

1 THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
3 PUBLIC MEETING #176
4 COMMUNITY INPUT HEARING FOR
5 MASS GAMING AND ENTERTAINMENT, LLC
6 APPLICATION FOR CATEGORY 1 GAMING LICENSE
7
8

9 CHAIRMAN

10 Stephen P. Crosby
11

12 COMMISSIONERS

13 Gayle Cameron

14 Lloyd Macdonald

15 Bruce W. Stebbins

16 Enrique Zuniga
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21 January 28, 2016 4:00 p.m.- 5:42 p.m.

22 HOLBROOK JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - Auditorium

23 245 S. Franklin Street

24 Holbrook, Massachusetts

1 P R O C E E D I N G S :

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Good evening
4 everybody. Today is Thursday, January 28,
5 2016. This is a public hearing before the
6 Massachusetts Gaming Commission. I'm Chairman
7 Stephen Crosby representing the Commission
8 today. Also present are Commissioners Gayle
9 Cameron at the end, Lloyd Macdonald, Bruce
10 Stebbins at the end and Commissioner Enrique
11 Zuniga.

12 This hearing is being convened
13 pursuant to our regulation 205 CMR 118.04. We
14 are here today to accept public comments from
15 members of the surrounding communities
16 regarding the Mass Gaming and Entertainment
17 application for a Category 1 gaming license in
18 Brockton, Mass.

19 Just for the record, this is not a
20 hearing which is mandated by our law, by
21 statute. There is a hearing that will be held
22 in the potential host community, in this case
23 in Brockton that is mandated by law. But we
24 felt that there should be an extra opportunity

1 for folks from the surrounding communities to
2 talk to us about this issue if they so chose.
3 So, that's why we've scheduled a second public
4 hearing.

5 Before we begin, the Commission
6 would like to thank you all for being here
7 today. This is a public hearing and it's
8 critically important for you, the public, to be
9 a part of the process to ensure that the
10 Commission achieves the best results possible.

11 The purpose of this public hearing
12 is to offer any interested person or group an
13 opportunity to comment on the gaming license
14 application. We also get a great many comments
15 in writing, all of which are circulated to all
16 of the Commissioners. I think we've got about
17 60 communications from the public so far. And
18 we take all of that as seriously as we do the
19 in-person testimony.

20 This is not a question-and-answer
21 period or a debate. Once we begin, anybody who
22 wishes to comment may come forward when called
23 and be recognized by the Commission. We will
24 be taking speakers by name off the sign-up

1 sheet, which I have a copy of so far. If other
2 speakers want to sign up, there is a sign-up
3 sheet in back where you can get on the list.

4 After you are called up and
5 recognized by me, you can proceed to offer your
6 comment. In order to use the available time
7 efficiently, the Commission asks that the
8 speakers limit their comments to three minutes.
9 You'll see there is a clock down here to my
10 left that will give you a heads up. When it
11 goes off, we will ask you to stop at the three-
12 minute level.

13 The Commission requests that all
14 speakers identify themselves prior to
15 commenting. Please be sure to keep your voices
16 up as this hearing is being recorded.

17 With that we will now open up the
18 floor for public comment. I have a list of
19 seven speakers who have signed up in front of
20 me. We routinely recognize elected officials
21 to speak first if we have that opportunity. We
22 have an Alex Bezanson who is a selectman from
23 Abington. And if Mr. Bezanson is here, you're
24 welcome to come forward. After that Larry

1 Curtis and Reverend Jill Wiley, you all could
2 come forward and take a seat so you don't have
3 to walk so far when we get ready to recognize
4 you, Larry Curtis, Reverend Wiley, Richard Reid
5 will be the next three speakers.

6 MR. BEZANSON: Thank you,
7 Commissioners. First of all, I am in favor of
8 this casino proposal.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Please identify
10 yourself.

11 MR. BANZANSON: My name is Alex
12 Bezanson. And I am a selectman in the town of
13 Abington. In January 2015 prior to me being
14 elected selectman, I heard there was a
15 possibility of a casino coming to Brockton. I
16 contacted Mass. Gaming to learn about the
17 process of becoming a designated surrounding
18 community.

19 I knew then that this was something
20 great, something that would be good for
21 Brockton and something that would be good for
22 the surrounding towns.

23 Abington is a community with only
24 about 11 percent industrial, commercial tax

1 base. By bringing the casino to Brockton, it
2 will not only help Brockton with much-needed
3 cash, the casino will also help towns like
4 Abington build their commercial tax base by
5 attracting casino supporting industries.

6 Abington recently signed the
7 surrounding community agreement with the
8 developers. And that will give us
9 approximately \$130,000 per year which we will
10 use to help fund our very understaffed police
11 department. The casino will bring much-needed
12 jobs and opportunities for Brockton and the
13 surrounding towns. I urge you to pass the
14 project for Brockton. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
16 much. Larry Curtis first on my list. The
17 Reverend Jill Wiley, also Richard Reid and
18 Adriano Cabral if you can take a seat. Is that
19 Reverend Wiley?

20 REV. WILEY: Thank you,
21 Commissioners. My name is Jill Wiley. And I
22 am a resident of Brockton. And I am member of
23 the ordained clergy and I've served as a
24 minister to the churches in Holbrook as well as

1 Brockton over the past 17 years.

2 The three points I wanted to make
3 have to do with the criteria by which you will
4 be judging this application. One relates to
5 the overview. Chairman Crosby, I trust you are
6 still in charge of that area of the
7 application. And the other the mitigation
8 section, Commissioner Cameron.

9 Just like you've gone through the
10 evaluation criteria with a fine-tooth comb,
11 I've come up with two points I wanted to make.
12 The first in the overview, the first question
13 out of the box that you need to see as answered
14 is how does the project you propose manifest an
15 appreciation for and collaboration with the
16 existing Massachusetts brand?

17 I've seen this before and I often
18 wondered what the Massachusetts brand is. But
19 it goes onto explain that it is our
20 intellectual knowledge economy, our biomedical
21 life sciences, educational and financial
22 services economic driver and our long history
23 of innovation and economic regeneration over
24 the 400 years of our existence.

1 Respectfully, Mr. Chair, there is
2 nothing in the Massachusetts brand that is
3 reflected in putting a casino right in the
4 heart of Brockton where we all live, work,
5 shop, worship, bank and take thousands of
6 children to school. All activities which very
7 capably in fact do manifest an appreciation for
8 in collaboration with existing Massachusetts
9 brand.

10 Question two asked how does the
11 project you propose embrace the Legislature's
12 mandate to present destination resort casinos
13 rather than commercial casinos? Calling
14 Brockton a destination resort does not make it
15 a destination resort.

16 And on the last page of your
17 evaluation criteria page 12, Commissioner
18 Cameron you will be needing to affirm the
19 applicant provides the Commission with an
20 agreement that the applicant will mitigate
21 potential negative public health consequences
22 with gambling in the operation of a gaming
23 establishment, including point two providing
24 complimentary on-site space for an independent

1 substance abuse and mental-health counseling
2 service to be selected by the commission.

3 For ministers, social workers,
4 social service providers, the question is what
5 kind of toxic environment is being created that
6 requires a mental-health counseling service on-
7 site before it even opens.

8 Brockton is too vulnerable a
9 community to host such an enterprise. The
10 public is just now getting to voice its public
11 objections and we appreciate that. And in the
12 coming years we hope that you'll see a host
13 community agreement that is really a little
14 more than a bill of sale. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
16 Reverend Wiley. We have a new list. I believe
17 we have the town administrator from Holbrook,
18 Timothy Gordon and then Larry Curtis, if he's
19 here, Richard Reid, Adriano Cabral.

20 MR. GORDON: Thank you, Commission
21 and welcome to Holbrook. As you can see, we
22 are in the process of building a new K-12
23 school that will replace this school as well as
24 two other schools. So, thank you for being

1 here.

2 As you said, I'm Tim Gordon. I'm
3 the Holbrook Town Administrator and I'm a
4 Holbrook resident. As a resident of Holbrook,
5 which is a surrounding community and a public
6 official in town, I'm very excited about this
7 project.

8 I believe it will create a
9 destination within the metro-south area that
10 currently does not exist. And creating a
11 destination creates growth. It's my hope that
12 this proposal will bring jobs to the area and
13 increase business activity in Holbrook, which
14 has a very limited tax base and could use that
15 increased business activity.

16 And I hope and think that it will
17 result in a hub of activity serving as a center
18 of entertainment for the region and beyond this
19 region. I certainly understand some of the
20 concerns that have been raised however, I'm
21 confident that the developer will be fully
22 engaged in our communities, protecting our
23 interests and mitigating any concerns. Thank
24 you.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
2 much. Larry Curtis, Richard Reid. Good
3 evening.

4 MR. REID: Good evening, yes, it's
5 evening officially. My name is Richard Reid.
6 I'm a pastor of a small church in the city of
7 Brockton. And I'm a representative of Stand Up
8 for Brockton, an ad hoc group that today send
9 me with some 450 letters of people that are
10 concerned about a casino in Brockton.

11 As we look through the criteria and
12 the evaluation process and some of the things
13 that are needing to be discussed, one that
14 comes to mind automatically for me is the
15 location of next to a high school. If this
16 casino were to go through, we would have a new
17 title as the only city that has a casino next
18 to a high school.

19 There is also some new legislation
20 that is being drafted right now that would put
21 some limits as to where you could place a
22 casino or any type of gaming facility and that
23 it would have to be at least 1325 feet away
24 from a school. So, this particular location

1 will not meet that criteria.

2 We are concerned also about the
3 aftermath. What happens with so many being
4 afflicted with gambling issues? As churches,
5 we are one of the first places that people turn
6 to for help. I know in my case each year, the
7 number of calls that I receive from people
8 looking for assistance changes. It used to be
9 just somebody needing a little bit of food or
10 some money from their gas tank.

11 Last year I had six calls just
12 simply looking to help pay their rents or their
13 mortgages. People have gone to other casinos.
14 We're looking at the aspect of the saturation.

15 The law allows for three full gaming
16 centers, casinos. And if this were to go
17 through and the Mashpee Tribe which now has met
18 all the criteria puts theirs in Taunton, we
19 would have four. And that is a violation of
20 what the law has set so forth.

21 And we are concerned that with all
22 the activity going in Rhode Island, we're going
23 to see an absolute saturation in this area, in
24 an area that cannot sustain this many gambling

1 casinos.

2 It is a concern for us on all kinds
3 of different avenues. We are worried about
4 what's going to happen. And as was brought up
5 already about having to have a mental-health
6 counseling facility right there on-site that is
7 of grave concern.

8 So, thank you for your time. And we
9 just ask that you would just give serious
10 consideration to all of the aspects of the laws
11 that already in place in this Commonwealth.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
13 much. Larry Curtis, Adriano Cabral? Next up
14 would be Tracy Marzelli, Christopher Cooney,
15 Stephen O'Brian if you wanted to come forward.
16 Good evening.

17 MR. CABRAL: Good evening. My name
18 is Adriano, resident of Brockton. And I'm here
19 to present my witness about the proposed
20 casino. And the reason of why I'm here is
21 because I do believe this casino is going to
22 benefit Brockton and its surrounding areas.

23 Brockton is a city with a lot of
24 problems. And we all live through these

1 problems every day. We have kids needing
2 programs. I understand gambling it might sound
3 awful or it might sound something not positive,
4 but only adults go gamble and there is a huge
5 security. As far as I know, there is a huge
6 security. Kids are not going to be inside.

7 But the income that will come from
8 the gambling will have those kids the program
9 that they need which they don't have right now.
10 So, I have kids. My kids go to Brockton High
11 School.

12 I wish when he leaves high school
13 not just to pass by a casino but to have a
14 program to go to. That's what I want. That's
15 what keeps Brockton safe. We are dealing with
16 this for many years. Can we have something
17 that provides the opportunity to those kids?

18 On the other hand, we have the
19 parents. We have people needing jobs. Why do
20 people go to things that sometimes might not be
21 healthy or helpful to them or their families.
22 Many times is because they don't have a job.
23 They go sometimes they go sell drugs because
24 they don't have a job. Can we give them an

1 opportunity to have a job and maybe not do
2 those things?

3 I am a mental-health professional.
4 And I know that gambling is a problem that
5 comes not with having casino near by your
6 house. It's an addiction that needs to be
7 addressed in a more broader way. If you have
8 compulsive behavior that could be gambling. It
9 could be eating. It could be drugs. It could
10 be anything. That's the personality things.

11 So, I don't think bringing casino to
12 Brockton is really the answer for someone with
13 gambling problems. We need all the things that
14 will be beneficial not only to Brockton and to
15 the surrounding areas.

16 So, I do believe this casino is a
17 benefit to Brockton. As far as the casino
18 nearby and it could be saturated, I guess it
19 was clear. I was in the presentation. The
20 Mayor agrees -- Is it time? Okay.

21 Anyway, this a good thing for
22 Brockton. You should consider giving the
23 opportunity of the people of Brockton to have
24 jobs and have opportunities for their families

1 and their kids. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
3 much. Larry Curtis, Steve Bernard, Tracy
4 Marzelli. Are you one of those folks, Sir?

5 MR. BERNARD: Good evening,
6 Commissioners. My name is Steve Bernard. I'm
7 speaking today as President of the Brockton
8 area branch of the NAACP.

9 The NAACP is the National
10 Association for the Advancement of Colored
11 People. And the Brockton branch represents
12 most of the South Shore. We are all members of
13 the NAACP by virtue of being citizens of the
14 United States. When we talk about people of
15 color, we talk about everyone.

16 When I go to a national convention
17 and we're excited about something we say fired
18 up, ready to go. And I think that Brockton and
19 the area surrounding Brockton is fired up and
20 ready to go and to invite, to encourage, the
21 Commission to accept the license -- provide the
22 license for Mass Gaming and Entertainment to
23 begin their project here.

24 The NAACP has an economic

1 reciprocity initiative. We have a report card
2 on major industries in the United States. 40
3 plus states in the United States have casinos.
4 And many of them have hotel resort casinos.
5 So, this makes it somewhat of a fabric of the
6 United States industry.

7 Jobs, jobs, jobs. Unemployment,
8 unemployment, unemployment. Brockton and the
9 area has a very high unemployment rate and we
10 need to improve that. There are potentially
11 1500 job opportunities that come along with
12 this casino and resort destination.

13 It will improve not only our
14 economic position for individuals, it will
15 improve our economic position from a municipal
16 situation with tax revenue. It will also
17 provide educational opportunities for our
18 community colleges and colleges in the area
19 where hotel and the entertainment industry is
20 offered as an educational opportunity.

21 In addition to that it will provide
22 a great social opportunity given that there
23 will be not only the casino but a hotel and
24 maybe a movie theater or maybe places where we

1 can have first-class entertainment come to
2 Brockton.

3 It's also worthy noting that our
4 MBTA, our commuter rail not only services
5 Brockton with three stops in Brockton, it
6 services neighboring towns of Abington and
7 Holbrook and Whitman. So, it's a place where
8 people can get to. People that employed from
9 the general area are able to get to work.

10 So, given this and many more if I
11 had time are reasons why I am in favor, fired
12 up and ready to go to invite you to accept our
13 application. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
15 much. Larry Curtis, Tracy Marzelli,
16 Christopher Cooney.

17 MR. COONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
18 for allowing me to speak on behalf of the
19 business community in the metro-south region.
20 My name is Chris Cooney. I'm President of the
21 Metro-South Chamber of Commerce that represents
22 1000 companies in this region. Half of them
23 are in the city of Brockton. Half of them are
24 in the surrounding communities.

1 As we know casino gaming represents
2 \$3.6 billion in New England alone. That
3 includes two tribal casinos and racinos. The
4 New England market is making \$1.8 billion in
5 investments. 45 percent of New England's
6 population represents 47 percent of the
7 disposable income for this activity.

8 Massachusetts residents impact
9 annually spend \$1.1 billion in casinos,
10 directly underwrite 6000 hospitality jobs in
11 casinos and indirectly contribute more than
12 \$220 million annually to the general
13 treasuries.

14 In 2008, we suffered a huge lost,
15 650 gaming jobs when dog racing, legalized dog
16 racing, commissioned by the state of
17 Massachusetts, supervised the state of
18 Massachusetts and regulated by the state of
19 Massachusetts was operating just a few miles
20 south of here.

21 No fault of our own, if that vote
22 was just eastern Massachusetts, we would have
23 maintained that gaming entertainment but it was
24 the rest of the state that banned it in the

1 middle of a recession. It happens to be the
2 same owners as the property we're talking about
3 Brockton.

4 We feel it's a question of fairness
5 in terms of returning these jobs back to this
6 region. We think that Brockton represents a
7 wonderful opportunity.

8 I think you can probably discover on
9 your own that Neil Bluhm and Rush Street Gaming
10 is the preferred partner of choice in the
11 state.

12 We could not be more delighted to
13 have them as a partner in this particular
14 casino on this project. Many, many people
15 wanted them, as you know. You saw
16 applications.

17 They have already stepped up and
18 have done vendor fairs in partnership with the
19 Chamber of Commerce. We've registered hundreds
20 of companies to provide possible services at
21 this facility. We think that this facility
22 will give people a reason to stop and come to
23 Brockton.

24 One, people that maybe never would

1 have considered coming to Brockton and that is
2 good not only for the gaming facility but also
3 the city of Brockton in terms of exposure, in
4 terms of additional room nights. We have six
5 hotels in the city. Sometimes people don't
6 realize that but it'll increase the occupancy
7 rate there. We will see new hotels being
8 built.

9 We also have host commitments from
10 Rush Street to spend money locally in local
11 businesses through a business cash program. A
12 program that has gift certificates involved the
13 allows both increased gaming or regular gamers
14 to spend money in the local community but also
15 their employees as incentives.

16 So, on behalf of the board I ask you
17 to support this. And interestingly enough, the
18 superintendent of schools is on our board and
19 she voted in favor of it. So, thank you very
20 much.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Who was that?

22 MR. COONEY: The superintendent of
23 schools, Cathy Smith.

24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very

1 much. Stephen O'Brian, and then Dana Boardman
2 and José Lopes could come down.

3 MR. O'BRIAN: Thank you
4 Commissioners for allowing me to speak. I urge
5 you not to issue a casino license to Brockton.

6 Attorney General Maura Healey has
7 been quoted in the media in saying that
8 Brockton is not viable as a casino location. I
9 believe she is right for several reasons.

10 Massachusetts is approaching
11 saturation of the casino market. A tribal
12 casino will be built in Taunton only 18 miles
13 from Brockton. The Plainridge Park Casino is
14 not far away. Rhode Island is proposing a
15 slots parlor in Tiverton on the Massachusetts
16 border. The Wynn Casino in Everett is within
17 35 miles of Brockton. A Brockton casino would
18 be excessive.

19 Furthermore, Brockton has a poor
20 record when comes to managing big projects.
21 One, Campanelli Stadium where Brockton's minor
22 league baseball team plays draws very small
23 crowds. The team struggles to make its
24 payments to the city. The stadium has become a

1 white elephant. This ill-conceived and poorly
2 managed project was former Mayor Jack Units'
3 idea.

4 Two, Brockton pays millions of
5 dollars yearly to the Aquaria Desalination
6 Plant for water it does not use. Three,
7 Brockton's being sued by a developer seeking to
8 build a power plant on the city's south side.
9 This controversy has been raging for years.

10 Four, the city is rampant with drugs
11 and crime. The May 12 casino yes or no vote
12 was only 50.5 percent yes to 49.5 percent no, a
13 one percent margin. This razor thin margin was
14 only 148 votes out of more than 14,100 cast.
15 The deep pocketed pro-casino forces spent \$1.6
16 million on the election compared to \$1600 by
17 the oppositions. Elections can be bought
18 especially by out-of-state billionaires with
19 unlimited resources.

20 Mayor Carpenter in his television
21 commercials says that in Brockton everything is
22 close by. But everything won't be close by if
23 the residents of the greater Brockton area have
24 to fight casino traffic every time they want to

1 run an errand.

2 The billionaires and commercial
3 interests have had their say and continue to
4 exert pressure. The ordinary citizens of the
5 Brockton area do not want a casino here and
6 will not support it. Many people believe that
7 Brockton is not viable as a casino location.
8 Please do not grant a casino license to
9 Brockton. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
11 much. Dana Boardman.

12 MR. BOARDMAN: Thank you for letting
13 me speak. I'm not a polished speaker, just a
14 regular citizen of Brockton. I happen to come
15 through Holbrook through Route 37 on Sundays
16 and some Saturdays for a men's group at St.
17 Joseph's.

18 Now one of my biggest concerns is I
19 had an open mind when this first came. So, not
20 knowing other than having gone to Atlantic City
21 a couple of times with my brother who loves
22 blackjack and I tried to my have an open mind.
23 But I do remember and it's quite a few years
24 ago, Atlantic City is pretty down.

1 So, all of these great things I hear
2 about gambling coming to Brockton, I see all
3 the litter. Housing that people have abandoned
4 because they couldn't afford it. The
5 infrastructure had fallen apart because they
6 didn't get enough money to take care of what
7 the city needs were with these people coming.

8 I've since learned a lot of the
9 casinos have pulled out. So, we may be doing a
10 temporary good thing, a few low-paying jobs,
11 but they'll probably be taken by the people
12 from Atlantic City and other casinos. How much
13 are they really going to benefit the local
14 people?

15 Also, as I drive through here, when
16 I came down Route 37, there's an intersection
17 in Brockton just over the line that I can just
18 imagine it's going to be five to 10 minutes
19 just to get across that intersection.

20 I also worked for 38 years with the
21 veterans at the VA, which is right down the
22 street from the fairgrounds. I read the
23 parking and the traffic report the best I could
24 as a lay person, I didn't get any statistics as

1 what the future is going to be for the traffic
2 there. And when was this study done? Was it
3 done on the holidays or over the summer when
4 school is not even in?

5 And the VA is growing in their
6 population. There will be more traffic there.
7 I just went down Linwood Street the other day.
8 There's new developments coming in there. Were
9 the parking statistics taking into
10 consideration the development?

11 Most of the people on that side of
12 the city were strongly opposed because of
13 traffic. There's some concerns of property
14 values going down. One of the things I did, I
15 tried to have an open mind. What do I do, go
16 to the Internet, Google casinos -- advantages
17 of casinos or economic development of casinos
18 impact.

19 I was shocked at all of the negative
20 things. We've heard from the very beginning
21 how great this would be. Most of the citizens
22 didn't get time to even speak at the hearings
23 we had in Brockton, which is not very
24 democratic.

1 And as a veteran, I think it's
2 important that you hear from the little people.
3 I don't own a three-piece suit. I'm not
4 getting any benefits. But I want to know
5 what's good for my city and not just for a few
6 people and just temporarily.

7 I strongly think I may move out of
8 the city if the traffic from where I live to
9 get over to the other side of town is much
10 longer. And I have not seen a traffic plan
11 that takes into consideration the city.

12 People may come to Brockton once to
13 gamble. I guarantee they will not be back,
14 because they'll be so frustrated. Besides
15 losing, they'll probably also be frustrated
16 with the traffic. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. José
18 Lopes. And Greg Sabine if you want to come
19 forward.

20 MR. LOPES: Good evening. My name
21 is José Lopes and I live in Brockton. I go
22 over the main thing recently in Brockton budget
23 deficit over \$30 million. You see Brockton for
24 lack of the opportunity, lack of hope, lack of

1 security.

2 Recently a few days ago or right now
3 we are dealing with property tax going up. The
4 one hope I think that mostly landowners have to
5 have any sources of income to the city. So,
6 casino may be good choice for the city to get
7 more hope especially for the youths who waiting
8 to get some soccer field, more job, more
9 education. So, my vote is that the casino
10 should granted the license. Thank you,

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
12 much, Mr. Lopes. Mr. Sabine, am I saying that
13 right?

14 MR. SABINE: Yes, thank you. My
15 name is Greg Sabine. I live in Brockton.
16 Thank you for this hearing. And I would like
17 those people who are standing behind me that
18 I'm addressing you also through this
19 Commission.

20 I'm opposed to gambling of all
21 kinds. I find nothing in gambling that we can
22 honestly stand on to say that it is principled
23 and moral. Quite frankly, it is immoral.

24 There are people in this room who

1 have distinguished careers. And they are for
2 the gambling casino. And we can say well, they
3 are the problem. We can say that Governor
4 Deval Patrick who is pro-gambling and pro-
5 casinos is the problem. Pardon me, I have a
6 hoarse throat. But really they are not the
7 problem.

8 They are a symptom of our problem as
9 a whole nation. If you look at the moral
10 decline that has taken this country. I am 67
11 years old. This wouldn't have even been a
12 thought when I was a younger man to have
13 something like this.

14 There are people sitting here that
15 have read the National Gambling Impact Study
16 Commission that was put together by Bill
17 Clinton. Gay Vernon chaired it. There were
18 people on that commission from the far left to
19 the far right. They all agreed as to the
20 horrors of gambling.

21 A few weeks ago, we celebrated the
22 life of a great man of God, Dr. Martin Luther
23 King. And I would say if Dr. King were alive
24 today, he would repeat what he said about

1 gambling that he said about segregation and
2 discrimination in his letter from the
3 Birmingham Jail. He said any law that doesn't
4 conform with the moral law of the universe,
5 God's law, is no law at all. And it ought not
6 to be followed.

7 To those sitting behind me, I would
8 say we really are losing it. We have really
9 what is a spiritual problem. And for those
10 who, like myself, call themselves followers of
11 Jesus Christ like Martin Luther King was, I
12 would just ask you to fervently pray about
13 this.

14 There was an anecdotal story in that
15 impact study report that Dr. James Dobson told
16 about a man who was a gambling addict at a
17 casino and he brought his son to the casino.
18 And the boy was abducted and murdered I think
19 in the boys room.

20 And when they brought the father in
21 to tell him what had happened to his son, all
22 he could think to say was he wouldn't prosecute
23 if they would give him some more chips. Thank
24 you for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Has
2 Mr. Curtis showed up, Larry Curtis?

3 MR. CURTIS: Thank you. Good
4 afternoon, my name is Larry Curtis. I am a
5 resident and registered voter for the city of
6 Brockton.

7 As part of the Mass. Gaming
8 Commission's responsibility, the Commonwealth
9 was required to hold a special election for the
10 host city, Brockton, to determine if the
11 registered voters would approve of a
12 destination resort casino.

13 An aggressive campaign was launched
14 in March 2015, which generated a great deal of
15 passion and excitement in our city. For a
16 period of nine weeks, proponents and opponents
17 aggressively debated the merits of a
18 destination resort casino cumulating in a vote
19 on May 12, 2015.

20 That day 14,199 registered voters
21 cast their vote with the voters saying yes for
22 Brockton that a destination resort casino would
23 be a great opportunity for the city of
24 Brockton.

1 Let's look at the numbers. 7171
2 voters said yes for Brockton while 7025 voters
3 said no. The yes for Brockton voters won the
4 election by 147 votes, or 50.5 percent to 49.5
5 percent.

6 Let's break those votes down even
7 further. 20 of the 28 precincts in the city of
8 Brockton voted yes for Brockton. That's 71.4
9 percent to 28.6 percent of our precincts.

10 Breaking it down even further, five of the
11 seven wards in the city of Brockton voted yes
12 for Brockton again, identifying 71.4 percent of
13 the city voters and 28.6 percent of the city
14 against that.

15 Why is this important? The city of
16 Brockton is known for close elections. In
17 2013, our citywide election results basically
18 showed our mayor winning by 51 votes. Or Ward
19 1 city councilor winning by 56 votes. Our Ward
20 5 councilor winning by 20 votes and our Ward 3
21 school committee by 29 votes.

22 Just recently in 2015, our city
23 councilor at-lodge fourth-place vote was one by
24 118 votes, our Ward 5 city councilor won by

1 three votes and our Ward 7 school committee by
2 31 votes.

3 The city of Brockton's registered
4 voters are accustomed to close elections. We
5 are passionate about our politics. And we are
6 never afraid to express our opinions. The
7 results of the 2013/2015 city elections
8 identified were a lot closer than 141 vote
9 victory for yes for Brockton.

10 The same can be said about the
11 acceptance of our election results. As
12 registered voters for the city of Brockton, we
13 expect those results to be honored. And on May
14 12, 2015 in accordance with the Mass. Gaming
15 Commission rules, the registered voters of
16 Brockton answered the call and said yes for
17 Brockton.

18 As one of those 14,199 registered
19 voters, I expect nothing less from this
20 Commission than to honor the voting rights of
21 the residents of the city Brockton and issue
22 the Region C destination resort casino to our
23 great city. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Tracy

1 Marzelli, Patricia Lugo and Julio -- I'm not
2 sure of the last name. -- Roman or Powman, both
3 of you can come forward if you are here.

4 MS. LUGO: My name is Patricia Lugo.
5 I'm a resident of the city of Brockton. I
6 bought my first home in 1989. I am now in my
7 third home in Brockton which is the city that I
8 love.

9 I watched the city go through some
10 very bad financial times during the 90s and
11 have seen Brockton try to grow and expand and
12 improve itself over the years. We're doing a
13 great job.

14 I worked for the city of Brockton
15 for the school department for 12 years. I
16 worked for the town of East Bridgewater for six
17 years. And I currently work for the town of
18 Holbrook in the school departments of each of
19 those towns.

20 I've watched Chapter 70 funding
21 diminish over the years to help the school and
22 the cities and the towns. I've watched federal
23 and state grants also diminish over the years.

24 Currently, in Holbrook we are going

1 through the budget process for FY17, which
2 starts in less than six months. And we are
3 struggling to fund the school department in
4 Holbrook in FY17. I am looking forward to the
5 dining and the entertainment that will be
6 brought to us through the casinos.

7 I think that it's a great thing that
8 the high school students will be nearby and can
9 get \$10 an hour and next year \$11 an hour jobs
10 for a lot of these students which currently
11 don't have many opportunities for jobs in
12 Brockton.

13 The adults in Brockton as well need
14 job security and health insurance. I'm not
15 positive of this statistic, but I believe the
16 average annual income for Brockton residents is
17 in the forty-thousands which is very low.

18 I've seen families struggling in
19 Brockton and we have a high unemployment rate.
20 I would like to see the economic and financial
21 boost brought in by this casino help the city
22 of Brockton and the surrounding communities who
23 all need this opportunity.

24 I think it's going to help

1 revitalize Brockton. We need money for the
2 schools, for the fire, police and safety
3 issues. We need money for infrastructure and
4 roads in Brockton. And I'm looking forward to
5 having the casino near my home which is
6 practically across the street from the casino.
7 I will be able to look out my windows and see
8 this every day. And I'm looking forward to
9 this boost in the economic revitalization for
10 Brockton. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
12 much. Mr. Powman.

13 MR. POMAR: My name is Julio Pomar,
14 P-O-M-A-R. I apologize I don't have a prepared
15 statement. But after hearing what I'm hearing,
16 I feel like I have to say something.

17 I am opposed to this casino in
18 Brockton. I live in Brockton. I grew up in
19 Brockton, graduated high school in 1984. I see
20 a lot of things out there that I don't like.
21 And I see a lot of things that would be good
22 for any city.

23 But the people that are going to be
24 going to this casino are not the high-roller

1 people that can afford to lose because their
2 chance of winning. These are people who are
3 going to be spending what little money they
4 have to try to better who they are, try to get
5 more money to survive.

6 So, I don't see how when they lose
7 what are they going to do? What are they going
8 to do when they lose their money to the house,
9 which it happens. It happens all the time.
10 Are they going to look to crime? Are they
11 going to look to try augment what they lost by
12 doing things that they shouldn't do?

13 As of right now, we all know there
14 is a huge opiate epidemic, and people who have
15 problems on a day-to-day basis just trying to
16 make it for the day. And people having
17 addiction problems, it's all over the state.
18 I'm a paramedic. I see that on a day-to-day
19 basis. I think that putting a casino in
20 Brockton and trying to substitute one addiction
21 to try to fix another by getting jobs, I think
22 it's a wrong thing to do.

23 I ask that you do not grant this to
24 Brockton. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Ann
2 Hunyadi, something like that. Sorry if I'm
3 butchering the name, my apologies.

4 MS. HUNYADI: My name is Ann
5 Hunyadi. I'm a resident of the city of
6 Brockton and I also work in the city as well.
7 I want to thank you all for your thoughtful
8 consideration to this issue. It's very
9 important to many people.

10 Since the city of Brockton voted,
11 the landscape has drastically changed.
12 Atlantic City has gone into receivership just
13 this week. And fantasy football and online
14 gaming has blossomed. Like Mr. Lopes who spoke
15 earlier, I too am interested in the youth of
16 our city, but I have a different spin. I want
17 more for them than an entry-level job. Again,
18 I thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
20 much. The first name on here we can't quite
21 make out. The pen didn't work too well. It
22 was the most recent sign-up sheet. It's like
23 Jim Morales, is that you? My apologies.
24 Please come forward, also Stephen Abrams and

1 Brian McElhinrey can come forward.

2 MR. MOLINA: Thank you so much for
3 allowing me to talk in front of you.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: State your name
5 for the record.

6 MR. MOLINA: My name is Lewis A.
7 Molina. I'm resident from Brockton 89 years.
8 I bought my house after 10 years working so
9 hard. I live on Ash Street. It's (INAUDIBLE)
10 to see this meeting in the first place.
11 Traffic, who the heck is going to fix the
12 traffic? I thought my kid trying to play on
13 the street, but there is no place. There is no
14 room.

15 The traffic is bad. I think the
16 numbers is bad. Why do they want to destroy
17 whole area? We live in there. Why? Just
18 because personal things, no.

19 And the second place is that the
20 students are right there. We have Brockton
21 High School, Kennedy School believe it or not,
22 junior high school where those kids are going
23 to walk (INAUDIBLE) buildings. There is no
24 way.

1 In the third place, the area very
2 nice area. Now is destroyed after the casino
3 come over, the house drop 10 percent. In my
4 street, 10 houses went for sale under the
5 price. And they are all nice people. Why are
6 you destroying this city, this area of
7 Brockton? We fight for them.

8 The last item I want to tell you
9 guys, it is bad to hear this meeting. Many
10 people who even here and is in favor of this
11 casino I saw in all of the notice, big, big
12 announcement. How much more do they spend?
13 How much more do they want to put in order to
14 get this casino? Not casino in Brockton,
15 please. Not the casino in Brockton.

16 We have enough problem. One week
17 ago a shooting was bad. One of the kids ended
18 up in the hospital. And we don't count a lot
19 of problems in this south area and the west
20 area and the north area. Please no casino.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
23 Stephen Abrams.

24 MR. ABRAMS: Yes. My name is

1 Minister Stephen Abrams. I've been in ministry
2 over 30 years. We have a church. I live in
3 the city of Brockton. Our church is located at
4 184 West Elm Street less than a mile from the
5 casino.

6 But let me tell you a quick story
7 concerning the city of Brockton and true
8 Brocktonians, how they feel about their city
9 and how they love their city. We have a
10 serious opiate epidemic. There were 124 deaths
11 last year of overdose. There was 1200 saves
12 with Narcon. The city has been overrun with
13 this type of epidemic.

14 Now, they want to part 90 percent of
15 the student body at the city of Brockton High
16 School English as their second language. So,
17 what does that tell me? They're telling me
18 that there's a social experiment once again
19 that would like to try to come up and prop up a
20 problem that a casino would definitely not do.

21 What is that telling me? That's
22 telling me those who are for the casino have a
23 greater gain than those who are not. Anyone
24 can prop up a vote and promote it to get their

1 numbers skewed.

2 My main concern is not that our
3 children have low-paying jobs but our children
4 have a future. The future doesn't stop at the
5 casino. The future stops after they receive
6 their master's in college. So, why do we have
7 to sell our community short with a casino?

8 Being a minister, I see the plight
9 of those who did not come home because they're
10 gambling. Those who have to stop by and buy
11 scratch tickets because they got the itch.
12 This is the day that they're going to hit. And
13 it never happens. It's chasing smoke. It's
14 chasing smoke.

15 And I'm really concerned about our
16 law enforcement. If we lose one person in
17 uniform to the violence that will come to the
18 city, because it's here now because I've seen
19 it firsthand. Twenty-three years in the United
20 States military, one deployment I've seen the
21 worst of humanity.

22 And I can see also going to seeing
23 the statistics in Vegas, Plainville, Atlantic
24 City, we all know what comes about. We all

1 know. But once you put drugs, money and
2 illicit activities, we got a problem.

3 So, I'm just asking everyone as you
4 come to the different churches and you hear
5 these confessions of what has happened to
6 Brocktonians, to Brocktonians -- they adopted
7 me in some 26 years ago. Bought property all
8 across the city, seen the city change. But
9 now, they want to bring in another gorilla that
10 will suck from our resources.

11 One child gets hurt, it only takes
12 one to negatively affect this. So, I ask you
13 please reconsider. Think of your own
14 neighborhood. It's right here. Why Brockton?
15 So, I ask the question, why Brockton? It's
16 another social experiment. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Brian
18 McElhinrey.

19 MR. MCELHINREY: Good evening. My
20 name is Brian McElhinrey. I'm the principle
21 officer at Teamsters Local 653. We represent
22 2300 members on the South Shore and the
23 Brockton area. I was born and raised in
24 Brockton.

1 And I've seen the struggles of the
2 city. And I've experienced those struggles
3 with my 2300 members today. Today, we toured
4 two plants. We were at one of our liquor
5 distributors where 20 people had to go home
6 because there was no work. And we just left
7 the food processing plant in Brockton that 40
8 are losing their jobs.

9 And we've been going through this
10 for the past four or five years in the city.
11 Enough is enough. We worked with the Carney
12 family for over 50 years in our local. They
13 give great contracts to our members. They are
14 good jobs. Hopefully, these casino jobs will
15 be union jobs.

16 And this city needs good solid jobs.
17 More than anything, we need the work for our
18 people. We need the community to be brought up
19 to a level where they can have real sustained
20 lifestyles.

21 Right now, the city of Brockton is
22 in a bad way. The people of the city are
23 struggling to survive. And my members are
24 struggling to survive. These jobs will start

1 off with good solid union construction jobs,
2 building the casino and all of the surrounding
3 areas in constructing the roads.

4 And then they will continue on to
5 all of the jobs inside the casino which will
6 raise this community up to a standard where it
7 used to be when I grew up here.

8 Also, the surrounding communities
9 will be helped by all of the members, my
10 members who deliver food, beverages, beer and
11 all of the services that this casino will need.
12 We have companies that deliver every product in
13 there with the local communities and local
14 agreements that will be reached hopefully with
15 this casino. All of my members will be lifted
16 up. And our people will be able to get back to
17 work.

18 We also represent the school bus
19 drivers in Brockton along with the Brockton
20 school custodians. They're facing a \$10
21 million budget shortfall this year in the
22 school department. Most of my members are at
23 home right now worried about whether or not
24 they're going to have work in September.

1 So, the city needs this. They need
2 the funding. They need this proposal. They
3 need the Carney family there to use this land
4 for a good reason to boost up this city.

5 And we are in support of this. And
6 we ask that you do support this casino
7 amendment. And we'd appreciate your support in
8 putting this casino in Brockton and helping
9 these people, helping my people, and making
10 sure that good jobs land here where they
11 belong. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Djidji
13 Monteiro. And Larry Curtis signed up. I think
14 we've already had Mr. Curtis.

15 MS. MONTEIRO: Good afternoon. My
16 name is Djidji Monteiro also a Brockton
17 resident for 19 years in the city of Brockton
18 and a business owner as well. I'm here today
19 to tell you guys and I didn't see any
20 opportunity living in Brockton city what I
21 love. I didn't consider go anywhere else in
22 United States than Brockton. I do love
23 Brockton. I raised two kids age 15 and eight
24 and my son attend Brockton High School this

1 first year.

2 I don't see why that in Brockton
3 right now we don't have absolutely nothing.
4 People struggle. There's no job.
5 Manufacturing gone out of Brockton. It's
6 layoff everywhere. Even if you have a degree,
7 it's hard to find a job to go back. Things are
8 going up higher, rent, real estate. They are
9 trying to survive. It's so hard.

10 When I heard about casino coming to
11 Brockton -- As a matter of fact, it was last
12 year on my birthday, I was celebrating at
13 Foxwoods I receive a phone call from a great
14 friend of mine telling me Gigi are you okay? I
15 was quiet. I said yes. I am, it's my
16 birthday. I'm at Foxwoods Casino.

17 She says I want to tell you that we
18 having a meeting. We heard about a casino
19 coming to Brockton. I was like silent. It was
20 great news for me. It is a casino.

21 I've been to many states in United
22 States. I travel. I go to casinos. It
23 doesn't make me lose my job, my house or my
24 family. I don't see what is wrong casino?

1 There is casino everywhere.

2 If the people in Brockton are going
3 to Rhode Island playing, you name it,
4 Connecticut, Vegas everywhere they go to play
5 because they want to play why not invest the
6 money in our great city of Brockton. Because
7 the \$10 million is going to help with the
8 teachers, for our kids in school. It's going
9 to help the tax in the city of Brockton. I
10 think that's the only opportunity.

11 If I didn't see that happen to
12 Brockton, I don't know what was going to happen
13 to the Brockton residents. I don't think is
14 going to be any effect because if you don't
15 drink you not going to get drunk. If you know
16 how to drink, you can still drink. I don't
17 think gambling would be issue for Brockton.
18 Thank you for your time.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
20 much. Tracy Marzelli still hasn't appeared.
21 Do we have any more? Brian Currigan.

22 MR. CURRIGAN: Good evening, thank
23 you. I just want to make a couple of comments.
24 I'm proud to say I am from the city of

1 Brockton. My mother raised 11 children there.
2 We all do okay. We have our problems.

3 I know we get a lot of negative
4 Brockton's done this, Brockton's done that,
5 shootings here, opium there. It's the fifth
6 largest city in the state. So, we are going to
7 get news. We are going to get pinpoint for
8 certain things. It's just a shame that all of
9 the good stuff doesn't hit the newspapers. It
10 just doesn't sell.

11 I'm not really sure why we are here.
12 The people voted in a binding vote. Whether
13 it's one vote or a thousand votes, it's still a
14 binding vote. They elected and chose to have
15 the casino in the city of Brockton.

16 It's not up to the board or up to
17 the Governor or any individual to say we worry
18 about our children. It's up to the parent to
19 worry about their children. It's up to the
20 morals that you instill in your children.

21 I am confident that my children will
22 do what's right for them. My son goes to the
23 high school. He'll be going to the high school
24 if an when the casino is built. It's what we

1 instill in our own children that's going to be
2 right or wrong, not what government says we
3 should and should not do. It's not up to the
4 government. It's up to us.

5 We hear casino, casino, casino.
6 It's not just going to be the casino. It's
7 going to be a resort destination. You're going
8 to have more than just gambling. People had a
9 fair chance to vote. They had a fair chance to
10 speak up and they didn't. Those who did just
11 were in the majority.

12 That's my time. Thank you,
13 gentlemen.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
15 much. I believe we have a Ward 5 city
16 councilor.

17 MS. BEAUREGARD: Hello. I am the
18 Ward 5 city councilor that won by three votes.
19 Every vote does count. And I am grateful that
20 you are here today.

21 Ann Beauregard, and I am opposed to
22 the casino. I'm not opposed to casinos. I am
23 not for a casino that is near three schools,
24 and that's near a hospital that serves our

1 veterans that have served this nation. I am
2 not for a casino that is near a church, several
3 churches actually in the local area. I am for
4 bringing good businesses to the city that
5 increase and demonstrate the value of the
6 community.

7 Brockton is a great city. It has
8 challenges like all cities and will continue to
9 have challenges. There is no place where there
10 aren't any challenges.

11 We have a remarkable school system.
12 And like many taxpayers, I want to see the
13 schools grow and strengthen. But a casino to
14 me is not where the revenue is coming from.

15 It is going to come from industries
16 that establish and the needs of individuals
17 whether it's the biomedical industry, the
18 education industry and so on. I hope that you
19 consider the safety of the community, the
20 individuals of the community and vote in
21 opposition of a casino close to the schools,
22 the churches and to the veteran's hospital.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. We

1 have Shyra Barnes and Peggy Curtis could also
2 come forward and Paul Kearney.

3 MS. BARNES: Good evening. It's
4 Shaynah Barnes actually. Thank you for having
5 this hearing and thank you for allowing me to
6 speak.

7 I am one of the four city councilors
8 at-lodge in Brockton. I come before you to
9 speak against this particular project in this
10 area. I came out early against the project. I
11 made sure that I let Mr. Carney know my
12 feelings. And we spoke about that. And it's
13 just business, not personal.

14 But I do just want to make everyone
15 aware of a particular practice that happens in
16 other areas where there are casinos. And it's
17 a practice that's called capturing every
18 dollar.

19 What does is or the concept is if
20 people are going to be at the casino where they
21 have a buffet and all other kinds of things
22 besides gambling like one of the proponents
23 said they are not going to leave that
24 particular area to maybe go out to the mom-and-

1 pop shop to have a chicken Parmesan someplace
2 else. Or to go and take advantage of some of
3 the other businesses in the area.

4 And if we are trying to build our
5 city and we're trying to build business, it's
6 going to totally desecrate everything that's
7 going to be around in its area, because nobody
8 is going to leave. They're going to stay right
9 there.

10 We have mom-and-pop shops around
11 there. We have restaurants. We have little
12 stores that rely on the commerce of the people
13 in Brockton.

14 Personally, I think that we should
15 probably look at a different kind of project
16 something along the lines of a Patriot Place
17 situation where people -- If you're going to
18 say that people have this disposable income in
19 Brockton, let them spend it on something that
20 they can go home with. Let them spend it on
21 something that is durable not to have ATMs and
22 check-cashing machines in the bathroom.

23 That's one of the things that I
24 really want people to take a look at. Take a

1 look at what is going to happen in a long-term
2 setting not just right now.

3 Again, what my colleagues said about
4 the schools that is a very real thing. Before
5 I was a city councilor, I worked for DCF. And
6 every year I'd have a few girls on my caseload
7 that would go to the Brockton Fair and run off
8 with a person that worked at the Brockton Fair.

9 They'd be gone a week, two weeks.
10 And by the time they came back or they were
11 captured or found they'd aged 10 years in the
12 time that they were gone. And God knows what
13 kind of things they were exposed to.

14 So, that is my concern that we may
15 not have the kind of supervision that we would
16 like to have in a utopia for our children. And
17 they sneak off and they go there and they get
18 wrapped up with the wrong person. It's just a
19 snowball effect. So, that is what I would like
20 to say. And thank you very much for having me.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
22 much. Is it Peggy Curtis?

23 MS. CURTIS: Hi. My name is Peggy
24 Curtis. I'm a resident of Brockton. Thank you

1 for being here today.

2 I'd like to clear up a little
3 misconception that I believe has been
4 established today about addiction. I am a
5 parent of two addicts of heroin addiction. In
6 the 14 years that we've struggled with our
7 sons' addictions, we found that if you were
8 born with that disease, it's a disease of
9 addiction of anything.

10 It could be marijuana. It could be
11 alcohol. It could be gambling. It could be
12 anything. That if you are born with that
13 disease that does not mean just because there
14 is a casino here or there, it doesn't mean you
15 are going to become an addict. You are an
16 addict already no matter what it is that you
17 are around. And you would be predisposed to
18 that.

19 I don't have heroin in my house but
20 my kids found it anyways. So, if you have that
21 addiction, it's there already. And whether
22 there is a casino there or not doesn't make a
23 difference.

24 I believe the money from the casino

1 would help the addiction crisis that we are
2 having and we're struggling with in this area.
3 I feel that the monies that we could earn from
4 the taxation or the revenue from a casino would
5 help the addiction problem.

6 We are experiencing a shortage of
7 beds, a shortage of facilities and social
8 workers and adjustment counselors. And we also
9 have a lot of problems with people who go to
10 jail because of their drug addiction. There
11 are no jobs available for them to start their
12 road to recovery.

13 And I feel that the casino itself
14 would offer some of the younger people a path
15 to a different career, have a job right out of
16 school. It's close by. I know that gambling
17 casinos are closely monitored for the people
18 that come in. I personally have gone to
19 casinos. I'm not an addict, thank you.

20 Just because I go and I like to see
21 the entertainment. I like the restaurants. I
22 like the shops. Those are the things that
23 appeal to me. And I think that's what the
24 people who voted for the casino are looking

1 forward to also.

2 Again, I just want to reiterate if
3 you are an addict whether there is a casino
4 around you or not doesn't make you a gambling
5 addict. If there is alcohol around you -- if
6 you were born with that disease of addiction,
7 you are going to fall into it no matter what's
8 around you. And I'd like to say thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Paul
10 Kearney.

11 MR. KEARNEY: First of all, thank
12 you for your time to come here and address our
13 small community here.

14 I just want to say as a small
15 business owner that this is really going to
16 affect us as a small business and as a parent,
17 mostly as a parent. I come here as a parent
18 first.

19 And the idea that we're going to put
20 a casino next to a school is the craziest thing
21 I've ever heard. The idea that children are
22 going to have to be subject to casinos in their
23 backyard every single day, it just horrifies
24 me. And when people come up here and tell me

1 that this community already got to vote on
2 this, this is actually not true. We were told
3 -- That's a fair question.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Excuse me. Hang
5 on just one second, Sir. There is one speaker
6 at a time. You've had your opportunity.

7 MR. KEARNEY: And I just want to say
8 this. If you look at the voting when the
9 casino was done, first of all, Brockton was
10 voted the slimmest of margins that you can
11 imagine. I think it was by 70 votes.

12 The casino folks over here, they
13 spent \$1.5 million to \$3000. That was the
14 game. So, when we talk about what was voted
15 on. That is true. It was 49.5, but they were
16 outspent --

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Kearney, speak
18 to us.

19 MR. KEARNEY: And that said, the
20 other (INAUDIBLE)

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Kearney.

22 MR. KEARNEY: I know but I want to
23 talk to the folks top because this is
24 important. We should all know this.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: They can hear you,
2 Mr. Kearney.

3 MR. KEARNEY: We weren't able to
4 vote on the casino because the third casino
5 wasn't going to say where it was going to be.
6 So, the folks that were for the casinos, as you
7 know, if you look at the areas that knew where
8 the casinos were going to vote -- In
9 Springfield, Springfield voted for the casino
10 but everywhere around it didn't. Same thing in
11 Everett. People around the Everett area voted
12 for the casinos, but Brookline, Cambridge that
13 area didn't.

14 We weren't given the opportunity to
15 find out where the third casino was going to
16 be. So, folks that live in Easton where their
17 property values are going to decrease by the
18 way because the casinos only bring in crime,
19 domestic violence and they bring out the worst
20 in people, okay.

21 So, that said who is going to send
22 their kid to Stonehill College? I'm not going
23 to send my kid to Stonehill College knowing
24 that there's a casino a mile away.

1 That said if this was anywhere else
2 in any other community -- because I live in
3 Cohasset. I drove here from Cohasset. If this
4 was going next to Cohasset, it would be an
5 absolute riot out front that the idea that we
6 were going to put a casino in a school zone.

7 Because this is minority children
8 nobody is up here protecting the kids. We've
9 got 4500 kids going through that school. And
10 when you talk about jobs, if people want to
11 bring in jobs, you know what Brockton is good
12 for hospitals and schools, not strip clubs and
13 casinos. Okay? We've got the best hospitals
14 in Brockton. And people got to know if you get
15 hurt or sick --

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Kearney, did
17 you hear the time?

18 MR. KEARNEY: I'm sorry. I just
19 want to finish this point. If you get sick,
20 you're not going to go into a casino because
21 they're not going to make you well.

22 Brockton is a good city. It's a
23 city of champions. So, please don't put a
24 casino next to school zone. Thank you. And by

1 the way, this is a bill that bans casinos for
2 school zones.

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
4 Kearney. Thank you. Are there anymore? We
5 don't like to stop even though there are no
6 other speakers here now. We know that a lot of
7 people were working. There's a possibility
8 that people won't have been able to get here in
9 time. So, we want to wait until at least 5:30
10 and see whether other people come to sign up.
11 Are you raising your hand as a speaker? Do you
12 want to come forward? Give us your name,
13 please.

14 MR. SHARNELL: Jeff Sharnell. I am
15 a Brockton city resident. I've been here since
16 the sixth grade. So, I went through
17 elementary, junior high school and college and
18 now I'm an adult in the city of Brockton.

19 And as an adult in the city of
20 Brockton, I am in that tweener where I can live
21 anywhere. I can live in Easton, Braintree, go
22 to Newton, live anywhere. But I decided to
23 stay in Brockton.

24 Some of the reasons I decided to

1 stay here are for things that possibly can
2 happen here revenue, schools, casinos. When
3 someone first asked me if the casino was a good
4 idea I said I don't know, because I didn't have
5 enough information.

6 But you can't do anything without
7 funding, money and jobs. And as a resident of
8 the city, this is something that you have to
9 take the pros and the cons and outweigh them.
10 To me after having the correct information, I
11 was able to make an educated decision that this
12 would probably be a very good thing for the
13 city, and would not negatively impact us in a
14 way that is portrayed in the media and is
15 portrayed in other cities.

16 To me you only get one crack at it,
17 one opportunity here and then it moves on. So,
18 for me this is one of the things that may keep
19 me here in the city. This is one of the things
20 that may improve the place for us, improve the
21 fire force, improve many of the things that we
22 don't have in the city.

23 I'm not a politician at all or
24 anything like that but I'd like to have you

1 guys really take a real look at the city needs
2 something. People have told me the casino can
3 get up and move tomorrow. I tell them someone
4 that is making a \$650 million investment in the
5 city is not looking to leave tomorrow. That's
6 pretty solid.

7 So, for doing a lot of business in
8 the city as well as a commercial lender, my
9 clients and customers want to see this as small
10 business as well, because the more people that
11 flux through this city, the more opportunities
12 they have to either meet more people or gain
13 business or sell their goods to the casino
14 itself. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
16 much.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Peter something
18 who just signed up, Peter Jean.

19 MR. JEAN: Good evening. My name is
20 Peter Jean. I live in Brockton for almost 15
21 years, 15 years, one-five. I have four kids.
22 All we need, we need yes for Brockton because
23 we deserve it.

24 Anyone could against something is

1 significant will. For someone don't have any
2 education about life, what life is is a risk.
3 It's a risk, it's a risk. I stand right here
4 and anything could happen to me. It's a risk
5 because we are human beings.

6 Back in the day way, way far to be
7 Los Angeles. Los Angeles right here. No one
8 can enforce Los Angeles. A scientist 10 years
9 if you buy that land we're going to build movie
10 star there. We're going to build LA you see
11 right now. What they do, they make all colors
12 being famous to reduce the crime.

13 If you here, we here for something.
14 We need yes for Brockton. One of the reasons I
15 said yes for Brockton, if LA was the way it
16 was, if someone need to know go back in the
17 past to see where the past been and where we
18 are right now. It's a good time for Brockton.

19 Significant time, I don't want to
20 say nothing anymore. Let's go forward. Let's
21 build it in my backyard. Build it today in my
22 backyard even my kids not going to go there
23 because they have a father going to go further.
24 Not the kids, my father, I get it for my

1 brother.

2 I been here. I study criminal
3 justice. I learn it from my professor give me
4 all the details about LA. There wasn't LA
5 between black Latinos, I don't want to talk I
6 don't want to offend anyone. It's good. I'm
7 so happy to listen to all of you against it.
8 If you go any church on Sunday, bingo. Every
9 church is bingo. My Seven Days Adventist, my
10 sister, Seven Days Adventist, I can't even wait
11 to have it in my backyard because she travel
12 four hours --

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I'm sorry, Mr.
14 Jean. I'm sorry your time.

15 MR. JEAN: -- four hours to go up
16 there.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. We are
18 going to take a 10-minute break. We're going
19 to come back at 5:30. If you want to speak, if
20 you are here and you'd like to speak, sign up
21 with Janice. And we'll be back in about 10
22 minutes.

23

24 (A recess was taken)

1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Folks if I can
2 have your attention. We can have the
3 Commissioners come back. We are going to
4 reconvene our meeting. Ladies and gentlemen,
5 if I can have your attention. If you want to
6 talk maybe you can go outside or sit down, one
7 or the other. Thank you very much.

8 I neglected to do one important
9 thing. When we hold these public hearings we
10 oftentimes go to, borrow somebody's place,
11 somebody's facility. Today, we borrowed the
12 auditorium for the Holbrook Junior and Senior
13 High.

14 Michael Bolger is the Director. of
15 Facilities. I gather he is not here, but he
16 was very helpful in getting us this space. So,
17 we really appreciate Holbrook being willing to
18 pitch in and help us out. So, thank you.

19 We have two more speakers signed up.
20 First, Ossie Jordan and Elsie Sieben can also
21 come forward.

22 MR. JORDAN: Good evening. Ossie
23 Jordan, I'm not going to talk about the casino
24 itself. One question for you folks, you

1 mentioned the time a little while ago. Why did
2 you plan this at 4:00 in the afternoon?

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Why what?

4 MR. JORDAN: Why did you plan this
5 at 4:00 in the afternoon if you want community
6 input?

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We always have our
8 hearings where have a time where people who are
9 public servants who are working can do it on
10 their jobs and then we stay late so that they
11 can. That's already been determined.

12 MR. JORDAN: If you want community
13 input, and folks have heard me say this for
14 every group and every group in the area, you've
15 got to do it when people are available.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: There are two
17 kinds of community input. One is oral. And if
18 people can make that that's great. And the
19 other is written. And they both have the same
20 influence.

21 MR. JORDAN: I'm very familiar with
22 that.

23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: So, everybody
24 knows I think that on our website is a section

1 called MGC comments. And I think I mentioned
2 earlier, I think we've already gotten at least
3 60 or so folks who have communicated. So, if
4 people can't make it in-person, then they are
5 welcome to communicate with us at the web mail
6 or by letters.

7 If you don't have anything to say
8 about the casino, I think will move on to our
9 other speaker.

10 MR. JORDAN: Just one last thing.
11 If you are familiar with you wherever you go,
12 if you are working in Boston, it takes you at
13 least an hour by public transportation to get
14 back here.

15 So, if you're leaving at 5:00, the
16 earliest you should have a meeting is six, and
17 then run it whatever hours. Because if you do
18 it before that you're really not going to get
19 the input for the community. I want you to
20 take a look at that.

21 And that's above and beyond
22 whoever's on committees like this, and I've
23 done it for years, that's something that you
24 buy into. You're only doing it a few times and

1 then you're done. So, to include it within the
2 regular time, please think about that.

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
4 much. We'll do that. Thank you very much.

5 MS. SIEBEN: Hi. My name is Elsie
6 Sieben. We moved to Brockton during the
7 Blizzard of '78, believe it or not. So, 38
8 years we've been in the same house.

9 I just wanted to say a couple of
10 things that I haven't heard much about during
11 this hearing. One, I'd like to quote my little
12 granddaughter. I have a little granddaughter,
13 10-year-old granddaughter that I brought down
14 from Cambridge. She's actually the daughter of
15 a former foster son of mine.

16 I said you know they're going to
17 build a casino in Brockton. She said what?
18 Are they crazy? More traffic, more gambling
19 problems. She went down the whole list.

20 And the one that she said something
21 about that has been on my mind too, more people
22 driving buzzed in Brockton. We have traffic
23 problems so bad now. You try to go in that
24 area where the casino would be, try to go even

1 out of PriceRite at any time of the day, the
2 traffic is bad already. What are we going to
3 do with all this traffic? I am sure we are not
4 going to have all kinds of new roads and new
5 streets and everything.

6 Besides what Kaylani was saying,
7 people driving buzzed, more people driving
8 buzzed, we already have to watch out for them
9 on the roads especially at night. I've been
10 thinking though, why are we doing this? Who is
11 making money out of this? Who is being paid
12 off to have this come to Brockton?

13 A poor area, we are a poor, poor
14 city here. There are people who can't afford
15 to feed their kids and they'll be sitting in
16 the casino gambling away what little they have.
17 It doesn't make sense to me.

18 So, I would just like to say please
19 don't do it. Take it somewhere else out in the
20 boonies somewhere where people can travel to it
21 and then come home and be free of all the
22 problems that it will bring more crime, etc.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. I

1 think that's it. Nobody else signed up.
2 Nobody else wants to speak. Then I think I
3 would have a motion to adjourn.

4 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: So moved.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Second?

6 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All in favor,
8 aye.

9 COMMISSIONER MACDONALD: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Opposed? The ayes
14 have it unanimously. Thank you all very much.

15 We appreciate your time and
16 contribution. And we will take all of these
17 interesting comments into serious consideration
18 as we think about making the decision probably
19 scheduled in the last week of March. Thank you
20 very much. Good evening.

21

22 (Hearing adjourned at 5:42 p.m.)

23

24

1 ATTACHMENTS:

- 2 1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission January
3 28, 2016 Notice of Meeting and Agenda
4 2. Comment Letters

5

6

7 GUEST SPEAKERS:

8 Alex Bezanson

9 Reverend Jill Wiley

10 Timothy Gordon

11 Richard Reid

12 Adriano Cabral

13 Steve Bernard

14 Christopher Cooney

15 Stephen O'Brian

16 Dana Boardman

17 José Lopes

18 Greg Sabine

19 Larry Curtis

20 Patricia Lugo

21 Julio Pomar

22 Ann Hunyadi

23 Lewis Morina

24 Stephen Abrams

- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Brian McElhinrey
- 3 Djidji Monteiro
- 4 Brian Currigan
- 5 Ann Beauregard
- 6 Shaynah Barnes
- 7 Peggy Curtis
- 8 Paul Kearney
- 9 Jeff Sharnell
- 10 Peter Jean
- 11 Ossie Jordan
- 12 Elsie Sieben
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laurie J. Jordan, an Approved Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript from the record of the proceedings.

I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify that the foregoing is in compliance with the Administrative Office of the Trial Court Directive on Transcript Format.

I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify I neither am counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Proceedings recorded by Verbatim means, and transcript produced from computer.

WITNESS MY HAND this 1st day of February, 2016.

LAURIE J. JORDAN	My Commission expires:
Notary Public	May 11, 2018