

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: PETITION FILED BY VALLEY FORGE CONVENTION
CENTER TO CONDUCT TABLE GAMES

* * * * *

PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

* * * * *

BEFORE: Jay Lantzy, Presiding Officer
William H. Ryan, Jr., Chairman
Gregory C. Fajt, Commissioner
Kenneth I. Trujillo, Commissioner
Anthony C. Moscato, Commissioner

HEARING: Wednesday, January 11, 2012
10:18 a.m.

LOCATION: Crown Plaza
260 Mall Boulevard
King of Prussia, PA 19406

WITNESSES: Sal Scheri, Alex Figueras, Anthony Spagno,
Bill Mikus, James D. Schneller, Aleta C.
Duey, Carris J. Kocher

Reporter: Jessica L. Ashman

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KEVIN C. HAYES, ESQUIRE
Doherty Hayes, LLC
1000 Bank Towers
321 Spruce Street
Scranton, PA 18503
Counsel for Valley Forge Casino Resort

R. DOUG SHERMAN, ESQUIRE
Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
P.O. Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106
Counsel for Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

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PRESIDING OFFICER:

Good morning. Before we actually begin this hearing, unfortunately, we do not have a court stenographer. So our intent is to audio record this meeting as well as videotape it. Is there any objection for Counsel for Valley Forge if we handle it that way?

ATTORNEY HAYES:

No, Mr. Lantzy.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Thank you. I'm Jay Lantzy. I'm the Presiding Officer assigned by the Board to conduct this public input hearing regarding the Petition filed by Valley Forge Convention Center to conduct table games at its casino.

Before we begin, please turn off or to vibrate all cell phones, Blackberries and the like so as not to disturb the speakers or those in the audience.

As the Presiding Officer, I call to order this public input hearing regarding the Petition of Valley Forge Convention Center Partners for the approval and the issuance of a certificate to conduct

1 table games docketed at 2462 2011. The date is
2 Wednesday, January 11th, 2012 and the time is 10:00
3 a.m. And the location is the Crown Plaza Valley
4 Forge, 260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia,
5 Pennsylvania.

6 This public input hearing is convened by
7 the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board pursuant to the
8 authority found in Sections 1205(b) and 1314(a),
9 Subsection B of the Gaming Act. This public hearing
10 was advertised at the Board's website, announced at a
11 previous Board meeting and was advertised in local
12 newspapers. Board members who are present here today
13 for the hearing are starting on my far right
14 Commissioner Moscato, Commissioner Trujillo, Chairman
15 Ryan and Commissioner Fajt.

16 The purpose of the hearing is to allow
17 Valley Forge Convention Center to present to the
18 public its plan to operate table games at the casino
19 and to allow members of the public to express their
20 thoughts and share their concerns about the proposed
21 project with the Board. The hearing will continue
22 until the last scheduled speaker registered has had
23 the opportunity to speak. The order of speakers today
24 is as follows. The Petitioner, Valley Forge, will
25 make their presentation first. We will then hear from

1 members of the public who have registered to speak.
2 If necessary, we will take a short break at an
3 appropriate time during the comment period.

4 Valley Forge will have approximately 40
5 minutes to make their presentation. Members of the
6 public will each have up to three minutes to speak.
7 Each speaker should begin their remarks by stating his
8 or her name, spelling it and indicating the
9 municipality and state where he or she resides and if
10 speaking on behalf of an entity, the name of the
11 entity. All speakers will be sworn in as a group in a
12 few minutes.

13 If you are speaking today and you have
14 written notes or testimony which you will read from
15 during the hearing, when you are finished, if you
16 would please give a copy of that written testimony to
17 myself, that would be very helpful.

18 This is an official administrative
19 hearing, so please treat this as if you were attending
20 a court proceeding. All witnesses, please speak
21 loudly and clearly and into the microphone so that
22 others can hear what you have to say. Spectators,
23 please refrain from interrupting or speaking out loud
24 during the proceeding. If anyone disrupts the
25 proceedings, they will be asked to leave. If anyone

1 has any questions about this hearing, please see the
2 Board Staff at the sign-in area outside of the hearing
3 room. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

4 Let's begin by having each of you that
5 have registered to speak today and individuals that
6 will provide testimony on behalf of Valley Forge
7 please stand and raise your right hand.

8 -----

9 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

10 -----

11 PRESIDING OFFICER:

12 Thank you. You may be seated. Before we
13 begin, I do have several exhibits to enter into the
14 record. The first are written comments that were
15 received by the Board, and the first one is from the
16 Center for Workforce Development for the Montgomery
17 County Community College. The second exhibit I'm
18 going to enter into the record are comments that we
19 have received electronically submitted to the Board.
20 One comment was from Linda Lee Sharpe, second comment
21 from Robert Mongradi (phonetic), third comment from
22 Judith Tartaglia (phonetic), and finally the fourth
23 comment from Sarah Lee Langsta (phonetic). If there's
24 no objection from Counsel for Valley Forge, I will go
25 ahead and move those into the record.

1 (Exhibits One and Two marked for
2 identification.)

3 ATTORNEY HAYES:

4 No objection.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 Thank you. You may begin your
7 presentation.

8 ATTORNEY HAYES:

9 Thank you, Mr. Lantzy. May it please the
10 Board, my name is Kevin Hayes. I'm from the Law Firm
11 of Doherty Hayes. I along with my law partner, Jim
12 Doherty, appear before you today on behalf of the
13 Petitioner, Valley Forge Convention Center Partners,
14 LP, who is positioned to open its Category 3 License
15 Facility, the Valley Forge Casino Resort, later this
16 spring. We would like to thank the Board and your
17 staff for your consideration of Valley Forge's
18 Petition for approval of a table games operational
19 certificate. We will make our best efforts to keep
20 our presentation within the 40-minute time limit.

21 Four members of Valley Forge Casino
22 Resort's management team will be offering testimony
23 here today. Those speakers are Mr. Sal Scheri, the
24 President and CEO, Anthony Spagno, Vice President of
25 Table Games, Alex Figueras, Vice President of Finance,

1 and Bill Mikus, Vice President of Human Resources.
2 Assisting us here today is Elizabeth Tulig, Valley
3 Forge's manager of special events and promotions. We
4 will address the topics in the order listed on the
5 agenda and be pleased to answer any questions at the
6 conclusion of our presentation.

7 Our first speaker is Mr. Sal Scheri who
8 will provide an overview of Valley Forge Casino
9 Resort's revised site plan, including the gaming
10 floor, which will have a total of 600 slot machines
11 and 50 table games. I know that the Board is familiar
12 with Mr. Scheri and his professional background from
13 his previous appearances before the Board, and
14 therefore, I will refrain from describing his
15 biographical information again. I will now turn it
16 over to Sal.

17 MR. SCHERI:

18 As stated, I am Sal Scheri, President and
19 CEO of Valley Forge Casino Resort. I would like to
20 thank the Board for providing me with the opportunity
21 to appear before you today to describe Valley Forge's
22 plan for implementing table game operations at its
23 licensed facility. I am pleased to have the
24 opportunity to address the Board and our neighbors
25 from Upper Merion Township and Montgomery County about

1 this important economic development project which will
2 generate hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in
3 tax revenue.

4 I'm going to begin today by providing a
5 general overview of our revised site plan, which was
6 designed to accommodate the operation of 600 slot
7 machines and 50 table games. Since the Board's
8 approval of the site plan designated as OP2 at the
9 Board's April 26, 2010 meeting, Valley Forge has
10 assembled a new construction and design teams with
11 T.N. Ward as our construction management company, Cope
12 Linder as our architectural firm and Floss Barber as
13 our interior designer. I am pleased to report that
14 these are all Pennsylvania based companies.

15 Over the past several months, these
16 professionals have collaborated with our management
17 team to refine the site plan designated as OP2. The
18 rebranded Valley Forge Casino Resort will feature the
19 following non-gaming amenities, a food court with
20 three outlets and seating for 120 people, two retail
21 outlets, a rebranded Valley Forge Casino Resort hotel
22 tower with a renovated lobby and VIP check-in, two new
23 restaurant concepts, a 200 seat seafood steakhouse and
24 an 80 seat Italian restaurant. In addition, we will
25 be rebranding and renovating the existing two

1 restaurants in the Radisson lobby. Specifically, the
2 existing Chumley's will become the Piano Bar, and Café
3 Soleil will become a New York style deli. A renovated
4 fitness center which features spa services, and
5 lastly, the current nightclub is being renovated and
6 rebranded.

7 Notable revisions to the site plan
8 include the relocation of the Porte-Cochere/Valet
9 Entrance from the front of the existing convention
10 center to a location near the main entrance to the
11 rebranded Valley Forge Casino Resort hotel tower.
12 This design revision was initiated in part to allow
13 for the effective implementation of Valley Forge's
14 access control plan. Specifically, this relocation
15 of the Porte-Cochere/Valet Entrance allows for the
16 elimination of the walkway that surrounded the gaming
17 floor in OP2, which will greatly assist Valley Forge
18 in limiting and monitoring access to its gaming floor.

19 The elimination of the walkway surrounding the gaming
20 floor has also allowed for an increase in the size of
21 the gaming floor from 32,980 square feet to 33,222
22 square feet. The focal part of the redesigned gaming
23 floor is a 50 seat center bar.

24 I would like to thank the Gaming Board's
25 Operations and Compliance Staff who have visited

1 Valley Forge's property on numerous occasions over the
2 past several months to provide their input regarding
3 the redesign of our licensed facility. Their advice,
4 which is based on overseeing the opening operations of
5 ten casinos in Pennsylvania, has been invaluable.

6 As a result of favorable weather
7 conditions and the tremendous work of our construction
8 team, Valley Forge's Gaming Facility is proceeding on
9 schedule and we fully anticipate that we will be in a
10 position to open our doors of our gaming facility to
11 the public this spring. Right now we have over 300
12 construction workers on site.

13 With regard to the status of our
14 construction, I am pleased to report the interior of
15 the facility is starting to take shape with the
16 installation of walls, ceiling, sheetrock and our
17 raised floor. Overall interior construction is over
18 50 percent complete. Exterior site work is 90 percent
19 complete. The construction of the Porte-Cochere/Valet
20 Entrance is well under way. A new roof has been
21 installed over the entire casino area, and we have
22 installed a state of the art HVAC system.

23 As you know, Valley Forge Casino Resort
24 will operate in a very competitive gaming market, and
25 as such, we believe that it is critical that we offer

1 all available gaming options authorized under the
2 Pennsylvania Racehorse Development and Gaming Act in
3 order to ensure our operational success. Valley
4 Forge's management team has devised an operational
5 plan which we believe will provide our patrons with
6 the best possible gaming experience. In addition, we
7 have developed a marketing plan which we hope will
8 establish a dedicated and loyal customer base that
9 will continue to patronize our resort for years to
10 come.

11 In order to operate this first class
12 facility, we have assembled an experienced management
13 team comprised of individuals with outstanding
14 credentials in their respective fields. The members
15 of our management team along with their years of
16 gaming experience are listed on the slide before you.

17 I'm excited to expand the gaming
18 offerings at Valley Forge and look forward to
19 successfully satisfying with the assistance of our
20 team all of the expectations placed upon us by this
21 Board and the general public through the operation of
22 tables games at Valley Forge.

23 At this time, I would like to introduce
24 Mr. Anthony Spagno, who is Valley Forge Casino
25 Resort's Vice President of Table Games. Mr. Spagno is

1 a 30-year veteran of the gaming industry and most
2 recently served as casino manager at the Trump Plaza
3 in Atlantic City where he was instrumental in the
4 redesign and reconfiguration of the casino floor.
5 Anthony previously worked at Caesars Hotel and Casino
6 in Atlantic City where he held several positions
7 including shift manager, pit manager and supervisor as
8 well as the manager of the high-limit baccarat room.
9 I will now turn it over to Anthony Spagno.

10 MR. SPAGNO:

11 Thank you, Sal. Chairman Ryan, Members
12 of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to appear
13 before you today. I would like to take this
14 opportunity to provide a general overview of our
15 proposed table games operations and highlight some of
16 our unique characteristics of our facility.

17 Our proposed gaming floor will consist of
18 a total of 600 slot machines and 50 table games. We
19 believe that our customer demand will dictate the
20 maximum amount of gaming positions, and in fact, we
21 anticipate that the demand will ultimately exceed our
22 game offerings because of the outstanding and personal
23 services which we intend to provide to our patrons.

24 Initially, Valley Forge intends on
25 offering only banking table games as part of its

1 operations and will include ten varieties of table
2 games which are listed on the current slide before
3 you. I believe this plan of table game offerings will
4 satisfy the needs of all potential gaming patrons
5 while also providing an excellent overall gaming
6 experience to individuals seeking to play a variety of
7 table games during this visit to the Valley Forge
8 Casino Resort.

9 Valley Forge has partnered with
10 Montgomery County Community College's Center for
11 Workforce Development to establish a table games
12 dealer training program. The curriculum was developed
13 by my department in collaboration with experienced
14 table game personnel hired by Montgomery County
15 Community College. This curriculum has been submitted
16 and approved by the Board's Executive Director.
17 Training of the first class --- training of the first
18 class of students began on November 7, 2011 at a state
19 of the art casino facility within the Valley Forge
20 Resort Complex, which has been inspected and approved
21 by the Board's Bureau of Casino Compliance. The first
22 class is scheduled to complete the training program
23 and receive their final certification during the week
24 of February 20th, 2012.

25 The program has been a true success with

1 over 92 students participating in the initial training
2 certification program. On January 12th of 2012,
3 Montgomery County Community College will begin its
4 second track dealer training of approximately 40
5 students. This training program has been a win/win
6 for both Valley Forge and Montgomery County Community
7 College.

8 Dr. Brook Hunt, the director of the
9 college's center for workforce development, has
10 submitted a letter in support of the Valley Forge
11 Table Game Petition which describes the direct
12 benefits which the college has received from this
13 program. The letter reads in pertinent part as
14 follows. In these very difficult times, any potential
15 for new job creation must be seized and promoted and
16 that is exactly what Montgomery County Community
17 College has done through its partnerships with Valley
18 Forge Casino Resort. The training and ultimate
19 certification that these students receive upon
20 completion of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board-
21 approved curriculum will provide them with a unique
22 skill set that can be utilized to obtain family-
23 sustaining employment with any gaming facility in
24 Pennsylvania.

25 Valley Forge Casino Resort will not be

1 able to fulfill all its hiring needs for qualified
2 table game dealers through its partnership with the
3 college alone. As such, Valley Forge has undertaken
4 an aggressive recruitment program with our vice
5 president of human resources, Bill Mikus, who will
6 describe later on. To assist me in the selection and
7 placement of qualified table game personnel, Valley
8 Force has already hired Anthony Schiago (phonetic) and
9 Kathleen Forfer (phonetic), who have extensive
10 experience in table games management and recruitment.

11 Based on my experience in table game
12 operation and the gaming industry, I am confident that
13 Valley Forge's proposed table games offerings will be
14 a tremendous success. We have taken the necessary
15 steps to ensure that the design of our gaming floor
16 will be attractive to patrons in this competitive
17 market while also ensuring that the effective security
18 and surveillance procedures will be implemented to
19 safeguard the assets of both the Commonwealth and the
20 Valley Forge Casino Resort.

21 I appreciate this opportunity to appear
22 before the Board and I would be happy to field any
23 questions at the end of this presentation.

24 MR. SCHERI:

25 Thank you, Anthony. I now would like to

1 turn the presentation over to Alex Figueras, the vice
2 president of finance, to discuss the potential
3 economic impact of our table game operations and the
4 financing of this project. Prior to joining our team,
5 Alex served as the vice president and chief financial
6 officer at several of Caesars Entertainment Atlantic
7 City properties. Alex was most recently responsible
8 for Caesars' Atlantic City, Bally's Atlantic City and
9 the Atlantic City Country Club. He served in this
10 capacity at Caesars for 11 years and was responsible
11 for overseeing casino cage operations, financial and
12 operational accounting, risk management, procurement
13 and also management of all off-site warehouse
14 facilities. I'll now turn it over to Alex.

15 MR. FIGUERAS:

16 Thank you, Sal. Good morning, Mr.
17 Chairman and Members of the Board. As you have
18 already heard, my name is Alex Figueras and I am the
19 vice president of finance for Valley Forge Casino
20 Resort. We're confident that revenues generated
21 through the operations of 50 table games and 600 slot
22 machines will result in significant tax revenues for
23 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which will benefit
24 its residents through a reduction in property taxes.
25 Moreover, the local political subdivisions will be

1 provided with significant economic stimulus due to
2 local share of gaming tax revenue as well as the
3 ancillary benefits which will come through expanded
4 gaming options offered by Valley Forge once awarded
5 the Table Games Operational Certificate.

6 Specifically, Valley Forge Resort Casino
7 anticipates that in its first 12 months of operating
8 50 tables, a total of \$11.7 million in gaming tax
9 revenue will be generated with \$10.2 million going to
10 the state and \$1.5 million going to the local
11 assessment. During that same 12-month period, Valley
12 Forge anticipates its operation of 600 slot machines
13 will generate \$48.8 million in gaming tax revenues
14 with \$45.2 million to be received by the Commonwealth
15 and \$3.5 million to the local assessment. Since
16 Valley Forge has not yet begun any gaming operations
17 at its facilities, these figures are preliminary
18 projections based on our internal market analysis.
19 However, we feel confident that these figures will be
20 met. Furthermore, the ability of Valley Forge to open
21 with an offering of both slot machines and table games
22 will inevitably increase patronage to our facility as
23 Valley Forge will have the ability to capture both
24 types of potential gamers upon our opening.

25 Now, in addition to gaming tax revenues,

1 the Commonwealth, Montgomery County and Upper Merion
2 Township will experience a significant economic
3 impact. Specifically, Valley Forge is making an
4 investment in this project which totals \$132.5 million
5 excluding licensing fees. This investment is funding
6 the construction of the casino as well as the
7 extensive renovations to the non-gaming amenities at
8 the resort complex. The construction and operation of
9 Valley Forge Casino Resort is financed through the
10 sources described in our Table Games Petition. At
11 this time, Valley Forge has all of the financing in
12 place to complete the project and open its doors for
13 slots and table game operations this spring.

14 Table games related jobs will result in
15 annual wages totaling approximately \$7.5 million.
16 Furthermore, Valley Forge anticipates total annual
17 wages at the resort complex of \$30 million. Again,
18 Valley Forge has pledged to make a \$415,000
19 contribution to Upper Merion Township for traffic
20 improvement and will be supportive of the township's
21 efforts to improve Route 422 and roadways in our
22 surrounding area. In addition, if given authorization
23 by this Board to commence gaming operations, Valley
24 Forge will make an annual contribution in excess of
25 \$75,000 for the benefit of Upper Merion Township. We

1 are confident that Valley Forge Casino Resort will be
2 an overwhelming operational success.

3 We believe that it is in the best
4 interest of this Commonwealth for the Board to approve
5 this instant Petition and authorize the operation of
6 50 table games and 100 additional slot machines at
7 Valley Forge Casino Resort. Specifically, the
8 approval of this Petition will result in increase in
9 living wages and wage jobs and wage taxes and
10 enhancement in economic opportunities for local
11 residents and business owners and a significant
12 increase in taxable revenues for the Commonwealth as
13 well as Montgomery County and Upper Merion Township.
14 Thank you, and I will be happy to field any questions
15 at the conclusion of this presentation.

16 MR. SCHERI:

17 Thank you, Alex. Finally, I would like
18 to introduce our last witness for today's hearing.
19 Bill Mikus, who is the vice president of human
20 resources for Valley Forge Casino Resort, has been
21 instrumental in creating our recruiting, hiring and
22 training programs for potential table game employees.
23 In addition, Bill has been responsible for developing
24 our company's diversity programs as well as other
25 integral HR policies and practices. Prior to joining

1 Valley Forge, Mr. Mikus served as the vice president
2 of human resources for Caesars Entertainment in
3 Atlantic City, New Jersey. In this position, Mr.
4 Mikus was intimately involved in the creation,
5 maintenance and oversight of all hiring, diversity and
6 recruiting objectives and incentive programs at
7 Caesars and Harrah's Atlantic City properties.

8 MR. MIKUS:

9 Thank you, Sal. Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman and Members of the Board. My name again is
11 Bill Mikus, the vice president of human resources for
12 Valley Forge Casino Resort. As you know, a key
13 component to the successful management of any facility
14 is to ensure that you hire, train and retain qualified
15 employees who not only satisfy the key elements of
16 their job, but have a sense of dedication and pride in
17 the work. Valley Forge Casino Resort recognizes that
18 the key to providing our guests with exceptional
19 services is to promote a culture of respect and
20 appreciation and through fostering a diverse
21 workforce.

22 It is anticipated that we will need to
23 retain a total of approximately 400 full-time and
24 part-time employees to satisfy the table games
25 operations at our facility. The table game employee

1 complement will be comprised of certified and trained
2 individuals along with recent graduates of Montgomery
3 County Community College Table Games Training Program.

4 The full-time positions that will be offered by
5 Valley Forge will provide family sustaining wages and
6 benefits. Valley Forge anticipates that at least 100
7 of the new table games employment positions will be
8 salaried supervisor positions earning an average of
9 \$52,000 annually in addition to offering other
10 employee provided benefits. More specifically, the
11 positions which Valley Forge must fill in order to
12 satisfy its table games operations are as follows,
13 Anthony's position of vice president of table games,
14 table games shift managers, games assistant shift
15 managers, lead supervisors, supervisors, dealer/dual
16 rate supervisors, dealers, a table games administrator
17 and a table games scheduler.

18 Furthermore, it is anticipated that there
19 will be growth in a number of departments needed to
20 service the table game operations including food and
21 beverage, marketing, security/surveillance, finance,
22 count room positions and cage operations.

23 To supplement its table games workforce,
24 Valley Forge will recruit certified and trained table
25 games employees from other gaming facilities in this

1 and other jurisdictions. To date, we have accepted
2 over 1,500 applications for table games employment
3 positions. This week alone we have invited and
4 interviewed over 375 applicants for supervisor and
5 manager positions in table games. I think Anthony
6 would agree with me in stating that we've been pleased
7 with the number and the quality of our pool of
8 candidates. We believe that this is a blend of new
9 and experienced employees that will create a motivated
10 and synchronized workforce and will ensure compliance
11 and create an enjoyable experience for our patrons.

12 In consultation with the PGCB's Diversity
13 Office, Valley Forge has developed a plan to address
14 our goal of promoting diversity in hiring and
15 employment actions. In October, Valley Forge created
16 an internal HR diversity council which meets weekly to
17 focus on specific diversity actions and activities.
18 These initiatives include the creation of our company-
19 wide motto and employee promise, centered around our
20 values of respect and pride. This commitment was
21 communicated recently during our all employee
22 meetings.

23 In addition, our diversity council has
24 updated all code of conduct and diversity policies and
25 practices, which include our diversity EO, fair

1 treatment, anti-harassment and ethical business
2 practices. All managers have been trained in and have
3 acknowledged their commitment to these practices at
4 our recent management team meetings. Ongoing all
5 newly hired managers and employees will receive our
6 code of conduct and diversity policy reviews and
7 training during orientation.

8 As a part of Valley Forge's recruitment
9 outreach, we have conducted numerous internal casino
10 career day sessions and internally post available
11 opportunities giving all employees an equal
12 opportunity to apply for various positions.
13 Externally throughout partnership with MCCC, recent
14 casino career sessions were conducted in December. In
15 addition, we have already participated in the
16 Monster.Com Mega Career Fair in September and will
17 again participate in January 18th's event, which
18 reaches across a wide spectrum of multicultural and
19 diversified applicants.

20 Valley Forge continues to post internet
21 websites including casinocareers.com, CareerLink and
22 monster.com, which has a broad spectrum of
23 multicultural associations. We believe that our
24 participation in these outreach efforts has
25 contributed immensely and will continue to contribute

1 to the very diverse pool of applicants which we have
2 received to date.

3 In order to even further expand our pool
4 of potential new employees, Valley Forge has also
5 sought out and will soon seek membership in many
6 organizations on the list that you see on the slide.
7 Members in these organizations or membership in these
8 organizations and continued outreach with other viable
9 resources will help disseminate employment
10 opportunities available at Valley Forge to a larger
11 pool of applicants.

12 In addition to the promotion of a diverse
13 workforce, Valley Forge also anticipates the majority
14 of its table games employees will be Pennsylvania
15 residents. As you will notice from the review of the
16 slide, Valley Forge anticipates based on its present
17 pool of candidates and recruitment efforts that by the
18 end of the first year of operations 67 percent of its
19 table games operations will be Pennsylvania residents,
20 73 percent by the end of the second year and 85
21 percent at the end of the third year for table games
22 operations.

23 The past operations of Valley Forge
24 demonstrates its commitment to the promotion of a
25 diverse workforce which will certainly be perpetuated

1 in its table games operations. Evidence of past
2 hiring practices exhibited by Valley Forge can be seen
3 on this slide which summarizes the current complement
4 of its workforce. Of the current 361 --- I'm sorry,
5 361 employees of Valley Forge, total minority
6 employees represents roughly 51 percent, minority
7 supervisors and above, 30 percent. Our Pennsylvania
8 residents are currently at 96 percent. Male employees
9 59 percent, with our female complement of 41 percent.

10 Finally, we are in the process of
11 completing our compulsive and problem gaming program.
12 Our compulsive and program gaming prevention
13 objectives will be addressed through the training
14 program which employees will complete prior to
15 commencement of gaming operations. This training
16 program will be conducted in consultation with the
17 Council of Compulsive Gaming of Pennsylvania and
18 consists of entirely --- an entire review of the
19 compulsive and problem gaming policies and procedures.
20 We at Valley Forge will continue to work with the
21 PGCB's Office of Compulsive Problem Gaming to ensure
22 compliance with all the requirements of the Gaming Act
23 and the Board regulations.

24 In conclusion, we at Valley Forge
25 understand that our hiring practices and diversity

1 initiatives will have to constantly evolve in order to
2 meet the needs of our facility while also satisfying
3 the mandates of the Gaming Act and this Board. We
4 will remain vigilant in our pursuit of these
5 objectives and will continue to work with the Board
6 and our local community to promote all new employment
7 opportunities at Valley Forge Casino Resort. With
8 that said, I'd like to thank you for your time and
9 return the presentation to Mr. Scheri. Thank you.

10 MR. SCHERI:

11 Thank you, Bill. Before concluding our
12 presentation, I want to reference two letters of
13 support which have been submitted as part of the
14 record. The first letter is from our State Senator,
15 Daylin Leach, who is supportive of this Petition and
16 our pursuit of Table Game Operational Certificate. In
17 addition, our State Representative, Tim Briggs, has
18 indicated that he recognizes the potential economic
19 benefits which will stem from table games operations
20 at Valley Forge Casino Resort.

21 We certainly appreciate their support as
22 well as the support of Upper Merion Township Board of
23 Supervisors who our team has been working with very
24 closely throughout the course of this project
25 development and construction.

1 As you can see from the information that
 2 has been presented to you today, Valley Forge is
 3 committed to achieving excellence in the operation of
 4 table games at its licensed facility. The collective
 5 knowledge and experience of our management team will
 6 ensure that this facility is a tremendous success from
 7 both a financial and regulatory perspective while also
 8 providing our patrons with the best possible service
 9 and experience in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

10 I want to thank the Board for its time
 11 and attention during this presentation, and I would be
 12 happy to respond to any questions the Board may have
 13 for me or my staff.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 Any questions?

16 ATTORNEY HAYES:

17 Mr. Lantzy, before we proceed to the
 18 Board questions, by way of housekeeping, there's two
 19 exhibits that I'd like to offer into the record.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 All right. What are those exhibits?

22 ATTORNEY HAYES:

23 The first is the electronic copy of our
 24 PowerPoint presentation here today. And the second
 25 one is a letter that we actually received today from

1 the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors in support of
2 this Petition and this project. It's a new board with
3 recent --- several members recently elected, and as
4 such, we were fortunate to receive that letter today.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER:

6 We'll go ahead and make those part of the
7 record, the electronic version of PowerPoint, we'll
8 mark as Valley Forge Exhibit One. The letter from the
9 Commissioners will be Valley Forge Exhibit Two. They
10 will be moved in and made a part of the record.

11 (Valley Forge Exhibits One and Two marked
12 for identification.)

13 ATTORNEY HAYES:

14 Thank you.

15 MR. FAJT:

16 Thank you. Thanks, Jay. Mr. Figueras,
17 the first --- couple of questions. First one's for
18 you. On your slide regarding the 600 slot machines
19 generating \$45 million to the Commonwealth, what is
20 the slot per win per day that that is based on?

21 MR. FIGUERAS:

22 That is estimated on approximately a \$400
23 win per day, per unit per day.

24 MR. FAJT:

25 Do you know, is there any other casino in

1 Pennsylvania that's generating \$400 per slot per win
2 per day?

3 MR. FIGUERAS:

4 During sometimes they have hit that, but
5 we looked at it as based on the limited number of
6 slots that we have compared to the other casino
7 facilities in the State of Pennsylvania and also
8 looking at --- the closest comparison was actually in
9 table games to help look at this comparison. As you
10 see, SugarHouse had less than 50 tables initially when
11 they opened and they were significantly in excess on a
12 win per unit per day basis to everyone else in the
13 Commonwealth. We also looked at that in the state
14 saying with 600 slot machines, significantly less than
15 2,000, we expect to have our machines producing more
16 than the average machines in the State of
17 Pennsylvania.

18 MR. FAJT:

19 Okay. Next, Mr. Mikus, a couple of
20 questions for you. The average salary for table games
21 dealers, I think I heard you say was \$52,000 excluding
22 benefits; is that correct?

23 MR. MIKUS:

24 That's correct.

25 MR. FAJT:

1 And do you know what the all in employee
2 average salary would be excluding benefits, so all of
3 your employees from the top on down including table
4 games employees obviously? Do you have an estimate of
5 what that salary will be excluding benefits? And if
6 you don't, you can get it to us, but ---.

7 MR. MIKUS:

8 Yeah, I don't.

9 MR. FIGUERAS:

10 Once you're including all of the current
11 employees also, ---

12 MR. FAJT:

13 Correct.

14 MR. FIGUERAS:

15 --- it would be a little less than the
16 \$50,000.

17 MR. FAJT:

18 All right. Can you get that number to
19 Mr. Lantzy so that we can share that with the Board?
20 And again, just on the dealer number, I assume that
21 the \$52,000 includes tips?

22 MR. FIGUERAS:

23 Yes, it does.

24 MR. FAJT:

25 Okay. And I think I have one more

1 question. I guess, Mr. Mikus, this is to you also.
2 The diversity number, you said you currently have 361
3 employees and that the minority percentage is 51
4 percent. That strikes me as extremely high. I mean,
5 that is --- that's not including women as a minority?
6 That's ---?

7 MR. MIKUS:

8 Correct.

9 MR. FAJT:

10 Okay. All right. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN:

12 Mr. Scheri, if I could ask, I guess, one
13 question. You indicated that you hope to open in the
14 spring. Can you be a little more specific?

15 MR. SCHERI:

16 Early spring.

17 CHAIRMAN:

18 Like sometime before May or after June
19 or ---?

20 MR. SCHERI:

21 I think it would probably --- we have to
22 get a number of things approved by this Board in order
23 to give a firm date, but our target is before May.

24 CHAIRMAN:

25 Thank you.

1 MR. TRUJILLO:

2 I wanted to follow up on a couple of
3 Commissioner Fajt's questions, and I'm not sure who to
4 --- Sal, whether it's you or to whom. But in terms --
5 - and I agree that I like seeing the 51 percent
6 minority participation on the diversity numbers, but I
7 didn't see anything with respect to minority
8 contracting. So I'd be interested in hearing how you
9 have done with respect to minority contracting in the
10 construction so far and then what your plans are on a
11 going forward basis?

12 MR. SCHERI:

13 Sure. Actually, Alex, if you want to
14 take a little part of that and then I'll also answer
15 as well about the process and the procedural billing.

16 MR. FIGUERAS:

17 Yeah. On the --- actual on the going
18 forward basis, we're working with our current team and
19 --- to identify as we're significantly growing our
20 operations, particularly on the food and beverage side
21 and obviously the casino side, to identify both local
22 and women-owned and minority-owned businesses that can
23 supply us for the additional stuff. Obviously, we
24 have not begun our new operations yet, so what we have
25 is just our current operations are ongoing.

1 MR. TRUJILLO:

2 And is there --- what individual is
3 charged on the contracting side with responsibility
4 for meeting your goals?

5 MR. FIGUERAS:

6 Currently we're in the search for a
7 purchasing individual that will lead up the efforts.
8 Again, we're growing the property tremendously, so
9 we're trying to identify a leader, right now
10 interviewing in order to help us in that effort. So
11 in the interim, that individual would report to me, so
12 I've been kind of, you know, going around myself.

13 MR. TRUJILLO:

14 So you do have a plan to have that
15 individual charged with the task on the contracting
16 side as well as on the --- I take it on the human
17 resources side it would be you; right?

18 MR. MIKUS:

19 That's correct, yes.

20 MR. TRUJILLO:

21 And I appreciate, Mr. Figueras, having a
22 senior level diversity representative. That's
23 helpful. On the 400 employees the slide indicated was
24 representing the table games hires, is that full time
25 equivalent or is that individuals?

1 MR. SCHERI:

2 It's full time --- actually, I'll let
3 Anthony talk to that.

4 MR. SPAGNO:

5 That would be actual bodies.

6 MR. TRUJILLO:

7 So it's not full time equivalency.

8 MR. SPAGNO:

9 No, sir.

10 MR. TRUJILLO:

11 It's total bodies.

12 MR. SPAGNO:

13 Total bodies.

14 MR. TRUJILLO:

15 But it's pure --- that's pure table
16 games?

17 MR. SPAGNO:

18 Yes, sir.

19 MR. TRUJILLO:

20 Okay.

21 MR. SCHERI:

22 We actually will be hiring over 650 total
23 new employees.

24 MR. TRUJILLO:

25 That's all I have. Thank you very much.

1 MR. MASCATO:

2 I just have a few questions, and Ken just
3 took one of mine.

4 MR. TRUJILLO:

5 Sorry.

6 MR. MASCATO:

7 That's okay. With regard to the 92
8 students that will be graduating in February and then
9 the 40 that are starting class, I guess this week;
10 right? Yeah. Is there any type of prescreening done
11 on those before they enter the program?

12 MR. SPAGNO:

13 Yes, what we've done --- I mean, we've
14 held information sessions prior to the acceptance and
15 a screening process was done. They were tested and
16 prescreened by Montgomery County Community College and
17 members of my staff as well.

18 MR. MASCATO:

19 And is there any indication of the 92
20 that began how many will end successfully?

21 MR. SPAGNO:

22 Currently out of the original 92, there
23 are 88 still in the program. We believe because of
24 the strength of the program that we'll have a high
25 rate of hires out of that school.

1 MR. MASCATO:

2 Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. SPAGNO:

4 You're welcome.

5 MR. MASCATO:

6 Between the table games and the slots,
7 you're looking at \$5 million in local share. How many
8 municipalities will that be divided between?

9 MR. FIGUERAS:

10 The way that it's set up is 50 percent of
11 it goes to local township and the other 50 percent I
12 believe goes into a ---.

13 ATTORNEY HAYES:

14 Under the Gaming Act, because Montgomery
15 County is a county of class 2A designation, 50
16 percent, as Al stated, goes to Upper Merion Township.
17 The other 50 percent is sent to a Commonwealth
18 finance agency who distributes grants to Montgomery
19 County. So it doesn't go directly to Montgomery
20 County. But goes to a state agency who is supposed to
21 administer grants to the appropriate --- to the host
22 county.

23 MR. MASCATO:

24 Thank you for that. And I guess just
25 further clarification on that. So Upper Merion is

1 going to get an estimated --- I understand that it's
2 estimated, \$2.5 million. You're going to make an
3 annual contribution of at least \$75,000 more?

4 MR. FIGUERAS:

5 Yes, that's correct.

6 MR. MASCATO:

7 Just to be nice to people or ---? I'm
8 curious as to why.

9 ATTORNEY HAYES:

10 That was part of a memorandum of
11 understanding that was entered between Valley Forge
12 and the host municipality, Upper Merion Township, back
13 in when we were first applying for our slot machine
14 license in 2007. And it was an agreement that this
15 would be a contribution just for the --- to address
16 the general impact that the introduction of gaming
17 would have on the Township. So included in that
18 memorandum of understanding was also the \$450,000
19 contribution for the 422 improvements.

20 MR. MASCATO:

21 Okay. Thank you very much.

22 MR. FAJT:

23 Thank you, Jay. One more question on
24 smoking. This continues to be an issue that we hear
25 about as Board Members from the public. And it's

1 often difficult for us to address it, you know, once
2 the horse is out of the barn and the casino's up and
3 operating. Yours is not yet, and so I just --- more
4 of a suggestion than a real question is, you know,
5 please pay attention to that. Your facility is going
6 to be smaller than most just because you have 600 slot
7 machines and not up to 5,000. And you have table
8 games and people that smoke, walk around. They're not
9 supposed to, but they do. And so I just, you know,
10 give you a word of caution to please pay attention to
11 the layout between smoking and non-smoking and also
12 the enforcement side of that, because we do get
13 complaints from patrons in every casino in the
14 Commonwealth.

15 MR. SCHERI:

16 Commissioner Fajt, if I may, I understand
17 and I am sensitive to complaints such as that having
18 been in this business for quite some time. And I
19 share those concerns with the Board and with our
20 guests. One thing I would like to say is that, you
21 know, it's very important for Valley Forge to create
22 an environment and an experience for our guests that
23 is as enjoyable as possible. So with that in mind, as
24 part of our original design, we've designed a HVAC
25 system to exchange the air in our casino that was

1 above and beyond what was recommended with the
2 specific thought that we would keep this as smoke free
3 and enjoyable as possible, realizing that there would
4 be smoking in the casino. So we've took on the extra
5 expense of a higher quality and a larger HVAC system
6 that would really do a fantastic job of, you know,
7 really exchanging the air out and taking the smoke
8 out. So, you know, it's our goal again to provide a
9 very, you know, enjoyable and great environment for
10 our guests.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER:

12 No other questions? Thank you for your
13 presentation as well as answering the questions that
14 the Chair and the Commissioners had. The next speaker
15 I would like to recognize is Doug Sherman, who is
16 Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control
17 Board.

18 ATTORNEY SHERMAN:

19 Good morning. As mentioned by Mr.
20 Scheri, there were two members of the General Assembly
21 who provided public comment to the Board. For the
22 record, as has been our practice in other hearings of
23 this nature, we will --- I will read each of those
24 letters into the record.

25 The first is from the Senate of

1 Pennsylvania, the office of Daylin Leach. Dear
2 Chairman Ryan, I write to you in support of the
3 Petition for Approval of Table Games Operational
4 Certificate submitted to the Pennsylvania Gaming
5 Control Board by Valley Forge Convention Center
6 Partners, LP. As you know, the rebranded Valley Forge
7 Casino Resort is located within my Senatorial
8 district. During my tenure in the legislature, I've
9 worked to provide opportunities for economic growth in
10 Montgomery and Delaware Counties. New economic
11 development projects are desperately needed in these
12 tough economic times, and I believe that the proposal
13 set forth by Valley Forge Convention Center Partners
14 to expand its gaming facility in order to conduct
15 table game operations would provide a significant
16 economic stimulus for Upper Merion Township,
17 Montgomery County and southeastern Pennsylvania.

18 Valley Forge Convention Center Partners
19 has presented the PGCB with the opportunity to create
20 hundreds of new living wage and family sustaining
21 employment positions with benefits while also creating
22 numerous other temporary construction employment
23 opportunities. I am confident that the table game and
24 expanded slot machine operations at Valley Forge
25 Casino Resort will be very successful and generate

1 significant tax revenues for Upper Merion Township and
2 the Commonwealth. For these reasons, I endorse Valley
3 Forge Convention Center Partners' request to conduct
4 table game operations at Valley Forge Casino Resort.
5 The letter is signed by Daylin Leach, 17th Senatorial
6 District.

7 The second letter is on the letterhead of
8 the House of Representatives from the office of Tim
9 Briggs. Dear Chairman Ryan, I write to you in support
10 of Valley Forge Convention Center Partners' Petition
11 for Approval of a Table Games Operational Certificate.
12 The operation of table games and an additional 100
13 slot machines at Valley Forge Casino Resort will lead
14 to the creation of hundreds of new jobs through the
15 operation of the facility as well as increasing the
16 number of temporary construction positions needed to
17 complete and expand the existing gaming facility.
18 These types of new employment positions will allow
19 many local residents to overcome existing economic
20 hardships. Furthermore, this proposed expansion of
21 gaming at Valley Forge Casino Resort will bring much
22 needed additional tax revenues to Upper Merion
23 Township and the Commonwealth.

24 I have been a longstanding supporter of
25 the Valley Forge project and believe that this resort

1 casino will be a tremendous asset to Montgomery
2 County. Accordingly, I urge the Gaming Control Board
3 to strongly consider the approval of the above
4 referenced Petition submitted by Valley Forge. Thank
5 you in advance for your consideration. And this
6 letter is signed by Tim Briggs, State Representative,
7 the 149th Legislative District.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER:

9 Thank you, Mr. Sherman. We will now
10 begun the public comment portion of the hearing. As I
11 call your name, please come forward and step up to the
12 microphone. As a reminder, each speaker should begin
13 their remarks by stating his or her name, spelling it
14 and also indicating the municipality and state where
15 he or she resides. With that being the case, I will
16 indicate that each of the individuals will have one
17 opportunity to speak, and we will begin with Mr. James
18 Schneller.

19 MR. SCHNELLER:

20 Thank you, Gaming Board. Thank you,
21 Chairman, Mr. Past Chairman. Can I inquire, has there
22 been a lot ---? I actually signed up online as an
23 individual. I also requested to speak for the
24 allotted time as representative of an association.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER:

1 Mr. Schneller, we will give you one
2 opportunity to speak, and as I indicated earlier, it
3 is a three-minute time period.

4 MR. SCHNELLER:

5 As a matter of a few small objections, we
6 object. There's no list of the witnesses online. The
7 online webpage lists the commenters like myself, but
8 there's no list of witnesses that we could expect here
9 today.

10 We regret that we're not here as
11 intervenors. We have filed a Petition which is
12 pending to intervene in this particular Petition. As
13 you're probably aware, we've attempted to do so in the
14 prior two Petitions and attempted to appeal from them.
15 We were hoping that you may be including that in your
16 consideration, because the issues that we're raising
17 we aptly claim are not being raised by --- and are not
18 necessarily deemed worthy of raising by BIE. We ask
19 at least wherever this is appropriate that you
20 consider what I say today and the other commenters who
21 happen to be residents of the nearby township and
22 known to us to be considered as part of a
23 participation, which we are requesting alternate
24 treatment as participation in our Petition. Perhaps
25 today's comment could stand as part of that.

1 As far as our specific comments --- I
2 might also add that are pending appeals calls this
3 proceeding to be a bit unfair, even unlawful. We know
4 the Board is required to be especially careful about
5 appearance of partially and bias and appeals are not
6 allowed to cause at least a moderate stay or
7 consideration of a pace of the proceeding that might
8 be slowed. The public sees that as improper. And so
9 your need to be in the shoes of the completely non-
10 corrupt we feel should be upheld even in matters like
11 that.

12 To list an example of issues, we are
13 extremely considered with saturation. We believe the
14 Philadelphia area is going to be afflicted with an
15 over-saturation here. We note and ask your
16 consideration to the fact that by 2017 a 30-mile limit
17 will be established. We've opposed the access plan as
18 practically illegal. For instance, in membership
19 plans, we plan to appeal from because membership plans
20 were never intended to be tailored to additional
21 customers much more on that side. That is simply a
22 membership plan for use of the amenities on a regular
23 basis.

24 We, therefore, feel that due process is
25 being denied all the way from the matter of comment

1 permitted to the fact that your interpretations of the
2 statute again is in your interpretation of what is a
3 well-established resort are very wide compared to what
4 the legislature intended, without any public input.
5 And we hope that you might include that in your
6 decision. You have wide authority and wide legal
7 purview.

8 We know that Sections 13(a)(12) and
9 13(a)(15) of the Act echo Section 1325 regarding
10 economic development also effects on the community.
11 We note that the promise of jobs and diversity is
12 really meaningless in the local economy. Taken into
13 effect, we recommend a slow and careful consideration
14 of how this facility might proceed and how they behave
15 themselves. The promise of jobs and diversity means
16 nothing, because we have as our core sector of
17 economic development Norristown and other certain
18 small areas in the very local region who have abundant
19 mass transportation, have benefited enormously, even
20 from projects in the past three years, especially
21 getting jobs throughout the region and getting there
22 on buses, trains, et cetera. And we are extremely
23 concerned about the business community and the small
24 business community suffering in Upper Merion. There
25 are sectors of this township that have no vision of a

1 boom time. Economic times may be bad. Why should
2 this region benefit from a few temporary construction
3 jobs and the promise --- promise of economics which
4 really are simply detraction from small business.
5 These are known facts.

6 We also --- very briefly in the way of
7 particulars, we feel a surveillance as we've noted in
8 the access plan, probably in the floor plan petition
9 that we're intervening in, surveillance is likely
10 insufficient, but especially it's insufficient in
11 regard to keeping the outside public, not involved
12 public, in attending casino. We are so concerned
13 about the ills, social ills that we believe the
14 Category 3 nature should be strictly upheld by you.
15 And the central control computer system, certainly
16 with the detail and the specific information it's
17 keeping, wouldn't be able to reject a player if they
18 get near a machine if they hadn't been an amenity.
19 The Board, with all respect, hasn't even allowed a
20 gatekeeper at these facilities. As local residents,
21 we're really concerned it's converted from a Category
22 3 to a Category 1 or 2.

23 With knowledge that my three-minute limit
24 has grown close, I'd just like to close with the fact
25 that under our constitutional rights, we the citizens

1 of this region, a great majority of us are concerned
2 about the detraction of our rights and detraction from
3 our indefeasible rights such as to worship God and to
4 acknowledge religion as a part --- and ethics and
5 moral. And we know that as part of our daily regimen
6 as what we're granted in our rights of liberty,
7 freedom of movement, freedom of speech and freedom to
8 have businesses free of appearance and effects that
9 detract hugely from society. We also ---.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER:

11 Mr. Schneller, as you indicated, your
12 time period was coming to an end, and we certainly
13 appreciate your comments in this matter and they will
14 be made a part of the record. Thank you.

15 MR. SCHNELLER:

16 We are, to close, hugely prejudiced
17 because our representatives including Mr. Leach and
18 Mr. Briggs have abandoned the claims that I've just
19 made. They're aware of what we voice. They're aware
20 that these are issues intended by law for you to
21 include, and I thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER:

23 Thank you.

24 MR. TRUJILLO:

25 Mr. Schneller, I didn't hear. What's

1 your place of residence?

2 MR. SCHNELLER:

3 Oh, pardon me. James Schneller,
4 S-C-H-N-E-L-L-E-R. I reside in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

5 MR. TRUJILLO:

6 Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER:

8 The next individual to speak is Aleta
9 Duey.

10 MS. DUEY:

11 Thank you. My name is Aleta Duey. The
12 first name is A-L-E-T-A. The last name D-U-E-Y. I
13 reside in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County.
14 And I'm here appearing as a former school teacher,
15 member of an early American historical society and a
16 local citizen and taxpayer.

17 Three and a half years ago when the
18 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board held a hearing in
19 Upper Merion requesting a license for only slot
20 machines and a bar at the Valley Forge Convention
21 Center, I asked the question, if they get the
22 approval, what's to prevent them from coming back in a
23 year or two or three and asking to expand from what
24 someone called the smallest license in the state,
25 expand to perhaps poker games, blackjack, even

1 expanding to a full size gambling casino? Well,
2 surprise, here we are today.

3 A great place to live, work and worship
4 was the model of Upper Merion Township when our family
5 moved here from Ohio many years ago. What does the
6 township want to be known as now? A great place for
7 gambling and gridlock. I understand the dilemma of
8 the owners and managers of the Valley Forge Convention
9 Center. They're in business to make money, but the
10 ever expanding gaming industry coming to our area will
11 change the wholesome character and atmosphere of that
12 facility as well as of the local area. High school
13 seniors hold their proms there. The American Baptist
14 Convention is nearby and Valley Forge National
15 Historical Park is just up the road. One of the most
16 important reasons I'm speaking in opposition to this
17 application is because of that very park.

18 Our township has an obligation to protect
19 Valley Forge from further encroachment and increasing
20 traffic. Whether we like it or not, the historic and
21 revered land of our national park is located in Upper
22 Merion, partly at least. The U.S. Government never
23 bought the surrounding land as was promised in 1976
24 when they took on the park ownership. So it takes the
25 efforts of the surrounding townships to preserve it,

1 and that's not only Montgomery County. That's Chester
2 County. It covers other counties, too, and they will
3 be affected by this. The land in the park has been
4 encroached upon from all sides, and the daily traffic
5 going through it is a constant problem, because of the
6 inadequate roads there and all over.

7 What about the increase in traffic on the
8 surrounding roads? Gulph Road, Routes 202, 363, 422.
9 They're nearly impassable now at rush hour. How much
10 worse will it be when the new Village at Valley Forge
11 is developed? No one's even mentioned that. What
12 about the many businesses located in Upper Merion?
13 With increased traffic, will more of them move out of
14 the area to less crowded communities losing more of
15 our legitimate tax base?

16 Emergency vehicles have trouble moving
17 through these areas now. Should we threaten the lives
18 and safety of our citizens, our visitors and, of
19 course, our volunteers, tax our already busy police
20 force in Upper Merion with the inevitable increase in
21 crime and criminals coming in with gambling? Worse
22 yet, what if we ever had an emergency evacuation of
23 the surrounding area? Would you want to be
24 responsible for that? It would be difficult now.
25 Better not even think about it with further increase

1 in traffic. Deliveries as well as customers coming
2 in.

3 Finally, what about our moral
4 responsibility for the welfare of our greater
5 community, our young people? As economic conditions
6 decline, we have more poverty in our county, parents
7 losing their jobs, families without enough food. Is
8 this any time to be introducing more gambling into the
9 community, especially when we now know how addictive
10 it can be often with those who can least afford it?
11 Is greed taking the place of commonsense?

12 And so I say no to gaming tables or any
13 other addition to the gambling being hastily hoisted
14 on us by the Valley Forge Convention Center and Upper
15 Merion Township. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER:

17 Thank you, Ms. ---.

18 MS. DUEY:

19 And I can give you a copy of this or ---
20 give you this or you can make a copy.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER:

22 That would be fine. You can present it
23 to me now if you'd like.

24 MS. DUEY:

25 All right. If possible, I'd like to get

1 back a copy. I didn't bring an extra.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER:

3 All right.

4 MS. DUEY:

5 It has my notes on it as well.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER:

7 Thank you. The next scheduled speaker is
8 Linda Lee Sharpe. Is Ms. Sharpe in the room today?
9 It appears that she is not present, so we will move to
10 our next speaker and that is Mr. John Andrews. Is
11 John Andrews present today? It appears that he is not
12 present also, so we will move to our final speaker,
13 and that is Carris Kocher. Is Carris Kocher here?
14 Thank you.

15 MS. KOCHER:

16 Good morning. My name is Carris Kocher,
17 spelled C-A-R-R-I-S, K-O-C-H-E-R. I live in Concord
18 Township, Glenn Mills, but I'm here because of my
19 interest in Valley Forge, where I volunteered for
20 several years and have loved all my life.

21 Written on the Pennsylvania State Flag
22 are the words virtue, liberty and independence.
23 William Penn established this colony in pursuit of
24 virtue and the liberty to worship God. George
25 Washington labored for independence to preserve virtue

1 and liberty. There's nothing virtuous about gambling.
2 It too often results in the loss of liberty and
3 consequences of poverty and crime that sits hard on
4 its heels. As the tragedy unfolds and more lose their
5 independence --- lose their independence and become
6 dependent on public welfare, gambling leads to the
7 loss of all virtue, liberty and independence.

8 True in colonial times, lotteries were
9 often used to raise money for worthy causes. Yet the
10 financial effects lead to gambling being outlawed in
11 every state in the Union by the time of the Civil War,
12 except Louisiana. The gambling industry in its
13 entirety stands in violation of the golden rule, thou
14 shall love thy neighbor as thyself. Some of those
15 commandments including thou shall not covet. Every
16 gambler covets his fellow gambler's property.

17 It's regrettable legislature ever opened
18 the flood gate to the gambling industry, but to have
19 such vice at the entrance of the Valley Forge
20 Encampment is especially disturbing. What did
21 Washington have to say about gambling? His general
22 orders issued on May 8, 1777 reads as few vices are
23 attended with more pernicious consequences in civil
24 life so there are none more fatal in a military one
25 than that of gaming, which often brings disgrace and

1 ruin upon officers and injury and punishment upon the
2 soldiery and reports prevailing that this destructive
3 vice has spread its veinful influence in the Army.
4 The Commander in Chief in the most pointed and
5 explicit terms forbids all officers and soldiers to
6 play any cards, dice or any games except those of
7 exercise for diversion. Any officer or soldier
8 presuming under any pretense to disobey this order
9 shall be tried by a general court marshal.

10 In a letter to his nephew on January 15,
11 1783, the last thing I shall mention is first of
12 importance, avoid gaming, a vice productive of every
13 possible evil, equally injurious to the morals and
14 health of its votaries, the child of avarice, the
15 brother of inequity, father of mischief, the ruin of
16 many worthy families, the loss of many a man's honor,
17 the cause of suicide, few gain by this abominable
18 practice while thousands are injured.

19 Patrick Henry wrote on the back of his
20 original copy of the Stamp Act Resolves of 1765 ---
21 they found it with his will after his death. He wrote
22 these words. Whether this will prove a blessing or a
23 curse will depend upon the use our people make of the
24 blessing which a gracious God has bestowed on us. If
25 they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they

1 are of a contrary character, they will be miserable.
2 Reader, whoever thou art to remember this, and in thy
3 sphere practice virtue thyself and encourage it in
4 others. Consider the words of Jeremiah in Chapter 22,
5 Verse 13. Woe to him that builds his house or his
6 portfolio or his profit margin by unrighteousness.

7 I oppose the expansion of this gambling.
8 Let us pursue virtue and liberty and independence.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER:

10 Thank you, Ms. Kocher.

11 MS. KOCHER:

12 I made some changes. If you wish, I
13 could send them to you by e-mail.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER:

15 That won't be necessary. Those were all
16 the speakers that had registered as required to speak
17 today, and as a result, the record created here today
18 including the transcripts of these proceedings, any
19 exhibits entered into the record including all written
20 comments received by the deadline for submission will
21 be forwarded to the entire Board for its
22 consideration. The Board will be taking up and
23 considering the Petition at a public Board hearing in
24 the near future.

25 I want to thank you all for coming here

1 today and for your cooperation. This public input
2 hearing is now adjourned.

3 * * * * *

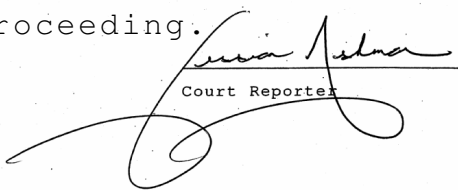
4 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 11:13 A.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Presiding Officer Lantzy, was reported by me on 01/11/2012 and that I Jessica L. Ashman read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.



Court Reporter