



**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: CHRISTINA SCHMIDLAPP

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: Allegheny Commons Restoration

Employer: Northside Leadership Conference

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

As someone who has worked in historic preservation and the rehabilitation of Pittsburgh's public parks, I have first-hand knowledge of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, which stands to benefit from the Forest City/Harrah's gaming proposal for Station Square.

P.H.L.F. is an organization that does what it says it will and has benefited the entire Pittsburgh region for decades including school children in the tens of thousands in smaller cities communities

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

The Harrah's commitment of \$25 million to P.H.L.F. will provide a long-term, major "bang for the buck".

Harrah's, similarly, has a proven track record running casinos. This is the group most likely to do a good job for Pittsburgh's property tax relief efforts.

I am opposed to gambling, in principle. But since it is coming, I feel obliged to support the site and the proposal that appears to be best overall for our region.

I am speaking as an individual citizen — not on behalf of my employer. When I submit this letter in support of the Forest City/Harrah's gaming proposal.

CHRISTINA SCHMIDT

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

March 13, 2006

Dianne B. Swan

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-9060

Dear Board Members:

**Re: My Support for the Harrah Casino and housing it at Station Square**

Please know that I do not support gambling. However, since gambling is on its way here to the city of Pittsburgh, I want it to be provided in the most efficient means and location possible. Based on the information that has been made available to the public I believe that Harrah is the better provider for several reasons and that station Square is the best location.

**Financial Stability, Years of Experience, Training and Benefits for Staff, and Support for the Communities**

Harrah appears to be financially stable from the financial information available to the public. They have successfully operated casinos for well over six decades. They will engage Bidwell Training and Development, a highly respected local institution to train staff for the various positions. The staff will have benefits. Additionally, Harrah will reach out into the community annually by making available a million dollars to address some of the needs of the various urban communities. As a resident of a materially distressed community, we need substantial support so that we can continue to help ourselves.

**Station Square is the Best Location**

Station Square is clearly the most appropriate environment for the Harrah Casino. Harrah can relatively easily and naturally be integrated into the other festive activities that take place daily at Station Square. It is accessible and already the destination when people are looking for a fun night out.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views on why I feel that Harrah Casino should be the provider and that they should be housed at Station Square.

Respectfully,

*Dianne B. Swan*

Dianne B. Swan

Resident of Homewood-Brushton

**Office of the Clerk Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
PO Box 69060 Harrisburg, PA 17106**

**May 25, 2005**

**Dear sir or madam,**

**I want to urge you to support the Harrah's and the Forest City Enterprises plan for the development of a casino at Station Square. I never even thought of any other place.**

**Remember how Harrah's opened their doors in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to use the property as a base of operations. That lets you know what kind of a company it is.**

**Station Square has the best location, with rivers, buses, the T, bridges and even the inclines that will help move people. Wouldn't it be great if passenger casino trains could come back again to bring in out of town people? It is a winner. Think about it.**

**I also like the idea that Forest City-Harrah's has invested nearly 100 million additional dollars in Station Square since acquiring the property and has great plans for condominium units, additional restaurants, a theatre, Wintergarden, a 2,500 car parking garage.**

**This would create \$1 billion in construction work and jobs. The entertainment center will create 2,000 new jobs with that figure to grow.**

**Since I have been a volunteer docent with Pittsburgh History and Landmark for over twenty years and I have seen ALL the good works they do for our area, I am SO PLEASED they will receive a \$25 million grant over 3 years to continue to give loans to non profit organizations, restore historic structures and parks and give all those great walking tours, motorcoach tours, and slide presentations for children and adults alike.**

**Don't forget the other grants that Forest City-Harrah's will give back to Pittsburgh, including a \$1 million dollar fund that Franco Harris will chair for our communities.**

**It remains to be seen how much revenue this endeavor will create, but wouldn't it be best to let a professional, well funded company like Forest City-Harrah's do this for Pittsburgh? The inevitability of gaming requires us to play a role in promoting the best preservation-sensitive, economically feasible development plan. Please think of all the good Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation could do with an additional grant for our area and recognize what they have done for us since 1964 when they started, and since 1975 when they put the grant from Richard Scaife Charitable Trust to acquire Station Square.**

**Let the sports fans pay for the arena if it means so much for them, but give the rest of us the most for our money by supporting the Harrah's plan.**

**Sincerely, Audrey Menke**

*Audrey Menke*





Pennsylvania  
Gaming Control Board



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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 BELLOU

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: SOUTH SIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Employer: SOUTH SIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

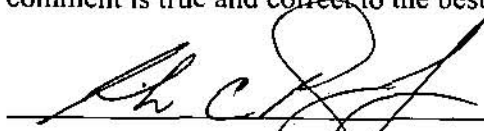
COMMENTS: (Please use second page if more space is required)

SEE ATTACHED LETTER  
+ AGREEMENT

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

SEE ATTACHED LETTER  
+ AGREEMENT

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_



## SOUTH SIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

June 1, 2006

Office of the Clerk  
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
P.O. Box 69060  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

### Members of the Gaming Control Board:

The South Side Local Development Company is a community-based organization that represents the South Side of Pittsburgh. We have a twenty-four year history of success in advancing development in the neighborhood in a manner that both builds the tax base of the city as well as benefits the community at large. Over the last decade and a half, the community has been actively engaged in the redevelopment process of the 110 acre former LTV Steel South Side Works site and its evolution to the nationally-recognized South Side Works mixed use development.

With this in mind, the South Side LDC met with all three applicants for a Pittsburgh gaming license to review and discuss their proposals. As with South Side Works, it is a firm belief of the South Side LDC that a Pittsburgh gaming development must complement the local business economy, rather than in competition to it.

After substantial review and many hours of research, the South Side LDC believes that the best proposal for the City of Pittsburgh and the South Side community is that of Station Square Gaming, Inc.

The organization has made this decision based upon many factors. Notably, the willingness to sign the attached Community Benefits Agreement that provides a mechanism to enhance community input and a process to guide the development and its impact on the South Side neighborhood. The willingness to sign the agreement demonstrates Forest City's interest in working with the local community and experience in doing so.

The agreement establishes a local Steering Committee that provides an ongoing process and dialogue with the development team for the mutual benefit of all parties. Further, the agreement specifically enumerates many elements, including a process for design review of the development, marketing and cross-promotions strategies that benefit local businesses, and the like.

The agreement also provides an ongoing mechanism for the community to work with the development team to address one of the most significant concerns of the development, namely the potential traffic impact on the community. The South Side LDC also, however, ardently requests that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board undertake an independent traffic analysis of each of the proposed Pittsburgh developments to determine the impacts and remediation costs of each of the proposals.

We believe that the successful track record demonstrated in Pittsburgh and other markets by both Forest City Enterprises and Harrah's, Inc. provides the best team—in combination with a community process such as that outlined in the Community Benefits Agreement—to develop a gaming enterprise in Pittsburgh.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. (Note: This letter and the Community Benefits Agreement is additional testimony to that previously submitted by the organization at the April 18<sup>th</sup> public hearings in Pittsburgh.) Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter. I can be reached at 412.481.0651 x 14 or via email at [rjb@southsidepgh.com](mailto:rjb@southsidepgh.com).

Best Regards,



Rick Belloli  
Executive Director

enclosure



# SOUTH SIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

## South Side Pittsburgh Community Benefits Agreement

### Agreement

This Letter of Agreement, dated May 31, 2006 outlines the agreement between the South Side Local Development Company and Forest City Station Square, Inc., with respect to the expansion of Station Square properties in Pittsburgh, including but not limited to the possible opening of a legalized gaming facility in partnership with Harrah's Entertainment, if one is licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I. Purpose: This Agreement is to outline the collaboration and operating methods between the community, as represented by the South Side Local Development Company, and the development team, as led by Forest City Station Square, Inc., to ensure that the significant investment that is planned for the Station Square project is maximized in terms of public input and for the benefit of the community as well as for the development team, and to ensure the overall success of the completed project. The Station Square development shall be designed to maximize the complementary economic and physical aspects of the development to the existing community, including the traditional East Carson Street business district, and minimize the competitive economic and physical aspects of the development.

II. Steering Committee: A local Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the South Side Local Development Company will meet regularly with Forest City Station Square, Inc. and the development team to provide community feedback on aspects of the design and integration of the development with the existing community. It is recognized that, in the future, the Steering Committee may expand to include representation of additional neighborhoods. However, it is mutually agreed that the Steering Committee composition shall always include a majority of representatives designated by the South Side Local Development Company.

The Steering Committee will act collaboratively and expeditiously to advance the development project, especially with respect to the gaming facility. The objective of the Steering Committee is to build community consensus on behalf of the project. However, in no way is the Steering Committee to be beholden to the development team and all parties acknowledge that the Steering Committee may advocate for approaches and solutions that are different from and in opposition to those held by the development team. Conversely, the development team may advocate for approaches and solutions that are different from and in opposition to those held by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will be staffed by a staff person. Forest City Station Square, Inc. will support the financial cost of this position for one year with a contribution of forty-five-thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) to the South Side Local Development Company. This contribution may be renewed for one additional year upon mutual agreement of the South Side Local Development Company and Forest City Station Square, Inc..

III. Design: All physical development on the Station Square site, including the proposed gaming facility, whether undertaken by Forest City Station Square, Inc. and its affiliates or other developers, will participate in the South Side design review process of the South Side Local Development Company Design Committee. The Design Committee will review proposed developments on at least a monthly

basis and agrees to act in a collaborative and expeditious manner with the development team. The Design Committee will provide guidance and feedback to the Steering Committee on all appropriate physical aspects of the development. However, in no way are the Design Committee and/or the Steering Committee beholden to the development team and all parties acknowledge that the Design Committee and/or the Steering Committee may advocate for approaches and solutions that are different from and in opposition to those held by the development team. Conversely, the development team may advocate for approaches and solutions that are different from and in opposition to those held by the Design and/or Steering Committees.

IV. Traffic Concerns: Forest City Station Square, Inc. and the Steering Committee agree to work together to minimize any exacerbation of traffic congestion and mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on local roadways. Forest City Station Square, Inc. agrees to implement at its cost all proposed traffic improvements itemized in its proposal to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to the opening of a gaming facility, or at the earliest practical time following the opening of any such facility. In addition to the enhancements noted in its proposal to the Gaming Control Board, Forest City Station Square, Inc. also agrees to proactively advocate for other appropriate traffic mitigation enhancements, including but not necessarily limited to:

- Working with and advocating to federal, state and local government and municipal agencies and elected officials to implement strategies that mitigate traffic congestion on Carson Street from West End Circle to South Side Works;
- Increased mobility options on the South Side connecting Station Square to South Side Works, including but not limited to:
  - Implementation of water taxi service and advocacy for a water taxi stop at 18<sup>th</sup> Street;
  - Connecting the riverfront trail network from the South Side to the West End; and
  - Continued operation of South Sider shuttle.
- Rebuilding McArdle Roadway before a gaming enterprise opens at Station Square, if one is licensed;
- Reconnecting the street grid at Bingham Street to Station Square Drive; and
- Coordinating traffic solutions at the policy level (e.g.: coordination of Intelligent Transportation Systems)

Further, Forest City Station Square, Inc. will encourage the use of public and mass transit by all Station Square-based employees. One aspect of this effort will be the offer of discounted Port Authority transit passes to employees to minimize the use of personal transportation associated with the development.

V. Marketing: Forest City Station Square, Inc. will proactively and collaboratively engage in the marketing and cross marketing of the existing community in addition to the Station Square development. These activities will include but not be limited to:

- Cross-promotional efforts with the South Side business district promotional efforts;
- The use of an incentive program may be permitted to promote select South Side businesses. The incentive program may include a promotional kiosk within the gaming facility that may include the ability to make reservations and arrange transportation to and from such businesses;
- A prohibition on outdoor advertising promoting legalized gaming at Station Square or other affiliated gaming enterprises in the 15203 and 15219 zip code areas;
- An effort to minimize the quantity, size, and frequency of outdoor advertising within the City of Pittsburgh and a heightened effort to emphasize marketing and promotions to patrons outside of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County; and
- A portion of the marketing budget of Forest City Station Square, Inc./Harrah's advertising and promotions for the Station Square development will promote the City of Pittsburgh and/or the South Side community with no overt mention of Station Square or the gaming facility.



VI. Related Activities: Forest City Station Square, Inc. agrees to proactively participate in related community and municipal planning issues, with respect to staffing and budgeting constraints, for the betterment of the South Side community and Station Square. These activities may include, but not be limited to:


- Active participation and involvement in community master planning of the area between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Station Square (also known as the "10 to 1" zone). This effort should include the rezoning of portions of the area to prevent and/or discourage negative uses that are likely to co-locate near gaming facilities (e.g.: adult entertainment, firearms retailing, pawn shops, and check cashing enterprises);
- Proactive support and advocacy for streetscape improvements along East Carson Street from Station Square to South Side Works;
- Consideration, support, advocacy, and participation in a South Side Neighborhood Improvement District, if one is established for the area that encompasses Station Square;
- Ensuring that a goal of ten percent (10%) of each phase of new residential units planned for Station Square shall be designed to be affordable to the Allegheny County median family income with respect to purchase or lease pricing of the units. (The City of Pittsburgh will collaborate to determine the final percentage appropriate for the affordable housing component.) The community will consider the support and advocacy of a density bonus for phases that meet this standard.


VII. Neighborhood Partnership Program: Forest City Station Square, Inc. agrees to participate with South Side Local Development Company in a Neighborhood Partnership Program, as governed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. Forest City Station Square, Inc. has agreed to a minimum annual contribution of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for five (5) years to the South Side Local Development Company under the Neighborhood Partnership Program, and may be eligible to receive Pennsylvania tax credits of seventy percent (70%) for this contribution. If the Commonwealth licenses a gaming facility at Station Square, Forest City Station Square, Inc. agrees to increase the minimum contribution to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) annually for a minimum of ten (10) years.

The Neighborhood Partnership Program commitment is subject to the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The specifics of the partnership structure and tenure of that arrangement will be detailed in a separate document and strategic plan, as required by the Commonwealth.

VIII. Tenure: This collaboration is developed optionally, without prejudice, and with mutual respect to each participant. The collaboration is envisioned to endure at least as long as the physical development process occurs for the entire Station Square site, however, either party may withdraw at their discretion upon written notification to the other. The tenure of the Neighborhood Partnership Program is governed separately through that program structure and the auspices of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development.

Executed upon the day and year written above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Cottrell, President  
South Side Local Development Company

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert Ratner, ~~President~~ Ass. Secy  
Forest City Station Square, Inc.



# 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: Helen M. Rice

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

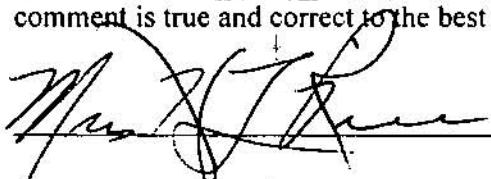
Organization, if any: retired

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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



\_\_\_\_\_

April 19, 2006

My name is Helen Rice, and I am here today to speak about the impact of the pending gaming license award.

My life here in Pittsburgh has been a good one. I was married for [] years before my husband passed away, and I am blessed with four children and three grandchildren. As an older person, I have some perspective on how things have changed here, and where I would like to see things go.

Pittsburgh has fallen on hard times. Much of our downtown area is abandoned and needs to be rehabilitated. With the decay of our city, our economy has suffered and this has cost us all across the board, from lost jobs to increased property taxes.

When I was young and raising my children, we had a good life and we were able to provide well for them. Now, I watch my grown children struggling just to make ends meet for their families, in a situation where a poor economy and high taxes are stripping them of any chance to save for the future.

And isn't that what these hearings are about -- the future of our city and our children? In order for Pittsburgh to continue to exist, we must have strong families willing to commit to a life here. For that to happen, we have to have a real city to offer them.

Today, the Gaming Control Board is hearing people like me talk about what we would like to see, and I would like to thank you for that, because somehow, the issue of who will receive a casino license has been linked to an arena for the Penguins.

How this complication occurred I'm not quite sure, but I do know that one shouldn't have anything to do with the other. Linking the casino to the Penguins new arena will only increase my property taxes -- and that of my children -- rather than bringing the tax relief that a casino-and-downtown-development proposal would deliver.

Harrah's and their partners have committed to developing the Station Square Casino, but they have also committed to a major investment in the revitalization of our downtown area. To me, they are the right choice for the Pittsburgh gaming license because they will bring more to our city than an arena.

As a citizen, I am disgusted that some politicians believe an arena for one sports team is more important than an entire city's well-being. Not everyone in Pittsburgh is a hockey fan, and hockey fans are not the only ones who vote.

I strongly urge the Gaming Control Board to award the license to Harrah's so that we can build a solid future for Pittsburgh.

Thank you for your attention.

Helen M. Rice

Pennsylvania State Gaming Board  
P.O. Box 69060  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060  
(717) 346-8300

Pennsylvania State Gaming Control Board Members,

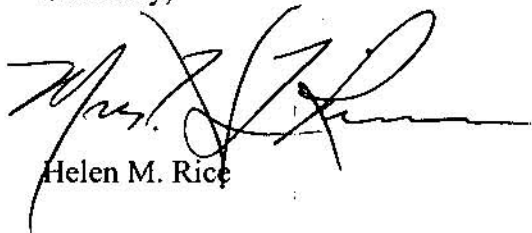
Hello, my name is Helen Rice. Since writing to you in April of 2006, some changes have occurred. First, due to the hard work and diligence on behalf of Mayor Bob O'Connor on awarding Millcraft Industries the opportunity to renovate the downtown Pittsburgh Forbes and Fifth corridor.

Now, I would like to reiterate my stance against the awarding of the Pittsburgh Slots license to Pittsburgh First/Isle of Capri and it's no longer just because of the Penguins.

Pittsburgh First and the Isle of Capri have shot their own credibility due to the bogus pep rally held on April 18, 2006 in Mellon Square and the subsequent disclosure of what took place before, during, and after as reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. I've lost total confidence in what the Isle of Capri may say or do in the future, and so should you.

The Harrah's/Forest City proposal, pure and simple, makes sense. Developing the Lower Hill with a new arena and further enhancing the Station Square area is the proper thing to do. As I've written before, the coupling of a Civic Arena with a casino does a great injustice to the Pittsburgh Area residents. It would be immoral and unethical to subject children attending an event at the arena to activity associated with adult gaming. Awarding the Pittsburgh slots license to Harrah's/Forest City ensures separation of these venues and would help keep intact the family values that Pittsburgh is world renowned for.

Sincerely,



Helen M. Rice

June 1, 2006

Office of the Clerk  
The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Board Members,

I was unable to make it to the public hearings that you held in Pittsburgh in April, but I've enclosed the remarks that I had prepared for my testimony. I would also like to add my opinion that since the Gaming Control Board hearings on April 18 and 19, my opinion of the Pittsburgh First group has deteriorated because they seem to be at odds with the Hill District neighborhoods that would be most affected by their casino plan. I live in the Brookline area of Pittsburgh and will not be directly affected by the negative aspects of large scale construction redevelopment as this project goes forward. But from what the state representative from the Hill has said recently, and from what other Hill community groups have presented, it does not seem that anywhere in Pittsburgh is there a residential area willing to change for the sake of a casino. Pittsburgh First seems to be trying to buy Hill community support because their plan doesn't stand up on its merits. Please, I hope that you closely evaluate the reputations and records for honesty of all these interested applicants.

Sincerely,



John Piso





**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: John Piso

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: NONE

Employer: by the job

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

19 April, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the proposed gaming facilities that will be coming to Pittsburgh. My name is John Piso and I am a bricklayer, a union member, and a father of two. The issue of gaming in Pittsburgh is important to my family and many others throughout the city. The Gaming Control Board has an important decision to make and I am glad they are soliciting public input.

As an avid sports fan, I don't want to see the Penguins leave. They are an important part of our city and we'd certainly lose something without them. The need for a new stadium is clear. Mellon Arena is one of the oldest in the NHL and it should have been replaced years ago. However, I'm not sure that the need for a new arena is the basis on which the Gaming Control Board should judge the casino proposals. It certainly isn't a "no brainer," like the Penguins have said in the press.

The Isle of Capri has a plan that will provide a new stadium, but in return the city must accept a casino that will mean fewer good union jobs, less revenue for the city, and an inferior gaming experience. I don't think the trade-off is worth it. The Governor has a plan that, while not perfect, would secure us a new hockey stadium without forcing the city to choose an inferior casino proposal. While I love hockey, I don't think it should be mixed up in this debate. The matter of whether the Penguins will stay in Pittsburgh needs to be considered separately from the casino debate. I'm disappointed that the Penguins are trying to tie one to the other.

The Gaming Control Board needs to consider needs to consider which casino plan will bring in more jobs, more economic growth, and more revenue for the state. From what I can see, this is clearly the Forest City/Harrah's plan. As a union member, I am especially happy that this would mean more good-paying union jobs during the construction and operation of the casino.

Another important benefit of the Forest City/Harrah's plan is that it would mean more revenue for the state. Revenue from gaming was to be used by the State to help alleviate the high property tax rates under which we are suffering. Since the Forest City/Harrah's proposal would produce more revenue, the state would see a larger amount of money that it could use to help keep property taxes down. This money could go for schools and other services that would otherwise be funded by increasing property tax rates. Working families in this city are already burdened by high taxes. The Forest City/Harrah's proposal would allow them some long overdue relief.

Our city needs the type of robust economic growth and property tax relief that the Forest City/Harrah's proposal would bring. We cannot sacrifice this for a new hockey stadium. Since the Governor has shown us another way to finance a stadium, I hope we can stop linking the issue of gaming and hockey. The Gaming Control Board needs to look at these proposals and determine which one will do the most economically for our city. We shouldn't be forced to take an economically-inferior plan just so we can get a new hockey stadium.

Thank you for listening.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

John Piso

MUST Be Submitted by June 2, 2006



Pennsylvania  
Gaming Control Board



P.O BOX 69060 HARRISBURG

17106

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: Barbara Luderowski

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

B.S.  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

n.

Organizati \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: MATRÉSS FACTORY MUSEUM.

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

I HOPE YOU WILL STRONGLY CONSIDER  
FOREST CITY'S PROPOSAL FOR A CASINO IN  
PITTSBURGH. I FEEL THEY HAVE A  
FAR SUPERIOR PLAN. THANK YOU.



Pennsylvania  
Gaming Control Board



FILED

MAY 19 2006

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: WILLIAM C. KECK

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephon: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. WHAT HAPPENED TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? WE NEED TO HELP ON PROPERTY TAXES.
2. AS I UNDERSTAND HARRAH'S HAS A VERY STRONG ECONOMIC RECORD
3. I AM IN FAVOR OF FORBES CITY/HARRAH'S PROPOS BECAUSE IT INCLUDES A FURTHER PAYMENT TO LANDMARK THE PAYMENT OF \$25 MILLION IS CONTINGENT UPON GAMING COMING TO STATION SQUARE.
4. LANDMARK IS A TREMENDOUS ORGANIZATION FOR PITTSBURGH
  - A. PROVIDE TOURS FOR ADULTS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN.
  - B. EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY.
  - C. WORK WITH OTHER GROUPS TO SAVE BUILDINGS.
  - D. CREATE INNOVATIVE FINANCING TO HAVE OLD STRUCTURE BE REBORN AS CONDOS, ETC.

April 21, 2006

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
The Governor's Office  
Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

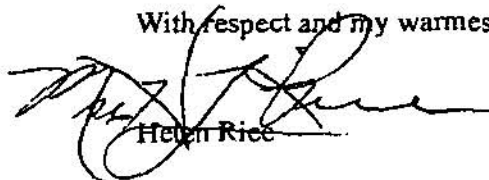
Dear Governor Rendell,

I had planned to speak this week at the Public Hearing in Pittsburgh held by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, but I am recovering from the flu and was unable to make it. I'm sending them my written remarks, and I thought that it might also help to send along to you the basic idea of what I was going to say in public.

All my life I have lived in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. I am a senior citizen now who has raised a family and grand children, and I've seen and lived through a lifetime of ups and downs. Pittsburgh itself is just starting to come back from the crushing hard times of the late 70's and 80's and the demise of Steel and heavy industry here. When I was young, my family was able to make it through the hard times because we always believed that we could find and grasp some opportunity to make things better. It seems like there are fewer chances today for my family to find those same opportunities here in the Pittsburgh area, but they are still here. I feel that this gaming proposition for a casino project in Pittsburgh is an important big step in really turning things around, and doing it just where steel and heavy industry once gave us jobs and a thriving economy.

I am in favor of locating the gaming facility on the South Side at what's called Station Square because the present nature of Station Square is truly suited for around-the-clock activity, and it possesses the now beautiful and memorable view of the city from the shore of the Monongahela River that attracts tourists. Even more importantly, from what I've read, the companies joined to build the Station Square casino plan have reputations in the business world of being among the best in their fields. It's so important to have reliable partners who are with us for the ups and downs that always come through the course of time. If their promise of more jobs at higher wages are proven out, then along with your Plan B for a new arena, Station Square should be supported as the best deal for ourselves, for our school children, and for people who still own their own homes.

With respect and my warmest regards,



Helen Rice





**Pennsylvania  
Gaming Control Board**



id 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: Anita Starcken

Address:

Telephone

Organization, if any:

Employer: Retired

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

Developing the Station Square Area is a excellent idea. For a casino. Think about the safety factor at Station Square vs. the safety factor at the bottom of the Hill District. A large group of us travel to West Virginia now to gamble and we will continue to travel to West Virginia if the casino is built at the Mellon Arena Area. We ALL have said we would NOT feel safe gambling near the hill district!

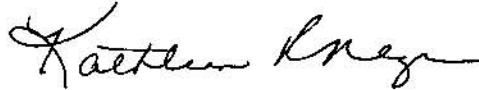
April 19, 2006

I am writing in support of the Forest City/Harrah's proposal because of its support of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

For the past four years, as an instructor in the gifted program of the Gateway School District, I have taken my students on several tours through the Landmarks Foundation. I have found the tours to be extremely worthwhile and educative for both me and my students. No other group focuses so well on the local history of Pittsburgh.

I think that our city, by supporting the Forest City/Harrah's proposal, will benefit immensely by preserving the historic mission of the Landmarks Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen R. Nega".

Kathleen R. Nega  
Teacher, Gateway High School



# 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: Christopher D'Addario

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: Just Ducky Tours

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

## The Importance of Location

Residents of the city of Pittsburgh have quite a gamble on their hands. Do they try to prevent a hockey team from possibly leaving the area by combining a casino with an arena, or shall they support a casino on the South Side at Station Square?

Nine years ago my business partner and I moved from Boston, Massachusetts to start a new business venture. We called it Just Ducky Tours. In many ways the city looked much as it does today. As we searched the downtown for a vibrant, busy destination we found only one. Station Square was and is the only downtown location that can be called a true tourist destination.

Five years ago Station Square spent tens of millions of dollars on the Bessemer Court facility. It boasts a Hard Rock Café, dancing water fountains, various shops, and of course Duck boats. We pride our business on showing out-of-town and local residents the best this city has to offer. The best chance this city has at a successful casino is Station Square. Harrah's is one of the best names in the gaming industry. Their business model works and works well. Combining Station Square's current success with Harrahs' gambling know how seems to be the best bet.

Why would I or any other city resident cast an opinion on such a matter? Because this whole issue is suppose to raise property tax revenue. If the wrong choice is made it will cost the city and its residents millions of dollars in lost tax revenue.

A casino in downtown Pittsburgh MUST be located where it has the best possible chance for success. Station Square already attracts millions of people annually to their property. If you add a casino to that current success maybe city residents will get what they have been promised for quite a long time; tax relief.



# 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: FRANK VALENTA NO. 18 ON 4/19/06

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: RETIRED

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

MY PRESENTATION WAS GIVEN BY NOTES. I WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT MY COMMENTS IN WRITTEN FORM, WHICH I HAVE DONE, AND IS ATTACHED.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Frank Valenta



My name is Frank Valenta. My address, for the past 8 years, is 1553 Grandview Avenue, which is Pittsburgh's Premier Street on Mt. Washington because of the most spectacular view.

LOCATION - That's what it's all about and what we are here for. As far as I'm concerned, and all of my neighbors,

"THE BEST LOCATION IS THE STATION"

It's now Downtown Pittsburgh's place to go for shopping, eating and overall entertainment with all the necessary space for large expansions. No properties to purchase or acquire. No concern for churches or schools. No additional cost for utilities or infrastructures.

The best location for ingress or egress - North, South, East, West - roads, bridges, tunnels, waterways and highways. THEY ARE ALL THERE NOW!

Yes the name HARRAHS speaks for itself as Casino Operatives, IT'S FIRST AND FOREMOST. THIS CANNOT BE DENIED.

From birth to retirement, ten years ago, I lived and worked in Greater Cleveland, Ohio. My occupation allowed me the privilege to hold non-paying board positions on 12 Community Actions Committees. Most of them supporting health and social service agencies. United Way, Red Cross, Urban League, Nationality Services, Community Colleges and Mental Retardation to name a few.

Please believe me when I tell you one of the most community conscious corporations in Greater Cleveland is, and has been, FOREST CITY ENTERPRISES. I sat on Community Action Boards with not only Forest City V.P.s but, also with RATNER FAMILY MEMBERS.

When Cleveland needed new Baseball-Basketball and Football Sports Complexes Forest City was there with bells on.

When Forest City gives you its word and commitment, you can count on it.

I began with, and will end with

"FOR PITTSBURGH THE BEST LOCATION IS THE STATION"

Respectfully submitted

*Frank Valenta*

**Pennsylvania  
Gaming Control Board**

**WRITTEN COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE  
EVIDENTIARY RECORDS 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: James R. Overton

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not believe that gaming in itself is the solution to fixing all of the problems that challenged us. I believe that when used responsibly gaming can be a catalyst to spur significant economical and population growth to a region.

I believe that all of the citizens involved in this selection process should attempt to support the casino plan that offers the best set of comprehensive benefits to all of its residents.

1. Key point #1

- a. I believe that the Penguins are an invaluable asset to our region and state and deserve a solid foundation of support without limitation to the Isle of Capri plan.
- b. I believe that it is in the best interest of the Station Square Plan and the North Side Plan to see that the non-casino aspects of the lower hill district development, such as the new multi-purpose arena, shops and restaurants are fully supported by every means possible as it still makes good business sense.

2. Key point #2

- a. I believe that any major city must have a vibrant downtown business district. All of the casino plans must have a component of consideration that is based upon the greatest opportunity to stimulate and attract further growth and development of business.

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

3. Key point #3

- a. I believe that we should view the casino plans and give significant consideration to the prospect that represents the greatest opportunity for minority and women business and employment participation throughout the total construction and operational business cycle in every aspect of the enterprise, including ownership.

4. Conclusion

I believe that Harrah's and Forest City has the best combined financial strength, sense of community responsibility, and is committed to diversity and inclusion which will provide the greatest opportunity for economical and population growth.

Harrah's also has a 40 million customer database which could be used to help attract people to visit, invest in new businesses and create jobs and new residents. Without a growth in population, the tax burden will continue to increase and be born by the remaining residents in our declining state.

Harrah's has a long history and a huge national following that will bring thousands of visitors to Western Pennsylvania, and most importantly, they have the financial stability to make this casino a winner for Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Business Review laid out the bare facts in a February issue: Harrah's as nearly a quarter of the debt to equity ratio, almost seven times borrowing capacity, and has a stable bond rating.

The proposal also includes a \$25 million commitment to the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation which has helped to preserve and revitalize many neighborhoods across the city.

This deal was created for property tax relief and the plan chosen should reflect the greatest long term revenue potential. Our economic future depends on your leadership and supporting the right choice to stimulate the Pittsburgh economy.

I believe that the Harrah's and Forest City plan in the new downtown Station Square neighborhood is the right choice.

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

James R. Overton 4/18/06



# 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 slots operators:

Name: Elaine H. Annunzio

Address:

Telephone:

Organization:

Employer: Shop Owner U

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

To the Board, This is my 27<sup>th</sup> year  
owning a shop in Station Square. I opened  
with the Grand Opening October 19,  
We have entertained and serviced people  
from around the world. In my view  
Station Square has the greatest stretch of  
ground also is close to the city but  
located "in" the city. We helped youth  
ill...

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Elaine H. Manning



# 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: Curtis W. Kovach

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 5

Organization, if any none

Employer: retired

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

Dear Sirs:

My comment is to support the Station Square Gaming L.P. application for a gaming site in Pitts. I support this because station square is the best site and station square gaming L.P. will have the best chance of making their venture a success. This is because station square is already a successful visitor & entertainment site who has high visitor access and accessibility.

Thank you

Comments: Page 2 (continued)

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

Curtis W. Kovach