



AGENDA
December 04, 2013 Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Beatrice H. Wood Elementary School Cafeteria
72 Messenger Street
Plainville, MA

PUBLIC MEETING - #94

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by Town Administrator Joseph Fernandes
3. Presentation by the Applicant
4. Commission Questions to the Applicant
5. Comments by Representatives of the Host Community
6. Comments by Representatives of the Surrounding Communities
7. Comments by Representatives of Live Impacted Entertainment Venues
8. Comments by Members of the Public
9. Comments from the Applicant



Massachusetts Gaming Commission



**NOTICE OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED MEETING IN THE HOST COMMUNITY
PURSUANT TO M.G.L. c.23K §17 (c) AND 205 CMR 118.05 TO CONSIDER THE
APPLICATION FOR A CATEGORY 2 GAMING LICENSE**

December 4, 2013 Meeting

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25 and G.L. c.23K, §§17(c) and (d), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. The meeting will take place:

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 @ 4 P.M. – 6 P.M. (longer if necessary)
Beatrice H. Wood Elementary School Cafeteria
72 Messenger Street
Plainville, MA

PUBLIC MEETING

This public hearing is intended to provide the Commission with the opportunity to pose questions to the applicant and address concerns relative to the proposal of **Springfield Gaming and Redevelopment LLC** (“applicant”) to build a gaming establishment in Plainville, MA including the scope and quality of the gaming area and amenities, the integration of the gaming establishment into the surrounding community and the extent of required mitigation plans and receive input from members of the public from an impacted community. A copy of the applicant’s application is available for review on the Commission’s website: www.massgaming.com. No votes or decisions will be made at this hearing; it is simply intended as an opportunity for the Commission to gather information and gauge public sentiment relative to the application.

The Commission will schedule a pre-hearing conference with the applicant approximately 7-10 days prior to the public hearing to advise the applicant of the issues that it may be required to address in the public hearing.

Receipt of this notice by a community other than the host community is not an indication or a decision by the Commission regarding that community’s status as a surrounding community pursuant to c. 23K. The Commission will make a final designation regarding surrounding community status pursuant to 205 CMR 125.01.

The chair will preside over this public hearing. The applicant and its agents and representatives shall attend the public hearing, may make a presentation, and respond to questions as directed by the chair. Representatives of Plainville, representatives of the surrounding communities, and representatives of the impacted live entertainment venues may attend the public hearing, may make a presentation, and respond to questions as directed by the chair. Any other interested person may attend the public hearing and may make a presentation in the discretion of the Commission.

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Massachusetts Gaming Commission

84 State Street, 10th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com

Those who wish to submit written comments in advance of the hearing may do so by sending an email to **mgccomments@state.ma.us** with the name of the applicant in the subject line. All comments received via email will be made public and distributed to the Commission for their review prior to the hearing.

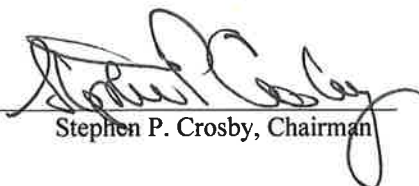
Public officials from a host or surrounding community, representatives of interested parties, and members of the host or surrounding communities who wish to address the Commission at the hearing may place their name on the list of speakers by sending an email to **mgccomments@state.ma.us** with 'Request to address the Commission/ *'name of applicant'*' in the subject line. In order to use the available time most efficiently, the Commission reserves the right to limit the amount of time for speakers depending on attendance at the meetings.

The following is the anticipated agenda for the public meeting:

1. Call to order and introductory remarks by the chair
2. Presentation by the applicant
3. Commission questions to the applicant
4. Comments by representatives of the Host Community
5. Comments by representatives of the Surrounding Communities
6. Comments by representatives of Live Impacted Entertainment Venues
7. Comments by members of the public
8. Comments from the applicant
9. Other business – reserved for matters the Chair did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting.

I certify that on this date, this Notice was posted as "Gaming Commission Meeting" at www.massgaming.com and emailed to: regs@sec.state.ma.us, melissa.andrade@state.ma.us, brian.gosselin@state.ma.us.

11/1/13
(date)


Stephen P. Crosby, Chairman

Date Posted to Website: November 1, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

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Massachusetts Gaming Commission

84 State Street, 10th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com



PAUL McMURTRY
REPRESENTATIVE

PROUDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF
WESTWOOD, WALPOLE (Pct. 8)
AND DEDHAM

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

Committees:
Bills in Third Reading, Vice Chairman
Ways and Means
Community Development and Small Businesses

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 279
TEL. (617) 722-2015
FAX. (617) 626-0413
Paul.McMurtry@MAhouse.gov

November 29, 2013

Mr. Stephen Crosby, Chairman
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
84 State Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Chairman Crosby,

I am writing to express my support for the application of Penn National Gaming, Inc. for a Category II license to establish a slot parlor at the Plainridge Racecourse in Plainville. Penn National Gaming is a corporation with an outstanding reputation in the gaming industry and the largest owner and operator of pari-mutual racetracks in the United States.

The Town of Plainville voted in support of establishing a slot parlor at Plainridge Racecourse. Due to its prime location and proximity to Rhode Island and Connecticut, Massachusetts would benefit from revenue lost to gaming establishments in those states. Allowing Penn National Gaming to establish a slot parlor in Plainridge would advance the Town of Plainville and surrounding communities including the Towns of Walpole, Westwood and Dedham which I represent; with job creation and economic growth.

For these reasons and many more, I respectfully request your consideration and support of Penn National Gaming, Inc. for a Category II license. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McMurry", written in a cursive style.

Paul McMurry



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE BOSTON 02133 1053

December 4, 2013

Stephen Crosby, Chairman
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
84 State Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Chairman Crosby,

We are writing to express our fervent support for the application of Penn National Gaming, Inc. for a Category II license to establish a slot parlor at Plainridge Racecourse in Plainville. Penn National Gaming is a corporation of excellent repute with extensive experience in the gaming industry that takes a deep interest in local communities. Instituting a slot parlor at this location would provide an immense benefit for the Town of Plainville and surrounding communities, while minimizing any potential disruption to the community.

Penn National Gaming has established itself as an influential member of the hotel and leisure industry. It currently owns and operates twenty-eight facilities in eighteen jurisdictions. It is the largest publicly traded regional gaming operator in North America and the largest owner and operator of pari-mutuel racetracks in the United States. The substantial growth it has experienced in the industry is combined with a focus on slot machine entertainment and a dedication to its communities. Penn National Gaming has consistently demonstrated its commitment to local causes, donating about \$12.7 million to local charities in 2012.

Plainridge Racecourse would be the ideal site to establish a slot parlor given its prime location and strong ties to the community. Located three miles from the Rhode Island border and twenty miles from the Connecticut state line, Plainridge offers the Commonwealth the opportunity to recapture revenue lost to gaming establishments in those states. Plainridge employs more than 140 people, and supports, directly or indirectly, nearly 1,950 additional jobs. These factors would allow Penn National Gaming to advance Plainville and surrounding communities, and to obtain substantial revenue for the Commonwealth.

The Town of Plainville has voted in support of establishing a slot parlor at Plainridge Racecourse, following a 76% favorable vote. Plainridge Racecourse is firmly established in the community and is considerably closer to becoming operational than other locations. Minimal physical offsite improvements would be necessary to support expanded gaming here, given Plainridge's location on Route 495 South and United States Route 1. It would provide the greatest benefit with minimum delay and disturbance to the community.

Again, we express our deepest support for the application of Penn National Gaming, Inc. for a Category II license. Developing a slot parlor at Plainridge Racecourse would provide tremendous benefit to Plainville and surrounding communities, and Penn National Gaming is in the best position to facilitate this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can lend further support to this application.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Ross
State Senator



Elizabeth A. Poirier
State Representative



Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
State Representative



Steven S. Howitt
State Representative



John J. Binienda
State Representative

Paul R. Heroux
State Representative



Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Mary-Ann Greanier <medb@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 12:46 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: testimony for Plainville hearing
Attachments: testimony.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Commissioners:

Attached please find my 6-page testimony for today's hearing. I intend to be there to deliver the testimony, but wanted to submit this "hard copy" for your records.

Thank you.

Mary-Ann Greanier

Testimony to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission
4 December 2013

Mary-Ann Greanier
19 Mirimichi Street
Plainville, MA
mgreanier@comcast.net

Four o'clock on a weekday afternoon couldn't be a worse time for most citizens to make it to a public hearing. Residents who commute a fair distance to a job would have to miss an entire afternoon of work to attend. At four o'clock, parents and other caregivers are busy shuttling children and teens to and from after school activities, making dinner, supervising homework. Babysitters are difficult to find because so many are young people who aren't available in the afternoons. And how many people who work in Plainville and the surrounding towns are able to pick up and leave work to come to a hearing at four o'clock? While today's hearing is quite convenient for the casino developer and their allies at Town Hall, the MGC has placed a considerable burden on residents by scheduling this hearing at such a public- and family-unfriendly time.

Like you, Chairman Crosby, and like Governor Patrick, Speaker DeLeo, and I'm sure the majority of legislators who voted for the Gaming Act, I do not want to live near a casino. Unfortunately, my house sits a few hundred feet from what will become the Plainridge Park Casino should you award Penn National the so-called "slots license." In the interest of full disclosure full disclosure, my concerns about living near a casino are not strictly NIMBY. I oppose all expanded gambling in the commonwealth, and believe it is one of the worst policy decisions ever made in Massachusetts.

The process is irretrievably broken in Plainville:

I have been an involved citizen on the matter of expanded gambling in Plainville for years. I attended almost every meeting about the introduction of slots at the racetrack held by the planning board, selectmen, water & sewer commission, board of health, and Plainville's gambling consultant. I have followed your meetings closely, as well.

The Host Community Agreement that the Plainville board of selectmen agreed to on July 8th was negotiated and signed during the period when Ourway knew full well about their considerable troubles with the MGC audit. Unfortunately — as far as I know and have been told — until well after the HCA was signed, the negotiators for Plainville knew NOTHING about the "irregularities" that would eventually disqualify Ourway. Neither Ourway nor the MGC informed Plainville about the looming financial problems at Plainridge, putting Plainville in the inferior position in the negotiating process. Therefore, I maintain that, from the start, the HCA was *not* negotiated in good faith and should *not* be accepted by the MGC as a valid agreement.

The MGC further failed the people of Plainville by ruling that the slots referendum could take place a mere six days after the Host Community Agreement was transferred to Penn National (an action I'm still not certain was within the limits of the law). When you decided that the requirement in the Gaming Act for 60-90 days between the applicant's signing of the HCA and the town referendum was a mere "technicality," you deprived the residents of Plainville and the surrounding communities of our rights; we were never afforded the opportunity to look at the proposed applicant and at their plans for Plainridge before casting our votes in the referendum.

But then it got worse.

The people of Plainville were forced to vote on an entity we did not know and which you had not vetted. However, less than two months later, citizens and selectmen from Milford and surrounding towns told you that they did not want to go to the polls to vote on their casino referendum before Foxwoods was fully vetted and you decided on their suitability. You responded by changing your schedule regarding Foxwoods; you made sure to release your background check, hold a suitability hearing, and release your report PRIOR TO Milford's Nov. 19th referendum vote. Why were you willing to do that for Milford — which knew about the applicant there for a very long time — but rejected the pleas of Plainville citizens when we went to the commission with our concerns that we had a mere six days to consider the new applicant for the slots license at Plainridge? You would not finish your investigation of Penn National before our vote, and our entreaties to be given more time to educate the people of Plainville about the new applicant were rejected out-of-hand.

By fulfilling your statutory and regulatory duties in Milford, you threw into high relief the fact that you denied the voters and residents of Plainville equal protection. You told us that a Host Community doesn't need to know about the applicant before voting, and that voters vote solely on the Host Community Agreement. Your actions in Milford said something quite different.

Unfortunately, the residents of Plainville did not have any official body to advocate for us in your process, as Milford and Hopkinton and other towns have had. The Plainville selectmen have wanted slots at Plainridge for as long as Ourway has owned a harness racing track in Plainville, and they have always acted accordingly.

The differences between Penn National and Ourway

When we were deprived of the opportunity to vet and question Penn National, we were deprived of the chance to ask about their business practices and investigate how they have dealt with other populations of gambling addicts. We were deprived of the chance to hear about their plans for Plainridge, and to make our decision at the polls based on that information.

The application submitted to the MGC by Penn National Gaming differs significantly from what was presented to the people of Plainville, our planning board, water and sewer commission, conservation commission, board of health, police department, and fire

department during the planning board permitting process and prior to the vote on September 10th. Both the planning board's Amended Special Permit and the report from the gambling consultant hired by the selectmen were predicated on information and applications submitted and negotiated by Ourway/Plainridge, NOT Penn National; two very, very different companies.

We have been told that we needn't be concerned about the Special Permit because Penn National will "adopt the building plans, design concepts and traffic plan that have already been developed by Plainridge for the site" should they win the slots license. After watching Penn National's presentation to the MGC on October 7th, and after studying their application and what attachments we were allowed to see, we know there is actually much cause for worry.

I offer only a few examples of many:

1. Penn National changed the name of the proposed facility from "Plainridge Park" to "Plainridge Park Casino." This was done *after* the vote took place, which I believe was no accident. During the planning board hearings regarding the Change of Use and the Amended Special Permit, we were told, over and over again, that the site would host "a RAcino, NOT a CAsino" (they always stressed the first syllable as though it signified something). As a matter of fact, representatives of Ourway, Plainville town administrator Joe Fernandes, certain Plainville residents, and even one member of the planning board admonished me and others whenever we used "casino" instead of "racino," assuring us that a *racino* does not create the same problems that a *casino* would bring. Ridiculous, but true.

Now that Penn National has proposed a CAsino — in name and scope — shouldn't we have had the opportunity to study and plan for mitigation for the ways in which the Penn National application differs from the original application submitted by Ourway, and the meetings and hearings based on that plan? Is no one else concerned that the deal we negotiated with Ourway might not cover the costs to the town of hosting a casino run by Penn National?

2. Penn National plans to use their database of "**4.3 MILLION active customers**" to attract people to the facility. The impact studies done by the Town of Plainville did not take into account this massive marketing database because, when the studies were done in the spring, Penn National was not the company looking to open a casino in Plainville. For example, the studies done by the town showed that area residents should expect an additional 3,071 vehicle per day to and from the casino. If the facility is marketing to 4.3 million people, there could well be a much larger number of people visiting daily, thus impacting things such as public safety, crime, traffic, property values and the character of our community.

3. In the presentation given by Penn National on October 7th, PNG said they want Plainridge Park Casino to become the "entertainment hub" for the area through, among other things, hosting ticketed events for 2,000 people. In this excerpt from the October 7th transcript, Jay Snowden from Penn National states: "...we have 90 acres of land. And so, we have the ability to put on outdoor festivals, whether that's in the infield of the racetrack

itself or some of the adjacent lands. We've been very successful in the past of putting up outdoor sprung or tent structures and offering simulated game shows. We just did this at our Charlestown facility. The Price is Right, **we offered five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show. All of them sold out...** These are the type of things that we can do that, again, will be complementary, they're not done in the area today."

These types of events were NEVER discussed in meetings held prior to the September 10th vote, nor were they ever mentioned by Ourway/Plainridge in the permitting process before the planning board. Therefore, mitigation has not necessarily been planned for or ordered. If Penn National is allowed to hold those events, by how much will the traffic exceed the numbers in the consultants' traffic studies — the ones that assured us there would be a mere trickle of cars throughout the day, fewer than what Lowes or Target sees? How does this change the noise and light pollution and air quality in the neighborhood? What does it mean that thousands of people might be arriving all at once and leaving all at once — many of them under the influence of alcohol — for **"five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show"** ? Ten thousand people outdoors over three days? How many times a year?

During the planning board hearing, every time anyone brought up concerns about outside events — and we brought it up quite a lot — we were told that outside events were NOT a big part of the plan. I guess no one told Penn National, because outside events seem to be quite a large part of their plans. And those plans are significantly different from what we were told would be happening just a few hundred feet from our homes. Will court injunctions become our only recourse? Several families are already planning to move. In any case, our neighborhood will never be the same.

True, Penn National would have to apply to the selectmen to get permits for outdoor events, and presumably, residents would have the opportunity then to argue against large-scale outdoor events in our neighborhood. The fact of the matter is, the Plainville selectmen have never said no to Plainridge, and we don't believe that will change with new owners and a casino. The neighborhood around Plainridge can't rely on the selectmen to look out for us, even though we are most directly in the line of fire. On the contrary, we're expected to take a bullet for the town and keep quiet about it.

So, here we are, with an application that overreaches the special permit, with needs for mitigation that have never been discussed, and with a CAsino instead of a RAcino being proposed for Plainridge. Now we're stuck. Once again, the actions of the MGC in truncating the process and ignoring Gaming Act provisions and your own regulations is causing and will continue to cause hardship for the people of Plainville, especially for the abutting neighborhood.

Our planning board has addressed our concerns about the inadequacies of the amended special permit this way: "If the applicant decides to proceed with the project, the Building Inspector will have to make a determination on the submitted information as to whether the application conforms to the issued permit or not. If a determination is made that the activity filed for is non-compliant then it will be up to the applicant to re-submit to the Planning Board for a revision in order to proceed."

I know that's the process set forth in our bylaws. But, I also know that our town recently ended up in Land Court and Superior Court because a building inspector didn't do his job, and we nearly had an asphalt plant open in town in spite of by-laws forbidding it.

Granted, our current building inspector is very different from his predecessor; he is both competent and conscientious. Still, given the complexity of permitting and overseeing the building and running of a Casino in our little town, one might understand why so many people are worried — especially those of us who live within a few hundred feet of the facility.

I invite the commissioners to come to Harness Path, Mirimichi Street, and Haynes Road to take a look at just how close our homes are to Plainridge. When deciding to build their garage, Ourway could not have placed the building any closer to our homes. Rather than leaving a substantial buffer, they cut and blasted away at the hill to accommodate a building that will have a considerable effect on our lives. When Penn National talks about outdoor events at the track, they are talking about having events that some of us will be able to see and hear from our homes. And, should the owner of Plainridge start to take down trees to build on the eleven house lots they have accumulated along Mirimichi Street and Haynes Road, our neighborhood will pay the price. Again.

Damages to the social and economic fabric of our towns

Should the Plainridge Park Casino open in Plainville, I am concerned about the loss of local discretionary funds to the out-of-state owners of Plainridge, impacting local families and businesses in Plainville and surrounding communities; I believe Donald Trump when he says, "People will spend a tremendous amount of money in casinos, money that they would normally spend on buying a refrigerator or a new car. Local businesses will suffer because they lose customer dollars to the casinos."

I am concerned that the National Association of Realtors calls the impact of casinos on a town's property values "unambiguously negative." This will hit hardest the people with homes closest to the casino. But the loss of property values in a town trickles down to affect all taxpayers and homeowners in a negative way.

I am extremely worried about the likely 44% increase or more in gambling addiction within 10 miles of the facility, increasing domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, embezzlement, theft, bankruptcies, financial disaster, and other social ills in our community.

According to studies and to admissions by some casino operators, the greatest profit in casinos comes from 4%-10% of the people who lose their money there — those people are generally the "problem gamblers," not the high rollers. And we will have 44% more of them in the first three years of the Plainridge Park Casino.

I'm worried about traffic, about the fact that Penn National's plan will bring more traffic than what's permitted. The concerns of residents of Plainville and surrounding towns were dismissed in light of traffic studies that are hard to countenance in the face of what we experience living here. Our request for sidewalks, crosswalks, and an ability for residents on foot or on bikes to cross Route One safely at the Route 152/Route 1 intersection was dismissed (there is currently no place in Plainville to cross Route One on foot). Our concerns about added cars — many with drivers who have been drinking — traveling on our small country roads were also deemed unnecessary. Our own gambling consultant warned that there will be an increase in DUIs and possibly an increase in DUI fatalities, based on recent studies and the experience of other towns with casinos. The more cars, the greater the chance of being hit by a drunk driver.

I'm worried about collateral damage to the area when payday loan stores, pawn shops, and other less-than-savory businesses move in, including prostitution and hot-bedding (when two, or even three people who work different shifts share the same bed at different times).

I don't know if you found the Foreign and Corrupt Practices training conducted for you yesterday by Professor Quelch as chilling as I did. It's clear to me we have a great deal to fear on many fronts from expanded predatory gambling in Massachusetts.

I am concerned that benefits of casinos are short-term and easy to measure, while many of their costs are long-term and harder to measure. To quote from *Why Casinos Matter: Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions from the Health and Social Sciences*, "...the opening of a new regional casino may offer an economic stimulus to distressed communities, but the stimulus fades over time, as the presence of a casino drives out established local businesses and attracts other gambling-linked businesses, such as payday lenders, pawn shops, auto title lenders, and check cashing stores..."

There is the rise in crime, government corruption, and all manner of social ills. Casinos extract wealth from communities and weaken nearby businesses and property values. With increased competition for a region's dollars in the next few years, we can expect a "downward economic spiral of market saturation, sluggish state revenues, and failing casinos." With that comes what I like to call "Casinos on the Dole." We've seen the decline of brick-and-mortar gambling dollars, even as Nevada, New Jersey, and Delaware legalize and begin online gambling to attract younger gamblers.

If the people and officials in Plainville think we're in financial trouble now, just wait for the casino arms race that's about to proliferate throughout our commonwealth and the northeast.

Our town officials and some residents maintain that Plainville NEEDS gambling revenue to survive. That sounds like the false reasoning of a gambling addict to me. No one has ever gambled their way out of financial troubles; Plainville will be no different.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Joseph Fernandes <jfernandes@plainville.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 12:25 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Host Community Meeting in Plainville

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Dear Commissioners,

Please register my desire to speak at Wednesday's Host Community Meeting in Plainville. Additionally, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I would request that you recognize them as well. They are:

Robert Fennessy, Chairman
Rob Rose
Andrea Soucy

Due to work commitments, their appearances will, by necessity, be staggered between 4 and 6.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this very important matter.

Joseph E. Fernandes
Town Administrator
(508) 695-3010 ext. 11

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: William Ross <wross@mansfieldma.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 1:59 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Cc: jfernandes@plainville.ma.us
Subject: Plainville Public Meeting December 4, 2013

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

I would like to make comments to the Mass. Gaming Commission at the meeting in Plainville on December 4, 2013 on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. If possible, I would like to be allowed to make comments early in the meeting because I have a meeting of the Board of Selectmen to attend that evening.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

William R. Ross
Town Manager
Town of Mansfield

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Mark Fisher <mfisher@nattleboro.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 2:05 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Cc: 'Alex.Stolyar@pngaming.com'; 'Joseph Fernandes'
Subject: Plainville Meeting - Dec. 4th

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

I wish to comment during the meeting.

Mark Fisher
Town Administrator
North Attleboro, MA
508-699-0100

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Ned Merrick <n.merrick@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 9:20 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Request To Address The Commission / Penn National Gaming

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

May I be added to the speakers' list for the community forum on Dec 4th at the Wood School, Plainville?

Thank you

Chief Ned Merrick (ret)

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: William Ketcham <WKetcham@wrentham.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 2:48 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Request to address the Commission: Penn National / Plainridge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

I respectfully request to address the Commission on behalf of the Town of Wrentham, one of the surrounding communities, at the Public Meeting scheduled for December 4, 2013 at the Beatrice Wood Elementary School, Plainville, MA.

William F. Ketcham
Town Administrator
Town of Wrentham

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: wfran133@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 3:31 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: request to address the commission/ Penn National

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Bill Abdelnour
3 Ida Rd
Worcester, MA 01604

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: CP424 <constant424@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 7:07 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: To Address the Gaming Commission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are the owners of Wentworth Hills Country Club 27 Bow Street, Plainville, MA and Heather Hill Country Club 149 West Bacon Street, Plainville, MA would like to address the gaming commission at the public hearing to be held on Dencember 4, 2013.

Sincerely,

Constant S Poholek Jr
Elmo Finocchi
Karen Finicchi

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Mary-Ann Greanier <medb@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 12:46 PM
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Subject: testimony for Plainville hearing
Attachments: testimony.pdf

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4 December 2013

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19 Mirimichi Street
Plainville, MA
mgreanier@comcast.net

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The process is irretrievably broken in Plainville:

I have been an involved citizen on the matter of expanded gambling in Plainville for years. I attended almost every meeting about the introduction of slots at the racetrack held by the planning board, selectmen, water & sewer commission, board of health, and Plainville's gambling consultant. I have followed your meetings closely, as well.

The Host Community Agreement that the Plainville board of selectmen agreed to on July 8th was negotiated and signed during the period when Ourway knew full well about their considerable troubles with the MGC audit. Unfortunately — as far as I know and have been told — until well after the HCA was signed, the negotiators for Plainville knew NOTHING about the "irregularities" that would eventually disqualify Ourway. Neither Ourway nor the MGC informed Plainville about the looming financial problems at Plainridge, putting Plainville in the inferior position in the negotiating process. Therefore, I maintain that, from the start, the HCA was *not* negotiated in good faith and should *not* be accepted by the MGC as a valid agreement.

The MGC further failed the people of Plainville by ruling that the slots referendum could take place a mere six days after the Host Community Agreement was transferred to Penn National (an action I'm still not certain was within the limits of the law). When you decided that the requirement in the Gaming Act for 60-90 days between the applicant's signing of the HCA and the town referendum was a mere "technicality," you deprived the residents of Plainville and the surrounding communities of our rights; we were never afforded the opportunity to look at the proposed applicant and at their plans for Plainridge before casting our votes in the referendum.

But then it got worse.

The people of Plainville were forced to vote on an entity we did not know and which you had not vetted. However, less than two months later, citizens and selectmen from Milford and surrounding towns told you that they did not want to go to the polls to vote on their casino referendum before Foxwoods was fully vetted and you decided on their suitability. You responded by changing your schedule regarding Foxwoods; you made sure to release your background check, hold a suitability hearing, and release your report PRIOR TO Milford's Nov. 19th referendum vote. Why were you willing to do that for Milford — which knew about the applicant there for a very long time — but rejected the pleas of Plainville citizens when we went to the commission with our concerns that we had a mere six days to consider the new applicant for the slots license at Plainridge? You would not finish your investigation of Penn National before our vote, and our entreaties to be given more time to educate the people of Plainville about the new applicant were rejected out-of-hand.

By fulfilling your statutory and regulatory duties in Milford, you threw into high relief the fact that you denied the voters and residents of Plainville equal protection. You told us that a Host Community doesn't need to know about the applicant before voting, and that voters vote solely on the Host Community Agreement. Your actions in Milford said something quite different.

Unfortunately, the residents of Plainville did not have any official body to advocate for us in your process, as Milford and Hopkinton and other towns have had. The Plainville selectmen have wanted slots at Plainridge for as long as Ourway has owned a harness racing track in Plainville, and they have always acted accordingly.

The differences between Penn National and Ourway

When we were deprived of the opportunity to vet and question Penn National, we were deprived of the chance to ask about their business practices and investigate how they have dealt with other populations of gambling addicts. We were deprived of the chance to hear about their plans for Plainridge, and to make our decision at the polls based on that information.

The application submitted to the MGC by Penn National Gaming differs significantly from what was presented to the people of Plainville, our planning board, water and sewer commission, conservation commission, board of health, police department, and fire

department during the planning board permitting process and prior to the vote on September 10th. Both the planning board's Amended Special Permit and the report from the gambling consultant hired by the selectmen were predicated on information and applications submitted and negotiated by Ourway/Plainridge, NOT Penn National; two very, very different companies.

We have been told that we needn't be concerned about the Special Permit because Penn National will "adopt the building plans, design concepts and traffic plan that have already been developed by Plainridge for the site" should they win the slots license. After watching Penn National's presentation to the MGC on October 7th, and after studying their application and what attachments we were allowed to see, we know there is actually much cause for worry.

I offer only a few examples of many:

1. Penn National changed the name of the proposed facility from "Plainridge Park" to "Plainridge Park Casino." This was done *after* the vote took place, which I believe was no accident. During the planning board hearings regarding the Change of Use and the Amended Special Permit, we were told, over and over again, that the site would host "a RAcino, NOT a CAsino" (they always stressed the first syllable as though it signified something). As a matter of fact, representatives of Ourway, Plainville town administrator Joe Fernandes, certain Plainville residents, and even one member of the planning board admonished me and others whenever we used "casino" instead of "racino," assuring us that a *racino* does not create the same problems that a *casino* would bring. Ridiculous, but true.

Now that Penn National has proposed a CAsino — in name and scope — shouldn't we have had the opportunity to study and plan for mitigation for the ways in which the Penn National application differs from the original application submitted by Ourway, and the meetings and hearings based on that plan? Is no one else concerned that the deal we negotiated with Ourway might not cover the costs to the town of hosting a casino run by Penn National?

2. Penn National plans to use their database of "**4.3 MILLION active customers**" to attract people to the facility. The impact studies done by the Town of Plainville did not take into account this massive marketing database because, when the studies were done in the spring, Penn National was not the company looking to open a casino in Plainville. For example, the studies done by the town showed that area residents should expect an additional 3,071 vehicle per day to and from the casino. If the facility is marketing to 4.3 million people, there could well be a much larger number of people visiting daily, thus impacting things such as public safety, crime, traffic, property values and the character of our community.

3. In the presentation given by Penn National on October 7th, PNG said they want Plainridge Park Casino to become the "entertainment hub" for the area through, among other things, hosting ticketed events for 2,000 people. In this excerpt from the October 7th transcript, Jay Snowden from Penn National states: "...we have 90 acres of land. And so, we have the ability to put on outdoor festivals, whether that's in the infield of the racetrack

itself or some of the adjacent lands. We've been very successful in the past of putting up outdoor sprung or tent structures and offering simulated game shows. We just did this at our Charlestown facility. The Price is Right, **we offered five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show. All of them sold out...** These are the type of things that we can do that, again, will be complementary, they're not done in the area today."

These types of events were NEVER discussed in meetings held prior to the September 10th vote, nor were they ever mentioned by Ourway/Plainridge in the permitting process before the planning board. Therefore, mitigation has not necessarily been planned for or ordered. If Penn National is allowed to hold those events, by how much will the traffic exceed the numbers in the consultants' traffic studies — the ones that assured us there would be a mere trickle of cars throughout the day, fewer than what Lowes or Target sees? How does this change the noise and light pollution and air quality in the neighborhood? What does it mean that thousands of people might be arriving all at once and leaving all at once — many of them under the influence of alcohol — for **"five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show"** ? Ten thousand people outdoors over three days? How many times a year?

During the planning board hearing, every time anyone brought up concerns about outside events — and we brought it up quite a lot — we were told that outside events were NOT a big part of the plan. I guess no one told Penn National, because outside events seem to be quite a large part of their plans. And those plans are significantly different from what we were told would be happening just a few hundred feet from our homes. Will court injunctions become our only recourse? Several families are already planning to move. In any case, our neighborhood will never be the same.

True, Penn National would have to apply to the selectmen to get permits for outdoor events, and presumably, residents would have the opportunity then to argue against large-scale outdoor events in our neighborhood. The fact of the matter is, the Plainville selectmen have never said no to Plainridge, and we don't believe that will change with new owners and a casino. The neighborhood around Plainridge can't rely on the selectmen to look out for us, even though we are most directly in the line of fire. On the contrary, we're expected to take a bullet for the town and keep quiet about it.

So, here we are, with an application that overreaches the special permit, with needs for mitigation that have never been discussed, and with a CASino instead of a RAcino being proposed for Plainridge. Now we're stuck. Once again, the actions of the MGC in truncating the process and ignoring Gaming Act provisions and your own regulations is causing and will continue to cause hardship for the people of Plainville, especially for the abutting neighborhood.

Our planning board has addressed our concerns about the inadequacies of the amended special permit this way: "If the applicant decides to proceed with the project, the Building Inspector will have to make a determination on the submitted information as to whether the application conforms to the issued permit or not. If a determination is made that the activity filed for is non-compliant then it will be up to the applicant to re-submit to the Planning Board for a revision in order to proceed."

I know that's the process set forth in our bylaws. But, I also know that our town recently ended up in Land Court and Superior Court because a building inspector didn't do his job, and we nearly had an asphalt plant open in town in spite of by-laws forbidding it.

Granted, our current building inspector is very different from his predecessor; he is both competent and conscientious. Still, given the complexity of permitting and overseeing the building and running of a CASino in our little town, one might understand why so many people are worried — especially those of us who live within a few hundred feet of the facility.

I invite the commissioners to come to Harness Path, Mirimichi Street, and Haynes Road to take a look at just how close our homes are to Plainridge. When deciding to build their garage, Ourway could not have placed the building any closer to our homes. Rather than leaving a substantial buffer, they cut and blasted away at the hill to accommodate a building that will have a considerable effect on our lives. When Penn National talks about outdoor events at the track, they are talking about having events that some of us will be able to see and hear from our homes. And, should the owner of Plainridge start to take down trees to build on the eleven house lots they have accumulated along Mirimichi Street and Haynes Road, our neighborhood will pay the price. Again.

Damages to the social and economic fabric of our towns

Should the Plainridge Park Casino open in Plainville, I am concerned about the loss of local discretionary funds to the out-of-state owners of Plainridge, impacting local families and businesses in Plainville and surrounding communities; I believe Donald Trump when he says, "People will spend a tremendous amount of money in casinos, money that they would normally spend on buying a refrigerator or a new car. Local businesses will suffer because they lose customer dollars to the casinos."

I am concerned that the National Association of Realtors calls the impact of casinos on a town's property values "unambiguously negative." This will hit hardest the people with homes closest to the casino. But the loss of property values in a town trickles down to affect all taxpayers and homeowners in a negative way.

I am extremely worried about the likely 44% increase or more in gambling addiction within 10 miles of the facility, increasing domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, embezzlement, theft, bankruptcies, financial disaster, and other social ills in our community.

According to studies and to admissions by some casino operators, the greatest profit in casinos comes from 4%-10% of the people who lose their money there — those people are generally the "problem gamblers," not the high rollers. And we will have 44% more of them in the first three years of the Plainridge Park Casino.

I'm worried about traffic, about the fact that Penn National's plan will bring more traffic than what's permitted. The concerns of residents of Plainville and surrounding towns were dismissed in light of traffic studies that are hard to countenance in the face of what we experience living here. Our request for sidewalks, crosswalks, and an ability for residents on foot or on bikes to cross Route One safely at the Route 152/Route 1 intersection was dismissed (there is currently no place in Plainville to cross Route One on foot). Our concerns about added cars — many with drivers who have been drinking — traveling on our small country roads were also deemed unnecessary. Our own gambling consultant warned that there will be an increase in DUIs and possibly an increase in DUI fatalities, based on recent studies and the experience of other towns with casinos. The more cars, the greater the chance of being hit by a drunk driver.

I'm worried about collateral damage to the area when payday loan stores, pawn shops, and other less-than-savory businesses move in, including prostitution and hot-bedding (when two, or even three people who work different shifts share the same bed at different times).

I don't know if you found the Foreign and Corrupt Practices training conducted for you yesterday by Professor Quelch as chilling as I did. It's clear to me we have a great deal to fear on many fronts from expanded predatory gambling in Massachusetts.

I am concerned that benefits of casinos are short-term and easy to measure, while many of their costs are long-term and harder to measure. To quote from *Why Casinos Matter: Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions from the Health and Social Sciences*, "...the opening of a new regional casino may offer an economic stimulus to distressed communities, but the stimulus fades over time, as the presence of a casino drives out established local businesses and attracts other gambling-linked businesses, such as payday lenders, pawn shops, auto title lenders, and check cashing stores..."

There is the rise in crime, government corruption, and all manner of social ills. Casinos extract wealth from communities and weaken nearby businesses and property values. With increased competition for a region's dollars in the next few years, we can expect a "downward economic spiral of market saturation, sluggish state revenues, and failing casinos." With that comes what I like to call "Casinos on the Dole." We've seen the decline of brick-and-mortar gambling dollars, even as Nevada, New Jersey, and Delaware legalize and begin online gambling to attract younger gamblers.

If the people and officials in Plainville think we're in financial trouble now, just wait for the casino arms race that's about to proliferate throughout our commonwealth and the northeast.

Our town officials and some residents maintain that Plainville NEEDS gambling revenue to survive. That sounds like the false reasoning of a gambling addict to me. No one has ever gambled their way out of financial troubles; Plainville will be no different.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Jonathan Silverstein <JSilverstein@k-plaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 12:39 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Cc: Jfernandes@plainville.ma.us
Subject: Request to Address the Commission (Springfield Gaming and Redevelopment LLC/Town of Plainville)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Green Category

Dear Members of the Commission:

As counsel to the Town of Plainville, the proposed host community for the above-referenced project, I have been asked by to make myself available for any legal questions the Commission may have of the Town during this afternoon's public hearing in Plainville and, as may be necessary, to respond to other issues or concerns raised during the hearing.

Thank you for your anticipated accommodation in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan M. Silverstein
Kopelman and Paige, P.C.
101 Arch Street
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 556-0007 (main)
(617) 654-1729 (direct)
(617) 654-1735 (fax)
jsilverstein@k-plaw.com

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Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 12:29 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Categories: Green Category

Name

Frank Giordano

Email

F.giordano@comcast.net

Phone

(508)725-2909

Subject

Plainridge corruption

Questions or Comments

Thank you for reading this. Before you decide on which racetrack will receive the state's lone slot license, I'd like to remind you that not only was Plainridge's CEO caught embezzling, gambling, and affiliated with the providence mob, but plainridge also reneged on their rewards points to loyal customers that have been wagering there for years. Every time someone places a bet, they were to award them 1 point for every dollar wagered, which could later be redeemed for food or programs, etc. they abruptly halted the program STEALING from their customers millions of dollars in rewards. Clearly an incredibly deceitful thing to do to their loyal customers. Do you really want a group like this to be awarded a slot license? Then what will they steal from their future customers? And which mob affiliates will be given jobs at the slot resort? Please don't give! the slot license to plainridge. Thank you for your time.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: DiBiase, Danielle <Danielle.DiBiase@gdc4s.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 12:57 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Penn National/Plainridge Park Casino

Categories: Green Category

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Plainville and am writing on behalf of the Penn National / Plainridge Park Casino project. I fully advocate and support this project and would like this email included for consideration when reviewing the facts related to this decision. With this location, money will flow through Massachusetts in the gaming arena, as opposed to neighboring Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, this will help the local area in fostering business and hiring, not to mention what this approval will do for local farmers and breeders that have an interest in this arena.

Thank you for reading.

My address is:

3 Shire Way
Plainville, MA 02762

Thank you!

-Danielle

Danielle DiBiase

General Dynamics C4 Systems, Inc.

Human Resources, Talent Acquisition & Community Investment

PH: 508.880.1610

FX: 508.880.4531

e-mail: danielle.dibiase@gdc4s.com



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Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 5:42 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Categories: Green Category

Name

Barbara Lawson

Email

barbara.lawson@gdc4s.com

Phone

(508)533-2050

Subject

Penn National

Questions or Comments

We need to continue to have harness racing in MA and Penn National has the experience and knowledge to make that happen along with much expertise in the gaming industry. This will allow MA to gain income now going to other NE states. Plainville has welcomed Plainridge so it would be wonderful to be able to repay that by offering the opportunity to have the Plainridge Park Casino. In addition, keeping harness racing will aid the farms, breeders, farriers, vets, suppliers, etc. and will help me be able to support my horses. I have a dozen horses, some still racing and several who raced right through to their 14th retirement year. I have a 25 year old and two 21 year olds plus a few other retirees and I truly love my "babies". If there were no racing, we would have trouble finding the supplies we need and there would be no money coming in from that front! and I don't know what would end up happening to them. This is an old, historical type racing that dates back to before the Civil War.

Also, I think the slots would be a great addition to the area as well and the infrastructure is there already and with easy highway access. This would speed up the process and enable revenue to go to the state quicker. This would create hundreds of new jobs too.

I am, personally, not a gambler but I know so many people enjoy the slots and the thrill of winning at the machines. During the years I have been to Las Vegas many times and know how entertaining this came be. The sounds and sights just build up to a high energy level and you can't help but feel it's effect.

Please consider the Plainridge Park Casino as a very key part of the MA gaming plan. Thank you.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 6:57 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Categories: Green Category

Name

stephen richard

Email

stephenric@earthlink.net

Phone

(978)537-7171

Subject

Penn National at Plainridge racecourse

Questions or Comments

I would like to ask for your support of this project. I have bred and raced in Ma. for approx. 40 years. I have watched the impact on the racing quality as well as the people involved lifestyle be greatly improved. I currently race in Pa., N.Y., and in Ohio. All of these states have taken a chance on racing and it has proven lucrative for all parties involved. As you all know by now you will have the chance to continue a sport that has a lot of people involved. (drivers, trainers, owners, blacksmith, vets, feed and tack, etc.). So please give Penn National at Plainridge Racecourse your support.

sincerely,
Stephen Richard
Leominster, Ma.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: db5399@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 9:06 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Fwd: Plainridge Park Casino

Categories: Green Category

I noticed after sending my email that Plainridge Racecourse did not come out the way I meant it to. Thank You Don B.

-----Original Message-----

From: db5399 <db5399@aol.com>
To: mgccomments <mgccomments@state.ma.us>
Sent: Tue, Dec 3, 2013 9:01 am
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

Dear Commissioners,

I am a 59 yr old Owner,Trainer & Driver of Harness Racing Horses. I have been involved in harness racing for over 28 years. I have supported several business's in Ma. related to my Harness Racing Business. From grain,hay,sawdust,shavings,hardware stores,veterinarians services,farms for turn out,gasoline,barriers,tack shops,excise taxes,boarding charges,and I am sure there other places and persons in this state that have benefited from My involvement in Harness Racing.

I have always been a resident of the State of Ma. My current address is 20 English Circle No. Andover Ma 01845. My horse resides at the Groton Fairgrounds 140 Jenkins Rd Groton, Ma. My future residential plans may change as a result of this up coming decision regarding the Category 2 Slot License.

Penn National & Plainridge Racecourse is the only applicant that is Ready to start the building process and be up and running quickly. This will keep those gambling dollars in the state of Ma and Out of Conn and R.I. The Plainville site is an excellent location with easy access to major roadways. Penn National / Plainridge are also the Only applicant that has racing connected to their plans. The other applicants will Eliminate Harness Racing in the state of Ma. This will affect all of the connected people and business's that I have made reference to in the beginning of my email.

I realize that maybe I have been a little long winded but I feel very strongly about this. My hope is that your decision will keep Myself and Many Others working at their jobs and continue to pay their taxes and Support the State of Ma.

Sincerely,

**Don Billingsley Jr.
P.O. Box 1011
Groton, Ma. 01450-3011
Cell 978-302-6600**

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: bpaige@prcharness.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 12:24 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

Categories: Green Category

To The Gaming Commission

I would like to let everyone know how important it is to have Penn National receive the Category 2 Gaming Application. I have worked with Plainridge for 14yrs and love the work that I do and hope to keep working with Penn National and what they can bring to Plainville and to the other residents of the surrounding towns as well as the commonwealth. I feel that there has been Millions of Dollars Spent already in Rhode Island and Connecticut from Massachusetts residents.

With Penn National at Plainridge Racecourse they can bring that revenue an Business back to Massachusetts, with the experience that they have in the gaming, racing and entertainment business and with the Prime location of Plainridge, Penn National is the **ONLY** applicant that can immediately start building a first class facility. Penn National has the resources, ideal location as well as the required agreements and permits provide for a faster more efficient way to generate revenue for the commonwealth, the host town of Plainville, and the horse community and to create new jobs in less time than the other locations.

I feel that there is no other applicant that can benefit so many residents across this state. In addition to all the jobs that they can bring, think of the farms, breeder's suppliers and vendors throughout the commonwealth and beyond that will feel the positive affect in their lives. From expanding the gaming at Plainridge Racecourse this is something **ONLY** Penn National can and is ready to do.

I have seen what Penn National wants to bring to Plainville and the surrounding communities and local businesses while getting agreements in place. They have made a good faith with the workers of Plainridge and the Horsemen. And I hope with the help of the Gaming Commission that the Dreams for others to have a job and to bring the revenue back to the commonwealth of Massachusetts will be made soon.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Paige

28 Albert Drive

Millville, MA 01529

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 7:39 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Categories: Green Category

Name

Nancy Longobardi

Email

Njlongobardi@verizon.net

Phone

(508)528-2042

Subject

Penn National at Plainridge Racecourse

Questions or Comments

Dear Commissioners,

I live and own a horse farm in Norfolk Massachusetts which is less than 10 miles from Plainridge Racecourse. I support the application of Penn National Gaming to operate an integrated racing and gaming project in Plainville. The obvious reason is the economic value such a project is to me, but more importantly to all the farm owners across the state. The commonwealth will also benefit from the advanced stage of the project which will produce these economic benefits faster than any other site. The location of which is second to none for ease of travel and recapture of gaming dollars traveling past our past our area. Please look favorably on the Penn National application. Thank you.

Nancy Longobardi
360 Main St.
Norfolk, MA 02056

From: Jennifer Pinck [mailto:jpinck@pinck-co.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 5:57 PM
To: 'Frank.Donaghue@pngaming.com'; 'Jim.Baldacci@pngaming.com'
Cc: Nancy Stack; Ziemba, John S (MGC); Blue, Catherine (MGC)
Subject: FW: MGC Plainridge Public Hearing Questions

Frank and Jim,

As you are aware, the Commission will be holding Plainridge Penn National Gaming's host community hearing on December 4, 2013. Attached please find a list of questions that the Commission may ask you at the hearing. Each applicant will be asked to provide opening remarks lasting approximately 15 minutes. Applicants should address as many of the questions as they deem advisable in their opening statement. Commissioners will then ask questions from the list and any other questions they may have after the 15 minute presentations.

After the presentations by Applicants, additional comments will be made by representatives from the host community, the surrounding communities, impacted live entertainment venues, and the general public (see the hearing notice provided on November 19, 2013 and posted on the Commission web site). The Commission will then allow time for each applicant to address comments received during the hearing.

If you would like further clarification regarding any of the questions, please either call Nancy Stack at 617-445-3555 x313 or send an e-mail to njstack@pinck-co.com. We will try to get you an answer to any questions as soon as we can. In addition, please feel free to contact John Ziemba with any other issues. Because of the difficulty in scheduling due to the Holiday, we will try to answer any of your questions through these contacts instead of the planned pre-hearing conferences.

After the hearing, the Commission will also submit a list of questions to each applicant for further clarification of application elements. As many if not all of these clarifying questions relate to items that have been deemed confidential by Applicants in their applications, applicants are not expected to address such questions in an open public hearing.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Jennifer
MGC Project Coordinators

Jennifer Pinck
President
Pinck & Co, Inc.

617-445-3555
www.pinck-co.com



Public Hearing Questions SGR Plainville | Penn National

Questions for all applicants

Finance

1. Will any of the non-gaming amenities be operated by third parties? If so please provide details of such arrangements.
2. Do you envision there will be times of year, or times of week when the facility will be at maximum occupancy, i.e. food and beverage facilities are full, parking areas are full, or the building is at capacity. If so when do you expect these periods to occur and what is the plan to manage these periods.
3. Will your Business Interruption coverage name the State of Massachusetts as a beneficiary?

Economic Development

1. Would you say the FTE counts in your projections are conservative, realistic or aggressive? If FTE levels you project were translated into a condition of the license (i.e., not to fall below these levels) would you object?
2. Please address your company approach or strategy with respect to full-time versus part-time employment as well as differences in how FT and PT employees are managed (e.g., benefits, proportion of union labor, work times/periods, departmental preference, workforce development).
3. Your application anticipates that competition from full-service destination casinos in Massachusetts will occur in the fourth and fifth (and potentially subsequent) years. How will you manage any staff reductions that may result increased competition?
4. You have made commitments in your application and the host community agreement to hire locally as well as to favor local suppliers/vendors. Can you define "local"?
5. The Massachusetts statute requires you to incorporate MBE, WBE, and VBE commitments into your design, construction, and operation.

- a) Will your general contractor ultimately be responsible for these commitments or do you intend to retain this responsibility?
 - b) What experience do you have working with veteran-owned business either in the construction or operation of your other gaming venues?
 - c) How will you set MBE, WBE, and VBE targets and how will you measure your success in this area?
 - d) How flexible are you in how these monies are allocated?
- 6. The statute asks applicants for their best efforts to hire the unemployed and under-employed. Some may need to have basic skills enhanced or updated before they could be brought on board or into a training program. How do you plan to assist with these recruitment and training efforts?
- 7. Do you expect the employee retention rate at your proposed Massachusetts gaming facility to vary from your other operations? How do you propose to limit turnover if your retention rates are high even among certain positions?
- 8. Since your application was filed in October, would you provide an update regarding the status of proposed labor harmony agreements for your project (including both construction and operations)?

Building & Site Design

1. In your presentation, provide a clear and succinct summary and plan documentation describing your approach to phasing, if included in your application, of the proposed gaming facilities. This summary should include at a minimum the timing of construction and occupancy of buildings, parking locations and counts, gaming start-up, transition between phases, and boundaries of the proposed area to be licensed and future property acquisition.

In your presentation, provide the following:

- a) A clear description of the basis of your calculation for parking requirements, taking into account the number of gaming positions, food and beverage venues, and entertainment or meeting spaces. In addition, please describe any peak load conditions which may exceed the parking capacity and how you propose to address these.
 - b) An illustration and description of the proposed gaming establishment as defined in c. 23K §2 site boundaries for which the license is sought.
- 2. Provide an update on the status of your permitting process with regional and local authorities.
- 3. Severe storms and emergency events frequently require response by the combined forces of public and private entities. Please describe your proposals for maintaining a heated and functional facility that can support recovery efforts during and in the aftermath of a severe weather event, the availability of your facility to accommodate public needs, and your

willingness to coordinate your efforts with local and regional response personnel and equipment.

4. The stretch Energy code, adopted in 134 communities, will soon become the base code. How do you plan to improve the performance of your facility beyond the 20% improvement over ASHRAE 90.1 when the new stretch code is adopted in 2014 (expected)?
5. Given the importance of long term commitments to local sourcing of renewable energy, please characterize the size and duration/term of your planned long term Massachusetts based renewable energy certificates (RECs)? Failing that, please address your plans to purchase NEPOOL Class I RECs (New England Power Pool Class 1 Renewable Energy Certificates) and the size and duration/term of your long term energy contracts.
6. Electric vehicle (EV) adoption is increasing around the Commonwealth and around the country. Applicants have proposed EV charging capacity that meets significantly less than 1% of total parking capacity. Please describe your plans to add additional charging infrastructure, and provide more detail with regard to the equipment specified (i.e., AC Level I, AC Level II or DC Fast Charging ("DC Level II") charging units)

Mitigation

1. Identify what types and sizes (in terms of projected attendance) of events beyond gaming you anticipate hosting at the facility. Describe the anticipated maximum duration and total traffic vehicle counts for arrival and departure from any such events that you plan to host at the gaming facility.
2. How do you plan to comply with the requirement pursuant to MGL c. 23K, sec. 11(a) that any infrastructure improvements necessary to increase visitor capacity and account for traffic mitigation be completed before the category 2 licensee shall be authorized to operate a slot machine at the gaming establishment?

Applicant Specific Public Hearing Questions

Questions for SGR Plainville | Penn National

1. Can you please inform us whether the recent transaction undertaken by Penn National Gaming whereby the real estate assets were spun off into a separate company has any impact on your Application as submitted?
2. How do you account for the different building sizes in the MEPA documents as opposed to the Category 2 Application?

3. How do you evaluate the risk of starting procurement/construction before MEPA related permits are obtained? To the extent you proceed before completion of the MEPA related permitting process, how do you assure the Commission that you are not incurring legal liability.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 11:15 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

BILL ABDELNOUR

Email

WFRAN133@CHARTER.NET

Phone

(508)791-7259

Subject

CATEGORY 2 LICENSE

Questions or Comments

THE CATEGORY 2 LICENSE,IF AWARDED TO PENN NATIONAL WILL SAVE RACING IN MA. AS WELL AS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT ARE GOING TO RI AND CONN.. WHEN OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE SAYING NO,NO,NO PLAINVILLE IS SAYING YES,YES,YES. ALL WE NEED IS A CHANCE AND IT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE AS WELL AS THE COMMONWEALTH. THANK YOU.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 6:23 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

Name

Dana Mindes

Email

mindesdonna@gmail.com

Phone

(508)541-1423

Subject

Penn National @ Plainridge

Questions or Comments

Dear Commissioners,

I write in support of Penn National @ Plainridge Racecourse. My business has operated out of Plainridge since 1999. The survival of racing means the survival of my horse supply business. I have been a resident of Massachusetts for my entire life and I now reside in Franklin. The approval of the Penn National application not only helps me but also my customers that rely on racing at Plainridge. Hard working horsemen & women that deserve a company like Penn National to take them into a prosperous future. Penn National has a great reputation and is the best applicant by far for the class 2 slot license. Quality, class, integrity and efficiency is what they have to offer and the commonwealth should be pleased to award the license to such a qualified gaming operator.

Dana Mindes
565 Chestnut St.
Franklin, MA 02038

508-541-1423

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 10:19 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

Name

Richard Sabin

Email

Richardsabin7@gmail.com

Phone

(774)259-5361

Subject

Penn National

Questions or Comments

Dear Commission;

Please accept this letter in support of the Penn National Gaming slot application in Plainville. I live about a football field away from Plainridge Racecourse on Appletree Drive in Plainville. There has been no disruption to our neighborhood with the current operations at the track and watching how proactive Penn National has been in our community, I believe the operation there will continue in the same fashion. Location of the facility is key to my viewpoint and easy access from the highway will bring greater revenue to the state with a complex that is shovel ready. There is no other applicant that can open a completely built facility faster than in Plainville. My fellow citizens and I overwhelmingly voted for this project for these reasons and more. Please reward a community that has educated themselves over the last decade on expanded gaming and has embraced the concept of a gaming and racing facility in our town.

Thank you,

Richard Sabin
Appletree Drive
Plainville, MA

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Jim Howard <j.howard299@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2013 9:52 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Request to address the Commission/Springfield Gaming and Redevelopment LLC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

As a resident of Plainville MA I would like to address the Commission in regards to the Plain Ridge Slot proposal at the December 4, 2013 meeting.

James M Howard
107 Messenger Street
Plainville, MA 02762
508-316-1665

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2013 10:18 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

Name

Paul Tracey

Email

jjjtracey@comcast.net

Phone

(774)219-6600

Subject

penn national

Questions or Comments

Dear Commissioners,

I support Penn National.

I am writing to voice my support for the class 2 gaming application of Penn National at Plainridge Racecourse. I live in the surrounding town of North Attleboro and I applaud the cooperation displayed in the negotiating of being a surrounding community. I travel through Plainville everyday and I am proud of my town NOT standing in the way of progress in Plainville. Identifying and mitigating any and all impacts on our town due to the project proposed at Plainridge is important and in everyones best interest. Penn National has demonstrated good faith to us and all surrounding communities in the area with their efforts to reach agreements. Not only is Penn National an experienced gaming company and cooperative with the community, but the speed to which Plainridge and Penn National can be completely operational makes them the clear and best choice to begin earning gaming revenues for Massachusetts.

Thank you,
Paul Tracey
26 North ave
N.Attleboro Ma

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2013 12:31 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

Name

Brian Schofield

Email

mymooks3@gmail.com

Phone

(508)331-2922

Subject

Plainridge Park Casino

Questions or Comments

I believe it makes more sense to house the gaming parlor at Plainridge Raceway. Not only will it create jobs, it will help to reestablish harness racing in Massachusetts with more competitive purses. This will help to attract better horses and subsequently more competitive racing. The other locations do not offer this benefit. The location being just off 495 is also a better location and will attract patrons from neighboring states like Rhode Island and Connecticut. The other harness racing locations across the country where the slots have been added have benefited the industry and those tracks. Thank you

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: ROBERT <sheramy6@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2013 10:10 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Penn National

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Blue Category

This is to request that the Commission grant the sole slot parlor to be awarded to Penn National. While it was disappointing that the existing management of Plainridge did not pass the suitability test, I agree with the decision made by the Commission. While this was a huge disappointment to myself, I am in this sport because I enjoy being around the horses, it was more disappointing for all the horse people who since 1999 have been supporting the track based on the hope that a slot parlor would rejuvenate the sport.

However, Penn National has brought new life to the horse men and women at Plainridge. It appears that they have made a good faith effort to negotiate with each surrounding community, which is supported by the fact that they have negotiated agreements with each town with the exception of the town of Foxboro. Penn has also shown a track record of supporting horsemen in the various venues which are involved in racing.

While I cannot provide documentation that Plainville would be the best location, there is no question that the survival of harness racing will bring other benefits to Massachusetts in addition to gambling revenue. It would ensure that a number of farms stay open and even thrive, and suffice it to say, the money spent on the horses supports other businesses throughout the State. The higher purses that casinos will eventually bring will result in better horses, more interest in the sport and additional revenues to the state beyond the projections from the casinos.

This morning I listened intently to Mr. Crosby's comments on Channel 5 with the emphasis that each town had to desire the gambling venue. While I am not aware of the reception in the other two locations, the Town of Plainville support for the slot parlor has been beyond reproach.

In summary, I feel strongly that Plainville and the horsemen deserve the slot parlor, combined with the hope that Penn National will bring a new management team to Plainville, which will result in a fresh start and a renewed enthusiasm to this great sport.

Respectfully
Bob McHugh
3 Leyton Road
Norwood, MA. 02062

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: marfourthbpos <mar4thbpos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2013 11:00 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)

A. Dear Massachusetts Gaming Commission:

I write to oppose awarding a gaming license to Penn National for a slot parlor at Plainridge Racetrack in Plainville, MA.

A. Penn National "REIT Conversion"

One of my biggest concerns about Penn National is its recent split into two entities, the gaming company and a real estate investment trust ("REIT") known as Gaming and Leisure Properties, Inc. ("GLP"); a so-called "REIT conversion". It is my understanding that Penn National is the first gaming company to do this and I am concerned about the future ramifications of the change. From what I have been able to determine, there are a number of management level individuals that hold the same or similar positions at both Penn National and GLP. Questions are already being raised about whether these arrangements serve a legitimate business purpose or are simply a scheme to avoid paying taxes. In fact, the IRS is concerned enough that it has announced it is taking another look at REIT conversions. Because of concerns about REIT conversions generally, and Penn National's recent REIT conversion specifically, I urge to the MGC to reject Penn National's application for a slot parlor license.

B. Planned Expansion Exceeds Host Community Agreement

Penn National has already indicated a clear intent to expand operations beyond the terms of the Host Community Agreement the town reached with the prior track owners (Ourway, Inc.). If recent newspaper reports are accurate Penn National is looking to hold outdoor festivals attracting several thousand people per show. Penn has also indicated its intent to construct a hotel on the property. None of this was known to the citizens of Plainville before the referendum vote. In addition, after months of referring to Plainridge Park as a racino, the name has recently and quietly been changed to Plainridge Park *Casino*. From that change alone, it

appears that Penn has aspirations involving more than 1250 slot machines allowed under the gaming statute. I know that cannot be accomplished without legislative action. But, just how soon will it be before Penn National will be petitioning for more slot machines and/or table games (as did Twin River in RI)? The people of Plainville did not vote to allow a full-blown casino in their town.

C. Special Interests and Public Hearings

Many of the people who have been attending the MGC's public hearings are horse people and track employees who have a vested financial interest in the Plainridge track remaining open at *any* cost. The majority of the citizens of Plainville and surrounding communities who have questions about Penn National's plans are unable to attend due to work responsibilities.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Plainville Selectmen are drooling over the increased revenue a slot parlor might bring them in the short term; to the extent that they are not at all receptive to questions being raised about discrepancies between the Host Community Agreement and Penn National's future plans for Plainridge. For example, Plainville Selectmen were more than happy to testify as to what a great neighbor Plainridge has been, citing its support for local charities and community contributions and how they "expected" Penn National to be a good neighbor as well. However, thanks to the MGC investigators, we now know that the Plainridge's "neighborliness" served as great cover for former track manager Gary T. Piontkowski while he was stealing money from the track's money room for years! And Plainville Selectman never suspected a thing. Who can Plainville residents and tax payers rely on to stand up for them if town officials are in the tank with Penn National?

D. Harness Racing Has No Future

The MGC should not consider granting a slot parlor license to Penn National based on its promise to save harness racing at Plainridge. In spite of Penn National's hopes, harness racing is a dying sport that has not been financially sustainable for decades. And, while Penn National promises to continue harness racing at Plainridge, the truth is that the public does not support

harness racing. If it were a viable entertainment option, it would be thriving and it is not. Moreover, Plainridge is sited on 90-acres, much of which is taken up by the oval track, and very close to residential neighborhoods. Despite its promise, Penn National will be looking to phase out harness racing at Plainridge simply because it will not produce sufficient revenues. With very little additional land area, Penn National would be forced to look to the land now taken up by the track if it sought to expand.

E. Better Long Term Site Available

On the other hand, Raynham Park's primary site sits on 125 acres; a site nearly 30% larger than Plainridge. More importantly, Raynham has the added feature of being able to hold harness racing at the Brockton Fair Grounds if granted the slot parlor license. Having this option, frees up Raynham Park's large main location for whatever development may be needed - added gaming, entertainment venue, more parking – all while retaining a buffer between it and its neighbors. Even at its main location, Raynham has more land area for future expansion than Plainridge; with the addition of the Brockton Fair Grounds, Raynham has far greater overall capacity for future development. As a result, unlike Plainridge, going forward Raynham will not have to choose between future development and continued horse racing – it has the capacity to offer both.

F. Many Questions about Penn National and Plainville Site

There are continuing questions about the integrity of the owners of Plainridge racetrack, the promises made to Plainville residents about the size and scope of the proposed slot parlor venue, as well as about the expansiveness of Penn National's future plans for Plainridge. The smaller Plainridge site would limit development compared to other locations. Add to that questions about how Penn National's recent REIT conversion might impact the future of the Plainridge site if, for example, the venture proves less than profitable for Penn National and I think other candidates are more qualified for licensure.

For the reasons cited above, I urge the Gaming Commission to reject Penn National's application for a slot parlor license at Plainridge Racetrack. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Edward M. Phelan
287 Kelley Blvd
North Attleboro, MA 02760

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Alfred Thomas <alfredd326@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 8:59 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Penn National Plainridge Park Casino
Attachments: Penn National License Approval.docx

Please find attached request for Penn National License Approval.

Thank you.

Monday, November 25, 2013

To: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
From: Alfred D. Thomas, Harness Horse Owner
326 Granite Ave., Milton, MA 02186

Re: Penn National approval for Category 2 gaming license at Plainridge

Penn Racecourse National is the only applicant that can integrate racing and gaming in a manner that will benefit so many businesses and residents across the State.

As an owner who has raced in Massachusetts for many years, and is still racing at Plainridge, I know the jobs I have provided to drivers, trainers, grooms, veterinarians, blacksmiths, providers of racing equipment, oats, hay, straw and the farms that care for my horses when they are not racing. Multiply this by all of the horse owners in MA. All this revenue will go out of State if there is no Harness Racing. Penn National has the resources and ability to shore up this potential financial drain to the area. If granted the permission, they will be able to generate revenue for Town of Plainridge, as well as the State and prevent the loss of income to so many.

When you make your decision, please consider the impact this will have to the economy of the Commonwealth and all the workers involved in the industry.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this opinion to grant approval for Penn National to receive the Category 2 gaming license at Plainridge. This is the correct choice.

To the Massachusetts Gaming Commission:

I had hoped to attend the Public Input Meeting today, but I could not leave work in time to do so. Four o'clock on a weekday afternoon couldn't be a worse time for most citizens to make it to a so-called public meeting, especially one that explicitly solicits public comment. Residents who commute a fair distance to a job would have to miss an entire afternoon of work to attend these Public Input Meetings. At four o'clock, parents and other caregivers are busy shuttling children and teens to and from after school activities. And how many people who work in Plainville and the surrounding towns are able to pick up and leave work to come to a meeting at four o'clock in the afternoon? I don't know for whose convenience these meetings were scheduled, but it only adds to the growing perception that the MGC is not committed to true public input. As with so many other "public meetings" held by the commission, the people who are able to attend are generally developers, town officials, and horsemen, while the rest of the working public is left out in the cold. The public is not paid to attend these meetings, and we work at jobs that make it difficult or impossible to drop everything to be there. Even though the MGC is allowing input to be submitted by email, the fact that the meetings were scheduled at such a public- and family-unfriendly time is frustrating and disappointing.

Also, regarding access to this process, I'd like to remind the commission that there are ten families whose property abuts or sits very close to Plainridge who are not able to actively participate in these meetings — or any meetings at all about Plainridge — due to the threat of a lawsuit from the 1999 Non-Interference Agreement signed by the former owner of the land on which their houses are now built and a former owner of the land on which Plainridge is built. As you know, those families on Harness Path and Mirimichi Street were threatened with legal action by Gary Piontkowski last year. Since Mr. Piontkowski's departure, no one from Ourway or Penn National has contacted those residents to tell them otherwise. I have appealed to the Attorney General, the MGC, the Plainville selectmen, and the planning board to get one — just one — elected official to go on record to say how despicable it is that *abutters* can't speak up in the process for fear of losing their home. Not one single official will go to bat for them, and legal representation is expensive, so these good citizens remain muzzled by Ourway and Penn National.

One last note about access — there was only an email address published for sending comments to the MGC. This is usually the case, I find. Is there any way to publicize and solicit comments via USPS? Will you have a better system when the public hearing is held?

A letter covering all of my concerns about the proposed Plainridge Park Casino would be a tome, so I have chosen only a few issues to share with you:

The process has been irretrievably broken in Plainville:

I have already contacted and spoken before the MGC about my concerns over the process by which Penn National became the applicant for a slots license at Plainridge.

The Host Community Agreement that the Plainville board of selectmen agreed to on July 8th was negotiated and signed during the period when Ourway knew full well about their considerable troubles with the MGC audit. Unfortunately Plainville knew NOTHING about the “irregularities” that would eventually disqualify Ourway until well after the HCA was signed. Neither Ourway nor the MGC saw fit to inform Plainville about the looming financial problems at Plainridge, putting Plainville in the inferior position in the negotiating process. Therefore, I maintain that the HCA was *not* negotiated in good faith and should *not* be accepted by the MGC as a valid agreement.

The MGC further failed the people of Plainville by ruling that the slots referendum could take place a mere six days after Ourway transferred the Host Community Agreement to Penn National (an action we’re still not certain was within the limits of the law). When you decided that the requirement in the Gaming Act for 60-90 days between the applicant’s signing of the HCA and the town referendum was a mere “technicality,” you deprived the residents of Plainville and the surrounding communities of our rights; we were never afforded the opportunity to look at the proposed applicant and at their plans for Plainridge before casting our votes in the referendum.

At the risk of repeating myself, we have been told by the MGC that the remedy to our concerns about the lack of due diligence, voter disenfranchisement, and adequate time to present facts to the voters is that we will have the opportunity to give testimony during the licensing hearings. This is like telling someone that it’s okay to buy a house *before* having it inspected, because they can always have the inspections done *after* they sign the mortgage. It’s just not sound practice.

Penn National Application vs. Amended Special Permit:

I recently contacted the Plainville planning board with my concerns that the application submitted to the MGC by Penn National Gaming differs significantly from what was presented to the people of Plainville, our planning board, water and sewer commission, conservation commission, board of health, police department, and fire department during the planning board permitting process and prior to the vote on September 10th. Both the planning board’s Amended Special Permit and the report from the gambling consultant hired by the selectmen were predicated on information and applications submitted and

negotiated by Ourway/Plainridge, NOT Penn National. You would agree that Penn Nation and Ourway are very, very different companies, yes?

We have been told that we needn't be concerned about the Special Permit because Penn National will "adopt the building plans, design concepts and traffic plan that have already been developed by Plainridge for the site" should they win the slots license. After watching Penn National's presentation to the MGC on October 7th, and after studying their application and what attachments we were allowed to see, we know there is actually much cause for worry.

I offer only a few examples of many:

- Penn National changed the name of the proposed facility from "Plainridge Park" to "Plainridge Park Casino." This was done after the vote took place. During the planning board hearings regarding the Change of Use and the Amended Special Permit, we were told, over and over again, that the site would host "a RAcino, NOT a CASino" (they always stressed the first syllable as though it signified). As a matter of fact, representatives of Ourway, Plainville town administrator Joe Fernandes, certain Plainville residents, and even one member of the planning board admonished me and others whenever we used "casino" instead of "racino," assuring us that a *racino* does not create the same problems that a *casino* would bring.

Now that Penn National has proposed a CASino — in name and scope — shouldn't we have had the opportunity to study and plan for mitigation for the ways in which the Penn National application differs from the original application submitted by Ourway? Is no one else concerned that the deal we negotiated with Ourway might not cover the cost to the town of hosting a casino?

- Penn National plans to use their database of "**4.3 MILLION active customers**" to attract people to the facility. The impact studies done by the Town of Plainville did not take into account this massive marketing database because, when the studies were done in the spring, Penn National was not the company looking to open a casino in Plainville. For example, the studies done by the town showed that area residents should expect an additional 3,071 vehicle per day to and from the casino (http://www.plainville.ma.us/Pages/PlainvilleMA_EmerNews/S03C0E1F7-043140B1.4/Traffic%20Generation%20Report.pdf). If the facility is marketing to 4.3 million people, there would be a much larger number of people visiting daily, thus impacting things such as public safety, crime, traffic, property values and the character of our community.

- In the presentation given by Penn National to the gambling commission on October 7th (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXD7jVfxvrw>), PNG said they want Plainridge Park Casino to become the “entertainment hub” for the area through, among other things, hosting ticketed events for 2,000 people. In this excerpt from the October 7th transcript (<http://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/Transcript-10.7.13.pdf>), Jay Snowden from Penn National states: “...we have 90 acres of land. And so, we have the ability to put on outdoor festivals, whether that's in the infield of the racetrack itself or some of the adjacent lands. We've been very successful in the past of putting up outdoor sprung or tent structures and offering simulated game shows. We just did this at our Charlestown facility. The Price is Right, **we offered five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show. All of them sold out.** Let's Make a Deal, Family Feud. These are the type of things that we can do that, again, will be complementary, they're not done in the area today”(p. 83).

These types of events were never mentioned in meetings held prior to the September 10th vote, nor were they ever mentioned by Ourway/Plainridge in the permitting process before the planning board. If Penn National is allowed to hold those events, by how much will the traffic exceed the numbers in the consultants’ traffic studies — the ones that assured us there would be a mere trickle of cars throughout the day, fewer than what Lowes or Target sees? How does this change the noise and light pollution and air quality in the neighborhood? What does it mean that thousands of people might be arriving all at once and leaving all at once — many of them under the influence of alcohol — for “**five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show**” ? Ten thousand people over three days? How many times a year?

Town officials have tried to assuage our concern by telling us that Penn National would have to apply to the selectmen to get permits for outdoor events, and that residents would have the opportunity then to argue against large-scale outdoor events in our neighborhood. The fact of the matter is, the Plainville selectmen have never said no to Plainridge, and we don’t believe that will change with new owners and a casino. (In fact, in April 2012, when I reported the illegal Plainridge Raffle to the Attorney General, the response of then-chair Andrea Soucy was to break Open Meeting Law at that night’s selectmen’s meeting to invite Steve O’Toole to talk about the generosity of Plainridge toward Plainville. She had nary a worry or concern that Plainridge might well be breaking gambling law)

Selectman Rob Rose refers to the area that includes Plainridge and my neighborhood as “almost not in Plainville.” Whenever we try to protect our homes and our neighborhood, we’re called NIMBYs. We can’t rely on the selectmen to look out for us, even though we

are most directly in the line of fire. On the contrary we're expected to take a bullet for the team and keep quiet about it.

Will abutters be notified each and every time an outdoor entertainment permit is requested? Doubtful. Must the families who will be most impacted remain ever vigilant about the next event, and the next, and the next? What about those ten families who live on Harness Path and Mirimichi Street— some of the houses closest to the venue and homes to young children — who aren't allowed to speak out about *10,000 extra people over a weekend at the casino next door?*

During the planning board hearing, every time anyone brought up concerns about outside events — and we brought it up quite a lot — we were told that outside events were NOT a big part of the plan. I guess no one told Penn National, because outside events seem to be quite a large part of their plans. And those plans are significantly different from what we were told would be happening just a few hundred feet from our homes. Will injunctions become our only recourse? Several families are already planning to move. In any case, our neighborhood will never be the same.

After Ourway was disqualified, and shortly before the Amended Special Permit was voted on by the board, we tried to ask about what would happen to the amended special permit should a new "partner" be found, but our concerns were dismissed out-of-hand. Mr. Fernandes called our questions "a red herring."

And yet, here we are, with an application that overreaches the permit, with needs for mitigation that have never been discussed, and with a CASino instead of a RAcino being proposed for Plainridge. Now we're stuck. Once again, the actions of the MGC in truncating the process and ignoring Gaming Act provisions is causing and will continue to cause hardship for the people of Plainville, especially for the abutting neighborhood.

Chairman Crosby, you know what we're talking about — you were very clear about why you wouldn't want a casino "too close" to your house: for all the reasons that bring property values down. All the reasons I'm writing about today.

Our planning board has addressed our concerns about the inadequacies of the amended special permit this way: "The Board has issued a permit for this site, and you have a copy of the approved decision. If the applicant decides to proceed with the project, the Building Inspector will have to make a determination on the submitted information as to whether the application conforms to the issued permit or not. If a determination is made that the activity filed for is non-compliant then it will be up to the applicant to re-submit to the Planning Board for a revision in order to proceed."

I know that's the process set forth in our bylaws. But, I also know that our town recently ended up in Land Court and Superior Court because a building inspector didn't do his job, and we nearly had an asphalt plant open in town in spite of by-laws forbidding it.

Granted, our current building inspector is very different from his predecessor; not only is Mr. Bertonassi competent and conscientious, but I believe he is truly interested in adhering to and defending our by-laws. Still, given the complexity of permitting and overseeing the building and running of a Casino in our little town, one might understand why so many people are worried — especially those of us who live within a few hundred feet of the facility.

I invite the commissioners to come to Harness Path, Mirimichi Street, and Haynes Road to take a look at just how close our homes are to Plainridge. When deciding to build their garage, Ourway could not have placed the building any closer to our homes. Rather than leaving a substantial buffer, they cut and blasted away the hill to accommodate a building that will have a considerable effect on our lives. When Penn National talks about outdoor events at the track, they are talking about having events that some of us will be able to see and hear from our homes. And, should the owner of Plainridge start to take down trees to build on the eleven house lots they have accumulated along Mirimichi Street and Haynes Road, our neighborhood will pay the price. Again.

And a note about all the rest:

Finally, I know I don't need to list all of the damage that predatory gambling can do, especially the highly addictive slot machines. When we were deprived of the opportunity to vet and question Penn National, we were deprived of the chance to ask about their business practices and investigate how they have dealt with other populations of gambling addicts.

I am concerned that the benefits of casinos are short-term and easy to measure, while many of their costs are long-term and harder to measure. To quote from *Why Casinos Matter: Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions from the Health and Social Sciences*, "...the opening of a new regional casino may offer an economic stimulus to distressed communities, but the stimulus fades over time, as the presence of a casino drives out established local businesses and attracts other gambling-linked businesses, such as payday lenders, pawn shops, auto title lenders, and check cashing stores..."

Then there are the rises in crime, government corruption, and all manner of social ills. We know that casinos extract wealth from communities and weaken nearby businesses and property values. With increased competition for a region's dollars in the next few years,

we can expect a “downward economic spiral of market saturation, sluggish state revenues, and failing casinos.” With that comes what I like to call “Casinos on the Dole.”

Consenting to fund an economy with the losses to predatory gambling is to debase ourselves in a sad, pathetic way, and to willingly sacrifice the quality of life for some of our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues. If the people and officials in Plainville think we’re in financial trouble now, just wait for the casino arms race that’s about to proliferate throughout our commonwealth. No one has ever gambled their way out of financial troubles; Plainville will be no different.

I thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts. I look forward to seeing you at the slots hearings.

Sincerely,

Mary-Ann Greanier
19 Mirimichi Street
Plainville, MA 02762
508.695.2794

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Mary-Ann Greanier <medb@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:52 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Comments on slots license for Plainridge Park Casino, 22 October 2013
Attachments: Comments for the MGC, 22 October 2013.pdf; ATT00002.htm

pdf at the bottom of the page

To the Massachusetts Gaming Commission:

I had hoped to attend the Public Input Meeting today, but I could not leave work in time to do so. Four o'clock on a weekday afternoon couldn't be a worse time for most citizens to make it to a so-called public meeting, especially one that explicitly solicits public comment. Residents who commute a fair distance to a job would have to miss an entire afternoon of work to attend these Public Input Meetings. At four o'clock, parents and other caregivers are busy shuttling children and teens to and from after school activities. And how many people who work in Plainville and the surrounding towns are able to pick up and leave work to come to a meeting at four o'clock in the afternoon? I don't know for whose convenience these meetings were scheduled, but it only adds to the growing perception that the MGC is not committed to true public input. As with so many other "public meetings" held by the commission, the people who are able to attend are generally developers, town officials, and horsemen, while the rest of the working public is left out in the cold. The public is not paid to attend these meetings, and we work at jobs that make it difficult or impossible to drop everything to be there. Even though the MGC is allowing input to be submitted by email, the fact that the meetings were scheduled at such a public- and family-unfriendly time is frustrating and disappointing.

Also, regarding access to this process, I'd like to remind the commission that there are ten families whose property abuts or sits very close to Plainridge who are not able to actively participate in these meetings — or any meetings at all about Plainridge — due to the threat of a lawsuit from the 1999 Non-Interference Agreement signed by the former owner of the land on which their houses are now built and a former owner of the land on which Plainridge is built. As you know, those families on Harness Path and Mirimichi Street were threatened with legal action by Gary Piontkowski last year. Since Mr. Piontkowski's departure, no one from Ourway or Penn National has contacted those residents to tell them otherwise. I have appealed to the Attorney General, the MGC, the Plainville selectmen, and the planning board to get one — just one — elected official to go on record to say how despicable it is that **abutters** can't speak up in the process for fear of losing their home. Not one single official will go to bat for them, and legal representation is expensive, so these good citizens remain muzzled by Ourway and Penn National.

One last note about access — there was only an email address published for sending comments to the MGC. This is usually the case, I find. Is there any way to publicize and solicit comments via USPS? Will you have a better system when the public hearing is held?

A letter covering all of my concerns about the proposed Plainridge Park Casino would be a tome, so I have chosen only a few issues to share with you:

The process has been irretrievably broken in Plainville:

I have already contacted and spoken before the MGC about my concerns over the process by which Penn National became the applicant for a slots license at Plainridge.

The Host Community Agreement that the Plainville board of selectmen agreed to on July 8th was negotiated and signed during the period when Ourway knew full well about their considerable troubles with the MGC audit. Unfortunately Plainville knew NOTHING about the "irregularities" that would eventually disqualify Ourway until well after the HCA was signed. Neither Ourway nor the MGC saw fit to inform Plainville about the looming financial problems at Plainridge, putting Plainville in the inferior position in the negotiating process. Therefore, I maintain that the HCA was *not* negotiated in good faith and should *not* be accepted by the MGC as a valid agreement.

The MGC further failed the people of Plainville by ruling that the slots referendum could take place a mere six days after Ourway transferred the Host Community Agreement to Penn National (an action we're still not certain was within the limits of the law). When you decided that the requirement in the Gaming Act for 60-90 days between the applicant's signing of the HCA and the town referendum was a mere "technicality," you deprived the residents of Plainville and the surrounding communities of our rights; we

were never afforded the opportunity to look at the proposed applicant and at their plans for Plainridge before casting our votes in the referendum.

At the risk of repeating myself, we have been told by the MGC that the remedy to our concerns about the lack of due diligence, voter disenfranchisement, and adequate time to present facts to the voters is that we will have the opportunity to give testimony during the licensing hearings. This is like telling someone that it's okay to buy a house *before* having it inspected, because they can always have the inspections done *after* they sign the mortgage. It's just not sound practice.

Penn National Application vs. Amended Special Permit:

I recently contacted the Plainville planning board with my concerns that the application submitted to the MGC by Penn National Gaming differs significantly from what was presented to the people of Plainville, our planning board, water and sewer commission, conservation commission, board of health, police department, and fire department during the planning board permitting process and prior to the vote on September 10th. Both the planning board's Amended Special Permit and the report from the gambling consultant hired by the selectmen were predicated on information and applications submitted and negotiated by Ourway/Plainridge, NOT Penn National. You would agree that Penn National and Ourway are very, very different companies, yes?

We have been told that we needn't be concerned about the Special Permit because Penn National will "adopt the building plans, design concepts and traffic plan that have already been developed by Plainridge for the site" should they win the slots license. After watching Penn National's presentation to the MGC on October 7th, and after studying their application and what attachments we were allowed to see, we know there is actually much cause for worry.

I offer only a few examples of many:

- Penn National changed the name of the proposed facility from "Plainridge Park" to "Plainridge Park Casino." This was done after the vote took place. During the planning board hearings regarding the Change of Use and the Amended Special Permit, we were told, over and over again, that the site would host "a Racino, NOT a Casino" (they always stressed the first syllable as though it signified). As a matter of fact, representatives of Ourway, Plainville town administrator Joe Fernandes, certain Plainville residents, and even one member of the planning board admonished me and others whenever we used "casino" instead of "racino," assuring us that a *racino* does not create the same problems that a *casino* would bring.

Now that Penn National has proposed a Casino — in name and scope — shouldn't we have had the opportunity to study and plan for mitigation for the ways in which the Penn National application differs from the original application submitted by Ourway? Is no one else concerned that the deal we negotiated with Ourway might not cover the cost to the town of hosting a casino?

- Penn National plans to use their database of "**4.3 MILLION active customers**" to attract people to the facility. The impact studies done by the Town of Plainville did not take into account this massive marketing database because, when the studies were done in the spring, Penn National was not the company looking to open a casino in Plainville. For example, the studies done by the town showed that area residents should expect an additional 3,071 vehicle per day to and from the casino (http://www.plainville.ma.us/Pages/PlainvilleMA_EmerNews/S03C0E1F7-043140B1.4/Traffic%20Generation%20Report.pdf). If the facility is marketing to 4.3 million people, there would be a much larger number of people visiting daily, thus impacting things such as public safety, crime, traffic, property values and the character of our community.

- In the presentation given by Penn National to the gambling commission on October 7th (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXD7jVfxvrw>), PNG said they want Plainridge Park Casino to become the "entertainment hub" for the area through, among other things, hosting ticketed events for 2,000 people. In this excerpt from the October 7th transcript (<http://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/Transcript-10.7.13.pdf>), Jay Snowden from Penn National states: "...we have 90 acres of land. And so, we have the ability to put on outdoor festivals, whether that's in the infield of the racetrack itself or some of the adjacent lands. We've been very successful in the past of putting up outdoor sprung or tent structures and offering simulated game shows. We just did this at our Charlestown facility. The Price is Right, **we offered five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show. All of them sold out.** Let's Make a Deal, Family Feud. These are the type of things that we can do that, again, will be complementary, they're not done in the area today"(p.83).

These types of events were never mentioned in meetings held prior to the September 10th vote, nor were they ever mentioned by Ourway/Plainridge in the permitting process before the planning board. If Penn National is allowed to hold those events, by how much will the traffic exceed the numbers in the consultants' traffic studies — the ones that assured us there would be a mere trickle of cars throughout the day, fewer than what Lowes or Target sees? How does this change the noise and light pollution and air quality in the neighborhood? What does it mean that thousands of people might be arriving all at once and leaving all at once — many of them under the influence of alcohol — for "**five shows over three nights, 2,000 people per show**" ? Ten thousand people over three days? How many times a year?

Town officials have tried to assuage our concern by telling us that Penn National would have to apply to the selectmen to get permits for outdoor events, and that residents would have the opportunity then to argue against large-scale outdoor events in our neighborhood. The fact of the matter is, the Plainville selectmen have never said no to Plainridge, and we don't believe that will change with new owners and a casino. (In fact, in April 2012, when I reported the illegal Plainridge Raffle to the Attorney General, the response of then-chair Andrea Soucy was to break Open Meeting Law at that night's selectmen's meeting to invite Steve O'Toole to talk about the generosity of Plainridge toward Plainville. She had nary a worry or concern that Plainridge might well be breaking gambling law)

Selectman Rob Rose refers to the area that includes Plainridge and my neighborhood as "almost not in Plainville." Whenever we try to protect our homes and our neighborhood, we're called NIMBYs. We can't rely on the selectmen to look out for us, even though we are most directly in the line of fire. On the contrary we're expected to take a bullet for the team and keep quiet about it.

Will abutters be notified each and every time an outdoor entertainment permit is requested? Doubtful. Must the families who will be most impacted remain ever vigilant about the next event, and the next, and the next? What about those ten families who live on Harness Path and Mirimichi Street— some of the houses closest to the venue and homes to young children — who aren't allowed to speak out about *10,000 extra people over a weekend at the casino next door?*

During the planning board hearing, every time anyone brought up concerns about outside events — and we brought it up quite a lot — we were told that outside events were NOT a big part of the plan. I guess no one told Penn National, because outside events seem to be quite a large part of their plans. And those plans are significantly different from what we were told would be happening just a few hundred feet from our homes. Will injunctions become our only recourse? Several families are already planning to move. In any case, our neighborhood will never be the same.

After Ourway was disqualified, and shortly before the Amended Special Permit was voted on by the board, we tried to ask about what would happen to the amended special permit should a new "partner" be found, but our concerns were dismissed out-of-hand. Mr. Fernandes called our questions "a red herring."

And yet, here we are, with an application that overreaches the permit, with needs for mitigation that have never been discussed, and with a Casino instead of a Racino being proposed for Plainridge. Now we're stuck. Once again, the actions of the MGC in truncating the process and ignoring Gaming Act provisions is causing and will continue to cause hardship for the people of Plainville, especially for the abutting neighborhood.

Chairman Crosby, you know what we're talking about — you were very clear about why you wouldn't want a casino "too close" to your house: for all the reasons that bring property values down. All the reasons I'm writing about today.

Our planning board has addressed our concerns about the inadequacies of the amended special permit this way: "The Board has issued a permit for this site, and you have a copy of the approved decision. If the applicant decides to proceed with the project, the Building Inspector will have to make a determination on the submitted information as to whether the application conforms to the issued permit or not. If a determination is made that the activity filed for is non-compliant then it will be up to the applicant to re-submit to the Planning Board for a revision in order to proceed."

I know that's the process set forth in our bylaws. But, I also know that our town recently ended up in Land Court and Superior Court because a building inspector didn't do his job, and we nearly had an asphalt plant open in town in spite of by-laws forbidding it.

Granted, our current building inspector is very different from his predecessor; not only is Mr. Bertonassi competent and conscientious, but I believe he is truly interested in adhering to and defending our by-laws. Still, given the complexity of permitting and overseeing the building and running of a Casino in our little town, one might understand why so many people are worried — especially those of us who live within a few hundred feet of the facility.

I invite the commissioners to come to Harness Path, Mirimichi Street, and Haynes Road to take a look at just how close our homes are to Plainridge. When deciding to build their garage, Ourway could not have placed the building any closer to our homes. Rather than leaving a substantial buffer, they cut and blasted away the hill to accommodate a building that will have a considerable effect on our lives. When Penn National talks about outdoor events at the track, they are talking about having events that some of us will be able to see and hear from our homes. And, should the owner of Plainridge start to take down trees to build on the eleven house lots they have accumulated along Mirimichi Street and Haynes Road, our neighborhood will pay the price. Again.

And a note about all the rest:

Finally, I know I don't need to list all of the damage that predatory gambling can do, especially the highly addictive slot machines. When we were deprived of the opportunity to vet and question Penn National, we were deprived of the chance to ask about their business practices and investigate how they have dealt with other populations of gambling addicts.

I am concerned that the benefits of casinos are short-term and easy to measure, while many of their costs are long-term and harder to measure. To quote from *Why Casinos Matter: Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions from the Health and Social Sciences*, "...the opening of a new regional casino may offer an economic stimulus to distressed communities, but the stimulus fades over time, as the presence of a casino drives out established local businesses and attracts other gambling-linked businesses, such as payday lenders, pawn shops, auto title lenders, and check cashing stores..."

Then there are the rises in crime, government corruption, and all manner of social ills. We know that casinos extract wealth from communities and weaken nearby businesses and property values. With increased competition for a region's dollars in the next few years, we can expect a "downward economic spiral of market saturation, sluggish state revenues, and failing casinos." With that comes what I like to call "Casinos on the Dole."

Consenting to fund an economy with the losses to predatory gambling is to debase ourselves in a sad, pathetic way, and to willingly sacrifice the quality of life for some of our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues. If the people and officials in Plainville think we're in financial trouble now, just wait for the casino arms race that's about to proliferate throughout our commonwealth. No one has ever gambled their way out of financial troubles; Plainville will be no different.

I thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts. I look forward to seeing you at the slots hearings.

Sincerely,

Mary-Ann Greanier
19 Mirimichi Street
Plainville, MA 02762
508.695.2794

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 2:57 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Steve Cardinali

Email

csteviecardinali2@gmail.com

Phone

(508)643-1464

Subject

Penn National

Questions or Comments

Please consider a request for you to give plain ridge a gaming license. I have been in the company of Penn National several times and they are the most professional people. I have listen to several of there presentation on how they will better our community and I am sold. looking forward to the future.
Maybe even getting a job for myself. Thank you for your time.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 3:51 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Jeffrey Gulya

Email

jggirl21@aol.com

Subject

Plainridge Park Casino

Questions or Comments

I am a horse owner, driver and trainer. I do this part time. I live at 712 South Ave. Whitman, Ma. Penn National is a racing and gaming company and if given the slots license will benefit so many people. I think Plainridge is the ideal location. I am glad that the commission set the bar high for suitability and will continue to keep integrity an important issue.

Jeffrey Gluya

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Paula Leuschner <paulal@prcharness.com>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 2:28 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Penn National

As an employee of Plainridge Racecourse for the past 14 years, I am so grateful to Penn National for their interest in our location. I know it will spark the economy of Plainville and for that matter the whole state. Our location is the best this state has to offer. No other site has the capability of connecting our state North to South and East to West like the intersections of 495 and Rt.1. With this location, I believe we can keep Massachusetts money in our state and out of the hands of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

I have been associated with pari-mutuel racing since 1970 in several different states. I have also worked in the casino industry (Foxwoods) 3 years prior to being hired here at Plainridge. Working as a cage cashier and cage supervisor, I have first hand knowledge of the amount of Massachusetts residents who travel to Foxwoods for gambling, concerts, shopping and dining experiences. Partnering with Penn National seems to be a perfect fit for our community. They have the experience of over 20 venues in 17 different jurisdictions--just the experience this state needs to go forward and compete with the states around us. Awarding Penn National at Plainridge the only category 2 license in the state, would be the prime choice for profitability and integrity.

Paula Leuschner

From: Bobbie Crissey-Broadbent <easydobe@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 4:32 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO

Dear Sirs at the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.....I have been in the sport of harness racing for over 50 years and have supported Plainridge Racecourse since its inception. Additionally, while at Plainridge I also support the local surrounding businesses.

I am strongly in favor of Penn National at Plainridge Racecourse being granted a Category 2 gaming license.

Sincerely, Alfred J. Broadbent

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 3:59 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Anthony Ristaino

Email

tony@rynot.com

Subject

Plainridge Park Casino

Questions or Comments

I would just like to try to persuade you into awarding Penn National/Plainridge Park the Category 2 slots parlor license. I have been working at Plainridge for 3 years now and I truly love my job. Its a great place to work and I'm positive with the partnering with Penn National things will only get better. Only good, for the town of Plainville, the surrounding towns, and all the employees, will come out of all this.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 8:34 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Anthony Tambolleo

Email

jgingrow@msn.com

Subject

Penn National/Plainridge Park

Questions or Comments

I have been a horseman in Massachusetts for 50 years and I am requesting the MGC approve the category 2 gaming license at Plainridge Racecourse. It is very important to me and to all the horsemen I have talked with that this license be granted to Plainridge as it will save my livelihood as a horseman not to mention all other racing related jobs. We need to revitalize the horse racing industry in Massachusetts and Penn National has the most experience in the gaming and racing business. Locating the license at Plainridge in affect will keep millions of dollars here in Massachusetts rather than going to RI or Conn or some other town where the people there don't even want it. In addition, please think about all the jobs it can bring in and all the vendors, suppliers and breeders throughout the commonwealth that this will have as a positive affect from expand! ed gaming at Plainridge. I am only one horseman, but all the horsemen I know want this license to be approved. Sincerely, Anthony Tambolleo, P O Box 1084, Sterling MA 01564

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 9:42 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

david fay

Email

davidfay19@verizon.net

Phone

(978)204-6204

Subject

penn national and plainridge racway

Questions or Comments

as a vested member of the harness horse racing community in mass. I support the naming of plainridge/penn national as the slot parlor location

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: karaokebj@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 10:27 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

Dear Sirs: I am one of many that own and race horses at Plainridge, and hope that harness racing will continue for a long time to come. Being that it is the only harness racetrack in the state of Mass., we certainly need it.. I believe that Penn National has proven that they have the ability and experience to run a great Plainridge casino/harness racetrack. The Plainville people I understand are all for it, and Plainridge can be in operation much sooner than anyone else. So many people will be effected by Plainridge racecourse closing, if they don't get the class 2 gaming license. A tremendous loss of jobs and income for thousands involved in the racing industry. We have to keep harness racing in this great state of MA.

HERE'S HOPING WE GET IT. THANKS VERY MUCH. I'm almost certain you will chose, this most diservent one. Robert E.Jones, 508 Richards Ave., Paxton, Mass. 01612. 508-757-0887

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Jeffrey Epstein <jeffsepstein@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 3:55 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: plainricge park casino

Penn National is most definitely the answer to a horseman,s dream; a multi billion dollar corporation, with the knowledge, as well as the assets, to run both a racetrack and a casino. Penn National will afford both the racetrack at Plainridge as well as the hundreds of horse people and their families, to both succeed and prosper. It is much more than just the horse people; it is the business folks that supply the horseman, the farmers, the trainers and the drivers. One must be cognizant of just how important it is to save a once flourishing industry, and once again make it vital, vibrant and exciting. The benefits that would accrue to the state, as well as the towns, are significant. Penn National has the capability to insure that a viable and dynamic industry can once again flourish; in so doing it will help the good, decent, caring, and honest, people from losing the one thing that they know and understand, HARNESS RACING. Penn National, in concert with Plainridge will equal a winning formula to save a wonderful sport, business and livelihood for thousands.

Respectfully, Jeff Epstein

cell 1-508-561-5219 or jeffsepstein@icloud.com

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: staceyjacobs@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 3:37 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

I am writing in support of Penn National and their request for a Class 2 Gaming license at Plainridge in Plainville. As a couple who are trying to make a living in the Harness Racing Business we see this as the only viable applicant for the license.

Penn National is experienced in the gaming,racing and entertainment industry. They have a 1st class reputation. They are the only applicant that can integrate both racing and gaming. This will help to revitalize the horse racing industry in MA. This will help not only the horsemen and woman but many other industries related to it. Some of these are the local and not so local farms, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, tack and feed suppliers to name a few.

Both CT and RI are currently taking much revenue out of MA with their gaming facilities. Plainridge Park Casino has the perfect location to keep the revenue here in MA. Penn National has proven itself to to be a responsible neighbor by committing to not only Plainville but other local communities. They have everything necessary to start to build a first class facility as soon as they receive the class 2 license.

If Penn National is not given the Class 2 license the dreams of MANY horsemen and woman will die with Plainridge. We only want to see our industry flourish along with Plainridge Park Casino.

Thank you for all of your due diligence in this effort.

Sincerely,

Graham Lewis and Stacey Jacobs
292 Lynn Rd
Brockton, MA 02302

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:14 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Chris Ward

Email

chrisward.cw@gmail.com

Subject

Penn National Gaming

Questions or Comments

Can Penn National be a party to two proposals seeking licenses simultaneously (Plainville Slots Parlor and Milford Casino)? It would be nice to get an answer before the polls close in Milford tomorrow!

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 2:54 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Jan Donaway

Email

jzldonaway@aol.com

Subject

Plainridge Park Casino

Questions or Comments

I am writing again because I am so passionate about the outcome of your decision and how it will affect me and my fellow horsepeople. I have had racehorses all my life. My father was a teacher and a horse trainer and driver. Growing up in Delaware this was what we did everyday after school and it was only natural to go into the business after I left home. My husband and I raced in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey before moving here in 1980. We raced at Foxboro and raised a family while doing this. After our divorce he went to Delaware and I stayed here with my two sons. I went into education, but came back to my passion three years ago. I bought one horse, got my trainer's license and had the time of my life for two years. My horse is now retired and is on one of the many farms in Massachusetts. I still go to the paddock and help with other horses and I am hoping that Plainridge will get the slots so I can get another horse. All the people that race at Plainridge are like me. We may have gotten into this sport for different reasons but we stay in it because it is our passion. Please let Penn National keep our passion alive! Thank you, Jan Donaway 355 South St. Foxboro

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:34 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Robert Lieberman

Email

lieberman1121@verizon.net

Phone

(781)762-2639

Subject

My Approval of Penn National

Questions or Comments

Having been involved in harness racing for over 25 years, from owner, trainer, driver and also as twice, President of the New England Harness Writers Assoc., I can truthfully say that the location of Plainridge is in an area that would not cause any traffic jams, and simple to get to and get out of. As far as the Penn. National Group is concerned, they are a very highly recognized company that is currently involved in the same type of format that the Plainridge Park Casino will be and will do the same fine job here as they are doing in their other similar operations. Plainridge would be the best choice. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my comment.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Matt Antinoro <mattantinoro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 8:45 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: I strongly support the Plainridge Racetrack Slots proposal

Members of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission;

I live on Apple Tree Drive, just off Mirimichi street, less than a 10-minute walk from Plainridge. I am strongly in favor of expanding the facility to allow for slot machines. I see several compelling benefits, to both the town and the State:

- Millions of dollars annually will go to our community and will improve the quality of education, public services and law enforcement (just to name a few).
- Instead of watching millions more flow "over the border" to neighboring states, we can see a massive, immediate impact on the State budget in the form of taxes and license fees
- Both short-term and long-term employment opportunities are desperately needed in my neighborhood and every other part of the Commonwealth. One of my neighbors just lost her house, as a matter of fact. Expanding the capabilities of Plainridge will save existing jobs and create new ones.

The residents of Plainville have already shown overwhelming support for the project, as I'm sure you've seen. Record turn-out for the vote, and 70%+ voted FOR the plan.

Penn National seems to be best-suited as a partner in this project:

- Their reputation is beyond reproach
- Theirs is the only plan that will save Harness Racing in Plainville.

Plainridge really is an ideal location for such a project:

- It's a pre-existing facility, and is ready to be "up and running" and producing tax dollars long before any other proposed location could hope to be.
- Little or no road modifications are necessary to serve the existing footprint

With best regards,

Matthew S. Antinoro
10 Apple Tree Dr, Plainville, MA

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 2:32 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Paul Vacca

Email

Thencamealady@comcast.net

Phone

(508)369-9475

Subject

Plainridge Slot Lince

Questions or Comments

I would like to see Pen National be given the only slot lince in mass as they are the only one that can save harness raceing in Mass . and I have seen myself what they have done in other states, also iam the owner of 5horses I would like to keep raceing at plainridge. Thanking you for all you have done for us the Horsemen that race at PLAINRIDGE

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Janis Nowak <nowak.e@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 6:41 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission:

As a horseman and breeder of Standardbred race horses in Massachusetts, I urge you to grant the category 2 license to Penn National at the current Plainridge Racecourse.

Penn National is the only applicant for a category 2 license that can integrate racing and gaming, and as a result revitalize and grow the horse racing and breeding industry in Massachusetts.

Of all the category 2 license applicants, only Penn National has the extensive and successful gaming and racing experience required to achieve the financial and agricultural goals for which we are all striving .

The granting of a category 2 license to Penn National will add jobs beyond the racetrack and casino. It will have a positive effect on hundreds, if not thousands, of people across the Commonwealth including farms, breeders, truck, tractor, and farm implement dealers, feed stores and equipment vendors.

I urge you to vote in favor of Penn National for the Category 2 02780license.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Nowak
25 North Walker Street
Taunton, MA

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: brobert8@charter.net
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 4:47 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainridge Park Casino

To: Stephen Crosby, Chairman MGC
From: Bob Bogigian
Subject: Category 2 Gaming Application of Penn National at Plainridge

Dear Mr. Crosby,

As a longtime horse owner and member of the Harness Horsemen's Board of Directors at Plainridge, I strongly support Penn National's application for the category 2 license.

It is the only applicant that can intergate racing and gaming and re-energize the racing industry.

Penn National has a history of success and is the best qualified applicant to bring about success at Plainridge.

Yours truly,
Bob Bogigian
8 Rosslare Dr.
Worcester, MA 01602

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Steve and Colleen <steveandcol@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:24 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Slots in Plainville

Hi,

I am a Foxboro resident who was unable to attend the meeting hosted by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission in Wrentham earlier this week. I had read that there was primarily support for the proposed racino in Plainville by outside communities. I do not think that is a true representation of the situation. I share many of the same concerns as many opponents - social impacts as well as an increase in drunk driving, and I do not want a racino in Plainville.

Foxboro was in quite a bit of turmoil when a casino was proposed for our area. There was a lot of conflict, and even now, there are some who have not let go of the negative feelings and animosity that were stirred up during that time. We also witness the helplessness that others in surrounding communities experienced as they waited for our community to vote on an issue that they had no say over, but would be impacted by. The casino proposal did not have enough support in Foxboro to proceed as it was essentially voted down in our selectmen race. However, we have no say in Plainville, and I think this is a big reason why you did not see or hear more opposition at the meeting earlier in the week. Foxboro residents know they have no say in the matter, similar to Walpole when a casino was proposed for Foxboro. Many residents are only just beginning to recover from exerting energy in opposing the casino as well as from the painful split within our community, and are not ready to engage in another protest, especially one in which we have no say, no vote. I wish the Massachusetts Gaming legislation would have added a provision in the bill that would require any gaming establishment to be at least 1 mile from a neighboring town's border. One of the reasons why there is support in Plainville for the racino is that it's on the outskirts of town, but is close to the Wrentham and Foxboro borders.

So please don't conclude that there is primarily support for the racino in neighboring communities based on your experience at the meeting earlier this week. There are many in Foxboro who don't want a racino on the border of their community. Unfortunately we have no say in the matter.

Thank you,

Colleen McManus
Foxboro resident

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Marcia Benes <benes@mahb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Plainville Slots

I am a lifelong resident of Plainville and am writing to express my absolute opposition to this proposal. The town did not vote to allow 10,000 people over three days to attend other events on this site. Traffic is a serious concern, as are drunk driving, loss of property values, increased crime and other social ills.

Plainville is a quiet little community of less than 9,000 people with a part time government that is not up to the task of dealing with such a large facility. There will be no political check and balance to prevent the concerns of ordinary citizens from ignored.

Penn National was not part of the negotiations and we will have no say in any changes they propose to make to this project. Please reject this application.

Sincerely,
Marcia Benes

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Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Diane Patenaude <diane.patenaude@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:01 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: No Casinos at Plainridge

I do not agree with putting slots at Plainridge, they will do much more harm than good, especially for the town's large senior population, who are being hoodwinked into thinking this will be good for them and for the town. The Selectpeople are also Seniors and are being misled due to their greed – they are being short-sighted and frankly will all be dead in 10-20 years and won't have to deal with the mess this will leave in its wake.

Diane Patenaude
Reluctant Plainville Resident

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: MGC Website <website@massgaming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 8:19 AM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Contact the Commissioner Form Submission

Name

Lisa Watson

Email

thewatsons@maine.rr.com

Subject

Plainridge Park Casino

Questions or Comments

Please support Penn National for the category 2 gaming license. My family relies on the horse industry for 100% of our income. We are 4th generation farmers and want to continue this as our way of life.

Sharlow, Albert (MGC)

From: Sfquinn <sfquinn@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2013 3:26 PM
To: MGCcomments (MGC)
Subject: Penn National

To members of the Mass. Gaming Committee;
Greetings:

My name is Stephen Quinn I reside at 31 Carter Street Berlin Ma. I've lived here for over 30 years. Prior to that I was born and raised in Stow Ma where I started my racing career. I've been racing horses since 1967.

I would like to endorse Penn National' bid for the slot license here in Mass, they have proven to be the entity with knowledge of what needs to be done for the future of harness racing here in Mass. Penn National has done an excellent job in promoting and developing Bangor Raceway in Bangor Me. Their actions of requesting a 100 days of racing helps fill the need of the local horsemen.

Mr Carny's idea of racing fewer days with higher purses doesn't help the smaller stables here in Mass.. It takes three months to get a harness horse ready to race, if we only race for three or four months we will then have to leave the State to race the year out. If the purses are significantly increased larger stables from other areas will ship in and capitalize on the increase purse monies and then ship out.

Plainridge racecourse is one of the country's finest five-eight's race track. Plainridge has been assisting the local horse industry since they opened. Their staff and crew are all experienced and time tested, they do a great job of operating a safe racing entity.

without reservations support their request for slot machines in conjunction with harness racing.

If I can be any assistance to the commission please don't hesitate to ask'

Sincerely

Stephen Quinn