleging violations of law in the funding plan to expand the Las Vegas Convention Center, which competes with Mr. Adelson's privately-owned Sands Expo Center. Plans to expand the Las Vegas Convention Center were announced in February 1999 with an expected completion date of July 2000, but the lawsuit served to delay the planned expansion of the convention center. Even though the court ruled in its favor, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority claimed damages of an estimated \$10 million in legal fees and interest costs due to the legal delays of the expansion project.³¹

In a March 25, 1998 speech to the International Gaming Business Exposition, held at his Sands Expo Center, Mr. Adelson attacked the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority:

"It is another failed assumption that to solve the problem of decline we should throw more money at the ineffective Convention and Visitors Authority. They are part of the problem and not the solution. A politicized and union supported Convention and Visitors Authority, with only two industry members on an eleven-member board, has resulted in an ineffective bureaucracy. This building you are sitting in today will generate substantially more at the bottom line than the Las Vegas Convention Center will grow at the top line. And we run more net square feet of exhibit space with one-ninth the amount of employees. They have nine times as many employees to run their building that is smaller than ours.

All of the economic firepower the LVCVA collects from the annual tax subsidy—which will be \$200 million dollars within 3 to 4 years—sponsors such useless events as lacrosse tournaments, putting contests and volleyball meets. Next thing I know, they will be sponsoring tiddly-winks contests. This money which is desperately needed to promote tourism and conventions can be used to improve infrastructure, to lessen growth impacts or to hold the line on any tax increase, but is in fact being politically frittered away. Time to change that."³²

In April 1999, when the Las Vegas Convention Center announced its expansion plan, Mr. Adelson responded: "They're exposing the county to a lawsuit from us for hundreds of millions of dollars... If they cause us to lose value because of them, we'll sue them for as much as we can."³³ In July, Mr. Adelson's Venetian Casino Resorts, LLC sued the LVCVA and Clark County charging that the proposed financing for the \$150 million project violated Nevada law and that

the convention authority failed to conduct adequate planning. The Venetian was the only resort property to sue the LVCVA over the proposed expansion. "The people who have contributed to Las Vegas for many years aren't here," said Todd Bice, an attorney representing the convention authority, of the Venetian's lawsuit.³⁴

Mr. Adelson reportedly gave financial backing to the campaign against the convention authority's proposed use of bonds to fund the expansion, including paying workers to collect 41,000 signatures on a petition opposing the bonds.³⁵ "This is really about Mr. Adelson and his efforts. He would really like to have all the business over at his convention facility," said Forrest Garby, an electrician who works for Trade Show Electricity at the convention center.³⁶ The convention authority claimed that Mr. Adelson was using the lawsuit to delay construction in order to secure long-term leases with conventions that need large amounts of space.³⁷ "Sheldon doesn't think that the expansion is in his best interest, and he wants to kill it," said LVCVA spokesman Rob Powers.³⁸

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority was to issue bonds for the expansion in July 1999. A few days before the scheduled issuance, U.S. Representative Tom DeLay, R-Texas, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would prohibit the use of tax-exempt bonds to finance construction of facilities leased to private businesses under certain conditions. "I think it's amazing that the House majority whip, who comes from Texas, would have the Las Vegas Convention Center on his radar screen," said Powers. "The timing of his [DeLay's] bill, coming just a few days before we were going to sell bonds for expansion is very curious."³⁹ Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV) said he suspects there was only one source for the bills by DeLay and Representative Ralph Hall (D-TX).⁴⁰ "I believe all roads point to the Venetian," Bryan said. "It's obvious because they are involved in litigation with the convention authority."⁴¹

The Venetian lost at trial and appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court. In February 2001, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority settled its lawsuits with the Venetian. Expansion of the convention center was completed in January 2002; the expansion project was originally expected to be completed in 2000.

Monorail Project

In January 2000, Las Vegas Strip hotels and casinos announced plans to build a monorail on the Strip to more easily move tourists along the Strip and to the Las Vegas Convention Center. The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reported, "Venetian owner Sheldon Adelson doesn't fancy the state helping bring people to the convention center, which competes with his Sands Expo."⁴² Developers wanted Nevada to issue bonds for funding the development. The bonds, if issued by the state, would be tax-exempt industrial development bonds. The bonds would also be 'sole recourse' bonds, meaning that the bonds would be paid back with monorail-generated funds only. The monorail turned into a battle when Sheldon Adelson opposed the plan and the Nevada Environmental Coalition gave notice that it planned to file suit for violations of the Clean Air Act.

LVCVA officials were suspicious because the law firm that drafted the letter on behalf of the Nevada Environmental Coalition is Patton Boggs, a law partnership that has worked for Mr. Adelson in the past.⁴³

In the end, plans for the monorail were changed. The project ended up costing more money, but covering more ground to include casinos, the Las Vegas Convention Center and Fashion Show Mall. The State Board of Finance authorized the issuance of the tax-free industrial

development bonds in August 2000.

Clark County

In 1997, Las Vegas Sands sued Clark County to prevent the County from publicly releasing the Venetian Resort Traffic Study it submitted for County approval.

The Venetian was required to submit a Traffic Study and Mitigation Plan to Clark County for approval by the Board of County Commissioners as a condition of its use permit. Under Nevada's public records law, a request to view the traffic study was made prior to the study's approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Before the County could release the document, Las Vegas Sands sued the County.

The Judge ordered the County to release the Traffic Study and any Addenda at least 10 days prior to consideration for approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Las Vegas Sands, Inc. had previously sued Clark County over offsite improvements required during the construction of the Sands Expo Center in the late 1980s and would later sue the County as part of its lawsuit against the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority suit in 1999 (see above).

