THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING #114

CHAIRMAN

Stephen P. Crosby

COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Cameron

James F. McHugh

Bruce W. Stebbins

Enrique Zuniga

RE: PUBLIC INPUT - MOHEGAN SUN MASSACHUSETTS

AND SUFFOLK DOWNS

March 25, 2014 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

BOSTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER

415 Summer Street, Room 102

Boston, Massachusetts

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- 3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I am pleased call
- 4 to order the 114th meeting of the Massachusetts
- 5 Gaming Commission to be held here in the Boston
- 6 Convention and Entertainment Center on April
- 7 24, 2014 starting at four o'clock.
- 8 We only have one item of business on
- 9 our agenda today and that is to gather input
- 10 from interested parties on the application of
- 11 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts, LLC for a Category 1
- 12 gaming license to be located in Revere.
- 13 Let me just give you a couple of
- 14 ground rules about how we're going to try to
- 15 handle this. First of all, this is one of two
- 16 formal meetings that we have to accumulate
- 17 feedback before the Commission finishes its
- 18 evaluation and makes its decision. The
- 19 Legislature mandated that there be a meeting
- 20 held in the host community before the decision
- 21 is made. And that meeting will come after
- 22 this. So, there will be another opportunity
- 23 for people, particularly people from the host
- 24 community to speak.

- 1 But we felt that there was so many
- 2 interested parties, particularly in the
- 3 surrounding communities that it was important
- 4 for us to have a second hearing where people
- 5 had an opportunity to express their opinion
- 6 from surrounding communities.
- We have not streamed these meetings
- 8 live on the web although because they're
- 9 regional in interest. They're not statewide in
- 10 interest. We stream all of the rest of our
- 11 meetings. And we will stream our public
- 12 meeting -- I mean our host community meetings,
- 13 but this one is not streamed.
- We will however keep a transcript.
- 15 So, everybody's words will be recorded for
- 16 history. And when you come forward to speak,
- 17 please do speak loudly because Laurie is taking
- 18 down every word you say and we need to know who
- 19 you are and where you're from.
- 20 We already have about 130 people
- 21 signed up to speak. We will give everybody us
- 22 chance. We are prepared to stay late if we
- 23 need to to get that done. We will set a five-
- 24 minute limit. And you will see a clock here in

- 1 front that will be running for five minutes.
- 2 That's actually a lot of time. We found that
- 3 most people can speak in less time than that.
- 4 And we very much appreciate brevity. You get
- 5 points for brevity in this scenario.
- 6 We ask that you do the best you
- 7 possibly can not to simply repeat things that
- 8 we've heard many, many times before. If the
- 9 arguments have been made and you just want to
- 10 be pro or con, if you can do that in a sentence
- 11 or two that's really helpful. We want to hear
- 12 from everybody. It's not fair to keep
- 13 everybody too terribly late. So, moving this
- 14 along is very desirable.
- We will hear from everybody in the
- 16 order that they signed up with us. Anybody
- 17 that signed up on the web prior to noon today,
- 18 we have in a list. And people who have signed
- 19 up today and are signing up now, as they come
- 20 in, they will be added to the list.
- 21 Are there any other notes that
- 22 anybody wants to make, comments?
- 23 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Encourage
- 24 people to line up.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I will read some
- 2 names out in advance so that you can line up to
- 3 speak, so, rather than waiting in between each
- 4 speaker. I'll read out several names. If you
- 5 are here, please come up.
- I guess the last thing I would say
- 7 is this is a really important part of our
- 8 process. The Legislature made clear that
- 9 community support or community opposition was a
- 10 very important part of the criteria that we are
- 11 using. We have asked time after time after
- 12 time for input from interested parties and from
- individuals. We have received what now must be
- 14 thousands of letters and emails. Each
- 15 Commissioner reads every single email and
- 16 letter that we get.
- 17 We really value what you have to
- 18 say. It's a very critical important part of
- 19 this decision-making process. We talk about
- 20 having this process be participatory,
- 21 transparent and fair. And this is a big part
- 22 of the participatory and transparent part of
- 23 this. So, we really appreciate. We know a lot
- 24 you had to take time off from work to get here.

- 1 We appreciate that. As I said, this is a
- 2 really important part of the process for us.
- 3 So, I will start with public
- 4 officials. Hopefully, I won't miss anybody.
- 5 And then we will go to the speakers as they
- 6 signed up. And our first speaker by virtue of
- 7 being the mayor of the host community is Mayor
- 8 Rizzo from Revere.
- 9 THE HON. DANIEL RIZZO: Thank you
- 10 very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the
- 11 Commission. Thank you once again for the
- 12 opportunity to discuss Mohegan Sun's plans to
- 13 develop a world-class destination casino at
- 14 Suffolk Downs and why Mohegan Sun is the right
- 15 choice for Revere, the region and the
- 16 Commonwealth.
- 17 I'd also like to take this
- 18 opportunity to thank our own Revere residents
- 19 and business leaders as well as our friends and
- 20 local leaders from neighboring communities for
- 21 taking time out to be with us here today also.
- 22 This is clearly a very important part of the
- 23 process.
- For over two years now, residents of

- 1 Revere have believed that we would be a
- 2 terrific choice as one of the recipients of the
- 3 three resort style casinos licenses potentially
- 4 being designated by the Commission.
- 5 As a city that has played host to
- 6 not one but two racetracks for decades,
- 7 Wonderland Dog Track and Suffolk Downs, we
- 8 understand the impacts and the opportunities
- 9 that come with facilities such as these, and
- 10 having long embraced the concept of gaming in
- 11 our community.
- 12 We validated this belief first on
- 13 November 5 when over 6500 voters came out to
- 14 say yes to a resort style casino at Suffolk
- 15 Downs. Through a myriad of circumstances not
- 16 necessarily of our own accord, the planned
- 17 project was pivoted onto the Revere side of the
- 18 property. And in doing so, the Commission
- 19 wanted reassurance that Revere voters
- 20 understood these changes to the original plan
- 21 and asked us to once again come out and let
- 22 their voices to be heard.
- 23 Mr. Chairman, members of the
- 24 Commission on a cold, 18-degree day in

- 1 February, February 25 in fact, over 7100
- 2 residents came out again to show their support
- 3 for a destination resort style casino as
- 4 presented by Mohegan Sun at Suffolk Downs.
- 5 It bears noting that on both
- 6 occasions both on November 5 and on February
- 7 25, more voters came out in Revere to say yes
- 8 than all voters combined in the city of
- 9 Everett's referendum that was held on a warm
- 10 sunny day in June.
- 11 Mr. Chairman, I know that many
- 12 people came here today to let their voices be
- 13 heard, so I certainly don't want to get in the
- 14 way. However, I want to reemphasize why
- 15 Mohegan Sun is the right choice for the
- 16 Commonwealth and for the city of Revere.
- 17 As you may recall, this bill came
- 18 out of the Legislature not necessarily as a
- 19 gaming bill but as an emergency jobs bill. If
- 20 Mohegan Sun is selected for the Eastern region,
- 21 an estimated 4000 permanent jobs will be
- 22 created at the completion of the project. And
- 23 while Suffolk Downs would not be the direct
- 24 beneficiary of the gaming license, as you know,

- 1 they have committed to another 15 years of
- 2 racing saving somewhere between 850 and 1000
- 3 existing jobs, over 200 for Revere residents
- 4 alone.
- 5 And while we are talking about jobs,
- 6 our host community agreement obviously takes
- 7 care of jobs for Revere residents but we've
- 8 taken it a step further. We've required
- 9 Mohegan Sun to hire 75 percent of their
- 10 workforce from cities and towns within a 15-
- 11 mile radius of Revere. This is in keeping with
- 12 our belief that this is not a Revere project,
- 13 it is a regional project.
- 14 In terms of supporting our
- 15 businesses and local economies, we have
- 16 required Mohegan Sun to spend \$10 million
- 17 annually on goods and services with local
- 18 Revere businesses. But we have also taken this
- 19 one a step further. We have required Mohegan
- 20 Sun to spend \$50 million annually on goods and
- 21 services with businesses that are home-based,
- 22 again, within 15 miles of the project.
- Juxtapose these numbers with the
- \$50,000 annual commitment to be spent on gift

- 1 cards with local businesses in our competition
- 2 in Everett. I think it bears noting that just
- 3 a week ago Friday, Revere played host to what
- 4 we called a regional impact -- economic impact
- 5 summit. And along with a series of experts,
- 6 business and opinion leaders, hosted the cities
- 7 and towns of East Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, Salem,
- 8 Medford, Melrose, Winthrop and Saugus to
- 9 discuss how the proposal by Mohegan Sun could
- 10 benefit all of our communities and how we could
- 11 all work together to lift our economies as a
- 12 region. It is our plan to continue these
- 13 discussions.
- 14 With regards to transportation, I
- 15 believe our plan is head and shoulders above
- 16 our competition. If you look at every single
- 17 intersection and roadway where improvements are
- 18 being proposed, those sections and
- 19 intersections all receive an upgrade in
- 20 ranking. For example, if an intersection is
- 21 currently a C, it goes to a B-. Another
- 22 intersection currently at a C- goes to a C or a
- 23 B-. And on and on. The same cannot be said --
- 24 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Mayor, excuse

- 1 me. Because you are the mayor of the host
- 2 community, we will give you slack, but this
- 3 will be the last time. Go ahead.
- 4 THE HON. DANIEL RIZZO: My apologies
- 5 and I just have another couple of minutes, Mr.
- 6 Chairman.
- 7 So, easy access to and from Logan
- 8 Airport as well as an MBTA Blue Line stop right
- 9 at one of the main entrances of the property
- 10 makes our transportation, I believe, far
- 11 superior.
- 12 When you think about the term
- 13 destination resort style casino, Revere could
- 14 not be a better fit. As home to Revere Beach,
- 15 America's first public beach in the country and
- 16 now a national historic landmark, it has long
- 17 been known as a place for passive and regional
- 18 recreation and entertainment. If it's history,
- 19 nightlife or maybe a Bruins or Celtics game
- 20 that interests you, the Blue Line is right
- 21 there to take you where you want to go.
- 22 Also, I think it bears repeating
- 23 there is a longstanding last thoroughbred
- 24 racetrack in all of New England, Suffolk Downs

- 1 just next door for tourists and visitors to
- 2 enjoy.
- In closing, when we appeared before
- 4 the Commission back on December 3 and then
- 5 again on December 10, we called our team the
- 6 home team. We believe this to be true. We are
- 7 proud to support Mohegan Sun, the most widely
- 8 recognized and respected gaming brand in all of
- 9 New England, coupled with their success and
- 10 financial stability that makes them the most
- 11 successful casino in the entire Western
- 12 Hemisphere. They want to be part of our
- 13 community. And we want them as part of our
- 14 community.
- We know that if Mohegan Sun is
- 16 successful in earning a license that we as a
- 17 community will have the ability to lift our
- 18 city and our region in a way that no other
- 19 individual project ever could.
- We are ready to continue our
- 21 longstanding tradition as a resort town and
- 22 look forward to the Commission's affirmative
- vote in granting Mohegan Sun the available
- 24 license for the Eastern Region of

- 1 Massachusetts. I know that it will be a
- 2 project that will make the Commission, the city
- 3 and the Commonwealth proud. Thank you very
- 4 much.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I will have to be
- 6 firm on the five minutes. It's discourteous to
- 7 all of the other people that need to speak to
- 8 run longer than that. So, from this time on, I
- 9 will be firm on the five minutes. Mayor
- 10 Kennedy from Lynn. Is Mayor Kennedy here?
- 11 Also, just so you can be somewhere
- 12 close Adrian Madara, Peter Gill, Richard
- 13 Boyajian, Craig Mael, you can maybe line up.
- 14 Madame Mayor, welcome.
- THE HON. JUDITH KENNEDY: Thank you.
- 16 And good afternoon to all of the Gaming
- 17 Commission members. As many of you know, the
- 18 city of Lynn is an older urban gateway city
- 19 with a population of over 90,000 people.
- 20 We are the city closest as the crow
- 21 flies to any of the borders of the casino.
- 22 It's about three miles from Revere to the city
- 23 of Lynn and the GE bridge. Directly over the
- 24 GE bridge are two of our most developable

- 1 properties within the city. They are currently
- 2 undeveloped.
- 3 One is known as the gear plant
- 4 property. It's about 70 acres owned by GE, but
- 5 as we understand it soon to be put up for sale
- 6 for development. Directly opposite that on the
- 7 ocean side off Route 1A, the Lynnway, is
- 8 another 23 parcel acre of undeveloped land that
- 9 recently became developable as a result of a
- 10 power line move. We moved them from the ocean
- 11 side of the Lynnway to the inland side of the
- 12 Lynnway. So, this casino development really
- 13 could bring great promise economically to the
- 14 city of Lynn.
- As Mayor, one of the things I would
- 16 like to see developed on one of those two
- 17 properties is a hotel, because as one of the 10
- 18 largest cities in Massachusetts, with again a
- 19 population of 90,000, not having a hotel, it
- 20 has actually proven to be to our detriment when
- 21 we tried to enter into some historic cities
- 22 contest because we had no place to put the
- 23 people that would be coming to judge our city.
- 24 So, we see this as a great advantage

- 1 for the city of Lynn for Mohegan Sun to be able
- 2 to locate their casino, their resort casino in
- 3 Revere.
- I would also point out that Lynn is
- 5 the home of the North Shore Community College,
- 6 a very large campus. They are actively working
- 7 toward getting their graduates prepared for
- 8 trades such as this. We think it would be a
- 9 great opportunity to have the casino the
- 10 partner with North Shore Community College in
- 11 order to train people for the gaming
- 12 professions. We also have a culinary arts
- 13 program at the North Shore Community College
- 14 that would be useful in getting people into the
- 15 many restaurants that I'm sure would be present
- 16 at the casino.
- 17 I'd also like to point out that Lynn
- 18 is one of the five inaugural homes to one of
- 19 the five inaugural arts and cultural districts
- 20 in the Commonwealth. We have worked very hard
- 21 to develop our downtown. And this route from
- 22 1A up into our downtown would provide much more
- 23 traffic, much more visibility for the city so
- 24 that we can shake that old image of Lynn, Lynn,

- 1 the city of sin and show people that we
- 2 actually do have quite a bit to offer. And
- 3 with the people coming into Mohegan Sun, we see
- 4 that as a great opportunity.
- 5 Lastly, I would point out that Lynn
- 6 has also renovated its auditorium located right
- 7 within city all. We have been home to such
- 8 acts as Peter Frampton, Ian Anderson from
- 9 Jethro Tull, Pat Benatar. We have really built
- 10 up quite a clientele coming in there from
- 11 restaurants and other amenities.
- 12 We think that having the casino
- 13 located at Suffolk Downs would actually enhance
- 14 our ability to promote the auditorium. We
- 15 would be looking forward to becoming a
- 16 membership rewards partner with them so that
- 17 people who earn points at the casino could use
- 18 them at the auditorium. We see it as a
- 19 tremendous opportunity. And I would urge you
- 20 to support the casino proposal for Mohegan Sun.
- 21 Thank you so much for your time.
- 22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 23 much. Boston city councilor, Sal LaMattina.
- 24 Sorry, I skipped one. Is Councilor LaMattina

- 1 here? Sorry. Then Adrian Madara, Gill Peter,
- 2 Richard Boyajian.
- MR. LAMATTINA: Mr. Chairman,
- 4 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to
- 5 testify here today. For the record, my name is
- 6 Salvatore LaMattina. I am the Boston City
- 7 Councilor who represents District 1, East
- 8 Boston, Charlestown and the North End. Both
- 9 proposed casinos are literally in my backyard.
- 10 Where I live in East Boston, Suffolk
- 11 Downs that's my backyard. I have had many
- 12 concerns regarding the Wynn proposal but that's
- 13 for tomorrow. I come here today,
- 14 Commissioners, a little frustrated about the
- 15 whole process, to be honest with you. I have
- 16 been dealing with this issue for over six years
- 17 and I have had many sleepless nights, even last
- 18 night.
- I have been a proponent of a casino
- 20 at Suffolk Downs because I really believe that
- 21 it will provide jobs and opportunity for my
- 22 neighborhood and it will keep the track open.
- 23 The infrastructure is already there and I
- 24 really do like the track and enjoy having it in

- 1 my neighborhood. Suffolk Downs has been a good
- 2 neighbor and most of my neighbors who abut the
- 3 track will agree.
- 4 At the same time, I have also
- 5 advocated for an East Boston only vote because
- 6 East Boston would be the most impacted
- 7 neighborhood in the city. With the
- 8 understanding that both cities, Revere and East
- 9 Boston, would have to vote in the affirmative.
- 10 I have written to the Commission numerous times
- on behalf of my constituents in East Boston, a
- 12 majority who have voted against a proposed
- 13 casino at Suffolk Downs regarding the vote and
- 14 a new proposal in Revere.
- I want to thank Judge McHugh, thank
- 16 you, for taking the time and replying back to
- 17 me and acknowledging that the Revere only
- 18 approach is not the one that the voters likely
- 19 contemplated when they went to the polls on
- 20 November 5. And I agree with you. This is a
- 21 complex process.
- I know that there are some residents
- 23 in this room today in my neighborhood that want
- 24 me to stand here today and demand that you

- 1 don't grant a license to Suffolk Downs. As the
- 2 City Councilor who represents District 1 and I
- 3 have to do what I think is right for my
- 4 district, which I also represent Charlestown.
- 5 I know that the Commission has a mission from
- 6 the State Legislature to issue a gaming license
- 7 to Massachusetts. And I know that probably at
- 8 the end of June that you will.
- 9 And to those who are looking to
- 10 repeal the law, you will have your day at the
- 11 Supreme Judicial Court. But today I do want to
- 12 go on record in support of Mayor Walsh and his
- 13 quest to achieve host community status.
- 14 My reasoning on this is very clear.
- 15 Mohegan Sun may be building the entire project
- 16 in the city of Revere, but the city of Boston
- 17 plays an integral and vital role to the success
- 18 of this establishment.
- 19 The entrance to the resort is a
- 20 matter of mere feet not miles from East Boston.
- 21 So, it needs to be recognized that all of the
- 22 major roadways, bus, rail service amenities and
- 23 many other services are heavily accessed
- 24 through the city of Boston. But more

- 1 importantly members of the Commission, my
- 2 neighborhood will still be as heavily impacted
- 3 as the original proposal.
- 4 With no respect to the Mayor Rizzo
- 5 of Revere who I have the most respect for, I
- 6 think he's a great mayor, a great man. But I
- 7 have to agree with Mayor Walsh that Boston
- 8 would be the key selling point of the proposed
- 9 casino in Revere. All of the branding would be
- 10 Boston. All of the marketing for the casino
- 11 would be Boston. And the major attraction to
- 12 the casino will be the city of Boston.
- I know that today's hearing is on
- 14 the surrounding community agreements, but I
- 15 don't want to talk about the surrounding
- 16 community agreement until my mayor and the city
- 17 of Boston has its hearing before you next week.
- 18 And you'll decide if Boston should be a host
- 19 community status.
- I have to say for me personally that
- in the past I have had a close cooperative and
- 22 symbiotic relationship with Suffolk Downs.
- 23 They have been very generous and inclusive
- 24 throughout the whole process. And I would like

- 1 for that to continue, which is more than I can
- 2 say for Wynn.
- 3 I'd like to thank you for listening
- 4 to my comments and concerns. I'm just trying
- 5 to do what I think is best for my community.
- 6 And I feel that sharing these thoughts here
- 7 with you today is my only choice. I hope I
- 8 have helped to aid you all and look forward to
- 9 working together on this issue going forward.
- 10 Thank you. I appreciate it.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Also Peter Gill,
- 12 president of Winthrop Town Council. I hope
- 13 you'll be up next and Richard Boyajian from
- 14 Winthrop, Craig Mael from Winthrop. Yes, sir.
- MR. MADARA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
- 16 and members of the Commission. For the record,
- 17 my name is Adrian Madara chief of staff to
- 18 Representative Carlo Basile of East Boston.
- 19 On behalf of Representative Basile,
- 20 I would like to reaffirm the letter sent by the
- 21 Representative to the Massachusetts Gaming
- 22 Commission dated November 20, 2013 in which he
- 23 stated his position that Boston should be a
- 24 host community in the Revere proposal and that

- 1 the residents of East Boston spoke resoundingly
- 2 against the proposed casino at Suffolk Downs.
- 3 Furthermore, I would like it noted
- 4 that Representative Basile is entirely
- 5 supportive of Mayor Walsh's efforts to have
- 6 Boston considered a host community in the
- 7 latest iteration of the Suffolk Downs/Mohegan
- 8 Sun Casino plan. Thank you for your time.
- 9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 10 much, Peter Gill. Thank the Representative for
- 11 his brevity.
- MR. GILL: We're going to have a
- 13 contest because my brevity will beat his. My
- 14 name is Peter Gill. I am the president of the
- 15 Winthrop Town Council. And I would like to
- 16 thank the Commission for the opportunity to be
- 17 here today to speak for Winthrop as a
- 18 surrounding community.
- 19 As a lifelong resident of Winthrop
- 20 and as president of the Winthrop Town Council,
- 21 I am here today to express my opposition to a
- 22 proposed casino at Suffolk Downs. And I ask
- 23 the Commission not to approve that proposal.
- 24 Positive, negative impacts to Winthrop, a

- 1 recognized surrounding community to the
- 2 proposed casino at Suffolk Downs are not in the
- 3 best interest of Winthrop or in our citizens.
- 4 Winthrop in fact is not only a
- 5 surrounding community, Winthrop is a surrounded
- 6 community. If you look at the map that Mr.
- 7 McKenna our town manager has just placed before
- 8 you, the borders of Winthrop and the only two
- 9 accesses to our community are less than one
- 10 mile away from the proposed casino. In fact,
- 11 all of Winthrop is closer to the casino than
- 12 all of Revere.
- 13 You have heard or will hear from my
- 14 fellow councilors and our legal counsel on the
- 15 potential negative impacts that the proposed
- 16 project will present. Under the direction of
- 17 Mr. Crosby, I will not take the time today to
- 18 repeat what they have to say. But I only say
- 19 that I agree with their concerns and I echo
- 20 their sentiments.
- In addition to the negative impacts,
- the proposed licensee Mohegan Sun, has been
- 23 truly unrealistic and in fact insulting in
- 24 their refusal to recognize or consider the

- 1 significant negative effects that their Suffolk
- 2 Downs proposal will create for our community.
- 3 Mohegan Sun has refused to bargain in good
- 4 faith to present a mitigation package adequate
- 5 to compensate for the challenges and impacts of
- 6 their proposed casino if approved will present
- 7 to our community.
- Please bear in mind, Commissioners,
- 9 that as you make your final decision, that the
- 10 gaming law does not require three casinos in
- 11 Massachusetts. Rather it speaks to no more
- 12 than three making it not necessary for you to
- 13 approve either Suffolk Downs in Revere or the
- 14 Everett location.
- 15 If the Gaming Commission's final
- 16 decision regarding the proposal is to approve
- 17 the Suffolk Downs location, Winthrop is owed
- 18 the consideration of a fair mitigation package
- 19 which respectably recognizes the significant
- 20 negative impacts to our community, a recognized
- 21 surrounding community and in fact a surrounded
- 22 community. We the citizens of Winthrop need
- 23 your help and we ask for your consideration
- 24 today. Thank you.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Boyajian,
- 2 Councilor Mael, Councilor Calla, Bruce Tobey.
- 3 MR. TOBEY: The councilors will be
- 4 coming, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
- 5 Commissioners. My name is Bruce Tobey. I'm a
- 6 partner with the law firm Pannone, Lopes
- 7 Devereaux and West. We serve as special
- 8 counsel to the town of Winthrop in the matter
- 9 of the impacts it faces from the proposed
- 10 Mohegan Sun Casino.
- I'll use my time for three purposes,
- 12 one to describe the town to you, two to share
- 13 some of town's key concerns and three to tell
- 14 you what the town asks of the Commission.
- 15 First, the town. Winthrop is
- 16 isolated on a small peninsula. It is home to
- just 18,000 people. And it shares borders with
- 18 some powerful neighbors. The Atlantic Ocean to
- 19 the east, MWRA's Deer Island treatment plant to
- 20 the south, MassPort's Logan Airport to the west
- 21 and Suffolk Downs to the north. The town is
- 22 100 percent built out. Only six percent of its
- 23 property is commercial.
- 24 Both the median household and per

- 1 capita income are below state averages. The
- 2 town's 2013 budget was approximately \$46
- 3 million, about five percent of the estimated
- 4 gross annual revenue of the proposed casino.
- 5 Winthrop is a well-managed town. It has
- 6 rebounded well from the difficult turmoil of
- 7 recent economic times but it is not a wealthy
- 8 town.
- 9 Second, some of Winthrop's key
- 10 concerns, which all reflect the statutory
- 11 mandates under which you must all operate.
- 12 First and foremost is traffic and the
- 13 significant transportation challenges the
- 14 proposed project poses for Winthrop residents.
- 15 As it is the surrounded surrounding community
- 16 with only two ways in and two ways out is cut
- 17 off from the outer world of Boston and beyond
- 18 by the walls of existing traffic both on Routes
- 19 1A and 60, and on the network of adjoining
- 20 local roadways.
- 21 On any given weekday during morning
- 22 and evening rush hours, which tend to go more
- 23 like two to two and a half hours precisely, you
- 24 spend 20 minutes in traffic on Saratoga Street

- 1 in order to exit or enter Winthrop. This
- 2 project will only exacerbate the current
- 3 traffic challenges and only make a bad
- 4 situation worse for Winthrop residents.
- 5 The proponent's multiple options to
- 6 change to Route 1A may or may not enhance the
- 7 flow of north and south bound traffic, and we
- 8 have our doubts given the likelihood it will
- 9 create for example new choke points for example
- 10 at Belle Circle. But they offer only increased
- 11 delays to Winthrop residents commuting to and
- 12 from work or traveling to seek the necessities
- 13 of life.
- Moreover, none of the analysis
- 15 performed by the traffic engineers for the
- 16 proponents speaks to or adequately addresses
- 17 the traffic challenges of Winthrop residents.
- 18 Mohegan Sun has paid no attention at all to the
- 19 project's traffic impacts along Boardman
- 20 Street, Saratoga Street corridor and the
- 21 Winthrop Avenue corridor. And there will be
- 22 impact. The inevitable addition of more cars
- 23 per hour to those already inadequate roadways
- 24 and intersections will further harm Winthrop

- 1 residents.
- 2 That harm is not measured just in
- 3 time wasted. It comes at a serious public
- 4 safety cost measured along with ambulance
- 5 runtimes and delayed responses. Remember
- 6 Winthrop has no hospital, no acute care
- 7 facility. And it is measured in increased
- 8 demands on already maxed out public safety,
- 9 police and fire resources which will require
- 10 locally-based supplementing if current levels
- 11 of public safety services are to be provided.
- Nor does this project provide the
- 13 prospect for economic growth for Winthrop. The
- 14 town is already built out. In other words,
- 15 there is no future commercial development
- 16 upside for Winthrop as there may be for other
- 17 surrounding communities.
- 18 But worse is the threat that this
- 19 project poses to Winthrop's existing commercial
- 20 base, specifically its fledgling restaurants
- 21 and eateries. As gambling operations become
- 22 more local in nature, disposable income is
- 23 diverted from the support of hometown
- 24 businesses to the neighboring casino. Casino

- 1 corporate consultants may tell you otherwise,
- 2 but please don't fall for it.
- 3 There are no clocks or windows in
- 4 casinos for a reason. They want the money
- 5 spent at the casino and not elsewhere. You
- 6 only need to look up the coast to Gloucester,
- 7 which involuntarily host the casino boats in
- 8 the mid-1990s. They brought with them all new
- 9 traffic jams as people came to gamble and then
- 10 went home. And there was no spillover benefit
- 11 to the local community. How do I know, I was
- 12 the mayor of Gloucester then.
- Don't let those so-called experts
- 14 tell you this is a distinguishable example. It
- is one of many piece of evidence gathered by
- 16 unbiased analysts for the economic harm these
- 17 facilities cause to local economies.
- 18 Winthrop's local economy will need help.
- So, to sum up what does Winthrop ask
- 20 of you? The town asks for fairness as this
- 21 process races to a finish line seemingly driven
- 22 only by a statutory timeframe. The town asks
- 23 for assurances that its needs will be met, that
- 24 its local services will be sustainable that its

- 1 meager commercial base will remain intact and
- 2 that the town will on whole be a beneficiary of
- 3 good judgment and will not be forsaken in a
- 4 rush judgment that trumps its legitimate
- 5 concerns. Thank you for your attention. We
- 6 will be giving you all a copy of this testimony
- 7 as well.
- 8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great, thank you.
- 9 Anthony Zambuto from Revere. Then Joseph
- 10 Cafarelli, Paul Dakin if you could come up so
- 11 that we can move quickly.
- 12 MR. ZAMBUTO: Good afternoon,
- 13 Commissioners, my name is Anthony Zambuto. I
- 14 am the president of the Revere City Council. I
- 15 am honored to be here before you to talk about
- 16 why Revere is the best place for a resort
- 17 casino with Mohegan Sun.
- 18 This is the first time -- I've been
- 19 on the city council 15 years of continuous
- 20 service. So, I am considered the dean of the
- 21 city council. I have never been able to say
- 22 that I speak for the entire city council before
- 23 today. I speak for the entire city council.
- I never dreamed this day would come

- 1 that I could say that. So, I'm thrilled to say
- 2 that. But there's a reason for that, this
- 3 proposal is truly transformational for the city
- 4 of Revere. The Mayor has said that before that
- 5 it is transformational. You have to study the
- 6 host community agreements. So, I'm not going
- 7 to school you on the host community agreements,
- 8 but it's obvious that we have the most
- 9 lucrative host community agreement I think
- 10 anywhere in the world not just in
- 11 Massachusetts.
- 12 I'm known as someone who always
- 13 tells the truth. In fact, when I go to speak
- 14 to groups and I tell them I'm an honest
- 15 politician, it usually gets a big laugh. But
- 16 it's the truth. Because I don't tell people
- 17 what they want to hear, I tell them the truth.
- 18 So, it's been very difficult for me in our host
- 19 community agreement to tell them that Mohegan
- 20 Sun has to spend \$10 billion on goods and
- 21 services on Revere businesses. And our
- 22 opposition in Everett has to spend \$50,000 in
- 23 gift cards, \$50,000 compared to \$10 million.
- 24 When I tell people that they think I

- 1 am lying. The only thing I've got going for me
- 2 is I have a reputation of telling the truth.
- 3 It is so unbalanced and so ridiculous.
- 4 Aside from the 20 percent minimum of
- 5 our budget that we're going to receive on an
- 6 annual basis, 20 percent of our budget on an
- 7 annual basis, and all of the ancillary things
- 8 that come along with this agreement, the fact
- 9 that this is going to transform us in an
- 10 economic development way, there are so many
- 11 people that want to come to this city because
- 12 of this proposal.
- I know there are hotel people ready
- 14 to come to certain sites. I don't know if you
- 15 know we have a half a billion-dollar project on
- 16 Revere Beach called the transit-oriented
- 17 development called Waterfront Square. It was a
- 18 partnership and our ex-mayor spent 12 years
- 19 just getting DCR to release this land so we
- 20 could do this project. It's well on the way.
- 21 The first residential piece is coming now.
- 22 This will be a perfect fit.
- The Mayor said we were an
- 24 entertainment and gaming community for hundreds

- 1 of years. Revere Beach was a place where
- 2 everybody went. All of the stars Barbara
- 3 Streisand -- I can name some of the older ones,
- 4 but I don't want to show my age. The bottom
- 5 line is Revere has been a resort community for
- 6 years and certainly been a gaming community.
- 7 But more importantly, the way this host
- 8 community agreement is written that the
- 9 surrounding communities do so well.
- 10 That forum we had, you couldn't
- 11 believe the packed City Hall with all of the
- 12 city managers, mayors from other cities and
- 13 towns coming to support this project because
- 14 it's truly a regional project. I don't
- 15 normally quote Democratic presidents, but to
- 16 quote one, a rising tide lifts all boats. And
- 17 this is truly a rising tide that will lift all
- 18 boats. That's why we've got so many community
- 19 members from the surrounding community on our
- 20 side.
- 21 The other thing that I just want to
- 22 touch on is the traffic solutions. Now you all
- 23 know that the Big Dig ended at Logan Airport.
- 24 East Boston and Revere got shafted, to be

- 1 polite. This project will straighten out part
- of that problem, will help at Boardman Street.
- 3 You won't back up to that light anymore. At
- 4 Belle Circle, we've got ramps going from Route
- 5 16 West. You'll be able to go right to Route 1
- 6 North. When you're coming down to Route 1
- 7 South right now you're told to go to Route 60
- 8 and through Belle Circle in Revere to 1A.
- 9 There will be a ramp that you come right off of
- 10 Route 1 onto 16 and onto 1A. Those couple of
- 11 little solutions are astronomical in taking
- 12 traffic away from Belle Circle.
- The other thing is we're on the
- 14 airport Thank you.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
- 16 Councilor.
- 17 MR. CAFARELLI: Good afternoon,
- 18 members of the Gaming Commission. You can take
- 19 whatever minutes I have left over, you can give
- 20 them to Mayor Rizzo. I won't use them all.
- 21 My name is Joseph Cafarelli and I am
- 22 the Chief of the Revere Police Department.
- 23 Thank you for the opportunity to explain my
- 24 vision of the future partnership between the

- 1 city of Revere, Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun.
- 2 I along with Chief Doherty of the Fire
- 3 Department toured the Mohegan Sun facility
- 4 recently.
- 5 Speaking in regards to the law
- 6 enforcement aspect of the tour, I found that
- 7 the facility maintains a state-of-the-art
- 8 surveillance technology throughout the
- 9 facility. It is my professional assessment
- 10 that this serves as a strong deterrent to
- 11 criminal activity. The staff are professional,
- 12 courteous and serious about their business.
- So, what does that mean for the city
- 14 of Revere? It means that we, the Revere Police
- 15 Department, stand with our backs to the casino
- 16 looking outward toward the city. That means
- 17 that the augmentation to my agency will provide
- 18 me with the means to serve the community needs
- 19 without reservation.
- 20 I've attended numerous neighborhood
- 21 meetings. And one of the common concerns about
- 22 the presence of a casino is traffic. I've also
- 23 viewed the traffic proposal by the casino. And
- 24 I found it very, very adequate. It's

- 1 refreshing as Councilor Zambuto stated to have
- 2 our needs addressed with respect to the Big
- 3 Dig. I went out of script. Give me a second.
- 4 With the additional officers I will
- 5 be able to hire as a result of the host
- 6 community agreement, I will be able to expand
- 7 my traffic division and train these officers to
- 8 serve the city and to minimize the impact of
- 9 the anticipated increase in traffic volume to
- 10 include OUI enforcement checkpoints.
- 11 The next greatest concern of the
- 12 citizens of the city is vice crimes such as
- 13 prostitution and drugs. Again, the increase in
- 14 staffing I can anticipate through the host
- 15 community agreement will allow me to expand the
- 16 detective and drug units within the criminal
- 17 investigation division of the Revere Police
- 18 Department.
- 19 It is apparent to me that the
- 20 proposal bring solutions that far outweigh the
- 21 problems. When I joined the Revere Police
- 22 Department, there were 118 officers. Today
- 23 there are 90. The only way we can ever achieve
- those numbers again is with significant burden

- 1 on the taxpayers of the city of Revere or the
- 2 mitigation proposal that Mohegan Sun and
- 3 Suffolk Downs have agreed to.
- I can think of no other project on
- 5 that parcel of land that would bring solutions
- 6 to any of these anticipated problems. The
- 7 expansion of the ranks of the Revere Police
- 8 Department is intended to serve the entire city
- 9 not the casino. The city of Revere has had a
- 10 good neighbor in the people of Suffolk Downs
- 11 for nearly 90 years. And the folks I've met
- 12 from Mohegan Sun have been more than just about
- 13 business.
- 14 Mohegan Sun is committed to becoming
- 15 a good neighbor with a positive impact on the
- 16 livelihoods of the city of Revere for
- 17 generations to come. Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Chief.
- 19 I think we have Councilor Powers from the
- 20 Revere City Council and also Mr. Boyajian from
- 21 Winthrop. Why don't you come up, Sir, and Mr.
- 22 Powers will follow you. Come on up, Mr. Powers
- 23 and we can get close and also Dr. Paul Dakin
- 24 and John Festa.

- 1 MR. BOYAJIAN: I apologize for being
- 2 late. I'm a nurse practitioner and I couldn't
- 3 exactly leave the person I was with.
- 4 It was interesting because why I was
- 5 late was talking to a patient and wondering why
- 6 things got so out of control and the cancer
- 7 that her husband has had spread so quickly even
- 8 though they had done everything right. So,
- 9 that's the context of kind of what I am reading
- 10 this. So, you'll pardon me, but I am going to
- 11 read this off and still catch my breath because
- 12 I ran all of the way from the street.
- 13 Thank you members of the
- 14 Massachusetts Gaming Commission for allowing me
- 15 the time to address my concerns regarding the
- 16 Mohegan Sun Casino project most recently
- 17 situated in Revere, Massachusetts.
- 18 My name is Richard Boyajian and I'm
- 19 a newly elected town councilor in Winthrop,
- 20 Massachusetts. The idea of casino gambling
- 21 creating a revenue stream for the state that
- 22 increases local aid to cities and towns of the
- 23 Commonwealth I am not opposed to.
- The idea of a casino in Revere,

- 1 Massachusetts creating a revenue stream and
- 2 providing enormous economic opportunity to our
- 3 neighbors in Revere, Boston and Chelsea I am
- 4 not opposed to. We just heard from the chief.
- 5 He is encouraged because he'll be able to hire
- 6 more to deal with issues and hopefully that is
- 7 I think a good thing.
- 8 But of course -- Yes, there is a but
- 9 coming. I am opposed to Mohegan Sun and
- 10 Suffolk Downs' behavior indicating that they
- 11 are not honorable and their actions indicate
- 12 they cannot be trusted. If the status quo
- 13 continues, I will be backed into a corner left
- 14 with no choice but to work towards a ballot
- 15 referendum to repeal the Gaming Act because
- 16 that would be Winthrop's only option to stop
- 17 this dishonest corporation from moving in next
- 18 door.
- When our neighbors in East Boston
- 20 rejected the proposed casino at Suffolk Downs,
- 21 I advocated for the Commission to respect the
- 22 regulations and refuse to allow a hastily
- 23 prepared Revere only Suffolk Downs proposal to
- 24 move forward.

- 1 Nevertheless, the Commission allowed
- 2 a switch of partners from Caesars to Mohegan
- 3 Sun after being rejected in Palmer,
- 4 Massachusetts. They were allowed to circumvent
- 5 rules merely because they were dumped by the
- 6 communities they were courting.
- 7 These jilted wealthy corporations
- 8 hooked up on the rebound because they did not
- 9 get the results they wanted. I will now remind
- 10 the Commission it was formed to enforce
- 11 regulations designed to above all protect
- 12 Massachusetts citizens.
- In the short time I've been in
- 14 office, I've seen red flag after red flag pop
- 15 up with this pet project casino. The straw
- 16 that really broke my back was Mohegan Sun's
- 17 unforgiveable violation, which I know you've
- 18 heard of already, but I'm going to say it
- 19 again, it was designed to protect the
- 20 surrounding communities' rights.
- 21 But Mohegan Sun made public a
- 22 private negotiations, an egregious violation of
- 23 the Gaming Act. They spit in your face
- 24 Commissioners. If these regulations were made

- 1 to be broken over and over again without
- 2 consequences, why is there a Gaming Commission?
- 3 Just give the pet project a stamp of
- 4 approval rather than go through this charade.
- 5 It is an insult to our intelligence that this
- 6 facade is only being kept up to benefit this
- 7 dishonest corporate entity.
- 8 Winthrop has little say in a casino
- 9 closer to the town of Winthrop than the
- 10 majority of Revere will be. And I know you've
- 11 seen that the poster that we've created that
- 12 really knocked the home.
- 13 Mohegan Sun knowingly and
- 14 deceitfully violated your regulations choosing
- 15 to involve elected officials from other
- 16 surrounding communities as well as both of
- 17 Winthrop's state senator and the speaker of the
- 18 house. In my opinion, this corporate behaved
- 19 like a spoiled child tattling on us to the
- 20 powerful politicians to get us in line. This
- 21 would be called bullying except Mohegan Sun
- 22 appears to be the teacher's pet.
- The reason they felt this
- 24 premeditated violation done with malice was

- 1 okay is they simply feel there are no
- 2 boundaries to operate within because they've
- 3 never been disciplined for violating your
- 4 regulations in the past. Winthrop's state
- 5 legislators are leaders looking to improve the
- 6 Commonwealth's future.
- 7 For me this issue comes down to our
- 8 state representatives' push for a casino
- 9 revenue stream to improve the Commonwealth is
- 10 currently in conflict with the best interest of
- 11 Winthrop because the Revere casino partners are
- 12 untrustworthy.
- 13 While I really would like the
- 14 honorable speaker of the house and Winthrop
- 15 state senator to take Mohegan Sun behind the
- 16 horse barns and straighten them out, I realize
- 17 that's what they've empowered you to do. The
- 18 Gaming Commission was established because they
- 19 wrote the gaming legislation for you to do just
- 20 that.
- 21 Winthrop is a small town with no
- 22 real economic development opportunities
- 23 resulting from the casino. Winthrop will
- 24 receive local aid like all of the other cities

- 1 and towns in the Commonwealth.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
- 3 Councilor. That's time. You can submit the
- 4 rest of your remarks.
- 5 MR. BOYAJIAN: Again, I ask you
- 6 to --
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 8 much. Mr. Festa. Remember it's five minutes,
- 9 just keep an eye on this so we don't have to
- 10 cut you off.
- MR. POWERS: I will be very brief.
- 12 Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I
- 13 think you for this opportunity to speak here
- 14 today and represent the people of the city of
- 15 Revere that I represent.
- 16 This hearing is not just about a
- 17 casino license in my opinion. It's also about
- 18 the survival of a community, the city that I
- 19 represent, the city of Revere. It's about a
- 20 new high school. It's about stabilizing taxes
- 21 and water and sewer rates. It's about
- 22 providing senior services and millions of
- 23 dollars in traffic improvements. It's about
- 24 additional jobs. It's about construction jobs

- 1 and permanent jobs.
- 2 I've visited the union halls with
- 3 members of my family when they were told there
- 4 were no jobs available. This will provide
- 5 those jobs. It's about development for the
- 6 city of Revere and for the Commonwealth of
- 7 Massachusetts. We have right now a closed
- 8 racetrack, Wonderland Park. We have three
- 9 potential hotel sites ready to go. I've spoken
- 10 with developers, and they are ready to come in
- 11 tomorrow and start, pull out permits and start
- 12 construction.
- 13 It's about millions of dollars of
- 14 services that will be spent in the city of
- 15 Revere and surrounding communities. It's about
- 16 maintaining pari-mutuel racing at Suffolk
- 17 Downs, maintaining hundreds of jobs and
- 18 providing hundreds of thousands of additional
- 19 revenue to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 20 through pari-mutuel racing.
- You might ask yourself, why should
- 22 you go to Revere and not to the city of
- 23 Everett. Well, I'll tell you why. Revere is
- 24 seriously impacted providing services for newer

- 1 residents coming into the city. We have 53,000
- 2 residents as of the 2000 census taken. Everett
- 3 has 43,000. We have a little more than 20
- 4 percent in commercial properties in the city of
- 5 Revere, which provides us double the real
- 6 estate tax. Everett has 40,000 taxable
- 7 property.
- 8 They have Boston Edison, Mellon
- 9 Bank, the Gateway Mall and all other kinds of
- 10 commercial property. We need this development
- in the city of Revere. Right now we are down
- 12 17 men on our police department from where we
- 13 were 10 years ago. We've got another 8- or
- 14 9000 residents in the city. We have a closed
- 15 fire station.
- 16 It's so important that you consider
- 17 the city of Revere. Logistically we have a
- 18 direct line to Logan Airport four or five stops
- 19 away. A direct line to the city of Boston,
- 20 which is a more attractive situation for
- 21 conventions and people just vacationing.
- 22 We have a three-mile strip a stretch
- 23 of Crescent Beach, which is more accessible to
- 24 people that like the beach, like to bring their

- 1 families there on a vacation. Maybe the
- 2 husband likes to play the slots or the casino.
- 3 Maybe the wife likes history. She can take the
- 4 MBTA right into Boston or she can go to Salem.
- 5 Maybe the kids like sports, teenage kids, Red
- 6 Sox, Bruins, Patriots, Celtics it's all right
- 7 here. And it's all accessible to the city of
- 8 Revere.
- 9 And I will close by saying 7000
- 10 residents left the comfort of their home on two
- 11 occasions, not one but two occasions to say
- 12 yes, yes, we want a casino. I am here today
- 13 and I am going to ask you to say yes to the
- 14 citizens of Revere. Thank you.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. And
- 16 also Councilor Mael from Winthrop, you can come
- 17 forward.
- DR. DAKIN: Gentlemen and ladies, I
- 19 am the Superintendent of Schools in Revere.
- 20 And I am here to offer testimony in favor of a
- 21 casino in Revere.
- 22 Gaming has long been part of
- 23 Revere's culture. When I was growing up Revere
- in the 50s and 60s, thousands of people from

- 1 Revere and neighboring cities ventured to
- 2 Suffolk Downs Racetrack in the afternoon and
- 3 thousands more went out for an evening at
- 4 Wonderland Dog Track in the evening. Not a
- 5 gamer myself even while growing up in the city,
- 6 and never having been to Foxwoods or Mohegan
- 7 Sun, Three Rivers or Las Vegas, I never
- 8 acquired the desire to participate in gaming
- 9 activities that were and still are very
- 10 popular.
- The fear expressed by some good
- 12 people that a casino in Revere will have a
- 13 negative influence on the spending habits and
- 14 lifestyle of our citizens is not grounded in my
- 15 own experience. Now that our city's history is
- on the verge of repeating itself, I cannot
- 17 agree with the assumption the new gaming
- 18 entities pose a threat to the moral fiber of
- 19 our city.
- 20 Beyond my own personal experience
- 21 growing up in a city that was home to among
- 22 other businesses a horse track, a dog track and
- 23 a vibrant beach amusement park, there is a
- 24 simple matter of geography. Even if Revere did

- 1 not pursue the casino development, the
- 2 neighboring city of Everett would have.
- 3 A casino in Everett four miles from
- 4 my Revere home poses the same problems as a
- 5 casino in Revere two miles from my home, but
- 6 without the positive benefits for the community
- 7 of Revere.
- 8 We would still inherit all of the
- 9 traffic from the north including the Lynnway,
- 10 Route 1 and Route 107 from the south through
- 11 tunnels, which would all have to fan through
- 12 Revere to access an Everett casino. In
- 13 addition, financial awareness education
- 14 programs would need to be embedded in our
- 15 community even if we were to not be the host
- 16 city.
- 17 The fact that we would inherit the
- 18 problems generated by an Everett casino with
- 19 little or no mitigation funds to address those
- 20 problems, underscores my belief that a casino
- in Revere is a much better choice for our
- 22 citizens.
- We would increase Revere revenue by
- 24 an estimated \$30 million and increase the

- 1 school budget each year required beyond the
- 2 state allotted requirements by \$1 million.
- 3 That kind of money in a community that has only
- 4 been able to provision the schools within the
- 5 minimum foundation budget required by law would
- 6 do extensive improvements to an already vibrant
- 7 academic program as leading the urban school
- 8 districts in test achievement.
- 9 This would only put us ever further
- 10 entering us with about 40 percent of our test
- 11 averages equaling the state average, despite
- 12 the population we serve. It would only move
- 13 more of those averages above the state average.
- So, as a result, if managed with
- 15 responsibility, the negatives of gaming will be
- 16 outweighed by the positive financial incentives
- 17 that could insure a better quality of life for
- 18 hard-working Revere residents.
- 19 Over the long months in which I've
- 20 studied and struggled with this project, this
- 21 non-gamer has come to the conclusion that a
- 22 casino development in Revere stands to chance
- 23 to reinvigorate an economy that once survived
- 24 with two racetracks and a destination resort

- 1 with all of the amusements of Revere Beach and
- 2 bring it back to where it once was. This is
- 3 only a renewal of what was there in the past.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 6 Councilor Mael, but also Michael Hinojosa and
- 7 Frank Stringi and Gene Doherty, if you could be
- 8 coming forward.
- 9 MR. MAEL: Good afternoon ladies and
- 10 gentlemen and distinguished members of the
- 11 Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Thank you for
- 12 giving me the opportunity to speak to you today
- 13 something my wife and children both said they
- 14 wouldn't do.
- My name is Craig Mael, and I serve
- 16 as a town councilor for precinct 4 in the
- 17 overlooked landlocked and most affected
- 18 surrounding community in the Commonwealth of
- 19 Massachusetts. Thank you for this opportunity
- 20 to speak today about the effects of the casino
- 21 on my hometown.
- 22 Many years ago I opened a business
- 23 in the downtown financial district. It was a
- 24 food business. And several weeks after opening

- 1 up, a group of individuals found their way to
- 2 become regular customers for coffee. After a
- 3 couple of weeks of coming in, I asked them what
- 4 they did. And they informed me that they
- 5 worked for the IRS. Probably not the clientele
- 6 that everyone was looking for, but I got to
- 7 know them and I asked them any advice?
- And they gave me one piece of
- 9 advice. They said pay your 941's. And I said,
- 10 how come? And the other individual that was
- 11 with them said it's a trust. I said it's not a
- 12 tax? And he said, no, it's a trust. He said
- 13 rob a bank, pay the tax or the trust.
- 14 And I started off with that today
- 15 because what you are here doing today or what
- 16 you will be doing when it comes time to present
- 17 and make a recommendation is to be offering the
- 18 trust of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and
- 19 the citizens of the Commonwealth of
- 20 Massachusetts the exclusive right in the
- 21 eastern part of the state to have the potential
- 22 to have a gaming license, which many of us
- 23 would consider, friend or foe, an opportunity
- 24 to print money.

- 1 If we are going to offer this trust
- 2 to an organization, shouldn't we choose
- 3 organization that we can trust? An
- 4 organization that is not willing to violate
- 5 your rules and principles? That's not willing
- 6 to go out and take the coveted negotiations
- 7 that went on in secret between our town leaders
- 8 and theirs and display them for all to see? If
- 9 they felt we were being unreasonable that is
- 10 part of the negotiation process. We may have
- 11 felt the same. But we dedicated ourselves to
- 12 keeping that away from our family and friends.
- 13 We should be able to trust them to
- 14 know that when the citizens of East Boston said
- 15 no, it didn't mean find a different way. It
- 16 meant no. Can we actually trust a dealer who
- 17 shuffles from the bottom of the pack as they
- 18 did with the residents of East Boston?
- 19 Should we trust them to not allow us
- 20 to negotiate in good faith? Should we trust
- 21 them when they turn down out of hand our ask to
- 22 go and have the MAPC do a study to see what the
- 23 effects are?
- 24 If we can't trust the basic tenets

- 1 of their pre-work, how can we trust them as
- 2 they go farther? In a casino where just the
- 3 slightest ability to change the odds can mean
- 4 tens of millions of dollars.
- 5 Winthrop is a landlocked community
- 6 surrounded by a treatment plant that wants to
- 7 expand their footprint at the expense of our
- 8 roads and access. We are flanked by an airport
- 9 so callous in their disregard for every one of
- 10 us here that they refuse to allow a health
- 11 study to be released because of the impacts of
- 12 it.
- And finally soon we in Winthrop will
- 14 be affected by a casino. Our local legislators
- 15 have taken away our right to negotiate by not
- 16 giving us the vote in Winthrop to say we were
- 17 for it or against it.
- 18 The distinguished councilor from
- 19 Revere stated that he lives two miles from the
- 20 casino. And the mitigation agreement for his
- 21 area will be about \$650 a person. Quite
- 22 frankly, Sir, when they call post time at
- 23 Suffolk Downs, my dog barks, because I live
- 24 less than a mile as do most of the residents in

- 1 the town of Winthrop. And we are being
- 2 egregiously harmed by this.
- I am not here to stop casino
- 4 gambling in the state. That is not my job.
- 5 What I am here to do is cast a doubt on whether
- 6 or not an organization that is not willing to
- 7 negotiate in good faith with the town which is
- 8 going to be locked in on either side, I am
- 9 wondering if they can be trusted with the trust
- 10 that we all need to give someone of this.
- So, I want to thank you very much
- 12 for the opportunity. I appreciate the job
- 13 you're doing.
- 14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also
- 15 Linda Calla if she is here can tee up.
- 16 MR. FESTA: Thank you, Chairman
- 17 Crosby, members of the Gaming Commission. My
- 18 name is John Festa and I am Director of
- 19 Economic Development in the city of Revere. I
- 20 am here today to testify on how important this
- 21 project at Suffolk Downs with Mohegan Sun is to
- 22 the city of Revere from an economic development
- 23 perspective.
- 24 As you probably know, Revere is a

- 1 blue-collar community that once was a resort
- 2 destination. But for so many years, it
- 3 deteriorated to a point of stagnation. This
- 4 Mohegan style gaming facility will be
- 5 transformational for the city of Revere. The
- 6 hard-working people of the city of Revere and
- 7 the workers at Suffolk Downs have been through
- 8 so much through the ups and downs. But the one
- 9 thing that they haven't lost is the pride that
- 10 they have for working in the community and for
- 11 the city itself.
- 12 I speak to potential developers and
- investors every day to try to get positive
- 14 developments within the city of Revere. And
- 15 Mayor Rizzo has set a very aggressive agenda to
- 16 try to change the city of Revere. So, that
- 17 people that are on fixed incomes, seniors and
- 18 veterans can maintain their quality of life.
- 19 There has been an overwhelming
- 20 amount of interesting in possibilities from
- 21 developers if we get chosen for this license.
- 22 And I say without question that this project at
- 23 Suffolk Downs with Mohegan Sun will bring
- 24 prosperity, not only for this site but for the

- 1 entire Revere Beach area, the first public
- 2 beach in the United States, and for the new
- 3 revitalization of Revere Beach and for the
- 4 entire city as a whole.
- 5 For many of the parcels of land and
- 6 buildings remain vacant around Suffolk Downs
- 7 area, but now these properties become
- 8 developable. And there is a lot of interest
- 9 from development companies.
- 10 The number of calls I receive per
- 11 week range from 15 to 20 calls per week from
- 12 developers interested in hotel development,
- 13 commercial development and residential
- 14 development because of the possibility of the
- 15 resort style gaming facility. The development
- 16 opportunities in the city of Revere will truly
- 17 be transformational if we receive this license.
- 18 Revere will become again as it was
- 19 in the 20s a resort destination that will
- 20 benefit the city with much needed development
- 21 all across the city. But more importantly, it
- 22 would help the hard-working people in the city
- 23 of Revere and also the people in the
- 24 surrounding communities, because we look at

- 1 this as a regional development, and that we are
- 2 all in this together.
- 3 So, as you look at the Mohegan Sun
- 4 project and Suffolk Downs site, it is clearly
- 5 the best site in Region A from a traffic
- 6 infrastructure and host community perspective.
- 7 So, I respectfully ask your honorable board to
- 8 look at the Mohegan Sun/Suffolk Downs site and
- 9 compare all of the criteria because there is a
- 10 clear choice from jobs to development,
- 11 accessibility and most importantly and most
- 12 importantly the hard-working people at Suffolk
- 13 Downs whose families have worked there for
- 14 generations and generations.
- 15 And I'll end, to really choose the
- 16 best site in Region A and that is the Mohegan
- 17 Sun/Revere project. Thank you very much.
- 18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MS. CALLA: Members of the
- 20 Commission, thank you for allowing me to speak.
- 21 My name is Linda Calla. I am a councilor of
- 22 the town of Winthrop in precinct 6. Our town
- 23 is made up of six precincts. And I represent
- one-sixth of the 18,000 in our population.

- 1 I am here to express my concerns for
- 2 the negative effects this casino development
- 3 will have to the town of Winthrop. We have
- 4 been told by representatives from Mohegan Sun
- 5 that Winthrop will not be affected by a casino
- 6 in Revere. Unless you are from Winthrop and
- 7 you know Winthrop, that cannot be further from
- 8 the truth.
- 9 Winthrop is land locked by Revere
- 10 and East Boston. We only have two ways out of
- 11 our town to travel to work, to shop, attend
- 12 colleges, to be transported to and from
- 13 hospitals or to doctors' visits, etc. If one
- 14 of our exits should be closed down for reasons
- 15 beyond our control, we will only have one way
- 16 out.
- 17 Try leaving our town now between
- 18 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. and you will see how it
- 19 bottlenecks. After reviewing the fabulous
- 20 YouTube video from Mohegan Sun, I am even more
- 21 concerned. Yes, the bells and whistles are
- 22 exciting. I can see how it wows everyone. But
- 23 after hearing about the projected revenue the
- 24 casino expects to generate, that can only mean

- 1 a tsunami of visitors are coming to this area.
- 2 Good for some not good for others.
- I would like to mention some of the
- 4 quotes that I found while viewing the video.
- 5 And some of them I thought were really
- 6 alarming. For example, 20 million people will
- 7 visit or are expected to visit New England per
- 8 year. 11,000 people will work at the casino
- 9 daily and will need to drive to Suffolk Downs,
- 10 more traffic.
- 11 Promoting tourism is wonderful.
- 12 We're trying to do that in Winthrop, however,
- that will lead to one million gaming trips per
- 14 year coming to Revere, more traffic.
- This is overwhelming to say the
- 16 least. Winthrop has not been treated fairly by
- 17 Mohegan Sun in its negotiations. We deserve
- 18 better. The increased traffic is going to be
- 19 detrimental to our little town. We deserve a
- 20 fair mitigation package and should not be
- 21 dismissed. We need your help.
- 22 Please consider our community's
- 23 situation when you make your decision. Thank
- 24 you very much.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
- 2 Councilor. Michael Hinojosa, Frank Stringi,
- 3 Gene Doherty, Sir.
- 4 MR. STRINGI: Hi, my name is Frank
- 5 Stringi. I am the planning director for the
- 6 city of Revere. I've held that capacity for
- 7 over 30 years. So, I know a little bit about
- 8 the city's infrastructure and its
- 9 transportation system.
- 10 I want to talk about how well
- 11 postured the city of Revere is to support a
- 12 resort casino development of this magnitude.
- 13 And it didn't happen overnight.
- 14 First, I want to emphasize well
- 15 established regional transportation and public
- 16 transit systems had developed as a result of
- 17 the historic growth of the city of Revere as a
- 18 resort destination at Revere Beach throughout
- 19 the early 1900s. It wasn't uncommon to have
- 20 over 100,000 people per day visit Revere Beach
- 21 in that decade.
- We have a regional transportation
- 23 system in place that provides direct access to
- 24 the resort casino site via Route 1, Route 16,

- 1 and Route 1A directly to the casino door. Our
- 2 transportation game plan from day one was to
- 3 ensure that this resort casino has no negative
- 4 impact on local traffic and that includes
- 5 Winthrop.
- This is being accomplished by
- 7 providing substantial improvements to our
- 8 regional highway connections to the site.
- 9 These improvements have been highlighted in the
- 10 city's host community agreement and involve
- 11 improving the Route 1A corridor and providing
- 12 key connections to the Route 1 and Route 16, as
- 13 well as upgrading 10 critical intersections
- 14 along Route 60, Route 16 and Revere Beach
- 15 Parkway.
- 16 Aside from the regional highway
- 17 system servicing the site, the city of Revere,
- 18 as you know has three rapid transit stations on
- 19 the Blue Line. One of which, Beachmont station
- 20 is just steps away from the east entrance of
- 21 the casino.
- 22 Secondly, I want to talk about the
- 23 sewer and water infrastructure system that will
- 24 service the casino. The city of Revere has

- 1 invested over \$40 million over the past five
- 2 years in its sanitary sewer system, and over \$3
- 3 million over the past two years in the water
- 4 distribution system. These improvements have
- 5 positioned the city to support a development of
- 6 this scale.
- 7 In addition, Mohegan Sun and the
- 8 city of Revere are working on an agreement that
- 9 will result in the replacement of an additional
- 10 2100 linear feet of 20-inch sewer main with a
- 11 new 36-inch sewer main to the site. Plus a
- 12 replacement of another 1500 linear feet of 18-
- inch sewer main with new 24-inch sewer main.
- 14 Giving us more than enough capacity to handle
- 15 this development.
- 16 Also the water system servicing this
- 17 site will be upgraded with 2200 linear feet of
- 18 16-inch water main. That will provide the site
- 19 with two water feeds, one off Revere Beach
- 20 Parkway and one off Route 1A. Needless to say,
- 21 the city of Revere's water system has the
- 22 necessary pressure to support both the domestic
- 23 and fire flow demands of the proposed Mohegan
- 24 Sun resort.

- 1 Lastly, I want to talk about
- 2 planning and zoning. The first time we talked
- 3 to Mohegan Sun, we told them that our urban
- 4 design and planning mission was to view this
- 5 development as an exercise in planning that
- 6 will demonstrate how a resort casino can
- 7 improve the quality of life within an urban
- 8 environment, and enhance the economic, cultural
- 9 and social aspects of an urban setting.
- 10 This mission has been the main theme
- 11 throughout our discussions and during the
- 12 development of the host community agreement,
- 13 and has been manifested in the urban design
- 14 elements and public connections to the site.
- 15 I would also like to mention that
- 16 the zoning is in place that establishes the
- 17 open space and dimension requirements for the
- 18 proposed resort casino.
- 19 So, there should be no doubt that
- 20 the city of Revere has the necessary regional
- 21 highway system, public transit system, water
- 22 and sewer infrastructure system and zoning in
- 23 place to support a resort casino development
- 24 project of this magnitude. Thank you.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 2 MR. DOHERTY: Mr. Chairman,
- 3 Commissioners, my name is Gene Doherty. I am
- 4 the Chief of the fire department. I've been a
- 5 firefighter for 38 years, the last 13 serving
- 6 as Chief. I'm a resident of the community, own
- 7 a home in the community. So, I have intimate
- 8 knowledge with the community historic
- 9 knowledge, I hate to say. I am probably the
- 10 oldest public official here, I'd have to say,
- 11 other than Councilor Powers. Once you hit that
- 12 60 plateau, you're considered elderly for some
- 13 reason. It's terrible.
- 14 But I can say as the chief of the
- 15 department, looking at the package that the
- 16 Mohegan Sun has presented to the city and the
- 17 city has negotiated and as a resident, I can
- 18 find no other way. For this plan for the city
- 19 and the casino is a win-win.
- 20 From the fire department aspect, the
- 21 plan that we have in place is, as Chief
- 22 Cafarelli said, increase our personnel. We'll
- 23 be able to increase our personnel to such a
- 24 manner that we'll be able to provide any

- 1 services that may be necessary to the casino
- 2 and still provide the regular services that we
- 3 provide now to the citizens of Revere.
- 4 We will be able to provide
- 5 additional services with this mitigation money
- 6 and a technical rescue aspect that we could not
- 7 afford on a readily basis now within the city.
- 8 We'll be able to provide our citizens with
- 9 better service, better safety and better
- 10 overall response to any and all incidents.
- 11 I've looked at the traffic plans
- 12 that have been submitted. The majority of the
- 13 people coming in are not going to affect the
- 14 so-called morning rush-hour. The clientele is
- 15 coming in at a different hour.
- I have intimate knowledge of those
- 17 types of situations where I worked as the
- 18 paperboy and hustled programs at 14 down at the
- 19 dog track. I worked at the horse track on a
- 20 regular basis on extra-duty details at those
- 21 historic barns. That's real tongue in cheek.
- 22 They weren't historic a couple of years ago
- 23 when we let them tear down a bunch.
- I digress and I apologize. I do

- 1 support this wholeheartedly as the chief of the
- 2 department and as a resident in the city, a
- 3 citizen of the city. Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also,
- 5 if Paul Burns could come forward, if Jay Ash
- 6 could come forward and Rita LaSerra could come
- 7 forward.
- 8 MR. HINOJOSA: Good afternoon,
- 9 Commissioners. Thank you for allowing me to
- 10 speak for a few minutes about the possibilities
- of Mohegan Sun resort at Suffolk Downs will
- 12 bring to our community.
- 13 My name is Mike Hinojosa and I'm
- 14 Director of Parks and Recreation for the city
- 15 of Revere. I'm a lifelong resident and believe
- 16 that the project will have a transformational
- 17 impact on our community.
- 18 What truly makes Revere unique and
- 19 worthy are the citizens. They are the focus of
- 20 my concern always and here in this conversation
- 21 today. One of many things that Mayor Rizzo
- 22 advocated for in our host community agreement
- 23 was that \$1 million be set aside for new
- 24 recreation building.

- 1 I cannot overstate the importance of
- 2 a new recreation center for our city. Our
- 3 current building is 94 years old. It's a fine
- 4 building for its age and we make the most of
- 5 it. But it's only capable of holding a few art
- 6 classes and cooking classes at any given time.
- 7 There is no gym, no free space to run. It's
- 8 impossible to hold any athletic or other
- 9 programs or events that need to accommodate a
- 10 larger capacity crowd.
- 11 We have over 7000 students in our
- 12 schools, 7000. My building may hold up to 50
- 13 kids at any given time. We are in desperate
- 14 need of a facility that can house youth and
- 15 adult athletics alike, given the vast number
- 16 and diversity of our population, the
- 17 programming potential is endless. And the
- 18 demand for these and various other athletic
- 19 activities is great.
- 20 With a new building, we could meet
- 21 the wants and needs of our constituents and
- 22 offer a greater variety of athletic, health and
- 23 fitness programs that our city so desperately
- 24 needs.

- 1 Just important as the sports aspect
- 2 however, there is another need perhaps even
- 3 greater and that is community. We need a place
- 4 to meet and gather. A facility that is
- 5 conducive to learning and playing while
- 6 maintaining that safety factor that all parents
- 7 need and all families deserve.
- 8 We need a place to put the variety
- 9 of cultural and civic programs and activities
- 10 that reflect our vast community that is so rich
- 11 in diversity and history. We are an urban
- 12 community with lots of school-age children who
- 13 desperately need activities after school and on
- 14 the weekends. With a new state-of-the-art
- 15 facility, we will be better positioned to serve
- 16 the people of Revere.
- 17 Bringing Mohegan Sun to Revere will
- 18 help us achieve our goal, providing the safest
- 19 recreational, developmental, cultural and
- 20 learning opportunities for our citizens who
- 21 deserve nothing less.
- 22 Transformational is an
- 23 understatement. A new recreation center is
- 24 essential to our continued progress for the

- 1 health, well-being and pride of our community.
- 2 Thank you for your time.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Paul Burns and
- 4 then Jay Ash and Rita LaSerra, Eric Weill.
- 5 MR. BURNS: Good afternoon, Mr.
- 6 Chairman. I want to thank you and the members
- 7 of the Commission for this opportunity to
- 8 speak.
- 9 I think it's fair to say that no
- 10 matter where a casino is sited in Eastern or
- 11 Western Massachusetts that it will be
- 12 transformational to that community.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Could we have your
- 14 name and where you're from?
- MR. BURNS: Paul Burns, town
- 16 councilor-at-large. And repeat myself, but I
- 17 think no matter what, it's fair to say that no
- 18 matter where this casino goes, it's going to be
- 19 transformational for that community and for
- 20 that area. And I've been a longtime supporter
- 21 of casino gaming in Massachusetts and have a
- 22 long history of supporting a project in Western
- 23 Mass. Unfortunately, my community voted it
- 24 down.

- 1 The reason I am here today is
- 2 because as you know myself and several other
- 3 members of the Palmer Town Council, Councilor
- 4 Mary Saltmann and Councilor Donald Blais wrote
- 5 you on March 7 that you continue oversight of
- 6 Mohegan Sun's Palmer site. On that same date,
- 7 we also sent a letter to Mohegan Sun's CEO,
- 8 Mitchell Etess and Chairman Kevin Brown to
- 9 reiterate our concerns regarding their lack of
- 10 contact with the town planner and town
- 11 officials regarding the plans to develop the
- 12 site on Route 32.
- While the Commission has, as always,
- 14 responded to our letter, once again Mohegan Sun
- 15 has failed to respond in any manner. This
- 16 continued lack of response on Mohegan Sun's
- 17 part simply serves to underscore our concerns.
- 18 At no point since the date of the
- 19 referendum have they responded to any of our
- 20 correspondence in anyway. This ongoing
- 21 inability to provide the town with even the
- 22 most basic indication of what they may be
- 23 planning to develop on that site serves as an
- 24 impediment to any other development there. As

- 1 the largest stakeholder in that area, their
- 2 participation is vital to addressing
- 3 infrastructure concerns, including some
- 4 significant sewer upgrades that we need to have
- 5 addressed in that vicinity if we are going to
- 6 continue development in that area.
- 7 We believe Mohegan Sun's continued
- 8 intransigence coupled with the serious
- 9 integrity concerns raised by Northeast Realty
- 10 lawsuit regarding the exclusivity agreement,
- 11 call into question Mohegan's suitability for a
- 12 gaming license in Massachusetts. Given this,
- 13 we believe continued oversight by the Gaming
- 14 Commission is appropriate for Palmer and for
- 15 the Commonwealth.
- 16 Given Mohegan's previous
- 17 relationship with Palmer and their own
- 18 statement regarding development in that
- 19 corridor, we believe the awarding of any gaming
- 20 license to Mohegan Sun must be contingent upon
- 21 their honoring their verbal commitment to the
- 22 town of Palmer with regard to additional
- 23 development.
- 24 While Mayor Rizzo earlier indicated

- 1 that he believes Mohegan Sun is the right
- 2 choice for the Commonwealth, my own experience
- 3 over the last seven years in Palmer says
- 4 otherwise. The Northeast Realty lawsuit calls
- 5 into question their ability to honor their
- 6 commitments. And their inability to provide
- 7 even a rudimentary plan for development on that
- 8 site raises more concerns.
- 9 Based on my own experience, I
- 10 believe that Mohegan Sun is the wrong choice to
- 11 develop a casino anywhere in Massachusetts.
- 12 Thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 14 MR. ASH: Hello members of the
- 15 Commission, Jay Ash, City Manager from Chelsea.
- 16 I appreciate you holding this event here today.
- 17 I've learned a couple of important things.
- 18 I learned that the horse barns are
- 19 older than Gene Doherty. We weren't so sure
- 20 about that. And second and most importantly,
- 21 and it's interesting because it was going to be
- 22 the subject my comments here today negotiations
- 23 are tough. I stand here before you as one of
- 24 eight communities that have agreements in

- 1 principle with Mohegan Sun. Those other
- 2 communities include Cambridge and Malden and
- 3 Medford and Lynn, Salem, Melrose and
- 4 Somerville.
- 5 The Mohegan Sun that I know I am
- 6 very pleased to stand in front of you today and
- 7 talk about because I feel like I have a unique
- 8 perspective to compare Mohegan Sun to the other
- 9 proponent that is before you.
- 10 As you know, Chelsea is 7/10 of a
- 11 mile from both Mohegan Sun and the former
- 12 Monsanto Chemical site. Like Winthrop, we too
- 13 have our outer most limits closer to the casino
- 14 the host community. So, we feel an impact.
- With that unique proximity, you
- 16 would think that a discussion about impact
- 17 would be rather easy to have and yet with one
- 18 proponent, we've been able to have a great
- 19 conversation and another proponent we haven't.
- 20 I want to state that I hold no
- 21 animus towards anyone that wants to invest \$1
- 22 billion in this region. I think it's a
- 23 transformative opportunity for our entire
- 24 region and I'm very excited about what is going

- 1 to happen as a result of the decision that you
- 2 will make.
- I will tell you that my experience
- 4 is that my discussions with both of the groups
- 5 provide what I believe is a window into the
- 6 souls of both of the groups. And for that very
- 7 reason, I am here to support Mohegan Sun today.
- 8 If I could ask everyone to hold
- 9 their applause, because it's costing me time.
- 10 For the first seven months that the Monsanto
- 11 site was being discussed, Chelsea had no formal
- 12 contact at all from the proponent.
- 13 After seven days of Mohegan Sun
- 14 being involved with Suffolk Downs, now only did
- 15 we have formal contact, but Mitchell Etess
- 16 himself sat in my office to talk to me about
- 17 what a difference he wanted to make not in
- 18 Revere but in Chelsea. Not in just Revere, not
- 19 just in Chelsea but in the entire region. I
- 20 saw on that day what I thought was a window to
- 21 the soul of both Mitchell Etess and Mohegan
- 22 Sun.
- When we first finally had our
- 24 conversation with the Everett people, I was

- 1 presented a traffic study. And the traffic
- 2 study was about Everett and had nothing to do
- 3 with Chelsea. I was left to try to figure out
- 4 how traffic was going to affect us in Chelsea.
- 5 Conversely, in meeting with both
- 6 Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun, I wasn't
- 7 presented anything, I was asked. I was asked
- 8 what do I think the impacts are going to be and
- 9 how do we mitigate those. That is about the
- 10 window into the souls of both of the
- 11 proponents.
- 12 On the issue of public safety,
- 13 Mohegan Sun brought Boston's former top cop to
- 14 Chelsea to talk to us about how to address
- 15 public safety issues. In my conversations with
- 16 the other proponent, I was told that there
- 17 weren't going to be any additional crime issues
- 18 at all in Chelsea, even though we have an
- 19 infamous strip club on the Everett Chelsea line
- 20 7/10 of a mile from the proponents.
- I was told by the proponent that
- 22 their customers would never frequent a place
- 23 like that. Some people acknowledge issues and
- 24 try to resolve them. Other people dodge them.

- 1 I will tell you that that was a window into the
- 2 souls that I saw that day.
- 3 Perhaps the biggest window was
- 4 before this very Commission in January when you
- 5 heard from Mohegan Sun. And Mohegan Sun put on
- 6 a wonderful presentation that included videos
- 7 of regional leaders, including myself, to
- 8 discuss their proposal. And you heard from the
- 9 proponent of the Everett facility who twice
- 10 joked that Somerville and presumably the rest
- of the surrounding communities owed them
- 12 something for coming into our region. That my
- 13 friends was an insight into the windows of the
- 14 soul of both of the proponents.
- 15 My biggest concern is that if we
- 16 can't get people to acknowledge our issues
- 17 today when they need us, how are we ever going
- 18 to be able to deal with them in the future? I
- 19 don't Mohegan Sun I've had plenty of
- 20 opportunity to talk and have been acknowledged
- 21 and recognized for having issues and them
- 22 wanting to resolve those.
- I saw into the soul of Mohegan Sun
- 24 and Mitchell Etess when he came into my office.

- 1 I saw a man with energy, with engagement with
- 2 responsiveness and honesty. And I'm glad that
- 3 Mohegan Sun is coming to Revere. Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Rita
- 5 LaSerra and Eric Weill after her.
- 6 MS. LASERRA: Good afternoon, excuse
- 7 my nervousness. I appreciate being here. My
- 8 name is Rita LaSerra. I'm a resident of East
- 9 Boston. My family has lived in Boston for 60
- 10 years.
- 11 Since East Boston voted no on
- 12 November 5, I feel like I should not be
- 13 standing here now before you. The residents of
- 14 East Boston and Revere were told that if the
- 15 vote did not pass in either East Boston or
- 16 Revere then a casino proposal at Suffolk Downs
- 17 would be dead.
- 18 Instead we find ourselves here in
- 19 front of you fighting the same fight, saying
- 20 the same things. To help you understand that
- 21 just because Suffolk Downs has moved the
- 22 proposal a few feet over, it is still in and a
- 23 part of East Boston.
- I consider myself a fairly

- intelligent person and I'm amazed and confused
- 2 by all of the twists and turns the application
- 3 process has taken. I have heard my neighbors
- 4 say it doesn't matter what we want, we really
- 5 don't count. If they want it, it's going to
- 6 happen.
- 7 By allowing this application process
- 8 to go on after the no vote, what you are saying
- 9 to the people of East Boston is your vote
- 10 doesn't matter. What you have to say doesn't
- 11 matter. Your thoughts and feelings don't
- 12 matter. You dismissed and disrespected an
- 13 entire community.
- 14 As an East Boston resident I expect
- 15 and if I have to demand respect for not only my
- 16 vote but for my community's. East Boston is a
- 17 neighborhood made up of longtime residents and
- 18 newcomers. It includes young professionals,
- 19 blue-collar workers, families and small
- 20 businesses. These are your investors. These
- 21 are the ones that have to live with the
- decisions being made here today, which
- 23 shouldn't be the case because on November 5 we
- 24 voted no. Thank you for your time.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Eric
- 2 Weill, Yemisi Oluwole, Daniel Skeritt. If you
- 3 two could please come forward and Michael
- 4 Mangan.
- 5 DR. WEILL: Good afternoon, my name
- 6 is Eric Weill. I am the chair of the board of
- 7 health in Revere. I am a primary care
- 8 physician in the community and have been a
- 9 physician in the community for the past 15
- 10 years.
- 11 I'm here to talk to you a little bit
- 12 about how the community would anticipate using
- 13 the resources that would become available to
- 14 improve and benefit the health of the
- 15 community. We would like to use this
- 16 opportunity before us with Mohegan Sun not only
- 17 to mitigate any potential harm from the
- 18 gambling establishment, but rather to
- 19 ambitiously and aggressively work to improve
- 20 the health of our residents and become the
- 21 healthiest community in the Commonwealth.
- As a city, we actually have a track
- 23 record of working together as a community with
- 24 residents, with community organizations and

- 1 with critical partners. We have measurable
- 2 improvements that demonstrate success in
- 3 reducing teen substance abuse and increasing
- 4 physical activity and healthy living.
- 5 And we've already completed a health
- 6 -- a community needs assessment with our
- 7 community partners. We've created a vision.
- 8 And we have an actual concrete plan for what we
- 9 would like to do to make Revere a healthy place
- 10 to raise families. Let me tell you a little
- 11 bit about what we have already accomplished and
- 12 what we plan to do in the future.
- So, we've aggressively worked to
- 14 improve the health of our residents. In '96 we
- 15 conducted our first health needs assessment.
- 16 We found escalating rates of substance abuse
- 17 disorders. We put into place coalitions. We
- 18 put into place interventions that have
- 19 significantly improved the outcomes within our
- 20 community.
- 21 We've advocated for public policy
- 22 changes and enforcement efforts. We've
- 23 conducted community awareness campaigns. We've
- 24 implemented in coordination with the schools

- 1 and with the community, science-based
- 2 prevention and early intervention programs for
- 3 youth and adults.
- 4 We've established Revere on the
- 5 Moves. We've built into place already programs
- 6 to reduce the rates of obesity in our
- 7 communities. We've put into place farmers
- 8 markets to increase access to healthy foods.
- 9 We're committed to working with neighboring
- 10 communities to make the region the healthiest
- 11 region in the Commonwealth. And we have a
- 12 track record of partnering with our neighbors.
- But there are problems. We do every
- 14 three years or so a community health needs
- 15 assessment in partnership with the Mass.
- 16 General Center for Community Health
- 17 Improvement. And we found that we still have
- 18 work to do.
- 19 Our rates of substance abuse are
- 20 higher than other cities. Our use of tobacco
- 21 is higher. Our rates of teen obesity are
- 22 higher than in other communities. There is an
- 23 increased infant mortality rate. We have a lot
- 24 of work to do. And what we'd like to do, quite

- 1 frankly, is take advantage of the resources
- 2 that we have or that we could have to actually
- 3 mitigate those.
- 4 Chronic disease will be addressed
- 5 through community based efforts to increase
- 6 healthy eating and active living and to reduce
- 7 hunger and obesity within our community.
- 8 The Board of Health has reviewed the
- 9 findings of the community health assessment and
- 10 has solicited input from the neighborhood
- 11 developers North Suffolk Mental Health, MGH
- 12 Revere Community Health Center, local
- 13 providers, community groups, residents, and
- 14 Revere Cares. Based on this review, the Board
- 15 of Health under the auspices of Mayor Rizzo
- 16 would adopt and implement an ambitious health
- 17 agenda that includes aggressive goals to reduce
- 18 substance use, overdoses, tobacco use, domestic
- 19 violence and dating violence. Reduce problem
- 20 and pathological gambling and community hunger.
- 21 We would strive to reduce the mental
- 22 health of our residents, to increase healthy
- 23 eating, active living, increase services for
- 24 youth and to foster healthy relationships among

- 1 our young people.
- 2 We actually have put into place a
- 3 list of comprehensive plans that we would like
- 4 to take advantage of should the opportunity
- 5 make itself available. In terms of goal number
- 6 one, which is decreasing opiate overdoses and
- 7 the use of prescription drugs and binge
- 8 drinking, we would increase supports to
- 9 resources such as North Suffolk's Resource
- 10 Center from five hours a week to 15 hours a
- 11 week. Increase access for those people who
- 12 need it during the hours where they would
- 13 actually needed.
- 14 In terms of reducing tobacco usage
- in the city, we'd increase screening treatment
- 16 and referral. And we'd increase subsidies for
- 17 tobacco replacement therapy. In terms of
- 18 reducing domestic violence, dating violence and
- 19 child neglect, and our goal would be five
- 20 percent reduction in five years, we'd expand
- 21 domestic and dating violence support programs.
- We'd strengthen the collaboration
- 23 between early childhood health, mental health
- 24 education and service providers to create a

- 1 better network of services to meet the needs of
- 2 our children through the age of five. We'd put
- 3 into place a free immunization clinic.
- 4 In terms of increasing prevention
- 5 activities and treatment services for problem
- 6 and pathological gambling, we would put into
- 7 place a network of screening and referral.
- 8 We'd put into place a full system of decision-
- 9 making and life skills for students age K-12.
- 10 And we'd establish a homeless shelter. in
- 11 terms of increasing youth connectedness into
- 12 the --
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you Dr.
- 14 Weill.
- DR. WEILL: There's plenty more.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You are welcome to
- 17 submit your remarks to us. Thank you. We
- 18 appreciate you responding to our clock.
- 19 MS. OLUWOLE: Chairman Crosby,
- 20 members of the board, my name is Yemisi
- 21 Oluwole. I am a Somerville, Massachusetts
- 22 resident and also a business owner.
- So, I am just really here to talk to
- 24 you today really about my sense of what I'm

- 1 seeing here. I've heard a lot about what
- 2 people have talked about and about the benefits
- 3 of a casino coming to this area of
- 4 Massachusetts. And while it's not directly
- 5 affecting me, it is important to me as a
- 6 citizen, as someone who lives in Somerville to
- 7 see what may or may not happen in this region.
- Now I've heard about the benefits to
- 9 the municipalities and transportation and all
- 10 of these other issues. For me, it's important
- 11 for jobs. That's a big issue and I'm sure it's
- 12 a big issue for everybody else. A lot of
- 13 people talked about that.
- So, jobs are really a big piece of
- 15 money coming into the community, money that are
- 16 being paid to people who are unemployed who
- 17 have previously been unemployed. And those
- 18 funds going into everything from rents to
- 19 mortgages to paying their taxes to
- 20 discretionary income being paid and brought not
- 21 just to the immediate vicinity but to the
- 22 surrounding communities and even become.
- So, this is not just a local or
- 24 municipal issue or regional issue. It is

- 1 really a Massachusetts thing. And it's the
- 2 benefit to Massachusetts. So, I'm really
- 3 looking at it on all those levels.
- 4 And when you talk about that really
- 5 at the base of it is really who can do the best
- 6 job? Who can make this happen? So, listening
- 7 to all of these incentives and all of these
- 8 promises that are being made, but at the end of
- 9 the day, who is the best person to do this job?
- 10 To me that means who has the history? Who has
- 11 the financial strength? Who has the
- 12 wherewithal to provide these jobs over the
- 13 long-term? To provide the benefits that these
- 14 employees are going to be having? To provide
- 15 not just the long-term but also just the
- 16 opportunity for these employees if some should
- 17 choose to even move simply because of these
- 18 jobs to the area and the impact that will have.
- So, all of these benefits whether it
- 20 be for transportation, at the end of the day,
- 21 will this happen? Will this happen? If
- 22 someone gets the license to have a gaming
- 23 commission will be able to make good on their
- 24 promises. That's what's important to me.

- 1 And when I look at that, I do look
- 2 at the strength of that company, whoever that
- 3 person is. Me being a member of the community
- 4 of Somerville, I walk around the Mystic River
- 5 pretty much every day for exercise. And I see
- 6 that it is connected to Medford and Chelsea as
- 7 well as Everett.
- 8 Somerville is also part of that.
- 9 And to me, the environment is a big issue for
- 10 me. To me it's important and I'd like to see
- 11 it being cleaned up. But for all of these
- 12 incentives that are being proposed, at the end
- of the day I'm just going to reiterate that it
- 14 really is who is the company that's coming
- 15 here. What they're going to do when they get
- 16 here. When they get that license, how are they
- 17 going to use that license?
- 18 What is the strength of that
- 19 company? And how are they going to make good
- 20 on each and every one of those promises that
- 21 they are making? Because they can get the
- 22 license and at the end of the day, if they
- 23 can't make good then all of these incentives
- 24 and all these promises they're empty.

- 1 That's really all I have to say.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Daniel
- 4 Skeritt, also Michael Mangan, LouAnne Zawodny,
- 5 Janelle Campbell, please get in line.
- 6 MR. SKERITT: Good afternoon, Sir
- 7 and good afternoon Commissioner, members of the
- 8 Commission. My name is Dan Skeritt and I am
- 9 resident of Everett also a business owner. I'm
- 10 here today to speak about consistency and the
- 11 promises as my friend from Somerville just
- 12 mentioned.
- 13 In Everett last year on the 22nd
- 14 there was a referendum. And on the 22 of June,
- 15 nearly 90 percent of that town voted. Because
- 16 they have a belief, they were presented a
- 17 situation where they have to make a decision.
- 18 And in the decision what they said was they
- 19 wholeheartedly support Wynn coming to Everett.
- 20 It's a very diverse community. It's
- 21 a lovely town. I moved there a few years ago
- 22 with my family. Coming from the city of
- 23 Cambridge and going into Everett it's quite a
- 24 transition. I drove around on a Sunday, quiet.

- 1 What I saw was a lot of the community, the
- 2 diversity. On Monday I went back and I drove
- 3 around again. What I saw was a hard-working
- 4 community, traveled on Route 16, was able to
- 5 see what that area and what the town was all
- 6 about. It's all heart. It's hard-working
- 7 people. Today, I'm not here to just talk about
- 8 Everett, but again about consistency.
- 9 Mohegan Sun I would say in terms of
- 10 the jobs that are required, in 2012 there were
- 11 layoffs that were made. This was during the
- 12 time of the recession. We understood that
- 13 everyone was affected. But during that
- 14 recession, although Mohegan Sun was laying off
- 15 a number of people, the competitor who is here
- 16 vying for the casino license has been quite
- 17 consistent.
- 18 Wynn Resorts has been consistent in
- 19 terms of rock steady reputation for providing
- 20 jobs. They are the only major resort company
- 21 that have 99 percent job security. During this
- 22 time, we should know that folks are looking for
- 23 jobs. Folks are looking for the ability to
- 24 take care of their families. They are looking

- 1 for health insurance. They are looking for the
- 2 extra spending income.
- I believe that if we are to present
- 4 what is best for Massachusetts, what we need to
- 5 do is look at what company, what resort when
- 6 you do award this license, what company really
- 7 has that solid background, that solid
- 8 foundation as opposed to one who may lay off
- 9 their employees.
- 10 I won't get into the specifics of
- 11 how many jobs were lost by Mohegan Sun, but I
- 12 can tell you that Wynn Resort has been
- 13 consistent. Just like myself, they drove
- 14 through this town of Everett. They were able
- 15 to see what the town is all about.
- I won't get into the specifics about
- 17 the contaminated site and what that would mean
- 18 for the environment. There are so many
- 19 positive points that we could stand here and
- 20 talk about. I am sure that our friends over
- 21 here of Revere and the surrounding communities
- 22 with all due respect, there are some very
- 23 strong points that they have.
- 24 But if we are going to be talking

- 1 about the award of a license, we need to know
- 2 what is consistently best for the residents of
- 3 Massachusetts and beyond. What is consistently
- 4 best for the Mystic River and the contaminated
- 5 site that has been there for so many years that
- 6 no one would put the money to spend and to
- 7 build on that site. How can we engage the
- 8 surrounding communities and have that be a job
- 9 producing site for the surrounding communities.
- I know I have only five minutes, but
- 11 I would like to give up my time now. Thank you
- 12 so much.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
- 14 Skeritt. Ladies and gentlemen. I do want to
- 15 say that this hearing is about the Mohegan Sun
- 16 proposal for Revere.
- 17 Tomorrow night we'll be talking
- 18 about Everett. I do realize that two do fit
- 19 together, but if your comments are primarily
- 20 about the Wynn project in Everett, you should
- 21 save them for tomorrow night. Yes, Sir.
- MR. MANGAN: Thank you,
- 23 Commissioner. My name is Mike Mangan. And I
- 24 am a resident from the city of Everett. I'm

- 1 originally from Somerville. Also, I just want
- 2 to start out by saying I'm a 23-year member of
- 3 the Boston Commons Union, a proud union member.
- 4 And wherever the jobs end up, I'm just glad
- 5 they're going to be union. So, wherever they
- 6 are, I certainly support union jobs.
- 7 I'd just like to say I am not here
- 8 to hop on, say negative things. I'm just here
- 9 really looking at it strictly from a revenue
- 10 point. My concern is that the casino in Revere
- 11 Mohegan Sun, they have a casino two hours away.
- 12 We can talk about Everett or Revere or other
- 13 areas of the state. But it's really about the
- 14 whole state as a whole. It's revenue that's
- 15 going to come and how do we maximize the most
- 16 revenue to come into the state throughout the
- 17 project, outside of what's going to come on in
- 18 this region.
- 19 Certainly, maybe to benefit Revere
- 20 and the surrounding communities as well as
- 21 Everett and the surrounding communities. But
- 22 certainly, how do we generate the most revenue.
- 23 And having a casino two hours away
- 24 because it's on an Indian reservation, having

- 1 no taxes but come up to Massachusetts and it's
- 2 going to be a 25 percent tax on the tables from
- 3 what I understand up here on winnings, I just
- 4 don't see how more revenue would come in.
- 5 Because I think some of that particular revenue
- 6 is going to end up going back down to
- 7 Connecticut.
- 8 We're about Massachusetts and making
- 9 the most money for Massachusetts. So, that's
- 10 the biggest concern I do have about that. And
- 11 that's why I'm up here. I really support
- 12 making the most revenue for the state of
- 13 Massachusetts. Again, by having splitting up
- 14 their people between two states, which I know
- 15 is going to happen, I think is not a win-win
- 16 for the state of Massachusetts. But I thank
- 17 you for your time.
- 18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 19 Deborah Davis can also line up, Michael Mangan,
- 20 LouAnne Zawodny, Madeline Steczynski or
- 21 something like this and Roger Barrett. Yes,
- 22 Ma'am.
- MS. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. My
- 24 name is Janelle Campbell.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I'm sorry. Say
- 2 your name again.
- 3 MS. CAMPBELL: Janelle Campbell.
- 4 Suffolk Downs is not just a job for me or my
- 5 fellow jockeys. It's part of my life. A part
- 6 of who I am today. I started coming to Suffolk
- 7 Downs when I was eight years old. I would tag
- 8 along with my aunt from barn to barn, which she
- 9 is the third leading female in the country.
- 10 If I was lucky, during the morning
- 11 break I would get to sit on the lead ponies.
- 12 During the races, I would go and hang out with
- 13 her in the girl's room and watch the races.
- 14 And during the weekends on the dark days as
- 15 well Tammy taught me how to ride. In 1999 I
- 16 turned 16 and I was able to get my first
- 17 license to gallop.
- 18 I learned how to gallop on horses my
- 19 aunt trained as she took off time to have her
- 20 first child. Not only did I get to gallop
- 21 horses, but I had to learn how to care for them
- 22 from the ground up. Feeding, bedding, cleaning
- 23 and just complete care.
- I have been licensed as almost all

- 1 horse-related jobs at Suffolk Downs. As a
- 2 groom, a hot walker, a pony girl, an exercise
- 3 rider, and assistant trainer, even trainer.
- 4 But in 2012, I turned in all of those licenses
- 5 and took out a jockey's license which was a
- 6 huge milestone for me.
- 7 Starting my riding career at Suffolk
- 8 Downs means so much to me. I grew up with all
- 9 these riders. Riders that have ridden at
- 10 Suffolk Downs since the 1980s. Riders that
- 11 have kids that ride here. Here at Suffolk
- 12 Downs these people are not just jockeys or
- 13 valets or whatever job they hold. These
- 14 people, every one of them, they are my family.
- I won my first race for William
- 16 Lagorio that I worked for for nine years before
- 17 I started riding, a trainer that has been
- 18 licensed since 1984. And he's been going to
- 19 the races since he was a schoolboy. My
- 20 grandparents, huge horse enthusiasts also owned
- 21 a very successful racehorse that only ran at
- 22 Suffolk Downs.
- For a lot of people, this isn't
- 24 about jobs. It's about their life passion.

- 1 Suffolk Downs has nothing but history
- 2 surrounding it, from the great racehorses that
- 3 came to run to the Hall of Fame jockeys that
- 4 started their careers here. But also the
- 5 history that each and every person has created
- 6 here for themselves, just like I have. Thank
- 7 you.
- 8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Roger
- 9 Broulet, William Lagorio, Kathleen Orlando.
- 10 MS. DAVIS: First, I would like to
- 11 say good evening to all and thank you for
- 12 having me here. My name is Deborah Davis. I'm
- 13 a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and I'm a
- 14 small business owner in Dorchester,
- 15 Massachusetts.
- 16 One thing I know about our
- 17 Commonwealth is that we are strong and that we
- 18 survive many diversities. I'm also a child who
- 19 survived busing in Boston, which affects all of
- 20 the communities in Boston. And I can tell you
- 21 from then and now is a 100 percent change in
- 22 the attitudes of our community.
- So, I am totally confident that when
- 24 Mohegan Sun if they should win their license in

- 1 Revere that Boston, the community of
- 2 Massachusetts will be strong and will receive
- 3 them with open arms and that the benefits will
- 4 be rewarded to all. And I agree with the
- 5 person who said that. It's not about the
- 6 company. It's about the survival of families.
- 7 They're bringing thousands of jobs to the
- 8 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 9 This means that there are thousands
- 10 of tables that will receive food that they
- 11 hadn't been able to receive before. This means
- 12 that the social responsibilities of Suffolk
- 13 Downs will be able to provide funding for
- 14 mental health that may not be able to be
- 15 available to families now. It means a lot
- 16 more. It means better schools. It means
- 17 stronger education which means more qualified
- 18 individuals who can receive jobs not only in --
- 19 not lower levels but entry-levels but that can
- 20 grow into professional levels. Because Mohegan
- 21 Sun is not just about gambling. It's about a
- 22 profession. It's about management. It's about
- 23 culinary jobs. It's about a lot more.
- 24 And I am totally in support of

- 1 Mohegan Sun coming to our communities. As I
- 2 said, I'm a business owner in Dorchester,
- 3 Massachusetts. I fall within the 15-mile
- 4 radius of the requirement to receive their
- 5 benefits. I have received their benefits,
- 6 because I'm standing here now.
- 7 That means that my business will be
- 8 promoted in Suffolk Downs. It will be promoted
- 9 in Mohegan Sun. It will be promoted in Revere
- 10 and Winthrop and all of the surrounding
- 11 communities, due to because of Mohegan Sun and
- 12 they're providing this opportunity to me.
- So, I am 100 percent supportive of
- 14 an organization that wants to come into my home
- 15 Commonwealth to provide these benefits. And I
- 16 have total confidence in the Massachusetts
- 17 Gaming organization that they will hold any
- 18 industry, not just Mohegan Sun, any industry
- 19 that should enter into our Commonwealth
- 20 accountable for their behavior. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MS. WHITE: Good afternoon. My name
- 23 is Maureen White. Madeleine Steczynski who is
- 24 on your list had to step out. And she asked me

- 1 to speak on her behalf. I live in East Boston.
- 2 And when I first heard about a casino coming to
- 3 Suffolk Downs, to be honest, I didn't know
- 4 anything about casinos. So, I tried to be a
- 5 responsible citizen and do my due diligence and
- 6 I started doing my homework.
- 7 And the more I started to learn
- 8 about this industry that was being invited into
- 9 our backyard, the more concerned I began to
- 10 become. I started reading about the impacts
- 11 casinos had on other cities around our country.
- 12 Things like crime, drunk driving, traffic and
- 13 air pollution, bankruptcies, home foreclosures,
- 14 domestic abuse, child abuse, suicides, negative
- 15 impacts on local businesses. And I started to
- 16 wonder why we were inviting this kind of
- industry into my community and hanging our hat
- 18 on it as something that would make it a better
- 19 place.
- 20 So, I joined thousands of other East
- 21 Boston residents in November and I voted no.
- 22 And to be frank, it's a little bit frustrating
- 23 to have to stand here again and continue to
- 24 discuss a casino at Suffolk Downs. And pretend

- 1 that sliding the whole project over a few yards
- 2 makes it a whole new project and we have to
- 3 start all over again. Except now, all of the
- 4 people of East Boston have been
- 5 disenfranchised. So, that's frustrating.
- 6 Being here today, it's really dawned
- 7 on me that all of those impacts that I noted
- 8 and that I truly with all my heart believe will
- 9 come into my neighborhood if this proposal goes
- 10 forward, those are not the worst part. That is
- 11 not the worst impact. And it's really hitting
- 12 home to me sitting here today that the worst
- 13 part is the divisiveness.
- 14 I'm sitting in a room full of people
- 15 that live a stone's throw from me in Revere and
- 16 instead of being neighborly and getting to know
- 17 them, we're all sitting here rolling our eyes
- 18 at each other, shaking our heads at each other,
- 19 writing mean things about each other on
- 20 Facebook when we go home, and we all know we do
- 21 it.
- 22 And it makes me really sad that our
- 23 Legislature and our Governor opened this
- 24 Pandora's box and created this divisiveness,

- 1 frankly. Because we feel desperate, we feel
- 2 desperate for money. And I'm listening to what
- 3 people are saying. And I try to really hear
- 4 what people are saying.
- 5 People want good schools in Revere.
- 6 People want jobs. People want to be able to put
- 7 food on their table and make a decent living.
- 8 And I want that too. I want that for Revere.
- 9 I think kids in Revere deserve a good school.
- 10 And families in Revere deserve to have a stable
- 11 income.
- 12 And being here makes me really sad
- 13 that we are so uncreative in how we can make
- 14 sure our schools are properly funded. And
- 15 families are doing well and in one of the
- 16 richest states in the entire country that we
- 17 are so uncreative in how to make that happen
- 18 that we have to invite a predatory industry
- 19 into our backyard.
- 20 Maybe this is just straying from
- 21 testimony into reflection, but I just really
- 22 wanted to share that. And I think that this is
- 23 a state full of very, very smart and highly
- 24 educated people. And I hope that we can come

- 1 together and figure out some better way to make
- 2 everyone prosperous than inviting predatory
- 3 industries into our neighborhoods. Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 5 MS. ORLANDO: Thank you. Good
- 6 afternoon, my name is Kathleen Orlando. I'd
- 7 first like to start by thanking the Commission
- 8 for allowing me the opportunity to come before
- 9 you today.
- 10 I am a lifelong resident of East
- 11 Boston. And on November 5 along with 4000
- 12 other of my fellow East Bostonians, I supported
- 13 a plan for a resort casino at Suffolk Downs.
- 14 Today, I stand before you in support Mohegan of
- 15 Sun Revere.
- 16 Suffolk Downs' commitment to
- 17 excellence has afforded them the opportunity to
- 18 employ countless individuals from East Boston,
- 19 Revere, Winthrop and many orher surrounding
- 20 communities for over 78 years. They've always
- 21 been a good friend and a good neighbor. And I
- 22 know that because my entire life, I've lived a
- 23 block away from the Suffolk Downs train station
- 24 and I have been fortunate enough to see the

- 1 horses out training with their trainers. The
- 2 grounds crew keeping up the beautiful flowers
- 3 all year long. So, I feel very fortunate that
- 4 Suffolk Downs has been such a wonderful friend
- 5 to my community.
- In saying this, throughout this
- 7 process I have come to meet many of the
- 8 employees at Suffolk Downs, all from different
- 9 backgrounds. All have one very important thing
- 10 in common, their dedication to an organization
- 11 they love. They are a family. It is evident
- 12 when you look out the huge windows at the Top
- 13 Sider room. The grounds are impeccably groomed
- 14 even during the off-season. The track looks
- 15 ready for race time every day.
- 16 Many people may think horseracing is
- 17 a dying industry, but don't tell that to the
- 18 people at Suffolk Downs because they will tell
- 19 you something different. Suffolk Downs has
- 20 felt the impact of a slow economy like hundreds
- of other businesses in the area. But there is
- 22 a solution in sight and it's Mohegan Sun
- 23 Revere.
- 24 This is a plan customized for the

- 1 location. A plan which can be executed with
- 2 little to no negative impact to the community.
- 3 East Boston and Revere are very similar
- 4 communities. Their neighborhoods are rich in
- 5 tradition and family values and are full of
- 6 small businesses, some of which have been
- 7 passed down from generation to generation.
- 8 Many of these businesses have
- 9 struggled over the last several years, many of
- 10 whom are friends of mine and I have stood by
- 11 them through their struggles. Mohegan Sun has
- 12 partnered with over 200 of these businesses
- 13 with their points program to help give these
- 14 businesses the boost they need to become
- 15 successful once again. This is exactly what
- 16 our local economy needs.
- 17 The need for youth programs on our
- 18 area is great. Not only am I a mother of three
- 19 children, but I am very active in community
- 20 service in my community. And without the
- 21 support of our local businesses such as Suffolk
- 22 Downs, we couldn't survive. And I know that
- 23 holds true in Winthrop and in Revere.
- We rely on the generosity of the

- 1 businesses in the community to help our
- 2 children participate in these programs. We
- 3 need to continue to receive this financial
- 4 support and it'll be a reality with Mohegan Sun
- 5 Revere.
- 6 Mohegan Sun has all the right
- 7 ingredients for success. An amazing plan which
- 8 is perfect. A few blocks from Revere Beach,
- 9 Logan Airport, the Callahan, Sumner Tunnels and
- 10 Ted Williams. 1A, 93, and Route 16 I can go on
- 11 and on there is just no better location.
- But most importantly, a Mohegan Sun
- 13 resort at Suffolk Downs will not only create
- 14 thousands of jobs but it will ensure that
- 15 Suffolk Downs remains open, hundreds of
- 16 employees from landscapers to blacksmiths will
- 17 keep their jobs.
- 18 Suffolk Downs deserves the chance
- 19 and together with Mohegan Sun it can be a
- 20 reality.
- I've been listening to some of my
- 22 friends from Winthrop about the traffic
- 23 impacts. And as you all know, East Boston
- 24 feels the impact from everything. We have the

- 1 airport. We have the tunnels. We have
- 2 Winthrop residents who exit their town every
- 3 day and drive through my community. It's
- 4 something that I've chosen. I've never moved.
- 5 I'm living there. And it's something that I'll
- 6 put up with if a casino comes it's because it
- 7 is worth it. We need it and it needs to become
- 8 a reality. Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. We are
- 10 going to take a brief break.

11

12 (A recess was taken)

13

- 14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: If you all want to line
- 15 up, Commissioner McHugh will be with us
- 16 momentarily. Why don't we go ahead.
- 17 Ladies and gentlemen, we are going
- 18 to start, if you could be quiet please.
- 19 MR. LAGORIO: Good afternoon, my
- 20 name is William Lagoria. I'm a thoroughbred
- 21 trainer for many years at Suffolk Downs, thirty
- 22 plus. I'm also a third-generation citizen of
- 23 Revere, Mass. I want to thank you for allowing
- 24 me to speak.

- 1 My mother attended Suffolk Downs
- 2 back in 1938 when she was five years old. My
- 3 grandfather was there opening day in 1935.
- 4 When I was six or seven years old, my mother
- 5 used to take me down to Washburn Avenue, ride
- 6 down in the car and I'd watch the horses go on
- 7 the walking machine and I was fascinated.
- 8 I actually come from a retail
- 9 drugstore background working for Stop and Shop
- 10 for many years and got to fall in love with the
- 11 horses and the rest was history. It's
- 12 contagious. The thoroughbred industry in the
- 13 Commonwealth is one of the best kept secrets in
- 14 existence. It employs many people now in many
- 15 different fields including breeding, open
- 16 spaces, farms, veterinarians. The people that
- 17 work on the backside, there's numerous jobs.
- 18 And the breeding business is a very important
- 19 part of all of those farms.
- 20 With all of that said, we have also
- 21 as part of being back at Suffolk Downs for many
- 22 years, we have been through many owners and
- 23 many different attempts to help the racetrack.
- 24 I think I took more trips to Beacon Hill than I

- 1 took when I was in school going on field trips
- 2 to support the racetrack, and I still do.
- 3 And I absolutely support the Mohegan
- 4 Sun application in Revere. And I want to thank
- 5 Mayor Rizzo for really bringing it back to life
- 6 and Councilor Powers and Councilor Zambuto, who
- 7 I know personally for many years in the city.
- 8 One of the things we need as
- 9 horsemen is really simple. We need racing days
- 10 and we need a place to stable our horses. And
- 11 the track is working on finding us a place to
- 12 stable our horses. The only thing that
- 13 concerns me is the racing days. And it
- 14 concerns me because when Mohegan came over as
- 15 the sole applicant, we sort of circumvented the
- 16 legislative practices that were put in to
- 17 protect racing. And does it scare me, a little
- 18 bit.
- 19 A 15-year commitment to racing I
- 20 think is wonderful. And I'm happy to hear it.
- 21 I'd like to see a little more substance to it
- 22 and have an idea of where we're going. I had a
- 23 chance to read Chapter 23K from cover to cover,
- 24 which is the most I read since high school.

- 1 And there are a couple of provisions in there I
- 2 just wanted to call out real quickly.
- 3 In section four where it says item
- 4 39 to designate impacted live entertainment
- 5 venues. That's on the burden of Mohegan Sun.
- 6 I do believe they should at some point address
- 7 us because we are being impacted of course by
- 8 the casino at some point, whether it be the
- 9 building of the casino or at any point
- 10 afterwards.
- 11 In section 15 under criteria for
- 12 eligibility to receive a gaming license, item
- 13 number 10 is to provide the Commission signed
- 14 agreements between the impacted live
- 15 entertainment venues and the applicant setting
- 16 forth the conditions to have a gaming
- 17 establishment located in proximity to the
- 18 impacted live entertainment venues.
- 19 When I brought that up a couple of
- 20 times. I was told I don't think that means
- 21 thoroughbred racing, but I disagree. I
- 22 certainly think that thoroughbred racing is a
- 23 live entertainment venue and it has been for
- 24 many years. I don't think it means just

- 1 musical or plays.
- 2 With all of that said, like I said I
- 3 do support the proposal. I would hope that the
- 4 Gaming Commission could somehow see fit if this
- 5 goes through to get us the protections back
- 6 that would guarantee us the racing days we need
- 7 and also guarantee us some other things.
- 8 That's all in section 24.
- 9 I was very pleased to see Plainridge
- 10 receive a license. Although I'm not a big fan
- 11 of standardbred racing, I am a big fan of
- 12 racing. As things go by and the industries
- 13 diminish, it's kind of heartbreaking. So, to
- 14 see that I commend you for supporting
- 15 Plainridge and the standardbred people there.
- 16 It was a good turn for everybody.
- 17 So, I would hope -- In closing I
- 18 would just hope that the people at Suffolk
- 19 Downs, Mohegan Sun and the horseman could find
- 20 a little more time to get together and maybe
- 21 discuss in a three-way conversation the impacts
- 22 that the casino will have on our industry as
- 23 far as construction and where we are headed for
- 24 this coming meet and the meet that follows next

- 1 year. And I thank you very much for your time.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 4 Commissioners. For the record, my name is
- 5 Celeste Myers. I'm cochair of the ballot
- 6 question committee No Eastie Casino. We helped
- 7 pave the way to the election on November 5 when
- 8 we voted no.
- 9 As I've stated in hearings since the
- 10 unambiguous election results on November 5 when
- 11 we voted no, I'm not so sure why I'm here. I
- 12 hope you don't mind. I have a few friends
- joining me here at the podium if you folks will
- 14 come up. Considering the nature of the
- 15 registration for this process was a little bit
- 16 ambiguous and most of these folks aren't slated
- 17 to speak until about number 70 or number 80
- 18 when this room will be probably largely empty.
- 19 Most folks in attendance will not
- 20 have the opportunity to see or hear the true
- 21 face of Boston casino opposition. Each of
- these folks represents thousands of residents
- 23 who oppose a casino at Suffolk Downs.
- 24 Thousands of folks who voted no and have

- 1 designated proxy by the city of Boston for
- 2 thousands more who have very real concerns
- 3 about casino impacts.
- 4 They represent the folks who were
- 5 there on November 5 when we voted no. There
- 6 have been hours of testimony submitted trying
- 7 to justify why we are here, including some
- 8 pretty fuzzy rationalizations and sloppy
- 9 application rewrites by developers turned
- 10 landlords turned project cheerleaders to
- 11 explain why are here at this juncture,
- 12 discussing a proposal that should've been
- 13 shelved on November 5 when we voted no.
- 14 That being said, as I'm comb through
- 15 my experiences of these last couple of years on
- 16 the campaign trail and time spent engaging with
- 17 the Commission and working to understand your
- 18 interpretation of events, it seems to boil down
- 19 to the perception of three factors: reasonable
- 20 expectations, outrage and harm or the lack
- 21 thereof. On multiple occasions, the Commission
- 22 appears to have turned to these catchphrases to
- 23 use as a barometer or even a divining rod to
- 24 select a path.

- 1 Let's talk about reasonable
- 2 expectations. It was reasonable to expect that
- 3 we would have a very daunting task ahead of us
- 4 as we set our goal to educate ourselves and
- 5 provide shared learning to our neighbors. It
- 6 was reasonable to anticipate many long days and
- 7 nights in endless strategy sessions when we
- 8 coalesced and set ourselves on the path of
- 9 engaging with a process wherever it took us.
- 10 It was reasonable to assume that
- 11 when registered as a ballot question committee,
- 12 led community information sessions,
- 13 participated in meetings and hearing set forth
- 14 by the city of Boston Host Community Advisory
- 15 Committee, engaged in very thoughtful ways with
- 16 Suffolk Downs via their community information
- 17 sessions as well as their Mass EPA and
- 18 transportation hearings as related to the
- 19 development proposals. That it would be held
- 20 very high standard.
- It was reasonable to expect that we
- 22 had an uphill nearly insurmountable task before
- 23 us as we delved into thousands of pages of
- 24 filings and reached out to experts and sought

- 1 examples from across the nation in a variety of
- 2 environments to arm ourselves with a true
- 3 understanding of what we could reasonably
- 4 expect for impacts. It was even a reasonable
- 5 assumption that we might not win.
- 6 All the while we looked to the
- 7 gaming legislation, paid attention to the
- 8 messaging and methodologies of developers and
- 9 proponents, set our expectations and goals
- 10 accordingly, pointed all of our eyes towards
- 11 November 5 when we voted no.
- To look at the gaming legislation,
- 13 the campaign proceedings and the ballot
- 14 question in both East Boston and Revere, the
- 15 outcome is pretty unambiguous. The developer
- 16 and the proponents were not successful in
- 17 pulling out an affirmative vote in both host
- 18 communities. The conversation should have been
- 19 over. The Suffolk Downs proposal on the
- 20 sidelines, and unable to continue with the
- 21 application process.
- This is where reasonable
- 23 expectations went out the window and there was
- 24 a scramble to try to cobble together an

- 1 application comprised of the remnants of not
- 2 one but two failed bids. Where teams of
- 3 attorneys, politicians and developers merged
- 4 resources to fabricate a plan to negate the
- 5 outcome of November 5 when we voted no. This
- 6 development was nowhere within the realm of
- 7 twists we should have reasonably expected.
- 8 Let's talk about outrage. On more
- 9 than on occasion, Commissioners, you have cited
- 10 an absence of outrage. I submit to you that
- 11 this is what outrage look like, controlled,
- 12 determined outrage. It is outrage that led us
- 13 to double our efforts and provide support to
- 14 Revere opposition when they called to us.
- 15 It led us to campaign in single-
- 16 digit weather and to continue our efforts to
- 17 safeguard our own community. It is outrage
- 18 that transforms ordinary people, moms, dads,
- 19 secretaries, computer programmers, writers,
- 20 retirees and the like and turns them into a
- 21 tireless machine working together to safeguard
- 22 their community, their neighbors and the
- 23 Commonwealth from an enterprise that is proven
- 24 to have widespread, irreversible, negative

- 1 impacts.
- 2 It is outrage at the attempt to
- 3 insert the industry into our community that led
- 4 to November 5 when we voted no. And outrage
- 5 that let us to continue to fight long after our
- 6 work should have been done.
- 7 In terms of harm, you asked me
- 8 Commissioner McHugh a couple of months ago what
- 9 the harm would be. I submitted at that point
- 10 it meant that we would have to continue our
- 11 fight long after our job had been completed on
- 12 November 5. And that it would cost us
- 13 personally, physically and financially.
- 14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Ms.
- 15 Myers. Leslie Gould, Joe Spaulding, Joe
- 16 Tedesca.
- MS. GOULD: Good afternoon, good
- 18 evening. Thank you to the Gaming Commission.
- 19 I appreciate the time and the courtesy this
- 20 evening. My name is Leslie Gould and I am the
- 21 President, CEO of the Lynn Area Chamber of
- 22 Commerce representing over 400 businesses in
- 23 the communities of Lynn, Lynnfield, Nahant and
- 24 Swampscott.

- 1 On behalf of the Lynn Area Chamber
- 2 of Commerce, job creation and economic vitality
- 3 are always our central focus. Our role as a
- 4 chamber is not only to fight for the economic
- 5 health and vitality for our local businesses
- 6 and community but identify our regional
- 7 connections to see where we fit, how we can
- 8 work together and create positive progress.
- 9 Four years ago when the thought of a
- 10 casino coming to Suffolk Downs was just that, a
- 11 thought, the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce
- 12 immediately connected with Chip Tuttle and his
- 13 team to discuss how the Lynn Area Chamber of
- 14 Commerce and the city of Lynn can foster this
- 15 endeavor.
- 16 Moreover, the LACC polled and
- 17 continues to poll our business community at
- 18 large. And the results are always
- 19 overwhelmingly in support of a casino at
- 20 Suffolk Downs. This project has the support of
- 21 our Board of Directors and businessmen like our
- 22 past chairman Ralph Sevinor who is here with me
- 23 this evening.
- 24 The LACC unequivocally understands

- 1 that if a casino comes to fruition, Lynn also
- 2 an older industrial city will benefit in a
- 3 multitude of ways, hence the community
- 4 connections.
- 5 First and foremost, and it's been
- 6 said sorry, job creation, a green light.
- 7 Sorry. A green light for Suffolk Downs and
- 8 Mohegan Sun means job security for those 800 to
- 9 1000 jobs that currently exist at Suffolk
- 10 Downs.
- 11 Also, a green light for Mohegan Sun
- 12 on the Revere property means the potential of
- those 2500 construction jobs and the 4000
- 14 permanent jobs, etc., etc. And I'm sorry but
- 15 these figures just cannot be ignored.
- 16 A red light for Mohegan Sun will
- 17 sadly mean the end of an era and the inevitable
- 18 loss of those 800 jobs at Suffolk Downs.
- 19 Thereby creating another wasteland of lost
- 20 opportunity and acreage that who knows, it
- 21 could remain vacant for years. We just don't
- 22 know, decades.
- 23 President Ronald Reagan once said
- 24 recession is when a neighbor loses his job.

- 1 Depression is when you lose yours. After the
- 2 past seven years of recession -- I know you
- 3 like Ronald Reagan. After the past seven years
- 4 of recession, I'm sorry, but this cannot be on
- 5 our conscience. It's like taking the Titanic
- 6 and just throwing it even deeper into the
- 7 water, in my personal opinion. And someone
- 8 goes, what does that mean? Trust me. It's a
- 9 lot easier to start at a level playing field.
- 10 Those jobs are lost, you are not at a level
- 11 playing field, in my opinion.
- 12 And to that point, while the
- 13 residents of Revere may get the first priority
- 14 for employment, the LACC is confident that area
- 15 residents will also enjoy employment
- 16 opportunities by virtue of Revere's host
- 17 community agreement requiring that 75 percent
- 18 of all jobs are filled by residents living
- 19 within that 15-mile radius.
- 20 In addition, our local business
- 21 owners will benefit under a similar provision
- 22 calling for \$50 million being spent annually on
- 23 goods and services with businesses within that
- 24 same 15-mile radius. And by participating in

- 1 Mohegan Sun's point program allowing guests to
- 2 use their player card in local establishments
- 3 where they will retrieve a discount and
- 4 redemption opportunities helping to keep our
- 5 Main Street businesses strong.
- 6 Second, we believe that that domino
- 7 effect for millions of dollars promised to
- 8 Revere for economic development and investment
- 9 can only help Lynn and our entire region. As
- 10 Revere continues to focus on the revitalization
- 11 plans and bringing more tourists and businesses
- 12 to the area, there is no doubt that Lynn and
- 13 our neighbors on the North Shore will also
- 14 benefit by the creation of new development
- 15 opportunities as well.
- 16 As an example immediately adjacent
- 17 to the Lynnway thoroughfare are 300 acres of
- 18 developable waterfront property. This property
- 19 is just a couple of miles from the proposed
- 20 casino site at Suffolk Downs. And as the Mayor
- 21 said this evening, we all truly believe that
- 22 the rising tide will rise all boats. And in
- 23 this case, create an opportunity for this
- 24 property, this waterfront property to be

- 1 developed. Thereby bringing even more jobs and
- 2 businesses to the residents of Lynn.
- 3 Lastly, Mohegan Sun has also made it
- 4 very clear that they want to be an addition to
- 5 our business community, not a competitor. This
- 6 has been apparent by our discussion centering
- 7 on the outward facing strategy. Mohegan Sun
- 8 recognizes Lynn commitment. I thank you so
- 9 much for your time.
- 10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also
- if Carol Tye could come up. Mr. Spaulding.
- MR. SPAULDING: Mr. Chairman,
- 13 Commissioners, my name is Joe Spalding and for
- 14 the last 26 years, I've had the pleasure of the
- 15 being the CEO of the Citi Performing Arts
- 16 Center, the largest nonprofit in New England
- 17 and running theaters in downtown Boston, the
- 18 Wang Theater, the Colonial Theater and the
- 19 Shubert Theater.
- I had the privilege of when the
- 21 discussion of resort casinos came up to help
- 22 with the legislation. I congratulate our
- 23 Legislature and I congratulate the Commission
- 24 on what was there for impacted venues. The

- 1 idea was that you had to find a partner with a
- 2 participant who was going to build a resort
- 3 casino.
- 4 We became the partner with Suffolk
- 5 Downs and with Caesars Entertainment at that
- 6 particular time. And when that changed, the
- 7 first call I got in literally hours was from
- 8 the CEO of Mohegan Sun. We have put together a
- 9 program that is better than it was before.
- 10 It's an opportunity that we will
- 11 operate and run the theater component and the
- 12 entertainment piece on the resort casino with
- 13 Mohegan Sun. And together we will present
- 14 entertainment in our theaters downtown. And
- 15 that also includes the presentation of product
- 16 that happens at the Strand Theater in
- 17 Dorchester.
- We are very excited about this.
- 19 We'd like to congratulate everybody that this
- 20 is the first of its kind in the United States
- 21 of America. We completely trust everybody at
- 22 Suffolk Downs. And we completely trust
- 23 everybody at Mohegan Sun. So, thank you for
- 24 letting me talk.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Joe Todesca, Carol
- 2 Tye, also Ann Marie Casey and Louis Cialone.
- 3 MS. TYE: My name is Carol Tye. I'm
- 4 a lifelong Revere resident. And five
- 5 generations of my family have lived within a
- 6 five-minute walk of those horse barns down
- 7 there. And I look forward to the day when I'll
- 8 be a five-minute walk away from a boutique
- 9 hotel.
- I am now in my 54th year of service
- in the Revere Public Schools. I started out in
- 12 1960 as a teacher of English and sometimes
- 13 Latin at Revere High School. I ended my career
- 14 as the superintendent of schools. Since 2001,
- 15 I've been an elected member of the Revere
- 16 School Committee.
- 17 I usually speak before Commissions
- 18 on the matter of education on some matter of
- 19 government. So, I am a little uncomfortable
- 20 speaking about the casino, but I just did not
- 21 feel the I could not step forward and speak in
- 22 favor of this casino development, which I
- 23 regard as the most important economic
- 24 development project to come to Revere in my

- 1 lifetime.
- 2 I believe that the proposal is
- 3 essential to the future of Revere. So, I am
- 4 here to testify on behalf of the school
- 5 department and on behalf of the city that I
- 6 love. I support the proposal because of the
- 7 benefits that will accrue to education and to
- 8 young people.
- 9 A payment of \$1 million annually to
- 10 the Revere Public Schools. A \$2 million
- 11 payment toward the rehabilitation of the
- 12 stadium. And \$1 million payment toward a new
- 13 youth center. And the Mayor has pledged to
- 14 take the new money that comes into this city to
- 15 build a new Revere High School.
- 16 Why do we need it? We need it
- 17 because the state would not even give us a
- 18 grant of money to rehab. our science labs
- 19 because they said the building was too old to
- 20 withstand rehabilitation. So, there's no other
- 21 way we're going to get a new high school. The
- 22 city does not have the funds. I am the
- 23 president of the Elder Services Board and a
- 24 money manager for the Affair of Elders. And I

- 1 know that those who are on a fixed income can
- 2 hardly pay their real estate taxes now. So,
- 3 they certainly could not fund a 21st-century
- 4 high school that our kids really need.
- 5 Sadly, our city has lost a lot of
- 6 homes and real estate property to foreclosure.
- 7 We have so many of those abandoned homes which
- 8 had children in them, which at worst have had
- 9 their lives disrupted or maybe they are
- 10 officially homeless now. So, we need money.
- 11 And we need jobs. Jobs give not
- 12 only financial security but emotional security.
- 13 The children need to thrive in a social and
- 14 academic atmosphere. We cannot lose the huge
- 15 number of jobs and businesses that horseracing
- 16 generates in our community now. And we all
- 17 know that that sport can no longer survive on
- 18 its own.
- 19 So, why is Revere a better site for
- 20 this project than let's say Everett might be,
- 21 because Suffolk Downs has history. And I do
- 22 have history on my side.
- When I was a child, many of the
- 24 horsemen resided in my neighborhood of

- 1 Beachmont. Our brothers walked horses in the
- 2 morning before they went to school. We were
- 3 called to church on Sunday to Our Lady of Lords
- 4 by a caroler erected by Suffolk Downs. I don't
- 5 know whether they were trying to send us a
- 6 message, but we listened.
- 7 Our lives were intertwined with
- 8 Suffolk Downs in a very easy mutuality.
- 9 Throughout the years, they have supported
- 10 nonprofits. They have supported my own Revere
- 11 High School alumni association, which gives
- 12 funds to the Revere Public Schools afterschool
- 13 program.
- 14 They have supported the Revere Beach
- 15 partnership which sponsors the National
- 16 Sandcastle Festival. They've supported SeaPack
- 17 which is Autism Speaks and our own special-
- 18 needs children.
- 19 We're a city that has a great
- 20 history with an entertainment business. There
- 21 were lots of jobs at the track and at the beach
- 22 when I was a child. I couldn't get one at the
- 23 track, because then they didn't hire women,
- 24 girls especially.

- 1 So, I went and got a job down at
- 2 Revere Beach. I made cotton candy between the
- 3 carousel and a shooting gallery. And you know,
- 4 it was a good job. I paid my way through
- 5 college on the funds that I got from that job.
- 6 So, I'm all in favor of entry-level jobs,
- 7 career jobs and whatever kinds of jobs we can
- 8 give our kids.
- 9 Mohegan Sun has already begun to
- 10 work with MGH Revere Cares as Dr. Weill told
- 11 you, a healthy community's coalition which has
- 12 served Revere for almost 20 years. We will be
- 13 collaborating to address problematic issues
- 14 that may arise. At Bunker Hill which serves --
- 15 So, please award to Suffolk Downs and Mohegan
- 16 Sun.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 18 MR. CIARLONE: Thank you for
- 19 allowing me to speak today, Mr. Chairman and
- 20 board members.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Your name, Sir?
- MR. CIARLONE: My name is Louis
- 23 Ciarlone. I reside at 410 Park Avenue in
- 24 Revere, Massachusetts. And I am the president

- 1 and business manager of IBEW Local 123 the
- 2 union who represents the workers at Suffolk
- 3 Downs.
- 4 The people I represent is the reason
- 5 why we're all here today because in 2003, it
- 6 was this small local union that first set in
- 7 motion the fact that this was a neighbor bill,
- 8 a jobs bill. Rather than a gambling bill it
- 9 was about jobs and more importantly it was
- 10 about my job and the jobs of the people I
- 11 represent.
- 12 And that started in 2003 right
- 13 through 2007, 2010, 2011 when those bodies came
- 14 up to that State House that were first
- 15 generated by us and we were joined by other
- 16 unions. IBEW 103, Labors Local 22, the
- 17 painters union and a host of other unions who
- 18 joined us knowing this job creation bill was
- 19 going to be a creation of good jobs.
- 20 Later on members of my union will
- 21 speak to you. And those members that will
- 22 speak to you are only the tip of the iceberg.
- 23 I represent 155 members at Suffolk Downs and
- 24 that's not all of the workers because a lot of

- 1 them work as contractors in the horse side of
- 2 the racetrack.
- I am also am a resident of Revere,
- 4 third generation. And there's a couple of
- 5 facts that have not been stated here. Revere
- 6 not only voted yes twice, but voted yes in
- 7 every single precinct, over 20 precincts twice,
- 8 not once but twice. The support in Revere is
- 9 overwhelming. It's overwhelming.
- 10 And my good friends in East Boston,
- 11 I respect their right to have an opinion and
- 12 their right to vote. But democracy doesn't end
- 13 at the border between East Boston and Revere.
- 14 We also have a right to vote. We have a right
- 15 to do what we want on our soil in our
- 16 community.
- 17 And as a Revere resident, I know
- 18 that this is good for our community. This is
- 19 good for the job creation. This will help save
- 20 the jobs at Suffolk Downs and create many, many
- 21 good union jobs, good paying good union jobs at
- 22 Mohegan Sun.
- I want to thank Richard Fields and
- 24 the people at Suffolk Downs for having faith in

- 1 the workers that I represent and Mitchell Etess
- 2 for the work -- for his faith in us in working
- 3 with us to enable us to continue to work at
- 4 Suffolk Downs. I know that there are people
- 5 here on the board who want to save the existing
- 6 jobs at the racetracks that they are important.
- 7 They're important in Plainridge and they're
- 8 certainly just as important, maybe eight times
- 9 as important numerically at Suffolk Downs.
- 10 Thank you for your time and I hope
- 11 you'll find in favor of the licensee Mohegan
- 12 Sun in the city of Revere.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Joe Todesca, Ann
- 14 Marie Casey, Paige Benson, Marianne Wright,
- 15 Daralyn Reardon, you can all line up. Don't be
- 16 bashful, whoever gets here first. Go for it.
- 17 MS. CASEY: Hello. Thank you very
- 18 much. My name is Ann Marie Casey. And I am
- 19 the Executive Director of the North of Boston
- 20 Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- 21 I would just like to take this
- 22 opportunity to extrapolate from a letter that
- 23 was drafted by myself and my Board of Directors
- 24 which we have mailed a hard copy to the

- 1 Commission for your records.
- 2 On behalf of the North of Boston
- 3 Convention and Visitors Bureau, I am writing to
- 4 offer our strong support for the application
- 5 being made by Mohegan Sun for an expanded
- 6 gaming license to develop the \$1.3 billion
- 7 resort casino in Revere, Massachusetts.
- 8 The North of Boston Convention and
- 9 Visitors Bureau is one of the 16 state
- 10 designated Massachusetts regional tourism
- 11 councils. We promote the 34 cities and towns
- 12 of Essex County as a tourism destination for
- 13 leisure, group, meetings and conventions. Our
- 14 investing members include hotels, inns, bed and
- 15 breakfast, restaurants, museums, attractions,
- 16 music venues and theaters, galleries, farms,
- 17 breweries, wineries and more. Our organization
- 18 also promotes the natural and historic
- 19 resources throughout Essex County such as the
- 20 beaches and the light houses, historic homes,
- 21 monuments trails and parks.
- The North of Boston CVB Board of
- 23 Directors feel that Mohegan Sun has already
- 24 demonstrated a deep commitment to the region

- 1 through their consistent outreach as well as
- 2 participation in local programs and events by
- 3 proactively involving the local community in
- 4 constructive dialogue, and fully understanding
- 5 the importance of sharing this opportunity with
- 6 the region.
- 7 Moreover, the North of Boston CVB
- 8 feels that Mohegan Sun would bring a renewed
- 9 revitalization to the area making a positive
- 10 impact on the economic development of not only
- 11 Revere but also the surrounding cities and
- 12 towns, the Essex County region and the
- 13 Commonwealth as a whole.
- 14 The North of Boston CVB supports the
- 15 following Mohegan Sun commitments: cross
- 16 marketing of tourist attractions and cultural
- 17 institutions in area communities through their
- 18 points partnership program. Spending \$50
- 19 million annually on goods and services from
- 20 businesses within a 15-mile radius of Revere.
- 21 The creation of 4000 jobs with a commitment to
- 22 hiring 75 percent of its workforce from the
- 23 same 15-mile radius, which also includes job-
- 24 training programs, utilizing area colleges such

- 1 as North Shore Community College and Bunker
- 2 Hill Community College.
- 3 Local impact payments to Essex
- 4 County cities of Lynn and Salem as well as the
- 5 communities of Cambridge, Chelsea, Malden,
- 6 Medford and Melrose. And of course funding for
- 7 study and design of regional traffic solutions.
- 8 Please consider the merits of Mohegan Sun's
- 9 application. And thank you very much your
- 10 time.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 12 MS. WRIGHT: Good afternoon. My
- 13 name is Marianne Wright. And I reside at 292
- 14 Brandywine Drive, East Boston. I was born and
- 15 brought up in Revere. And I moved to East
- 16 Boston over 20 years ago.
- 17 I am a mutuel clerk at Suffolk
- 18 Downs. I've been there for almost 35 years. I
- 19 followed in my father's footsteps. He used the
- 20 money that he made at Suffolk Downs to put
- 21 bread our table as I was child. This job at
- 22 Suffolk Downs has enabled me to bring up my
- 23 daughter. Now I am a grandmother.
- I am also a cancer survivor. I've

- 1 been a cancer survivor for 10 years. Working
- 2 at Suffolk Downs provided me with employer-
- 3 based health insurance. If it wasn't for this
- 4 insurance and the benefits that helped me
- 5 overcome this disease and put it into
- 6 remission. During those darkest days, Suffolk
- 7 Downs allowed me to take time off to continue
- 8 my treatment, continue my premiums and help me
- 9 return to work. I will forever be grateful to
- 10 Suffolk Downs and the IBEW for helping me in
- 11 this difficult time.
- 12 The only way my employment can
- 13 continue is for you choose Mohegan Sun as the
- 14 casino operator in Revere. If not, who will
- 15 hire a 54-year-old woman whose only skill is
- 16 that of a mutuel clerk? Who will provide me,
- 17 what employer will provide me the insurance
- 18 that I need with a pre-existing?
- 19 Make no mistakes about this, there
- 20 are many of my fellow coworkers at Suffolk
- 21 Downs in similar situations. I related my
- 22 personal story to you so that you can consider
- 23 how your decision will impact my life and the
- 24 lives of hundreds of men and women who I work

- 1 with day in and day out. Thank you for your
- 2 time.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 4 MS. REARDON: Good evening,
- 5 Commission. My name is Daralyn Reardon. I
- 6 was born and brought up in East Boston. I'm
- 7 devoted Christian. I'm a parish member of the
- 8 Immaculate Conception Church for the past 20
- 9 years. I also participate as a vocalist in the
- 10 church choir.
- I am employed at Suffolk Downs as a
- 12 bartender, and I work for Center Plate which
- 13 holds the concession contract at the racetrack.
- 14 More significantly, I am a 15-year homeowner
- 15 and a 25-year-old resident of the great city of
- 16 Revere.
- 17 I want to tell you about Revere.
- 18 Let me say first and foremost that this casino
- 19 belongs in Revere. The reestablishment of the
- 20 gaming industry in Revere in addition to
- 21 creating many more jobs offering my city
- 22 incredible financial advantages, and producing
- 23 economic development especially to our
- 24 beachfront will bring back an history, which

- 1 has been for three generations the very fiber
- of Revere's social and economic history.
- 3
 I'm a third-generation American.
- 4 All of my grandparents came here as immigrants
- 5 from Italy. All of my husband's grandparents
- 6 came here from Ireland. We represent what
- 7 Revere is all about. We are a welcoming
- 8 community, a community of tolerance, a
- 9 community of diversity and most importantly we
- 10 are a community of hard-working people who only
- 11 ask for the opportunity to use our skills and
- 12 diligence to improve our lives and make a
- 13 better future for our children.
- 14 This is what Revere is all about.
- 15 The Mohegan Sun Casino development belongs in
- 16 Revere. Revere wants it. We deserve it. And
- 17 if we get it, we will show the Commonwealth
- 18 that the decision to bring Mohegan to Revere
- 19 validates the goals and the purpose of the
- 20 casino legislation. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also
- 22 Christopher Welling, Colleen Glynn, Anthony
- 23 Chianca.
- 24 MS. BENSON: I'm Paige Benson. And

- 1 I would like to thank the Commission for giving
- 2 me the opportunity to be here today to tell my
- 3 story of what the horse industry means to me.
- 4 May I begin by stating that my story
- 5 is not unique. I'm here to represent many
- 6 others whose livelihood depends on the survival
- 7 of the horse industry across our state. I own
- 8 and manage a farm with my mom about 10 minutes
- 9 from Suffolk Downs in Saugus, Massachusetts
- 10 called Indian Rock Stables. Our livelihood
- 11 depends on the survival of thoroughbred racing
- 12 and in the horse industry.
- 13 My parents bought this farm when I
- 14 was 10-years old, but my passion for the horse
- 15 runs through my genes as my dad introduced me
- 16 to this great sport from birth. My parents
- 17 owned a number of successful racehorses and
- 18 they then decided to take the next step and
- 19 become thoroughbred breeders.
- In 2001, they bought our farm, which
- 21 we became a very active thoroughbred breeding
- 22 farm. And many of our progeny went on to race
- 23 successfully at Suffolk Downs. And after their
- 24 racing career, they would come home and they

- 1 reside at our farm still today. Not only do we
- 2 breed and race, but we also offer riding
- 3 lessons and provide therapeutic rehabilitation
- 4 for our horses that need a break from the
- 5 racetrack.
- 6 My dad Michael Benson was active
- 7 with the Massachusetts Breeders Association and
- 8 the vice president the HBPA, and was very
- 9 excited about the future of Suffolk Downs with
- 10 prospect of having a casino there. So, my
- 11 fondest childhood memories were spent with my
- 12 dad in the morning at Suffolk Downs watching
- our horses train and enjoying breakfast on the
- 14 backside.
- I began riding and competing horses
- 16 when I was five years old and I continue to do
- 17 so today. I chose to attend the University of
- 18 Findlay in Ohio, a well-known equestrian
- 19 college. Just before finalizing my plans to
- 20 attend Findlay, the day after Christmas in
- 21 2008, my mom's and my world turned upside down,
- 22 Dad, the one who planted the seed was suddenly
- 23 taken from us unexpectedly of a heart attack at
- 24 the age of 50. I was determined to carry on in

- 1 his honor, and I graduated Findlay with three
- 2 degrees majoring in Animal Science, Equestrian
- 3 Studies and Equine Business Management.
- 4 It was while I was away at school
- 5 that I truly discovered the inner strength of
- 6 my mom, Karen. She took the helm of Indian
- 7 Rock and kept it going until I returned, and
- 8 even continued to breed there.
- 9 There were two exceptional
- 10 thoroughbred foals just born these past two
- 11 years. And the two-year-old is now in training
- 12 and preparing for a triumphant return to
- 13 Suffolk Downs this spring. And the owners are
- 14 in fact a family who live just four minutes
- 15 away. And they were there to deliver the foals
- 16 with us.
- 17 And this is what Indian Rock and
- 18 many other local farms truly represents, a
- 19 family operation in every sense of the word.
- 20 If Mohegan Sun is not awarded the casino
- 21 license, racing at Suffolk Downs will slowly
- 22 disappear. And this would economically affect
- 23 the horse industry in Massachusetts.
- 24 Many lives of hard-working people of

- 1 our state would be financially burdened more so
- 2 than they are now. However, with Mohegan Sun
- 3 at Suffolk Downs, Massachusetts thoroughbred
- 4 breeding and racing operation will surely
- 5 blossom. As you all, this has been the case in
- 6 many other states.
- 7 In addition, you can give hope to
- 8 all of the horse owners and breeders to
- 9 reinvest their time and their money into this
- 10 great sport. It is without question that the
- 11 breeding industry will begin to thrive as
- 12 breeders see the prospect of increased purses
- 13 and return to Suffolk Downs of old of which was
- 14 the center of entertainment of my great
- 15 grandfather's generation.
- 16 With a thriving Suffolk Downs, my
- 17 generation will surely carry our sport forward
- 18 along with future generations. With our
- 19 experience in breeding and training and our
- 20 close proximity to the racetrack, we are
- 21 extremely proud and excited to embark on this
- 22 journey with Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun, and
- 23 be a place where Mass. breeders and owners can
- 24 call home. In order to do so, we appeal to you

- 1 to make this happen. Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Ms.
- 3 Benson.
- 4 MR. CHIANCA: Mr. Chairman, members
- 5 of the Commission, thank you for providing me
- 6 with this opportunity to speak today. My name
- 7 is Anthony Chianca. I am a lifelong resident
- 8 of East Boston and a firm supporter of the
- 9 development of the Mohegan Sun Casino at
- 10 Suffolk Downs.
- Before I get into my comments, I
- 12 would like to correct a statement that was made
- 13 earlier. It was stated that the Wynn
- 14 Corporation at no time have they ever laid off
- 15 any employees, whether the economic times were
- 16 good or bad.
- 17 Well, that's actually not true.
- 18 Because they twice since 2009 the Wynn
- 19 Corporation did have to lay off employees. In
- 20 2009 they deleted 53 employees. And in 2010,
- 21 and this comes right from the Las Vegas Sun 261
- 22 jobs were eliminated by the Wynn Corporation.
- 23 So, I would like to make that statement
- 24 correction.

- 1 We all have personal feelings about
- 2 the location of the resort casino in Eastern
- 3 Massachusetts. Rather than discuss personal
- 4 feelings, we really should focus on some of the
- 5 facts and reasonable assumptions.
- 6 My first assumption is that this
- 7 Commission will award a license to a developer
- 8 to have casino in Eastern Massachusetts. With
- 9 that said, let's take a look at advantages to
- 10 the region and the Commonwealth by having
- 11 Mohegan Sun be awarded that license.
- 12 Mohegan Sun's timeframe for
- 13 construction and opening is six months shorter
- 14 than the timeframe for Wynn. As a result of
- 15 the time difference, Mohegan Sun will be
- 16 generating significant revenue for the
- 17 Commonwealth and for the city of Revere and
- 18 surrounding communities before Wynn has even
- 19 completed its construction.
- The last time I looked, Wynn did not
- 21 have a structural engineer or architect
- 22 identified on the record. My question is could
- 23 this result in further delays in the project?
- 24 More delays in opening the establishment means

- 1 more wait time for the Commonwealth to begin
- 2 receiving revenue.
- 3 Wynn has inquired about lowering the
- 4 tax rate on casinos, which again would decrease
- 5 the amount of revenues to the Commonwealth.
- 6 One of the reasons we are moving forward on
- 7 casinos is because of the revenue it is going
- 8 to generate to the Commonwealth of
- 9 Massachusetts and the communities. Decreasing
- 10 revenue is not and cannot be an option.
- Mohegan Sun has openly and
- 12 repeatedly stated that they want to partner
- 13 with hotels, tourist attractions and other
- 14 entertainment venues as well as local vendors
- 15 to generate revenue for the businesses and the
- 16 surrounding communities. This is exactly what
- 17 we want to happen, local vendors and
- 18 communities benefiting from the establishment
- 19 of a resort casino in Revere.
- 20 And by the way, Mohegan Sun has
- 21 already entered into agreements with
- 22 entertainment venues for this very purpose.
- 23 With its location closer to Logan Airport,
- 24 Mohegan Sun will generate more visits from

- 1 business travelers who are coming to Boston and
- 2 the surrounding area. If business travelers
- 3 are looking for something enjoyable to do prior
- 4 to catching their flights out of Logan, it's
- 5 more likely that they'll visit Mohegan Sun
- 6 before returning to the airport simply because
- 7 of its location.
- I have been there myself. I do a
- 9 lot of traveling for business. In areas of the
- 10 country where there are casinos and I've had to
- 11 wait after a business trip, I frequent the
- 12 casinos that were closest the airports so I
- 13 wouldn't miss my flights.
- 14 With Boston being a major vacation
- 15 destination, it really is logical that a resort
- 16 casino at Suffolk Downs will generate many more
- 17 visits than the location elsewhere in Eastern
- 18 Massachusetts.
- 19 History has shown that Suffolk Downs
- 20 has been host to many successful and very large
- 21 events over the years. That history coupled
- 22 with Mohegan Sun's commitment to our region
- 23 makes this an ideal location for a resort
- 24 casino to be built on the property of Suffolk

- 1 Downs in Revere. Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also
- 3 Diane Modica, John Laughlin, Chris Drapala.
- 4 MR. WELLING: Mr. Chairman, members
- 5 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission thank
- 6 you for the opportunity to speak. My name is
- 7 Christopher Welling. I serve as President of
- 8 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage
- 9 Employees Local 11.
- 10 I represent hundreds of backstage
- 11 workers who service the theater, concert and
- 12 convention industries. You can find our
- 13 workers at Citi Center, Boston Opera House,
- 14 Boston Garden, the BCEC, Hynes Auditorium,
- 15 Fenway Park and Gillette Stadium as well as
- 16 Suffolk Downs.
- 17 It is said that you can judge a
- 18 person by the company they keep. This is
- 19 certainly true of the folks at Suffolk Downs.
- 20 For more than half a century IATSE Local 11 and
- 21 the IBEW have provided camera operators who
- 22 record the race coverage at Suffolk Downs. Now
- 23 the partnering of our friends at Suffolk Downs
- 24 with Mohegan Sun brings together two

- 1 neighborhood entities that will support and
- 2 improve all of our combined futures.
- I applaud the proactive approach
- 4 that Mohegan Sun has taken with regard to the
- 5 labor harmony agreement already in place. It
- 6 rewards loyal, longtime Suffolk Downs workers
- 7 by assuring a future seat at the table for even
- 8 small union locals such as the one that I
- 9 represent.
- 10 I recognize the Mohegan Tribe as an
- 11 old neighbor and friend of the people of
- 12 Boston. Members of the Tribe, I recently
- 13 learned, fought beside our forbearers at Bunker
- 14 Hill. They are truly our neighbors.
- Mohegan Sun's choice to partner with
- 16 another old and loyal friend of IATSE Local 11
- 17 Josiah Spaulding, a person we have worked with
- 18 for over 25 years at the Citi Center's Wang
- 19 Theater, Shubert Theater and Colonial Theater
- 20 further underscores Mohegan Sun's commitment to
- 21 neighborhood responsibility. Joe Spalding and
- 22 his relationship with Local 11 has demonstrated
- 23 a resolve to pay fair wages and good benefits
- 24 to his employees even in difficult economic

- 1 times.
- 2 I urge the Commission to select
- 3 people we know and trust to provide good jobs,
- 4 preserve our cultural heritage and improve the
- 5 surrounding neighborhood. I would hate to see
- 6 our current beautiful theaters and local
- 7 purveyors of arts overwhelmed and put out of
- 8 business by a corporation controlled by foreign
- 9 investors.
- 10 It would be burdensome if only low
- 11 wage paying jobs were created. And it would be
- 12 unfair if the longtime workers who provided
- 13 thoroughbred horseracing entertainment for
- 14 generations were now left to disappear. Anyone
- 15 who thinks that the thoroughbred horseracing is
- 16 irrelevant today should talk to the folks who
- 17 run the Kentucky Derby, the Belmont Stakes or
- 18 the Preakness.
- 19 I wholeheartedly endorse the
- 20 selection of people with a proven track record,
- 21 and I mean that literally, Suffolk Downs and
- 22 Mohegan Sunday. Thank you.
- MS. GLYNN: Good evening. My name
- 24 is Colleen Glynn. I'm the business manager of

- 1 the International Alliance of Theatrical
- 2 Stagehands Employees Local number 11 and an
- 3 officer of the Greater Boston Labor Council.
- 4 I'm here today to speak in support
- 5 of Mohegan Sun Massachusetts at Suffolk Downs
- 6 as well. IATSE is the largest union
- 7 representing workers in the entertainment
- 8 industry. IATSE Local 11 represents the behind
- 9 the scenes workers and technicians who service
- 10 theater, rock'n roll and convention events in
- 11 all of the major venues in the Greater Boston
- 12 area. Currently at Suffolk Downs, Local 11
- 13 members along with the IBEW are the camera
- 14 operators for the live racing. And our
- 15 technicians also assist with the simulcasting
- 16 programs.
- We continue to support the
- 18 audiovisual needs for the Friends of Suffolk
- 19 Downs events in the area. And have used these
- 20 events as a platform to help with our joint
- 21 apprentice committee education training
- 22 program.
- In 2013, Local 11's hiring hall
- 24 referred 699 workers to work with a combined

- 1 total earnings of over \$11.6 million. IATSE
- 2 Local number 11 shares a commitment to improve
- 3 the lives of working families with Mohegan Sun
- 4 and Josiah Spaulding from the Citi Center by
- 5 ensuring good jobs with good salaries and
- 6 benefits and opportunities for significant
- 7 career development.
- 8 Our joint commitment is solidified
- 9 by the labor harmony agreement Mohegan Sun has
- 10 entered into. This project will produce 2500
- 11 construction jobs and because Mohegan Sun has
- 12 signed into this project labor agreement, we
- 13 know this will be on time and on budget.
- Once the development is open for
- 15 business means 4000 permanent jobs, of which
- 16 IATSE Local number 11 expects over 100 full-
- 17 and part-time jobs with an annual gross
- 18 projected wage earnings in excess of \$2
- 19 million.
- 20 In addition, given the work IATSE
- 21 members do in the arts, culture and
- 22 entertainment venues in Massachusetts, it's
- 23 important to note the importance of this
- 24 project and the approach Mohegan Sun has taken

- 1 to integrate these venues and acts and cultural
- 2 community into their entertainment plan.
- 3 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts plans an
- 4 outward facing facility integrating this
- 5 facility with what Greater Boston offers.
- 6 Mohegan Sun is the best choice for Region A.
- 7 IATSE Local 11 urges your support for this
- 8 application. We support the increased job
- 9 opportunities for all workers at Mohegan Sun,
- 10 Suffolk Downs and in the Greater Boston area.
- 11 Thank you.
- MR. BRUNNELL: Thank you, Mr.
- 13 Chairman. I speak on behalf of John Laughlin
- 14 who has taken ill. I'm here representing the
- 15 International Union of Painters and Allied
- 16 Trades DC 35 in Boston.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Your name is?
- MR. BRUNNELL: My name is Roger
- 19 Brunnell. We wanted to go on record that we
- 20 support this project first and foremost. We
- 21 represent a number of trades, not only painters
- 22 glazers, drywall finishers, sign and display
- 23 industry and wall coverers.
- 24 First, our commitment to this

- 1 project is based on a PLA. The project labor
- 2 agreement sets up a level playing field for all
- 3 of our contractors to compete. Secondly, it
- 4 sets up a criteria that all of the contractors
- 5 must abide by and we obviously support that.
- 6 Secondly, it's the opportunity for our members
- 7 who live in this area and would like to work in
- 8 this area. And this is a major construction
- 9 project that will give them construction jobs
- 10 not only for a couple of months but for a
- 11 significant amount of time.
- 12 Also coupled with that we have an
- 13 opportunity put our apprentices on this job to
- 14 provide on-the-job training guided by our
- 15 experienced journeymen. We are committed to
- 16 giving high skilled labor a safe workforce and
- 17 promoting our industry as best we can.
- But also what we look at in this
- 19 type of project is the commitment from the
- 20 organization to rebuild their facility and to
- 21 renovate their facility. A lot of the
- 22 rebuilding and renovating comes through
- 23 renovating hotel rooms, which our drywall
- 24 finishers, our painters and our wall coverers

- 1 would have great opportunity for the callbacks
- 2 and the renovations.
- 3 So with that, I ask you to support
- 4 the Mohegan Sun proposal. Thank you very much
- 5 for your time.
- 6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 7 MS. MODICA: Good evening. We
- 8 started out a little earlier than we all
- 9 wished. But in any event, first of all, thank
- 10 you very much. Diane Modica, I come today as a
- 11 lifelong East Boston resident, immediate past
- 12 president of the East Boston Chamber Commerce
- 13 and former elected and appointed official in
- 14 the city of Boston, and also on behalf of the
- 15 current president Scott Heigelmann and the
- 16 Board of Directors of the East Boston Chamber
- 17 of Commerce.
- 18 Many points have been made by our
- 19 previous speakers, all of which have, I'm sure
- 20 some significance in your deliberations. But
- 21 I'd like to focus on a few points. Number one
- 22 is the seven-year process that the chamber of
- 23 commerce was involved in in terms of the
- 24 original proposal at Suffolk Downs. I'd like

- 1 to say that it was ongoing. It was open. And
- 2 it was multilayered.
- 3 We had extensive opportunities to be
- 4 heard and forums provided to us so that both
- 5 sides of this issue were given ample
- 6 opportunity to be heard. Although the outcome
- 7 was not what the supporters had hoped for, I
- 8 think it has to stand for something. And
- 9 certainly it stands in stark contrast, I think
- 10 and this is my personal opinion, to the process
- 11 of our competitor which seems to me to have
- 12 been lightning quick and without extensive
- 13 community input.
- So, when you look at the 85 percent
- 15 vote or our competitor, I would just caution
- 16 you to look at that in terms of the process
- 17 that led to that vote. Certainly, we had one
- 18 that I think was a little bit more ongoing and
- 19 open.
- 20 Secondly, I'd like to make note of
- 21 the fact that we respect Mayor Walsh's position
- in his efforts to revisit the host community
- 23 issue. And we know and we trust that you will
- 24 be giving every consideration, especially and

- 1 due to the fact that East Boston undoubtedly
- 2 occupies a very unique status in this process.
- 3 Having been a host community, now proposed as a
- 4 surrounding community, and still in question as
- 5 to whether or not that status will change.
- 6 That being said the East Boston
- 7 Chamber still continues to be a supporter of
- 8 the jobs, the transportation improvements, the
- 9 partnerships and the economic development that
- 10 this project would bring to the community. And
- 11 we do support Mohegan Sun's proposal in Revere,
- 12 which has always been one of our closely allied
- 13 communities in many, many ways. Half of my
- 14 family lives in Revere. But in any event, we
- 15 have a very ongoing relationship with them.
- 16 And we're happy when they supported the project
- 17 in East Boston.
- 18 I want to speak to the outreach
- 19 efforts of Mohegan Sun. As soon as it was
- 20 clear that they were the partner for Suffolk
- 21 Downs, they made their way to our door. They
- 22 called us. They had a meeting with our board
- 23 of directors. And since then, they have been
- 24 very open and deliberate in terms of making

- 1 certain that our members and all of the local
- 2 businesses in East Boston are involved and have
- 3 an opportunity to be heard at the various
- 4 vendor forums.
- 5 So, theirs has been a local and
- 6 grassroots effort. And I think is all because
- 7 of the philosophy they have of community
- 8 involvement. And in fact, we do plan to go out
- 9 to Connecticut and speak with the president of
- 10 the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce
- 11 next week to see the benefits that have been
- 12 experienced by the businesses close to their
- 13 facility there.
- 14 People have spoken about the points
- 15 program. We know it's going to be good for our
- 16 local businesses. It's unique. It's
- 17 different. It's more than just spending money
- 18 on the casino site. It's about bringing the
- 19 prosperity to the local business community.
- The transportation improvements, you
- 21 heard it over and over again, \$45 million to
- 22 improve the transit situation on Route 1A and a
- 23 lot of the intersections in East Boston and in
- 24 Revere. These are highway improvements that

- 1 would not otherwise be undertaken. The
- 2 Commonwealth is not going to spend that kind of
- 3 money. And any development that comes to
- 4 Suffolk Downs if this does not pass would
- 5 certainly not be able to undertake those kinds
- 6 of improvements.
- 7 So, we feel we have been the
- 8 transportation hub. It's been a curse. It's
- 9 been a blessing. But now we have an
- 10 opportunity actually take advantage of a
- 11 project that is going to invest that kind of
- 12 money and really cure some of the traffic log
- jams that we have experienced over the years.
- So, mitigation has a lot to be said
- 15 for it. Mitigation resulted in East Boston
- 16 Piers Park being built on the East Boston
- 17 waterfront. It also resulted in the central
- 18 artery building, the Bremen Street Park in East
- 19 Boston. So, we've been able to actually
- 20 benefit a lot from mitigation strategies. And
- 21 we hope that that's the case here as well.
- 22 Lastly, I'd just like to say that
- 23 the regulatory nature of this process in the
- 24 industry is something that -- is an aspect I

- 1 think you have to consider in your
- 2 deliberations. Because as a former regulator
- 3 myself, I was always mindful of the fact that
- 4 those licensees had obligations that they had
- 5 to fulfill and that they had to have an
- 6 attitude about fulfilling those obligations
- 7 that was upright and basically in cooperation
- 8 with the regulator. I haven't seen that with
- 9 the other project. So, I wholeheartedly
- 10 support this project in Revere. Thank you.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Chris
- 12 Drapala, Matthew Cameron, John Ribiero, Brian
- 13 Gannon if you could line up.
- MR. DRAPALA: Good evening. My name
- 15 is Chris Drapala. Thank you for allowing me to
- 16 speak to you on why Mohegan Sun is the right
- 17 choice for the right place at the right time.
- I speak today as both an employee of
- 19 Mohegan Sun and a resident of the Commonwealth
- 20 of Massachusetts in Malden. As president and
- 21 CEO Mitchell Etess outlined to perfection in
- 22 January on why the home team, Mohegan Sun,
- 23 should be the choice of this Commission, I am
- 24 here to talk about jobs and a strong commitment

- 1 to a city looking to add a chapter to their
- 2 history.
- 3 Besides the 2500 construction jobs
- 4 that will be created along with the 4000
- 5 permanent jobs with the preference given to
- 6 local residents, our proposal will also
- 7 preserve 1000 jobs of the hard-working men and
- 8 women that make up Suffolk Downs. That's a
- 9 total of 7500 jobs that we are both creating
- 10 and preserving while also ensuring that a
- 11 Massachusetts landmark does not go by the
- 12 wayside.
- 13 On top of that it will also create
- 14 economic opportunity for businesses in Revere
- 15 and the surrounding area and provide much-
- 16 needed revenue to schools, police, fire and the
- 17 community itself and its neighbors.
- 18 Personally, I love my job Mohegan
- 19 Sun. I work as an executive host. And I
- 20 demonstrate the values in how we welcome and
- 21 communicate and work with all of our guests by
- 22 making our gaming and entertainment experience
- 23 one that they will not forget. Honestly, it
- 24 gives me great pleasure and a great pride in

- 1 what I do every day. That is why I would like
- 2 to see that come here to Revere so that quite
- 3 honestly, my commute goes from two hours to
- 4 five minutes.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We appreciate your
- 6 candor.
- 7 MR. DRAPALA: That being said, I
- 8 really love what I do. I love working for the
- 9 department that I'm in. I work with all of our
- 10 different departments and all of our guests.
- 11 Win, lose, not everybody can come out a winner.
- 12 But as long as we can provide them with the
- 13 best customer service possible that is what I'm
- 14 looking for and that's why I'm looking here to
- 15 bring it to Revere.
- In closing, not only do city
- 17 officials, businesses and residents of Revere
- 18 support Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs in our
- 19 proposal, but overall both sides have formed a
- 20 strong partnership. And it is my sincere
- 21 belief that this will lay the foundation for
- 22 the next 15 years and beyond, which is why
- 23 again we are the right choice, right place and
- 24 at the right time.

- 1 Again, I thank the Commission for
- 2 the opportunity to speak and to voice why
- 3 Mohegan Sun is the right choice for the gaming
- 4 license in Region A. Thank you and have a
- 5 great night.
- 6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 7 much.
- 8 MR. RIBIERO: Good evening. My name
- 9 is John Ribiero. I'm from Winthrop,
- 10 Massachusetts. I'm the chairman for the
- 11 committee to repeal the casino deal. And I'm
- 12 here to oppose the casino in Revere, in
- 13 Everett, in Springfield, in Taunton, in Fall
- 14 River and anywhere else you're considering
- 15 putting a casino in my state.
- I had planned to come here tonight
- 17 and grade you on a mock report card. I thought
- 18 that might bring some levity to the proceedings
- 19 and a very dry topic to some. As I began to
- 20 compile my remarks, I realized that this
- 21 process has not been treated with the proper
- 22 level of respect by this Commission.
- You were appointed to oversee the
- 24 implementation of an industry. I hate using

- 1 that word industry even more than gaming. You
- 2 were appointed to implement an industry which
- 3 Senate President Therese Murray once noted as
- 4 the cause of many indictments of public
- 5 officials in every state that has gone before
- 6 us.
- 7 More importantly, you were appointed
- 8 to uphold the public trust. I had hoped that
- 9 you would have done that. That you would have
- 10 put the interest of the public, of the people
- 11 whom you serve ahead of the casino
- 12 carpetbaggers.
- 13 It started out well enough. You
- 14 wrote a comprehensive set of rules and
- 15 regulations that appeared to anticipate as much
- 16 as could have been expected. We the public
- 17 believed we knew how this game was going to be
- 18 played. We placed our faith and trust in you.
- 19 The process involved the following
- 20 in order. First there had to be an applicant,
- 21 next an application, a background check and a
- 22 proposal, then a host community agreement and
- 23 then a binding vote.
- 24 First, you allowed the applicants'

- 1 applications in East Boston and Milford to go
- 2 forward without knowing who the significant
- 3 shareholders were. Next the applicants told
- 4 you that the background checks process was too
- 5 cumbersome and you allowed negotiations to go
- 6 forward without background checks having been
- 7 completed and in some cases even votes.
- 8 In Plainville, an applicant was
- 9 disqualified. And then you allowed Penn Gaming
- 10 to take over the existing host community
- 11 agreement and gave residents only six days to
- 12 vote on that.
- This brings us to East Boston.
- 14 Every single person in this room knows that on
- 15 November 5 that proposal required both
- 16 communities to approve it to allow it to go
- 17 forward. So, now we stand here today. And
- 18 even Mohegan Sun is a new applicant in which
- 19 case they missed all of your deadlines which
- 20 you allowed them to bypass or this is an
- 21 existing application of Suffolk Downs, which is
- in East Boston and Boston is a host community.
- 23 So, again why are we standing here today?
- You have shredded the public trust.

- 1 Perhaps if we the people were former business
- 2 partners of one of you on the Commission, or if
- 3 we the people had paid for your trips around
- 4 the world to five-star resorts or maybe if we
- 5 signed your paychecks, you might have just one
- 6 time decided to work for the people's interests
- 7 instead of the casinos.
- 8 As I said, you should know that I
- 9 have friends on both sides of this that are
- 10 booing me and clapping for me at this time
- 11 tonight. As I said, I had planned to give you
- 12 report cards. As you might have imagined, you
- 13 would have failed miserably.
- 14 I had then planned to produce
- 15 prewritten letters of resignation that only
- 16 needed your signatures. But you'll recall that
- 17 I am the chairman of the committee to repeal
- 18 the casino deal. And a few thousand my closest
- 19 friends and I have taken on the task of
- 20 convincing 51 percent of the voters that
- 21 casinos are bad for the Commonwealth.
- 22 After reviewing your performance to
- 23 date, I can't think of a better way to
- 24 accomplish that task and for us to stop casinos

- 1 for good in November than to urge you to keep
- 2 doing exactly what you've been doing. Thank
- 3 you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Mr.
- 5 Cameron, Mr. Gannon, Jane O'Reilly, Dave
- 6 Searles.
- 7 MR. CAMERON: Good evening,
- 8 Commissioners. My name is Matt Cameron and I'm
- 9 proud to live, work and run a business in East
- 10 Boston. I have to admit, I'm not exactly sure
- 11 why I'm here tonight, but I'm here.
- 12 From the beginning of this process
- 13 the regal machinery which this Commission was
- 14 tasked to administer was never particularly
- 15 well designed or well-tuned. But from where I
- 16 stand today that machinery, and I'm sorry to
- 17 say that faith we previously put in it has
- 18 sputtered off the rails, broken beyond repair.
- 19 General Law 23K, section 15,
- 20 paragraph 13 is reasonably clear that where a
- 21 proposed casino site spans two communities both
- 22 communities must agree. I have to assume this
- 23 provision was drafted to avoid the exact
- 24 circumstance in which we now find ourselves, a

- 1 project which one side strongly favors and the
- 2 other adamantly opposes.
- 3 It is only by the arbitrary grace of
- 4 this Commission and changing its own rules to
- 5 allow this process into overtime that we are
- 6 here at all. And it is only because this
- 7 Commission has painted itself into a legal
- 8 corner that it will ultimately have to refuse
- 9 Boston its rightful status as a host community
- 10 for both Region A proposals.
- 11 It is absolutely incredible to me
- 12 that we are here in March 2014, months from the
- 13 award of the most valuable gaming license on
- 14 offer in the Commonwealth and we literally do
- 15 not know whether today's hearing is in regard
- 16 to a host community or a surrounding community.
- 17 The city clearly stated for months
- 18 that it needed more information. Information
- 19 which I understand is still not completely
- 20 received. And it reserved its right to host
- 21 community status for any casino at Suffolk
- 22 Downs since November 6. This was not a
- 23 surprise. This was not an ambush.
- 24 Reports spiraling out of control

- 1 this week that we are not a host community are
- 2 specious at best, foolish and uninformed at
- 3 worse. I agree with those words, but I didn't
- 4 write them. Those words are from a spirited
- 5 editorial in defense of Revere's host community
- 6 status printed in the Revere journal on June
- 7 13, 2012 at a time when the proposed casino was
- 8 essentially a mirror image of the proposal now
- 9 before us. With almost all of the project in
- 10 East Boston side and no new construction in
- 11 Revere, there was no serious argument as
- 12 Revere's claim to host community status. What
- 13 has changed between November 5 and today? Why
- 14 is this Commission so determined to insult and
- 15 ignore the community of Boston?
- If you believe, I'm speaking now to
- 17 everyone in this room, not to the Commission
- 18 necessarily that it is truly possible to build
- 19 a destination casino resort actual inches, and
- 20 that's not an exaggeration, I mean actual
- 21 inches from my city limits while containing the
- 22 multitude of social and infrastructure and
- 23 economic ills that will come with it to the
- 24 city of Revere. I've got a bridge in Chelsea

- 1 to sell you.
- 2 And if you actually believe with a
- 3 clear conscience and a straight face that this
- 4 process has worked out anywhere near the way it
- 5 was supposed in regards to the Suffolk Downs
- 6 proposal, I think I can get you an unbelievable
- 7 price on the Zakim.
- I do not support a casino anywhere
- 9 near the city of Boston. Either of these
- 10 proposals will forever alter our character, our
- 11 reputation and the collective well-being of our
- 12 residents. But at this point, I'm sorry to say
- 13 that I almost wish we had lost the election. I
- 14 rather would have lost honorably than to be
- 15 disenfranchised by this Commission.
- 16 The day after the Revere vote, I was
- in a naturalization interview with a client as
- 18 I often am. And my client was asked to answer
- 19 a question commonly raised in the citizenship
- 20 exam. What is the rule of law? I was proud to
- 21 hear my client respond in clear perfect English
- that the rule of law means that no one person
- 23 is above the law. I don't think any can answer
- 24 that better. I used to believe that was true.

- 1 And I certainly do very would like to, but it's
- 2 much harder to say with conviction today.
- 3 Suffolk Downs, Mohegan Sun and
- 4 everyone before them have proven not only do
- 5 they believe themselves to be above the law but
- 6 in a very real sense since they are. This
- 7 fiasco has to end somewhere and I hope it's
- 8 here.
- 9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 10 MR. GANNON: That was very well
- 11 said. As you notice some of us that are
- 12 against this issue and that live in Boston that
- 13 want to see ourselves in the host community,
- 14 we're coming last here because it seems that
- 15 you must have received the list for Mohegan Sun
- 16 for all of the previous speakers.
- 17 We unfortunately didn't have the
- 18 opportunity to do that today. So, we are here
- 19 at this late hour. My name is Brian Gannon and
- 20 I live in East Boston. Since 2006, Suffolk
- 21 Downs and various lobbyists have been working
- 22 to put you in these positions and bring the
- 23 casino law to Massachusetts. So, I understand
- 24 why you're here. The question is why am I here

- 1 because I voted no to a casino at Suffolk
- 2 Downs.
- In fact, I have the ballot here
- 4 today. And I think also I have to say of all
- 5 the speakers that have already spoke before me,
- 6 most of them of supporting this proposal,
- 7 everybody including Mayor Rizzo, Councilor
- 8 Zambuto, the chief of police from Revere, the
- 9 representative from Lynn, Councilor Sal
- 10 LaMattina, the Winthrop city president Jay Ash
- 11 of Chelsea, they all referred to this proposal
- 12 as Suffolk Downs. This is Suffolk Downs. This
- 13 is not a new proposal. This is still at
- 14 Suffolk Downs.
- 15 Let me read to you the ballot
- 16 question that I voted on. Maybe none of you
- 17 have seen the ballot. It says shall the city
- 18 of Boston permit the operation of a gaming
- 19 establishment licensed by the Massachusetts
- 20 Gaming Commission to be located at Suffolk
- 21 Downs in East Boston at 525 William F.
- 22 McClellan Highway, East Boston, Massachusetts.
- 23 And I did select no on this question, and yet I
- 24 am still here today.

- 1 So, the fact that we're here today
- 2 is an affront to the political process. And
- 3 regardless of what side of this issue you are
- 4 on, if you voted yes, if you voted no, the fact
- 5 is that this is still the same proposal. This
- 6 is still the same location that they're putting
- 7 this casino.
- 8 So, from the beginning this has been
- 9 wrought with issues from the time when Caesars
- 10 was stripped from the Suffolk Downs proposal
- 11 and we were still allowed to continue forward.
- 12 Then that last-minute change as Matt so greatly
- described, how we changed to this last minute
- 14 Revere proposal. It just seems that this is
- 15 not very well thought out. And it's an affront
- 16 to the democratic progress that I voted no and
- 17 I am standing here today.
- I think the challenge too is on that
- 19 date when you did approve that Revere proposal,
- 20 I think it was Mr. McHugh that had recommended,
- 21 not the well-paid Counsel of Mohegan Sun this
- 22 option of having a new vote, submitting a new
- 23 proposal, etc. and moving the date into 2014
- 24 for them to be due to be reviewed as suitable

- 1 for this license.
- 2 So, it just seems to us that the
- 3 residents of Massachusetts are kind of at the
- 4 backend of this and we are not receiving fair
- 5 treatment, as fair as the casino executives are
- 6 Again, I voted no on November 5.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 8 MS. O'REILLY: Good evening. My
- 9 name is Jane O'Reilly. I'm a former
- 10 journalist. Eight years ago, I moved to East
- 11 Boston. I really love East Boston. It's a
- 12 wonderful community. Interesting, diverse,
- 13 active, committed to improving our quality of
- 14 life. I am really proud to live there.
- 15 And I think East Boston deserves the
- 16 best. That is why I and the majority of my
- 17 neighbors voted no last November 5. During the
- 18 months that have followed my decision to vote
- 19 no seems to have been proven correct. I'm
- 20 beginning to suspect that the game is rigged,
- 21 the promises are illusory and the money will go
- 22 to the people who already have it.
- There is now a great deal of
- 24 research on the effect of casinos on

- 1 communities all across the United States.
- 2 Casinos in fact produce neither good nor
- 3 permanent jobs, nor do they provide a magical
- 4 flow of permanent funds to the host
- 5 communities. Instead, casinos gather around
- 6 themselves crime, bankruptcy, addiction and
- 7 dislocated local economies.
- 8 The industry itself is overextended
- 9 and grown febrile, a predator not a benefactor.
- 10 Such money does go to the state however
- 11 overestimated is in fact a stealthy and
- 12 unreliable tax. The very fact that this
- 13 hearing today is being held presented as part
- 14 of a reasonable fulfillment of a process proves
- 15 my point.
- 16 It claims to give us a chance to
- 17 speak, but we've already spoken. East Boston
- 18 voted no casino at Suffolk Downs. We did not
- 19 vote against any particular casino, and we did
- 20 not vote against a casino in the other half of
- 21 Suffolk Downs.
- The regulations providing for the
- vote clearly state both communities affected
- 24 East Boston and Revere had to agree in order

- 1 for the plan to go forward. End of discussion.
- 2 Apparently not.
- Instead, rules were changed, suspect
- 4 waivers were provided. The effort and the
- 5 opinion of the voters of East Boston ignored,
- 6 literally ignored. You are being asked to
- 7 approve a zombie casino killed at the polls but
- 8 raised from the dead.
- 9 I really hate a sentence that I hear
- 10 over and over across s Metropolitan Boston, oh,
- 11 well the fix is in. It's going to happen
- 12 anyway. I don't think so. I thank you
- 13 genuinely for your time and your service. But
- 14 we in East Boston do wonder what part of no
- 15 don't you understand. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: David Searles,
- 17 Steve Holt, Mary Zitano and Terrence Donovan.
- MR. SEARLES: Hi, my name is David
- 19 Searles. I'm a pastor of Central Assembly of
- 20 God Church in East Boston and a resident of 147
- 21 Saratoga Street. I voted no on November 5 and
- 22 I don't know why we're here.
- I am part of a coalition called the
- 24 Friends of East Boston, a coalition of 30

- 1 ministers and 18 congregations in our
- 2 neighborhood. I stand here in solidarity with
- 3 my friends across East Boston and my friends
- 4 throughout the city of Boston who are opposed
- 5 to a casino at Suffolk Downs and are outraged
- 6 by the post November 5 Massachusetts Gaming
- 7 Commission process.
- 8 On November 5, the people of East
- 9 Boston and Revere went to the polls to decide
- 10 on their respective host community agreements
- 11 regarding a proposal for a casino to be located
- 12 at Suffolk Downs. And the residents of East
- 13 Boston overwhelmingly voted against the casino
- 14 56 percent to 44 percent.
- 15 Let's be clear about the November 5
- 16 vote, the proposal was for one casino to be
- 17 located in two host communities. This was
- 18 never about two different casino proposals.
- 19 Not an East Boston casino proposal and a
- 20 separate Revere casino proposal, but one casino
- 21 proposal in two host communities.
- 22 Everyone in East Boston and Revere
- 23 understood this. I remember a meeting in the
- 24 summer conducted by the Boston Transportation

- 1 Department. And Mayor Rizzo from Revere
- 2 attended that meeting and was allowed to speak
- 3 in that meeting. Why would the mayor of Revere
- 4 attend a meeting in Boston if he didn't assume
- 5 that it necessitated a vote by both communities
- 6 for that proposal to continue forward. It was
- 7 very clear to me and to everyone in the process
- 8 that it was one casino proposal, not two
- 9 separate ones.
- 10 So, why then did we vote in East
- 11 Boston? Why? Why did we vote? Sometimes I
- 12 wonder if Massachusetts may now become the only
- 13 state in the union without November 5 on the
- 14 calendar. Prior to the November 5 vote, there
- 15 was no casino building proposed for the Revere
- 16 side of the property and yet Revere was
- 17 considered a host community.
- 18 After November 5, the plans called
- 19 for no casino building on the East Boston side
- 20 of the property and in the same way Boston
- 21 should be counted as a host community. And
- remember Boston voted no on November 5.
- There's a misunderstanding about the
- 24 East Boston vote. We were allowed by the city

- 1 council to represent the whole city of Boston.
- 2 This was not an East Boston only vote. This
- 3 was a city of Boston vote. And we want to
- 4 commend our mayor for rising to the occasion to
- 5 advocate for Boston bring a host community, for
- 6 standing behind our neighborhood and the vote
- 7 that we submitted on November 5.
- 8 I've heard some very well-known and
- 9 knowledgeable people about casinos say that if
- 10 a casino was to come to their community, they
- 11 would likely vote no, not want a casino there.
- 12 I remember hearing on one occasion Mr. Crosby
- 13 publicly acknowledging that he wouldn't want a
- 14 casino coming to his community.
- 15 I remember hearing in an interview
- 16 that the governor of our state acknowledged
- 17 that he wouldn't want a casino coming to his
- 18 community. And that the process we were told
- 19 was to empower communities to have a voice, to
- 20 have a vote.
- 21 The residents of East Boston
- 22 representing the city of Boston have given
- 23 their voice. We have joined and agreed with
- 24 our esteemed officials who say they wouldn't

- 1 want a casino near their property, near their
- 2 residents in their community. And me and
- 3 thousands of other residents of Boston have
- 4 voted no on a casino at Suffolk Downs.
- 5 A casino at Suffolk Downs is a
- 6 casino at Suffolk Downs. Boston is still a
- 7 host community and on November 5 we voted no.
- 8 And this is part of the misunderstanding. The
- 9 assumption was that there could be two separate
- 10 votes for two separate proposals. There was
- 11 one casino proposal. And this is not an
- 12 accurate depiction of what took place on
- 13 November 5. We in the Friends of East Boston,
- 14 we have endeavored to speak the truth in love.
- 15 We love people on both sides of this issue.
- 16 We've endeavored to do that fairly, accurately
- 17 and in love. But we continue to and we are
- 18 compelled to speak the truth in love.
- 19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 20 MR. HOLT: Good evening Chairman
- 21 Crosby and Commissioners. My name is Steve
- 22 Holt and I wasn't born in East Boston but I got
- 23 there as quickly as I could. I frankly, like
- 24 many of my fellow neighbors are not sure why

- 1 I'm standing here as well.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Excuse me. Let's
- 3 not have comments from the audience when
- 4 somebody is speaking. I don't think that's
- 5 appropriate. Go ahead.
- 6 MR. HOLT: But I do truly appreciate
- 7 the opportunity to tell you what's on my mind.
- 8 Commission, when Mayor Marty Walsh appeared
- 9 before you last week to formally request host
- 10 community status for the Everett and Suffolk
- 11 Downs casino proposals, Mr. Crosby, you told
- 12 the city's attorney that the issue of host
- 13 status had been resolved at least twice.
- 14 Wisely the Commission determined
- 15 that that matter hadn't actually been resolved
- 16 and will in fact hear the city's, what I
- 17 believe to be a strong case that it qualifies
- 18 as a host to both casino proposals on its
- 19 border.
- 20 But as relevant as the discussion of
- 21 host status is to this gathering today, I'd
- 22 rather focus my time elsewhere. Others have
- 23 adequately communicated what I believe that a
- 24 casino at Suffolk Downs, which straddles two

- 1 communities is in fact a casino at Suffolk
- 2 Downs.
- What I want to talk about is
- 4 something that has unequivocally been resolved,
- 5 the proposal to build a Las Vegas style casino
- 6 at Suffolk Downs 525 McClellan Highway, East
- 7 Boston has been dead since one of the two host
- 8 communities overwhelmingly rejected it at the
- 9 polls on November 5. The law was clear. If a
- 10 vote was taken in two communities for a single
- 11 proposal, the proposal could not move forward
- 12 unless both communities approved it.
- This was the understanding since the
- 14 casinos became law in 2011, a law whose authors
- 15 have come out against the 11th hour
- 16 gamesmanship we've seen from Suffolk Downs to
- 17 skirt the statute.
- 18 In his letter to the Commission
- 19 dated November 20, 2013, one of the authors,
- 20 one of the architects of the statute that you
- 21 follow Senator Anthony Petrucelli who
- 22 represents East Boston and part of Revere wrote
- 23 that a plan to modify the casino plan to fit on
- 24 the Revere side of the Suffolk Downs property

- 1 "undermines the spirit and intent of the
- 2 Commonwealth's Expanded Gaming Act of 2011."
- 3 He goes on to say that the intent of
- 4 the provisions for host communities is clear
- 5 "only favorable referendum results in both host
- 6 communities allow the applicant to proceed to
- 7 Phase 2" he wrote. That did not happen with
- 8 Sterling Suffolk's project because the host
- 9 community voted in the negative, the project
- 10 proposed for Suffolk Downs is dead.
- 11 He concludes with this the
- 12 Commission cannot allow a gaming applicant to
- 13 circumvent the process required by the Gaming
- 14 Act merely because the results were
- 15 disappointing.
- 16 Suffolk Downs did not wait even one
- 17 hour after those results were official to
- 18 announce its intent to ignore East Boston's
- 19 clear no and attempt to build in Revere only.
- 20 The fact that a supposedly new agreement was
- 21 drawn up and a new vote taken in Revere, those
- 22 facts are moot. East Boston families face the
- 23 very real prospect for a casino at Suffolk
- 24 Downs despite having voted it down fair and

- 1 square.
- 2 I am proud to have served alongside
- 3 so many of my neighbors in helping to lead a
- 4 two plus year public education campaign around
- 5 the downsides of living near a casino.
- 6 Incidentally, most statewide public officials
- 7 as Pastor Searles pointed out who have pushed
- 8 for casinos including the Governor, the Speaker
- 9 of the House and even you Mr. Chairman have
- 10 said publicly that you wouldn't want to live
- 11 near a casino.
- 12 In East Boston, it was an uphill
- 13 battle from day one. Given that our elected
- 14 officials fully supported the initial plans,
- 15 many residents and small business owners were
- 16 followed and intimidated. And we were outspent
- 17 86 to 1. Despite all of that by 9:00 p.m. on
- 18 November 5, the will of the people not to live
- 19 next to a casino had won the day in East
- 20 Boston.
- 21 Outrage does not begin to
- 22 communicate how I feel about standing before
- 23 you today. This process and especially the
- 24 adherence to the rule of law has been

- 1 horrendous. Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Mary
- 3 Zitano, Terrence Donovan, Ana Lanzilli, Mary
- 4 Berninger, Gina Walker, Kay O'Dwyer, Carol Tye
- 5 we spoke to. Come right up. It doesn't have
- 6 to be in order.
- 7 MS. BERNINGER: Good evening. My
- 8 name is Mary Berninger and I live in East
- 9 Boston. In continuation of my support of the
- 10 Mohegan Sun Casino proposal, I would like to
- 11 offer the following comments that hopefully
- 12 will demonstrate why I feel that their proposal
- is by far the one most deserving of the Region
- 14 1 license.
- 15 Regional development continues to be
- 16 my goal. Others share my view that Mohegan Sun
- 17 will be the instrument that will achieve that
- 18 very goal. The proponent has designated 10
- 19 surrounding communities. Seven have already
- 20 come to agreements in principle and active
- 21 discussions are still ongoing with the
- 22 remaining three.
- The Chambers of Commerce that
- 24 represent East Boston, Chelsea, Lynn and Salem

- 1 have given their endorsement to Mohegan Sun's
- 2 project. Regional business groups such as the
- 3 Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau,
- 4 the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and the
- 5 Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce have
- 6 given their support for Mohegan Sun's vision of
- 7 regional enhancement that will recruit and hire
- 8 local residents as well as cross market and
- 9 promote local businesses.
- 10 Surrounding cities and towns will
- 11 benefit greatly from Mohegan Sun's commitment
- 12 to road and infrastructure improvement and from
- 13 direct impact payments. In light of that
- 14 layering of understanding between Mohegan Sun
- 15 and so many of its neighbors, Wynn's proposal
- 16 pales by comparison. Its sole supportive
- 17 community i.e., Everett, hardly gives its
- 18 project a regional distinction.
- 19 When it comes to diversity for
- 20 construction personnel, Mohegan Sun's
- 21 commitment to the goal of 25 percent minority
- 22 and 10 percent women exceeds minimum
- 23 requirements. The Wynn proposal would assume
- 24 those minimums of 15.3 percent and 6.9 percent

- 1 respectively to be adequate.
- 2 It is apparent that Mohegan Sun's
- 3 ownership, a minority group, embraces a more
- 4 generous application of the principle of access
- 5 for opportunity that is embedded in the
- 6 diversity and hiring model. Mohegan Sun should
- 7 be lotted for that stance.
- 8 Suffolk Downs remains committed to
- 9 preserving and to enhancing thoroughbred racing
- 10 at its facility. The revenue generated by its
- 11 lease agreement with Mohegan Sun will help to
- 12 secure the future for the horse owners,
- 13 trainers, jockeys, exercise riders, grooms,
- 14 veterinarians, blacksmiths and suppliers of the
- 15 racing operation.
- 16 If we want to encourage regional and
- 17 Commonwealth wide industries that will bolster
- 18 our economic stability, one must acknowledge
- 19 the value that Suffolk Downs brings to that
- 20 stability. The 1486 jobs and the \$116.3
- 21 million economic impact provided by racing and
- 22 its attendant business related venues cannot be
- 23 replicated by the Wynn proposal and therefore
- 24 should be worthy of consideration as a vital

- 1 component of regional development.
- 2 Going forward after the awarding of
- 3 the Region 1 license, it is my hope that the
- 4 licensee will commit to complete maintenance of
- 5 its property, including but not limited to
- 6 facade upkeep, grounds maintenance, interior
- 7 plant infrastructure, continued application of
- 8 green principles and any other structural
- 9 repairs that might become necessary.
- 10 Hearing that Wynn seeks to do away
- 11 with the required 3.5 percent of gross gaming
- 12 revenues for those future improvements made me
- 13 concerned that a degradation of that facility
- 14 will come to fruition. There needs to be a
- 15 strict application of that legal requirement.
- 16 Not only will future improvements or repairs
- 17 provide additional employment opportunities for
- 18 the construction trades, those actions will
- 19 signal a commitment of quality in the fledging
- 20 Massachusetts casino industry.
- 21 Without qualification, I support the
- 22 Mohegan Sun proposal and I am confident that
- 23 the proponents will live up to all of my
- 24 expectations.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 2 MS. LANZILLI: Good evening, Mass.
- 3 Gaming Commission. My name is Ana Lanzilli and
- 4 I would like you all for giving me the
- 5 opportunity to speak on behalf of the many
- 6 employed at Suffolk Downs.
- 7 My husband David has been employed
- 8 by Suffolk for the last 10 years as an
- 9 accountant. He has seen the financial
- 10 struggles to keep the doors open at Suffolk
- 11 Downs. But he has also seen the determination
- 12 and commitment the owners have to their
- 13 employees in this historic racing industry.
- 14 Suffolk Downs has a 78-year legacy
- 15 of thoroughbred racing and wagering, and also
- 16 has been active year-round as a simulcast venue
- 17 along with live racing six to eight months per
- 18 year.
- 19 At the height of the racing season,
- 20 over 1000 people work on the property. Three
- 21 hundred and twenty five are employed by Suffolk
- 22 Downs and its five primary on-site vendors.
- Over 1000 people are licensed by the
- 24 Commonwealth to work at the facility as

- 1 owners, trainers, exercise riders, groomers,
- 2 veterinarians, blacksmiths and suppliers of the
- 3 racing operation.
- 4 Thoroughbred racing, breeding and
- 5 related business in Massachusetts currently
- 6 supports 1486 jobs, utilizes 6650 acres of
- 7 farmland and have a total annual economic
- 8 impact of \$116.3 million according to an
- 9 October report authored by Christiansen Capital
- 10 Advisor. This economic impact can grow with a
- 11 healthier thoroughbred racing and breeding
- 12 industry in the Commonwealth.
- 13 According to the CCA report the
- 14 continuation of racing at Suffolk Downs along
- 15 with funding from the Race Horse Development
- 16 fund could result in as many as 7825 additional
- 17 acres of agricultural land in the Commonwealth,
- 18 more than double the current amount.
- 19 All of this can only continue or
- 20 have the opportunity to grow if Mohegan Sun
- 21 Massachusetts earns the Category 1 license for
- 22 its region. The owners at Suffolk Downs have
- 23 written to the Mass. Gaming Commission
- 24 committing to a 15-year extension if Mohegan

- 1 Sun is successful in the award of the license.
- 2 I stand here today asking the
- 3 Commission to grant Mohegan Sun the license and
- 4 preserve the jobs of those employed at Suffolk.
- 5 We have seen what the closing of Wonderland has
- 6 done to the community of Revere and those who
- 7 were employed there and some who continue to be
- 8 currently unemployed. This devastation would
- 9 only happen again if Suffolk were to close.
- 10 The effects of shutting the doors at
- 11 Suffolk would negatively impact many families
- 12 including my very own. Wynn cannot do or
- 13 provide what Suffolk Downs and Mohegan will.
- 14 The right choice is Mohegan Sun at Suffolk
- 15 Downs and I and all of those employed by
- 16 Suffolk only hope you see that. Thank you.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Gina
- 18 Walker, Kay O'Dwyer, Rob O'Dwyer Ann Guange,
- 19 Anthony Zizza. This is going to be progress.
- 20 We only have 60 to go. Richard Sheehan. Yes,
- 21 come on up.
- MS. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, members
- 23 of the Gaming Commission, thank you for the
- 24 opportunity. My name is Gina Walker. And as

- 1 owner of a Revere-based transportation company,
- 2 I'm not here to talk about the number of cars
- 3 that go through Belle Circle every day or the
- 4 fact that this project will only improve the
- 5 existing traffic conditions that have remained
- 6 the same for years.
- 7 Traffic consultants have consulted
- 8 in-depth analysis on behalf of the
- 9 Suffolk/Mohegan team who are committing \$45
- 10 million to ensure a smooth ride. And from
- 11 someone with roughly 100 vehicles on the road
- 12 that's good enough for me.
- I am here to tell you I'm excited
- 14 about the opportunity Mohegan Sun will bring.
- 15 Yes, I'm excited about the business opportunity
- 16 and the proposed road improvements and the
- 17 economic opportunity for our city and team of
- 18 over 100 drivers, dispatchers, maintenance crew
- 19 and their families.
- There is no doubt this certainly is
- 21 about jobs and economic growth and security for
- 22 all involved. But beyond that as a current
- 23 vendor of Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun what
- 24 stands out to me intuitively more than anything

- 1 else and what represents the icing on the cake
- 2 of this proposed enhancement to our landscape
- 3 and economic future is the level of integrity
- 4 and professionalism the Suffolk/Mohegan team
- 5 demonstrates every day.
- 6 Since Suffolk Downs' press
- 7 conference nearly two years ago, I've attended
- 8 a myriad of vendor forums and community
- 9 meetings as have many here today. And as a
- 10 board member of the Revere Chamber of Commerce,
- 11 it's been an exciting time for all of us.
- 12 And I can tell you this team has
- 13 been openly and honestly engaging our business
- 14 community and residents throughout the entire
- 15 process to create a world-class development
- 16 that benefits everyone. This proposed
- 17 development will not only revitalize Revere and
- 18 preserve Suffolk Downs, a historic landmark of
- 19 generations, but it will rebuild what I
- 20 consider a missing link of our landscape,
- 21 connecting Boston's historic North Shore of
- 22 which I am a resident, Logan Airport and our
- 23 revitalized world-class city of Boston.
- I'm excited about the alliance with

- 1 the Citi Center for Performing Arts. And I
- 2 think what would it be like to celebrate an
- 3 event on par with the Kentucky Derby or
- 4 Melbourne Cup right here at home. With a
- 5 historic institution like Suffolk Downs why
- 6 not? It just makes economic sense to me.
- 7 This is not only about Revere
- 8 residents and local businesses. This is an
- 9 opportunity for our region. And I place my
- 10 trust in this team to rebuild, revitalize and
- 11 preserve this historic site and link to Boston.
- 12 Thank you very much.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 14 Anthony Zizza. Go ahead, if your name has been
- 15 called, feel free to come forward.
- 16 MS. GUANGE: Hi everyone. Good
- 17 evening everyone of the Gaming Commission. My
- 18 name is Ann Guange, 51 years I've lived in East
- 19 Boston. Both of my friends and neighbors are
- 20 on both sides. I love you all. So, just let's
- 21 get through this.
- The reason why I'm here tonight some
- 23 of what I wanted to say got picked apart, but I
- 24 believe in what I wrote. So, here we go.

- 1 Mohegan Sun's accessibility to the MBTA and
- 2 public transportation is far more superior than
- 3 Wynn's proposal. Mohegan Sun Massachusetts
- 4 project is on the Blue Line, the bus line in
- 5 which is 15 percent of the travelers and the
- 6 majority of the workers that will be coming.
- 7 Wynn states 10 percent of their
- 8 patrons will arrive using the MBTA. The
- 9 nearest MBTA to their site would be Sullivan
- 10 Square, which is 1.5 miles away and across four
- 11 traffic lanes. Mohegan Sun Revere will take
- 12 hundreds of cars off the road for this reason.
- 13 If you're flying into Logan, you
- 14 don't need to rent a car. You can hop the Blue
- 15 Line. There's buses that go that bring you
- 16 right there. More money for the MBTA, more
- 17 revenue for all of us.
- 18 The reason why I am supporting
- 19 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts is this, I am 51
- 20 years old. I have been in the hospitality
- 21 business 30 years. And it's tough when you're
- 22 my age and people tell you whether you're an
- 23 admin. or in the business of being in the
- 24 hospitality that you're too old. They don't

- 1 say it but you know what they mean.
- 2 An opportunity like this will bring
- 3 jobs for me, people older than me, people
- 4 younger than me, jobs for all of us. Please
- 5 consider Mohegan Sun. It is a great
- 6 opportunity for all of us. And living in East
- 7 Boston during a snowstorm, I'm not putting my
- 8 couch in the spot when I could walk across the
- 9 street and literally take the bus to work.
- 10 I'm nervous, so thank you for taking
- 11 the time to listen to me. And please vote for
- 12 the jobs here in our community.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- DR. ZIZZA: Good evening, Mr.
- 15 Chairman, distinguished members of the
- 16 Commission and ladies and gentlemen in the
- 17 audience. My name is Anthony Zizza and I am a
- 18 physician specializing in geriatric medicine,
- 19 currently in fellowship at Beth Israel
- 20 Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical
- 21 School. I'm a longtime thoroughbred owner and
- 22 breeder.
- I would like to thank the Commission
- 24 tonight for allowing me the time to speak at

- 1 this important meeting. I trust that you have
- 2 heard all of the arguments, passionate pleas,
- 3 business plans and thoughtful reasons why one
- 4 location would be superior to the other.
- 5 You have heard, I'm sure, about what
- 6 you will save if the casino is located on the
- 7 Suffolk Downs property. That is jobs, of
- 8 course, jobs at the track, at the farms, at the
- 9 feed stores, in the associated professions such
- 10 as veterinarians and trainers and jockeys and
- 11 blacksmiths. This is all true and very
- 12 important actually. And I support
- 13 wholeheartedly the appeals of my friends and
- 14 colleagues in the thoroughbred industry.
- But I'm not here to repeat what you
- 16 already know, however, as your time is too
- 17 valuable. I'm here to share my personal story
- 18 with you not because I'm so important or unique
- 19 but rather because I am not unique. Stories
- 20 like mine are shared by many in our industry.
- I was raised in Revere,
- 22 Massachusetts, a stone's throw away from
- 23 Suffolk Downs. My family is deeply rooted in
- 24 the city and Suffolk Downs to my great

- 1 grandparents generation. In fact, my great-
- 2 grandmother was a cook at the track kitchen and
- 3 my grandfather before he began his own printing
- 4 business was hut walker as a teenager.
- It was my dad, however who instilled
- 6 in me the passion of this wonderful and
- 7 majestic animal the horse. He was an owner and
- 8 breeder of horses who ran at Suffolk Downs.
- 9 And like Paige Benson, I spent many mornings
- 10 with my dad at the backside watching our horses
- 11 train, eating breakfast in the track kitchen.
- 12 Even as a child I could see the joy
- 13 that this sport brought to him, and not only to
- 14 him, but to everyone who participated in it.
- 15 That feeling of seeing your horse whom you love
- 16 cross the finish line first is absolutely
- 17 indescribable.
- 18 And although my career path did not
- 19 lead me directly into the racing world, I
- 20 always knew that one day I would return. I
- 21 embarked on a career in medicine that took me
- 22 to Boston College and UMass for medical school
- 23 in then Tufts Medical Center for residency.
- 24 But despite this career path in medicine. my

- 1 heart always yearned for the excitement of
- 2 owning a thoroughbred once again. And I shared
- 3 that passion with everybody I could.
- 4 So, eventually I started my own
- 5 thoroughbred racing partnership. Started with
- 6 one horse and several years later it grew into
- 7 10 horses. But being in medical school, I
- 8 realized that the task of managing a 10-horse
- 9 stable and the intense training required to
- 10 become a physician were just not going to mix,
- 11 at least not for the time being.
- So I dispersed my stable with the
- 13 exception of one special mare who I named
- 14 Immaculata. Immaculata would become my
- 15 foundation mare for entry into the
- 16 Massachusetts breeding program. So, I brought
- 17 my mare to a local farm called Indian Rock
- 18 Stables in Saugus in 2011 run by Karen and
- 19 Paige Benson. And we were welcomed with open
- 20 arms into that barn family.
- 21 My daughter Angelica three years old
- 22 at the time and I delivered our first foal
- 23 together. Now this foal is in training
- 24 preparing to return to Suffolk Downs this

- 1 spring. I think it was then that Angelica fell
- 2 in love with horses. In fact, she is now an
- 3 avid rider at age six with Paige Benson as her
- 4 trainer.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
- 6 Zizza. That's the end. You can leave the rest
- 7 of your comments with us if you would like.
- 8 MR. ZIZZA: Ten seconds, thank you
- 9 so much.
- 10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Sir, I'm sorry.
- 11 Everybody else is stopped. I'm sorry. You
- 12 have to stop. Leave your comments.
- 13 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: We'll read
- 14 it.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 16 Richard Sheehan, Bob Upton, Barry Hock, Donna
- 17 Potito-Mahoney.
- DR. SHEEHAN: Good evening, my name
- 19 is Dr. Richard Sheehan, Jr. I reside in
- 20 Rowley, Massachusetts. But my place of work is
- 21 the now historic stable area at Suffolk Downs
- 22 in Revere.
- I am here today to support Mohegan
- 24 Sun proposal in Revere. I was born, bred,

- 1 raised, educated and have been a small business
- 2 owner in the Commonwealth for the past 26
- 3 years. My business provides veterinary
- 4 services to thoroughbred race horses at Suffolk
- 5 Downs and has done so since my father an East
- 6 Boston native began his practice here in 1963.
- 7 He did it the hard way, dropping out
- 8 of school at the age of 13 to help support his
- 9 family, landing a job walking horses at Suffolk
- 10 Downs in 1943. He worked as a groom, exercise
- 11 boy and a trainer until he was drafted to serve
- 12 in Korea.
- 13 Following the war, he obtained his
- 14 GED, attended UMass and then veterinary school
- 15 at Cornell. He returned to his roots at
- 16 Suffolk Downs in 1963 and began his practice
- 17 there. He later served as president of the
- 18 Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
- 19 and as president of the American Association of
- 20 Equine Practitioners. Horse racing at Suffolk
- 21 Downs was an integral part in the fulfillment
- 22 of his American dream. The business that he
- 23 began in 1963 is still in place today 50 years
- 24 later. Thoroughbred racing has and continues

- 1 to constitute over 90 percent of our business.
- 2 Currently, I employ to full-time
- 3 veterinarians, two veterinary technicians and a
- 4 full-time office manager. We also participate
- 5 in a mentoring program with Tufts University,
- 6 educating veterinary students who wish to
- 7 follow a career in equine practice.
- 8 The proposed casino in Revere would
- 9 allow the continuation of thoroughbred racing
- 10 at Suffolk Downs, the stability of so many jobs
- 11 and the survival of the many small businesses,
- 12 farms and open space it supports. It was
- 13 encouraging to see that the Gaming Commission
- 14 recognized the importance of the standardbred
- 15 industry and the economic impact of its
- 16 existing jobs and services and its decision in
- 17 awarding the slots license to Plainridge. That
- 18 industry will now not only survived but it will
- 19 thrive because of your decision.
- The thoroughbred industry with an
- 21 even greater economic footprint is dependent on
- 22 racing in Massachusetts. And racing in
- 23 Massachusetts is dependent on the ability of
- 24 Suffolk Downs to conduct a race meet. This now

- 1 is dependent on the awarding of a casino
- 2 license in Revere. Without it, we won't
- 3 survive. With it, the industry will thrive.
- 4 I testify today not only for myself
- 5 but for all those employed in the thoroughbred
- 6 industry whose passion for horses and racing
- 7 outweighs the sacrifices they make to earn a
- 8 living in this sport. Horse racing is not what
- 9 we do, it is who we are. Thank you very much.
- 10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Mr. Hock, Mr.
- 11 Upton, Ms. Potito-Mahoney, Sandy Levin, Diane
- 12 Cataldo. We're going to have two more and then
- 13 we are going to take a break.
- MR. HOCK: Good evening, Mr.
- 15 Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Barry
- 16 Hock. I'm the director of the UAW Mass. Gaming
- in region 9A of the United Auto Workers.
- 18 We represent gaming workers across
- 19 the country including about 2000 dealers at
- 20 Foxwoods and all of the workers at Newport
- 21 Grand in Rhode Island. I am pleased to testify
- 22 today in support of Mohegan Sun's application
- 23 for a resort casino in Revere.
- While there are many reasons to

- 1 support this strong proposal, I want to focus
- on Mohegan Sun's commitment to labor harmony,
- 3 which will allow 100 percent of its permanent
- 4 nonsupervisory employees to decide free of
- 5 intimidation and interference if they want
- 6 union representation.
- 7 Mohegan Sun has demonstrated this
- 8 commitment by signing neutrality and card check
- 9 agreements with unions that cover all of these
- 10 employees including an agreement with the UAW
- 11 for gaming dealers. It has submitted these
- 12 agreements with its application and they are
- 13 posted online with it.
- 14 It has also committed to a unionized
- 15 workforce in its host community agreement with
- 16 the city of Revere and has signed project labor
- 17 agreements for the construction of the
- 18 facility.
- 19 The Legislature's intent and the
- 20 statutory requirement that applicants for
- 21 licenses provide detailed plans for ensuring
- 22 labor harmony during all phases of the
- 23 operation of the gaming establishment is clear.
- 24 In recognition of this requirement, the

- 1 Commission's application has a written response
- 2 to address this standard.
- 3 When evaluating the criteria for
- 4 economic development and job creation, the
- 5 Commission should ask does the applicant have
- 6 current signed labor harmony agreements with
- 7 neutrality and card check that cover 100
- 8 percent of its permanent nonsupervisory
- 9 employees? To that question, Mohegan Sun
- 10 answers with a resounding yes. That is one
- 11 reason why we urge the Commission to rate
- 12 Mohegan Sun's proposal as outstanding in the
- 13 job creation category.
- 14 Labor harmony is important because
- 15 unions do make a difference. Periodic studies
- 16 by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics show that
- 17 even in today's economy workers in unions
- 18 consistently earn significantly higher wages
- 19 and receive better benefits than those who
- 20 aren't in unions.
- 21 You may recall that last November, a
- 22 panel of UAW gaming dealers testified about
- 23 their experiences seeking union representation
- 24 both with and without labor harmony agreements.

- 1 Ernestine Dawkins a dealer for 30 years
- 2 recounted the 20-year struggle of the gaming
- 3 dealers at the Tropicana in Atlantic City to
- 4 organize a union without a labor harmony
- 5 agreement against the management that was
- 6 therefore able to use harsh tactics to mislead
- 7 and scare workers.
- 8 In contrast, Jim Lourio, 11-year
- 9 poker dealer described his organizing efforts
- 10 at Horseshoe Cleveland with neutrality and card
- 11 check agreements that resulted in union
- 12 recognition three months after the casino
- 13 opened.
- 14 Finally, Denise Ledoux, a 17-year
- 15 dealer at Foxwoods shared her experience on how
- 16 collective bargaining is a key to good wages,
- 17 benefits and working conditions.
- 18 Labor harmony agreements like those
- 19 entered into by Mohegan Sun help achieve the
- 20 three goals of the Expanded Gaming Act. They
- 21 ensure an uninterrupted revenue stream for the
- 22 employer and the state. They bring labor peace
- 23 to the facility to help regional economic
- 24 development. And they lead to good safe jobs

- 1 with good wages and benefits through collective
- 2 bargaining. Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Barry.
- 4 MR. UPTON: Good evening, Mr.
- 5 Chairman, members of the Commission. I want to
- 6 thank you very much for the opportunity to
- 7 speak to you this evening and to share my
- 8 support for members of the Revere Chamber of
- 9 Commerce, Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs. I'm
- 10 also very appreciative that other members of
- 11 our Revere Chamber of Commerce have come here
- 12 tonight in support of our members as well.
- I would like to also state my
- 14 appreciation for the city leaders of the city
- of Revere for working diligently with us at the
- 16 Revere Chamber of Commerce in support of this
- 17 proposal for our members to bring this \$1.3
- 18 billion proposal of business development to the
- 19 city of Revere. I think that shows strong
- 20 leadership. And I think it's really
- 21 encouraging for us in the city of Revere,
- 22 particularly within the Chamber of Commerce.
- But I also would like to point out
- 24 that this evening although this is an

- 1 opportunity for some opposition to say their
- 2 part and express their opinions, I think it's
- 3 important to note that there's not any strong
- 4 opposition within the community of Revere
- 5 itself. I don't see any measurable signed of
- 6 any type of opposition within the Chamber of
- 7 Commerce itself. In fact, the Chamber does
- 8 support this proposal wholeheartedly. I do
- 9 certainly, but I think it's important to note
- 10 that you don't see much opposition to this
- 11 proposal within the city of Revere at this
- 12 event this evening.
- I did grow up in Revere. My mother
- 14 and father met at Revere. Many of us in this
- 15 room, depending on no matter what community we
- 16 are from, we've spent a lot of time at Revere
- 17 Beach. We have very fond memories of that
- 18 area.
- 19 We are a passionate lot of people
- 20 that's for sure. And you can see that this
- 21 evening. I do have some prepared remarks, and
- 22 I will go to those now.
- I represent approximately 200 member
- 24 businesses, nonprofit organizations and

- 1 individual professionals of the Revere Chamber
- 2 of Commerce. I believe this to be one of the
- 3 most exciting times to be in business in the
- 4 rich history of Revere.
- 5 The potential for business
- 6 development opportunities has never been
- 7 greater. I would also like to state that I
- 8 don't think that in the 62 years that I've been
- 9 alive and so closely aligned with the city of
- 10 Revere that I've seen one issue bring so many
- 11 different elements within this community
- 12 together for one positive result. I think that
- is remarkable considering the passion that we
- 14 have in this community and the different types
- 15 of organizations that we have.
- 16 For almost two years now we at the
- 17 Revere Chamber of Commerce to include our
- 18 executive officers and our board of directors
- 19 have actively engaged and involved in
- 20 discussions with Mayor Rizzo, city of Revere
- 21 officials and the economic development director
- 22 John Festa to identify the potential for
- 23 development and improvement of business
- 24 opportunities related to a world-class

- 1 destination resort casino to be located within
- 2 our community.
- 3 Our Chamber of Commerce has been the
- 4 beneficiary of a very strong mayoral
- 5 administration led by Mayor Rizzo, the past
- 6 president of the Chamber of Commerce. Through
- 7 his leadership and collaboration, we have
- 8 worked very closely with the city and
- 9 representatives of the Mohegan Sun team to
- 10 educate and inform our chamber members and to
- 11 address the issues and concerns to them.
- 12 We see great benefits and have
- 13 negotiated mitigation benefit of a commitment
- 14 of \$10 million in annual spending on our local
- 15 economy. The additional guarantee of \$50
- 16 million to be spent regionally on an annual
- 17 basis is also extraordinary to our shared
- 18 interests.
- 19 As a gateway community to Boston, it
- 20 naturally affords alliances and builds
- 21 relationships with our regional partners to
- 22 explore ways to capitalize on this potential
- 23 for increased business growth, specifically as
- 24 it pertains to travel and tourism sector.

- 1 The proximity of the proposed
- 2 Mohegan Sun Casino at Suffolk Downs within the
- 3 Revere community is exceptional. In addition
- 4 to easy access to three MBTA public
- 5 transportation stations, it would also connect
- 6 directly to the MBTA airport station on the
- 7 very same Blue Line connection.
- 8 When we remember the rich history of
- 9 this immediate area, it was commonly referred
- 10 to as the playground of New England. Visitors
- 11 from all over came Suffolk Downs, Wonderland
- 12 and of course America's first public beach, a
- 13 nation historic landmark officially recognized
- 14 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. There
- 15 are thousands of New Englanders who remember
- 16 the days of amusements at Revere Beach,
- 17 Wonderland and Suffolk Downs. The stories are
- 18 endless.
- 19 Additionally, I can also remember
- 20 the words of Chairman Stephen Crosby who stated
- 21 many times at various Mass. Gaming Commission
- 22 presentations that he is looking for the wow
- 23 factor in each of these proposals. As
- 24 President of the Chamber of Commerce, I can see

- 1 the Mohegan Sun proposal as the wow factor as
- 2 it will provide significant business growth and
- 3 business development not only for the resort
- 4 casino but for redevelopment at Revere Beach, a
- 5 major travel and tourism destination once
- 6 again. Thank you very much for your time.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We are going to
- 8 take a 10-minute short break and we will start
- 9 up again at 8:12.

10

11 (A recess was taken)

12

- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We are ready to
- 14 reconvene. We've been through about 60 of the
- 15 140 or so that originally signed up. The place
- 16 has thinned out a little bit, so there may not
- 17 be so many. But we want to both be respectful
- 18 of you all who have waited, but we also want to
- 19 be respectful of everybody and not stay too
- 20 late.
- So, we're going to give it another
- 22 hour or so and see where we are. And then we
- 23 may caucus all of us in an hour, hour and a
- 24 half to see where we are and see whether we can

- 1 get this done tonight. It would be great if we
- 2 can. But we may not be able to. This must be
- 3 Sandy Levin.
- 4 MS. LEVIN: Yes. Good evening, my
- 5 name is Sandy Levin and I live in Revere right
- 6 next to Kelly's Roast Beef. I've been here for
- 7 14 years. I think the things that I would
- 8 really like to say has already been said, but
- 9 one thing that I was concerned about was for
- 10 senior the citizens, what would be done for
- 11 them, maybe a new building for us to go to, but
- 12 different ideas.
- 13 And I think the beach is a beautiful
- 14 place to be and for the tourists to come in
- 15 from all over. And people have mentioned about
- 16 the trains going into Boston. You have Logan
- 17 Airport. I think that is beautiful.
- 18 Everything is just located, situated right
- 19 here.
- 20 But I think this is the best place
- 21 for a casino for Mohegan Sun to really come.
- 22 It would be a wonderful place. You have the
- 23 theaters, the entertainment. And I don't
- 24 believe there's going to be any trouble with

- 1 the traffic or crime. And that has bothered
- 2 me, but there is no issue on that at all.
- I just think it's just a wonderful
- 4 place. I hope that you will consider the
- 5 license for Mohegan Sun. Especially I used to
- 6 go horseback riding and I love horses. So, I
- 7 hope that they will stay and run and race.
- 8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, very
- 9 much. We try to be deferential for elected
- 10 officials. And we have someone who's close,
- 11 Rosalee Vincent.
- MS. VINCENT: My name is Rosalee
- 13 Vincent. And I want to thank you for giving me
- 14 the opportunity to speak.
- 15 As someone who has served as Chief
- 16 of Staff to the former State Representative
- 17 Kathi Reinstein, and I'm actually the
- 18 Democratic nominee to fill that seat, I want to
- 19 voice my strong support for the Mohegan Sun
- 20 proposal.
- The basic intent of 2011's expanded
- 22 gaming legislation was to create jobs, generate
- 23 local aid and be a source of economic growth.
- 24 It is my firm belief that Mohegan Sun's

- 1 proposal meets the intentions of that bill
- 2 better than its competition. We must consider
- 3 the element of gaming was prevalent during
- 4 Revere's heydays. Wonderland and Suffolk Downs
- 5 were triggers of economic development for our
- 6 city and served as sources of pride for our
- 7 community.
- 8 Also, we must consider there are
- 9 hundreds of jobs at stake at Suffolk Downs and
- 10 thousands more across New England dependent on
- 11 the horseracing industry. This new development
- 12 will not only preserve those jobs but grow that
- 13 industry. This project will be a catalyst for
- 14 sustained economic development for the entire
- 15 North Shore.
- 16 To me, it is clear that a Mohegan
- 17 Sun resort casino in the city of Revere
- 18 presents the best opportunity to deliver the
- 19 type of benefits the gaming bill was designed
- 20 to facilitate. Immediate job creation and
- 21 sustained growth were the guiding principles of
- 22 crafting the gaming legislation. And no
- 23 proposal provides a greater chance at
- 24 succeeding in those areas than Mohegan Sun at

- 1 Suffolk Downs in Revere. And by the way I
- 2 voted twice yes for Revere, and I hope you can
- 3 vote for Revere as well. Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Diane
- 5 Potito-Mahoney, Diane Cataldo, Beverly Sheets
- 6 if any of you are here, please come up to the
- 7 mic., Michele Jeffrey, James Sinatra.
- 8 MR. SHEETS: Good evening. My name
- 9 is Beverly Sheets and I live at Beachmont in
- 10 Revere. Before I start speaking, I would like
- 11 to say just one thing. I would rather be a
- 12 gladiator in Roman times than to have your job
- 13 that you guys have today.
- 14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MR. SHEETS: This gentleman here,
- 16 James, just a little smile doesn't hurt. I am
- 17 here to say that I voted twice for the casino.
- 18 I voted because one, the jobs, two what happens
- 19 is the municipalities that we have in Revere
- 20 definitely need to be upgraded and more things
- 21 need to be done within the city.
- 22 It's virtually impossible because in
- 23 order to get it done, you have to take the
- 24 money from the people who own homes. And what

- 1 happens is when you start taking money from
- 2 people who work hard or who are retired to pay
- 3 taxes to cover this, it's very, very hard
- 4 especially when you're living on a "fixed
- 5 income".
- 6 Now I know people are going to say
- 7 if you live on a fixed income, what are you
- 8 going down to the gaming department for. Well,
- 9 that's not my answer to decide why you do what
- 10 you do. I'm speaking for myself. I am not a
- 11 professional. I don't know what's going on
- 12 here except what I hear in the news and
- 13 everything like that.
- 14 I elected an official, one official
- 15 that I'm speaking to right now. And what
- 16 happens is I watch this man go through this
- 17 process within the town of Revere. He invited
- 18 the opponents to come to sit in on our meetings
- 19 in Revere. I could never figure out why and I
- 20 asked him. And he says everybody has a voice.
- 21 And my elected official, I believe what he's
- 22 saying.
- Now that may be hard in this day and
- 24 age to say an elected official that you believe

- 1 what they're saying. But my mayor whom I
- 2 elected I believe in what he's saying that he's
- 3 going to do what he says he is going to do.
- 4 And I honestly believe that.
- 5 That's all. Oh, and by the way just
- 6 one thing I don't gamble. I voted twice for
- 7 it. But what happens is my wife don't vote but
- 8 she loves to gamble. So, that means I'm not
- 9 going to Foxwoods hopefully she can walk down
- 10 to the track. Thank you very much.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Thank
- 12 you for making Judge McHugh smile.
- MS. JEFFREY: Good evening, my name
- 14 is Michele Jeffrey. I grew up in Revere and
- 15 still call Revere my home. My parents live
- 16 here as well as my daughter who recently
- 17 graduated from high school and spent last
- 18 summer as a lifeguard on Revere Beach.
- 19 Horseracing has been a part of my
- 20 life and my livelihood since Suffolk Downs
- 21 reopened in 1992. I'm a 23-year employee of
- 22 Suffolk Downs. I've done many different jobs
- 23 at the racetrack from group sales and marketing
- 24 to working directly with the race horses as

- 1 assistant trainer, exercise trainer and pony
- 2 person. I am currently the safety compliance
- 3 officer and thoroughbred retirement coordinator
- 4 for Suffolk Downs as well as the assistant
- 5 track photographer.
- 6 In the winter when live racing is
- 7 closed, my horses remain in Massachusetts where
- 8 they are boarded in Hamilton, Massachusetts.
- 9 We will use the services of local farriers,
- 10 veterinarians and feed suppliers. The
- 11 continuation of racing at Suffolk Downs is
- 12 extremely important to me as it is to so many
- 13 Suffolk Downs employees.
- 14 This is not only about new jobs,
- 15 it's about keeping the existing ones. I think
- 16 Jockey Janelle Campbell got up here and said it
- 17 best. We are a family at Suffolk Downs. And I
- 18 can only hope the tradition of live horseracing
- 19 can continue at Suffolk Downs by granting
- 20 Mohegan Sun a license.
- 21 And might I add, I'm really happy to
- 22 be speaking at the end of this. I'm happy at
- 23 this hour to come up here. It gave me the
- 24 opportunity to see how passionate these people

- 1 are about Mohegan Sun coming to Revere and
- 2 keeping Suffolk Downs alive. It just amazes me
- 3 and I thank you so much for this opportunity at
- 4 this hour. Thank you.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also,
- 6 Gary Ferragamo, Michael Othmer, Robert Pyles,
- 7 Kevin Buckley.
- 8 MR. SINATRA: Good evening Chairman
- 9 Crosby, fellow Commissioners. My name is James
- 10 Sinatra. I grew up in East Boston. I lived in
- 11 Revere for many years. And after living in
- 12 Hawaii, I'm living back in East Boston.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What are you,
- 14 crazy?
- MR. SINATRA: Yes. I'm going to
- 16 talk about something different that won't be so
- 17 controversial, I hope. Having worked at
- 18 Foxwoods Casino in blue-collared positions and
- 19 having specifically worked as a bellman, a
- 20 security officer, I would like to address the
- 21 issues of wages, tips and how the current law
- 22 GLC 149-152A-C for the Commonwealth wage and
- 23 tipping laws for food service workers. No
- 24 employer or person shall cause, require or

- 1 permit any wait staff employee, service
- 2 employee or service bartender to participate in
- 3 a tip pool. When a person offers a tip, that
- 4 gratuity is intended only for the hard-working
- 5 employees not to bolster corporate coffers or
- 6 management income.
- 7 The Expanded Gaming Act requires,
- 8 this is also consistent with Mohegan Sun's
- 9 principles and business practices. This for
- 10 Wynn, however, allowing employees to keep 100
- 11 percent of their tips appears to be a deal
- 12 breaker.
- 13 Having seen the somewhat same
- 14 practice at several local Dunkin' Donuts where
- 15 tips are not even allowed, to clarify further
- 16 as a bellman I was only making about \$6.50 an
- 17 hour. To take my tips and share them with my
- 18 manager or any supervisor would devastate
- 19 myself, or anyone trying to pay rent, put food
- 20 on the table never mind the cost of living in
- 21 East Boston or Revere.
- We need to all or any businesses to
- 23 comply with all Massachusetts laws currently on
- 24 the books and not circumvent them. I just want

- 1 to add one thing before I close. I want to
- 2 thank the Mayor of Revere, the police chief,
- 3 the fire department's chief and all of the pro-
- 4 casino speakers that held on tonight to stay
- 5 here to address this issue.
- 6 The one thing I'm going to close
- 7 with is the jobs are our lifeline. Without
- 8 these jobs, after seeing what I've seen in my
- 9 lifetime in 42 states and having seen gaming in
- 10 48 states, only Hawaii and Utah have no gaming,
- 11 this is a deal breaker for me about East Boston
- 12 surviving.
- 13 I've seen the neighborhood
- 14 deteriorate. I've lived in Beachmont and
- 15 Orient Heights most of my live. My mother came
- 16 from Italy. My father was born and bred in
- 17 East Boston. And I know if the Chairman of the
- 18 Board was here standing beside me, he'd be
- 19 supporting these workers because he stood for
- 20 equal rights and civil rights. And I want to
- 21 thank you for giving everyone a chance to
- 22 speak. Thank you.
- 23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MR. PYLES: How are you guys?

- 1 Everybody having fun?
- 2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I'm still thinking
- 3 about that guy who came back from Hawaii.
- 4 MR. PYLES: My name is Rob Pyles.
- 5 And I'm a resident of East Boston. I am an
- 6 entrepreneur, a landlord and much more
- 7 importantly, I am a husband and also a dad to
- 8 two little girls.
- 9 So, I want to invite you guys to put
- 10 aside all of the emotion of this evening. And
- 11 for a moment imagine that you live in East
- 12 Boston. And you were told clearly by your
- 13 government that a no vote from one of the two
- 14 communities would defeat the casino proposal.
- 15 So, you and a ragtag band of tired but
- 16 compassionate neighbors, even though you were
- 17 outspent 86 to 1, 86 to 1, you pulled off one
- 18 of the most miraculous upsets, political upsets
- 19 in the history of this Commonwealth.
- 20 That night the celebration, it was
- in a small basement of a church in Maverick
- 22 Square. There were immigrants, young
- 23 professionals, third generation Italian-
- 24 American families just hugging each other,

- 1 Jumping up and down and chanting David beat
- 2 Goliath, David beat Goliath. That snapshot
- 3 represents America at its very best.
- 4 So, now imagine that next morning
- 5 when you wake up and you learn that Goliath is
- 6 not dead. He is moving a few hundred feet
- 7 north. And the fair and transparent process,
- 8 the rule of law and the Commission that you
- 9 trusted, they were actively allowing it to
- 10 happen. So, what would you say if you were in
- 11 our shoes?
- 12 Honestly, I feel like I'm here as a
- 13 messenger. I want you to know that this
- 14 process is creating serious disillusionment
- 15 among a lot of young people. And I hope you
- 16 will allow me to count myself in that category.
- 17 This is happening under your watch. As I watch
- 18 all of this unfold, it really is confirming
- 19 some of my fears about the state of our
- 20 democracy that it is in fact for sale.
- 21 That if you don't like the result of
- 22 a vote, you and the attorneys can keep coming
- 23 back until the opposition is completely
- 24 exhausted. So in retrospect, I think the

- 1 ballot question that we voted on on November 5
- 2 was misleading at best. It was do you approve
- 3 of a casino at Suffolk Downs, but I think the
- 4 question should have been you're getting a
- 5 casino at Suffolk Downs do you want it 500 feet
- 6 here or 500 feet there.
- 7 Another point that I do want to
- 8 express to the Commissioners is that this
- 9 process really is bleeding us. The way you see
- 10 it, this is an expensive fight for us. It's
- 11 draining our time, our money, our relationships
- 12 with our spouses and our kids and our bosses.
- 13 And there's no end in sight right now. So, I'm
- 14 asking you tonight and I hope you hear this
- 15 seriously help us. This is why you were given
- 16 this responsibility to listen to the voters.
- 17 My daughter, Alessandra, she's three
- 18 years old. And I took her to a lot of rallies.
- 19 And I felt really good as a dad Because I was
- 20 showing her it's great to be involved in the
- 21 political process and you can change things.
- 22 And when we defeated the casino, I was very
- 23 proud of the lesson that I had taught her. And
- 24 I've had a very difficult time trying to

- 1 explain to her what's happened since then.
- 2 And it brings me to a very simple
- 3 question that I honestly want to ask you guys
- 4 and that is why should a young person get
- 5 involved in the political process? What is the
- 6 point of fighting for a cause when the rules
- 7 can be changed after the game is over. And is
- 8 this the legacy that you as the Commission
- 9 want? Because this is precisely what is
- 10 happening.
- 11 So, I ask you to please stop this
- 12 casino at Suffolk Downs. Please respect our
- 13 vote. Nobody said your job was going to be
- 14 easy and it's not. But it's time to step up
- 15 and make tough decisions and defend our
- 16 democracy. Thank you very much.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Kevin
- 18 Buckley, Rinus Oosthoek, Marvin Martin, Lorene
- 19 Schettino.
- 20 MR. FERRAGAMO: Good morning, my
- 21 name is Gary Ferragamo. I'm a Revere lifelong
- 22 resident. I'm also a business owner, a
- 23 restaurant owner on Revere Beach and a real
- 24 estate agent.

- 1 I too moved back from California to
- 2 come back to Revere. I am not crazy. Revere's
- 3 a wonderful city. I speak for several business
- 4 owners and restaurateurs on Revere Beach. We
- 5 are excited and fully support this resort
- 6 casino coming to Revere. We firmly believe
- 7 this will lead to hundreds if not thousands of
- 8 people visiting our establishments most if not
- 9 all businesses on a daily, weekly, monthly
- 10 basis.
- 11 Speaking on real estate potential
- 12 for instance, any type of new development will
- 13 have positives and negatives. It's your job to
- 14 figure those out. There are people that focus
- on the positives with passion. There are
- 16 people that are focusing on the negatives.
- 17 Sorry, these are the positives. So, the job
- 18 for you is quite simple, I believe. Whichever
- 19 has more benefits, it's a nice position to be
- 20 in to make that decision.
- 21 Speaking about real estate
- 22 opportunities and potential, a few years ago I
- 23 was in charge of \$170 million residential
- 24 development on Revere Beach. The developer had

- 1 courage. He had vision. Revere Beach had been
- 2 stagnant for a few decades. He wanted to build
- 3 an ultra-resort -- excuse me, luxury high-end
- 4 crazy top-of-the-line condominium project on
- 5 Revere Beach. He opened up an office on the
- 6 beach and put me in charge of it. He said, go
- 7 sell them.
- I said you didn't build them yet.
- 9 He said do preconstruction sales and let's see
- 10 what you can do. A lot of people didn't think
- 11 it was the right time. They didn't think
- 12 Revere was ready for that. We proved them
- 13 wrong.
- 14 In 16 months we sold 100
- 15 condominiums before they were built. So,
- 16 basically we were selling air and dirt. Not
- 17 only did we sell them, the demand was so strong
- 18 in Revere we shattered records not only locally
- 19 but nationally.
- In the real estate world when you
- 21 break a price point in a city selling it for
- 22 more than it's ever sold for before, it's
- 23 usually broken by five or 10 percent. In
- 24 Revere, the highest price condominium that ever

- 1 sold in its history was \$750,000 in 2004, of
- 2 course, on Revere Beach.
- We broke that record by more than
- 4 five percent or 10 percent. We doubled the
- 5 market. We sold a condo for \$1.5 million. We
- 6 were proving the demand was strong, stronger
- 7 than any other city or state has ever seen.
- 8 These things do not happen in real estate. You
- 9 don't double the market.
- 10 Revere is poised and ready and
- 11 anxious for economic development and growth.
- 12 So, that project I was in charge of a few years
- 13 ago called the Ocean Club, if the world didn't
- 14 fall apart on us in 2008, we'd be there
- 15 thriving. Unfortunately, we never built it.
- 16 The world fell apart and we lost our financing.
- 17 And I had to give every penny back to all 100
- 18 buyers who didn't want their money back.
- 19 People were hanging for a year or two after we
- 20 said we're not building it, they still wanted
- 21 it built.
- The economic growth potential of a
- 23 \$1.3 billion resort casino in our sleepy little
- 24 beach community that is poised and ready for

- 1 this is staggering, it's off the charts.
- 2 So, if my \$170 million development
- 3 can create that much excitement and growth, can
- 4 you imagine what a \$1.3 billion facility will
- 5 do? Most professionals in real estate, most
- 6 business people in Revere know it, want it and
- 7 are anxious and hungry for it.
- 8 So, we are obviously in full support
- 9 the resort casino here in Revere. Thank you
- 10 very much.
- 11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 12 Michael Othmer, I'll just read few others,
- 13 Kevin Buckley, Rinus Oosthoek, Marvin Martin,
- 14 Lorene Schettino.
- MR. OOSTHOEK: My name is Rinus
- 16 Oosthoek. I'm the Executive Director of the
- 17 Salem Chamber of Commerce. And I want to thank
- 18 you for having me here and addressing you
- 19 tonight.
- I want to do something that most
- 21 people haven't done and I want to say the first
- 22 half of my presentation, if you reread the
- 23 statements by the Lynn Chamber, those are mine
- 24 too.

- 1 Almost all of the second half of my
- 2 presentation, look at what the North of Boston
- 3 Convention and Visitor Bureau said because that
- 4 reflects the feeling of everybody in Salem. We
- 5 are very much in support of the casino. And we
- 6 are very much about partnering up with local
- 7 communities other chambers, local chambers and
- 8 with Mohegan Sun in even the last three or four
- 9 months, they have partnered up with us.
- 10 We have a vendor forum coming up in
- 11 April. They have done everything you can hope
- 12 for in a major development on the North Shore
- 13 and we ought to thank them for that.
- 14 A couple of remarks I want to make
- is on the north-south access, we love the \$45
- 16 million investment because we don't believe
- 17 that Massachusetts will do it. We think it
- 18 will help our commuters. It will help our
- 19 tourists. We have about a million tourists
- 20 coming to the North Shore every year. They
- 21 will benefit from the improvements on Route 1A
- 22 going north and they will take the Essex
- 23 coastline by way of getting there.
- 24 The second part is it's not just

- 1 about transportation by car. I think if you
- 2 look worldwide developments are about how do we
- 3 move people. I think any new resort casino or
- 4 any large development in Massachusetts should
- 5 first look at public transportation. No matter
- 6 what you think about anything else that should
- 7 be in your job description that you make that a
- 8 priority, because 10, 15, 20 years from now,
- 9 everybody will want to expand it and make it
- 10 better whether it's going south-north or north-
- 11 south in Massachusetts.
- 12 Then finally it's about quality,
- 13 quality of jobs, quality of work, quality of
- 14 everything we do. And we feel Mohegan Sun is
- 15 very strong in that. We want to partner with
- 16 everybody. And just as a final comment, just
- 17 something that every now and then is being
- 18 said, we love communication with Mohegan Sun
- 19 people. We've had zero communication with the
- 20 opponents. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 22 MS. SCHETTINO: Thank you Chairman
- 23 Crosby and members of the Commission. My name
- 24 is Lorene Schettino and I'm an young attorney

- 1 who lives and practices in East Boston,
- 2 specifically in the Orient Heights
- 3 neighborhood.
- I am one of the 3353 people that
- 5 voted to support a casino at Suffolk Downs.
- 6 And I stand here today still in support of
- 7 Mohegan Sun's proposal for a casino at the
- 8 Suffolk Downs location. While you've heard
- 9 from residents that have voted no, it is also
- 10 important to hear from residents that voted
- 11 yes.
- I too see this project as a regional
- 13 project not just a Revere project. The
- 14 regional benefits, there are many regional
- 15 benefits including many benefits for my
- 16 neighborhood, which I love and care about. Not
- 17 to take away from my friends in Winthrop, but I
- 18 live on Legion Street. If anybody is familiar
- 19 with that neighborhood, the only way off that
- 20 street is Boardman Street and McClellan
- 21 Highway. No one knows the effects of traffic
- 22 more than I do.
- For years there have been promises
- 24 to update infrastructure but none of those

- 1 promises have come to fruition. I believe that
- 2 without the project, we will never see these
- 3 updates that are drastically needed in our
- 4 neighborhood. As a resident of East Boston, I
- 5 am particularly hopeful about Mohegan's plan to
- 6 spend \$50 million locally and to maintain the
- 7 jobs at the racetrack as well as creating 4000
- 8 new jobs.
- 9 I hope the Commission considers all
- 10 of these important factors when deciding the
- 11 granting of the Eastern Region license. Thank
- 12 you for hearing me.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Kerri
- 14 Bryce Adams, Claude Whiting, Ed Deveau, Arthur
- 15 Guinasso come ahead, anybody. If you've heard
- 16 your name, please come line up so we're ready
- 17 to move.
- MR. DEVEAU: Good evening. My name
- 19 is Ed Deveau. I am a resident of Beachmont,
- 20 the neighborhood in Revere that is most
- 21 impacted by the Mohegan Sun project. We are
- 22 ground zero.
- 23 As a third-generation Beachmont
- 24 resident and as a resident who for many years

- 1 have been involved in activities and projects
- 2 to preserve the quality of life, the spirit and
- 3 the legacy of Beachmont, I am here to voice my
- 4 wholehearted support to the Mohegan Sun Casino
- 5 project.
- 6 It's not a position I came to
- 7 easily. Over that last three or four years, I
- 8 spent a lot time reading articles in newspapers
- 9 or websites. Talking to people, listening to
- 10 talk shows and so forth and came to the
- 11 realization that I think this is good for the
- 12 city and this is good for my neighborhood.
- 13 There are two basic things that really helped
- 14 me come to that realization.
- One is team. As I believe you saw
- 16 in the January presentation, this team is a
- 17 team in the true sense of the word. It's a
- 18 team that includes the Mohegan Sun organization
- 19 whose tribal world and philosophy is built on
- 20 preserving the community and the welfare of the
- 21 people that live in it. It's a team that
- 22 includes Suffolk Downs, a valued supportive
- 23 business partner to the city of Revere for over
- 24 75 years.

- 1 And it's a team that includes the
- 2 Mayor of Revere and his team who never gave up
- 3 on their vision for a better future for our
- 4 city.
- 5 And more importantly, it's a team
- 6 that has consistently demonstrated a positive
- 7 character, continually meeting and working with
- 8 members of the community to discuss and resolve
- 9 issues as they've been raised. One of the
- 10 meetings I attended, Chairman Crosby, you spoke
- 11 about the five criteria that you all will be
- 12 using to evaluate the proposals and make your
- 13 decisions.
- 14 I took a look at those five criteria
- 15 and I used those to help me kind of come to my
- 16 decision. Four of those five I think I can
- 17 speak to. One of them has to do with finance.
- 18 Those numbers aren't available to me and I'm
- 19 not sure I'd know what to do with them if I had
- 20 them.
- So, I'm going to speak to the other
- 22 criteria. The first two, the overview criteria
- 23 which asks the question what will make the
- 24 project unique? And the other one, the

- 1 building and site design criteria asks the
- 2 question how does the design integrate itself
- 3 into the community?
- 4 I think the overall architectural
- 5 design of the project is very unique, with its
- 6 too distinctive entrances, the umbrella like
- 7 columns and the use of indoor and outdoor space
- 8 and decor to highlight the city's rich history
- 9 and its connection to its greatest natural
- 10 resource, Revere Beach.
- But more importantly, this is the
- 12 only project that embraces a design that will
- 13 effectively integrate it into the surrounding
- 14 area, specifically the Donnelly Square area in
- 15 Beachmont near the eastern entrance to the
- 16 casino where the Mohegan Sun team has committed
- 17 to ensure that it will have a positive --
- 18 There's that word again. -- transformational
- 19 impact to the area.
- 20 It's not like the other project,
- 21 which stands out in the middle of a marsh,
- 22 isolated from its host community and its
- 23 neighborhoods.
- 24 The next criteria economic

- 1 development, the question is asked how does the
- 2 project support small businesses in the region?
- 3 In the Beachmont neighborhood already working
- 4 with Mohegan Sun and the city of Revere, an
- 5 advisory committee is being formed to establish
- 6 a forum for neighborhood residents and business
- 7 owners to work with the representatives from
- 8 Mohegan and Suffolk Downs and Revere to ensure
- 9 that the neighborhood businesses will have
- 10 every opportunity to derive the economic
- 11 benefit from this project.
- So, they haven't got the vote yet,
- 13 but they're already doing the work with us to
- 14 help pave the way to make sure that when we do
- 15 get the vote, we're ready to go.
- And finally, the mitigation
- 17 criteria, which asks the questions does the
- 18 project solve traffic problems and mitigate
- 19 problems within the host community. I believe
- 20 that it's been reported and I heard it earlier
- 21 tonight that this host community agreement for
- 22 this project is one of the most lucrative in
- 23 the country. One that will provide funding to
- 24 support wide range improvements in public

- 1 safety, education, transportation and city
- 2 services throughout our city and the
- 3 surrounding region.
- 4 For the Beachmont neighborhood where
- 5 I live, the Mohegan Sun project is making a
- 6 significant commitment to mitigation in the
- 7 neighborhood. An initial \$4.3 million is being
- 8 devoted to address traffic flow, landscaping
- 9 and other improvements around the east entrance
- 10 to the casino.
- 11 Additional mitigation payments to
- 12 the city also are earmarked to ensure effective
- 13 public safety in the area and improve the city
- 14 services to Beachmont residents enhancing their
- 15 neighborhood and with it their quality of life.
- 16 I think when you finish your
- 17 evaluation, I think you'll see that no other
- 18 project comes close to this in its benefits.
- 19 Thank you all very much.
- 20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Kerri
- 21 Bryce Adams, Claude Whiting, Arthur Guinasso,
- 22 John Vitagliano, Matilda Bonfardeci, if you
- 23 heard your name, please come forward.
- MR. GUINASSO: Mr. Chairman,

- 1 Commission, my name is Arthur Guinasso. I'm a
- 2 Revere resident. I am here to speak about the
- 3 job loss and significance of Suffolk Downs.
- 4 As a young man I grew up walking to
- 5 Wonderland to go to work with my two younger
- 6 sisters which helped provide me to go to
- 7 college and both of my sisters to move onto
- 8 college. I saw the effect when Wonderland
- 9 closed and many families that were affected. I
- 10 had extra spending money. We went to the pizza
- 11 place. We had the Revere Drive-In. Things
- 12 were very well.
- I see that if Suffolk Downs loses
- 14 their jobs, you're going to put so many
- 15 families out there that have nothing, nowhere
- 16 to go. You've heard it by many people by now
- 17 you're giving up. Where the other resort is
- 18 going to lose nothing. This is a serious
- 19 impact on Revere residents and all of the
- 20 people that work at Suffolk Downs. It will
- 21 affect many families and really just think
- 22 about the job loss.
- Mohegan has guaranteed 15 years of
- 24 keeping Suffolk Downs open. That's fantastic.

- 1 I go with work hand-in-hand with the Mayor and
- 2 all of the counselors. I just think it's a
- 3 great thing for Mohegan Sun to join Revere.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Justin
- 6 Pasquariello, go ahead John and Matthew Neave,
- 7 just other people who can be lining up.
- 8 MR. VITAGLIANO: Thank you very
- 9 much, Mr. Chairman and other members of the
- 10 Commission. My name is John Vitagliano. I
- 11 live at 19 Seymour Street in the town of
- 12 Winthrop. I'm a Winthrop native. I've lived
- 13 there for most of my life, except for a 12-year
- 14 span when I lived in the beautiful Orient
- 15 Heights neighborhood of East Boston up on
- 16 Faywood Avenue when I served as the traffic
- 17 commissioner for the city of Boston at that
- 18 time. And I had a marvelous view of Suffolk
- 19 Downs racetrack.
- I have great memories of waking up
- 21 by the sound of the horses early in the morning
- 22 and the fragrance of freshly cut grass.
- 23 Suffolk Downs is one of the greatest assets
- 24 that East Boston has. And it's one of the

- 1 reasons that I totally support the Mohegan Sun
- 2 Casino proposal, not only as a Winthrop
- 3 resident but also as a transportation
- 4 consultant to the Mohegan Sun proposal.
- A couple of things I'd like to do, I
- 6 have a copy of a letter that I wrote with the
- 7 town council stating the reasons why I support
- 8 the Mohegan Sun proposal and why it would be a
- 9 good thing for the town of Winthrop. While it
- 10 is only 50 pages, given the late night, I'll
- 11 just give you a copy, Mr. Chairman.
- I do have a few things that I would
- 13 like to address in terms of why I think the
- 14 transportation issues associated with the
- 15 Mohegan Sun proposal are addressable and
- 16 doable. The Mohegan Sun comprehensive
- 17 transportation plan is in total harmony with
- 18 Mass. DOT and Revere's plans and would be
- 19 entirely privately funded.
- 20 Mohegan Sun will contribute \$45
- 21 million for transportation improvements
- 22 including enhanced access to the MBTA and
- 23 improvements to current traffic conditions.
- 24 Mohegan Sun's plan is designed to capitalize on

- 1 its unique access to a major public
- 2 transportation resource, the MBTA Blue Line and
- 3 to mitigate traffic at a dozen different
- 4 surrounding locations including resort traffic
- 5 and pre-existing long-standing traffic
- 6 problems, such as the ramps to Route 1 and
- 7 Route 16 which provide Logan Airport access
- 8 from the north.
- 9 The Mohegan Sun designation would be
- 10 the state's largest transit oriented
- 11 development. Mohegan Sun has already committed
- 12 to provide an airport shuttle but to transport
- 13 patrons directly from Logan Airport to the
- 14 resort in approximately six minutes. Mohegan
- 15 Sun is committed to working with the city of
- 16 Revere and other local municipalities on
- 17 regional road and infrastructure improvements
- 18 to provide funding for optimizing key regional
- 19 intersections.
- 20 Mohegan Sun has designed a proposal
- 21 to improve the pedestrian conditions and
- 22 upgrade the signal operations that are key
- 23 Bennington Street, Saratoga Street intersection
- 24 which would improve both the safety and traffic

- 1 both for Revere, East Boston and Winthrop
- 2 residents. Mohegan Sun has developed a
- 3 proposal and response to a specific request by
- 4 city officials and residents that would realign
- 5 Route 1A southbound. The realignment would
- 6 significantly improve the existing condition by
- 7 creating a new exit from Route 1A southbound
- 8 through the Curtis Street area to replace the
- 9 existing wide pavement area.
- 10 Mohegan Sun improvements to Route 1
- 11 and Route 16 are intended to add new critical
- 12 traffic movements in order to create an
- 13 important regional highway access point. Among
- 14 the many updates proposed, the existing ramp
- 15 configuration to and from Route 1 southbound
- 16 will become a four-lane off-ramp connecting to
- 17 Route 16 east and west with a median break and
- 18 a new traffic signal. The new ramp will
- 19 provide an opportunity to substantially reduce
- 20 left lane and left U-turn congestions at the
- 21 Route 16/Webster Street intersection. Thank
- 22 you, Mr. Chairman.
- 23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MS. BONFARDECI: Well, my statement

- 1 started off as good afternoon but I guess it's
- 2 good evening members of the Mass. Gaming
- 3 Commission. My name is Matilda Bonfardeci and
- 4 I'm a longtime resident of the city of Revere.
- 5 I'm here to speak on behalf of the
- 6 reasons why I am for Mohegan Sun Casino resort
- 7 at Suffolk Downs. First and foremost, I speak
- 8 as a mom of two children ages seven and 11. My
- 9 children currently attend the city's public
- 10 schools. One is in elementary and one is in
- 11 middle school. They also attend many
- 12 recreational activities the city offers such as
- 13 soccer, softball, youth center, dance, etc.
- So, as you can see my children keep
- 15 me very busy and love their city very much as
- 16 do I. There are many reasons why I'm for the
- 17 casino, but the one near and dear to my heart
- 18 is the one that has direct impact on our
- 19 children. I am a very active parent in my
- 20 children's school belonging to the PTA at both
- 21 and the school improvement committee at one.
- 22 So, on a daily basis I see and I hear what
- 23 teachers' needs are as well as the children's.
- 24 As of now, unfortunately, it falls on deaf ears

- 1 because the funding is just not there.
- 2 So, when I see that the host
- 3 community agreement has a million dollars a
- 4 year allocated to our schools, a bigger and
- 5 better youth center to be built and most
- 6 recently a commitment from our mayor to our
- 7 superintendent for a new high school to be
- 8 built, this was a no-brainer for me to stand by
- 9 and support this project.
- 10 This is a huge and great opportunity
- 11 for our youth. After all, we always say we
- 12 need to invest in our youth for they are our
- 13 future. There are many other reasons why I
- 14 think this is a great opportunity, for example,
- 15 more jobs, more revenue and not to mention I
- 16 would hate to see over 800 jobs lost at Suffolk
- 17 Downs.
- 18 You see, I believe in Mohegan Sun.
- 19 I believe in Suffolk Downs and most importantly
- 20 I believe in our Mayor. I believe when he says
- 21 he wants to revive the city and restore it back
- 22 to what it was many years ago. A city that had
- 23 tourists visit on a daily basis and that
- 24 everyone loved to be part of.

- 1 Lastly, I believe he is right when
- 2 he says we need to seize this once-in-a-
- 3 lifetime opportunity. I'm tearing up. I'm
- 4 sorry. I just want to add if you look at all
- 5 of the people opposing this project today none
- 6 are from Revere. So, in closing I say this to
- 7 you members of the Mass. Gaming Commission,
- 8 when the time comes to issue the license and
- 9 you review all of the facts and answer all of
- 10 the questions and concerns you have, I truly
- 11 hope that you will ultimately see the best fit
- 12 for where the license should be issued will be
- 13 Mohegan Sun at Suffolk Downs in Revere. Thank
- 14 you for your time.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Also, while you're
- 16 coming forward, Justin Pasquariello, Matthew
- 17 Neave, Heather Engman, Ryan Murphy, Gail
- 18 Miller, Antonio Amaya.
- MR. PASQUARIELLO: Good evening
- 20 Commissioners, neighbors. Thank you for
- 21 pronouncing my name correctly. I'm Justin
- 22 Pasquariello. I'm a proud resident of East
- 23 Boston.
- I want to say two things before I

- 1 start the remarks that I've prepared. The
- 2 first is that every time that someone has
- 3 mentioned Suffolk Downs tonight or has
- 4 mentioned any Boston tourist attraction that
- 5 person has highlighted the fact that East
- 6 Boston is in fact a host community for this
- 7 agreement.
- 8 The second point that I would like
- 9 to make is that the gaming legislation does
- 10 specifically set aside state revenue for the
- 11 preservation of horseracing in Massachusetts.
- 12 So, when people say that the failure to approve
- 13 this specific proposal would result in the
- 14 closure of Suffolk Downs, they are setting up a
- 15 false dichotomy.
- 16 In fact, Suffolk Downs can continue
- 17 to operate with state revenue. Chairman
- 18 Crosby, on September 13 you said it would be
- 19 paternalistic to deny towns the opportunity to
- 20 vote on casino gambling. You also said that
- 21 you wouldn't want a casino too close to your
- 22 town because of the impact on property values.
- The theory that each town's people
- 24 should be given the right to determine whether

- 1 or not a casino will come to our town would
- 2 seem to be a fair one. Unfortunately, there
- 3 has not been a fair vote yet on this issue in
- 4 this Commonwealth.
- In every vote, the cards have been
- 6 stacked against casino opponents. Let's look
- 7 at East Boston. The Legislature, the casinos
- 8 and past city leaders assumed that East Boston
- 9 could not afford to fight and would not fight.
- 10 The state legislation was written specifically
- 11 so that East Boston would have an independent
- 12 vote rather than a citywide vote. Let's be
- 13 clear about the reason for that it was to get a
- 14 casino built in Boston.
- Why did they pick East Boston?
- 16 Because research shows the people who are lower
- income and have less education are more likely
- 18 to vote in favor of a casino. So, yes, I am
- 19 cynical about the reasons that East Boston was
- 20 given the vote. But I'm not cynical about the
- 21 people of East Boston who have made me very
- 22 proud.
- It wasn't just the Legislature and
- 24 the casinos who were opposed -- Sorry.

- 1 In addition to the fact that Suffolk
- 2 Downs was not willing to just assume that we
- 3 would vote in favor and so spent \$1.9 million.
- 4 And this is why a vote on a casino can never be
- 5 fair because we can never match anywhere close
- 6 to \$1.9 million in spending. That's only
- 7 spending that went specifically to fight for
- 8 this proposal. That doesn't include maxing out
- 9 on the campaign contributions to many of our
- 10 elected officials from not only people who work
- 11 for Suffolk Downs but also family members and
- 12 owners. So, I do question the motives of some
- 13 of our elected officials at some points in this
- 14 process.
- 15 Perhaps those campaign contributions
- 16 had something to do with our experience of
- 17 having a previous mayor of Boston, not the
- 18 current one, who was unwilling to engage in
- 19 balanced discussion and who tried to force this
- 20 proposal on us. A mayor who worked with people
- 21 to ensure that signs would be placed in vacant
- 22 lots and that signs telling the other side of
- 23 the story would be taken down.
- 24 There was also money spent on local

- 1 news. There were massive banner ads for
- 2 Suffolk Downs in our local newspaper which may
- 3 have affected the way the issue was covered in
- 4 East Boston. Let me say it again, this vote
- 5 was never meant to be fair.
- 6 Nevertheless, a band of residents
- 7 from East Boston came together. And East
- 8 Boston was stronger and more resilient than
- 9 people cared or dared to imagine. A determined
- 10 group of Eastie residents rose up and with two
- 11 percent of the resources that Suffolk Downs had
- 12 and zero percent of the official political
- 13 support, we educated people of our
- 14 neighborhood.
- We told our neighbors, our friends
- 16 and family members about increased crime, a
- 17 doubling in addiction, the increased pollution
- in the neighborhood already disproportionately
- 19 burdened and the people of East Boston rose up.
- 20 We heard broken promises before. And on
- 21 November 5, we were determined not to let
- 22 anyone break any other promises to us.
- 23 Although there has never been a fair
- 24 casino vote in Massachusetts, and this process

- 1 certainly was not fair, we voted no and our
- 2 vote was resounded. Let us say that again.
- 3 East Boston voted no, despite the fact that
- 4 this was never meant to be a fair vote.
- 5 The story should have ended there,
- 6 but Revere is another community with similar
- 7 reasons that people would believe that people
- 8 of Revere would vote no. People of Revere did
- 9 not get both sides of the story due to campaign
- 10 spending and emails that we have copies of
- 11 where people were lied to. So, I know that
- 12 people would have voted differently if campaign
- 13 and finance were balanced. Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MS. SCOPA: Good evening. My name is
- 16 Stephanie Scopa. And I am speaking in place of
- 17 Kerry Abrams. She needed to pick up her
- 18 daughter. We both thought it was very
- 19 important that you heard what she had to say.
- 20 Before I speak on her behalf, I would like to
- 21 let the Commission know that I am a lifelong
- 22 resident of East Boston, a property owner, a
- 23 graduate of the University of Massachusetts
- 24 Boston, the membership director of the Revere

- 1 Chamber of Commerce, a partner at Kinship
- 2 Floral Design and a very proud supporter of the
- 3 Mohegan Sun project in Massachusetts.
- 4 Now without further ado, Kerry
- 5 Abrams' words: Good evening, my name is Kerry
- 6 Abrams. And I am a resident of the city of
- 7 Revere. I would first like to thank the
- 8 Commission for the opportunity to speak today
- 9 in support of the applicant Mohegan Sun and
- 10 your consideration of this project.
- I come before you today representing
- 12 several interests of someone who supports
- 13 Mohegan Sun. I am a lifelong resident of
- 14 Revere. I grew up in the neighborhood of
- 15 Beachmont. Beachmont is the direct abutter of
- 16 the proposed gaming site. And I can tell you
- 17 living next to a betting facility has been a
- 18 part of my daily life for over 30 years. I am
- 19 a product of the Revere public school system.
- 20 I hold a bachelor's degree in sociology from
- 21 Suffolk University and a jurist doctor from
- 22 Suffolk Law School. I'm a licensed attorney in
- 23 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Most
- 24 importantly, I am also a working mother now

- 1 raising my four-year-old daughter in this city.
- 2 I am also a small business owner.
- 3 My business is Kinship Floral. We
- 4 are a floral design boutique located in Revere.
- 5 We specialize in wedding and event design and
- 6 planning.
- 7 The reason I am supporting Mohegan
- 8 Sun's application is because of their
- 9 commitment to local small businesses like mine.
- 10 When we discussed the many opportunities with
- 11 Mohegan, we are not only talking about jobs but
- 12 the opportunity for businesses like mine to
- 13 grow, prosper and provide jobs to people in our
- 14 own community.
- Becoming a vendor with Mohegan means
- 16 that my business may be able to partner with
- 17 one of the most successful gaming facilities in
- 18 the region. Instead of simply offering \$50,000
- 19 in gift cards, Mohegan Sun has committed to
- 20 spending \$10 million annually with Revere
- 21 businesses. In addition, implementing a
- 22 Momentum rewards program so that patrons of the
- 23 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts will be able to
- 24 redeem their rewards points earned at the

- 1 facility to make direct purchases with local
- 2 businesses like Kinship.
- 3 Not only will this rewards program
- 4 benefit Revere businesses but will positively
- 5 impact the regional small business community by
- 6 allowing patrons to use their rewards points at
- 7 their favorite restaurant, their local hair
- 8 salon and of course their preferred florist.
- 9 I can't stress enough what it would
- 10 mean for small businesses like mine to have the
- 11 opportunity to partner with Mohegan Sun
- 12 Massachusetts. For the owner of a floral
- 13 design boutique, having a resort casino in your
- 14 backyard with 500 hotel rooms, a 950-seat
- 15 ballroom and a 38,000 square foot space for
- 16 meeting, it is an opportunity like no other.
- 17 Again, as a lifelong resident of
- 18 Revere, a mother, a small business owner I
- 19 welcome Mohegan Sun Massachusetts to Revere
- 20 with open arms. So, thank you again for your
- 21 consideration.
- 22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. While
- 23 you are coming forward, Antonio Amaya, Jordan
- 24 Schultz, Kim Hanton, Stephen Fielding William

- 1 Jackson.
- 2 MR. NEAVE: Hello, my name is
- 3 Matthew Neave. And I'm a resident of East
- 4 Boston. Thank you Commissioners for giving me
- 5 the opportunity to speak to you tonight along
- 6 with the many, many others. I appreciate it.
- 7 Before I start with what I prepared,
- 8 I just wanted to offer a quick observation.
- 9 There's been a lot of no votes in our
- 10 Commonwealth, especially in Region A. The two
- 11 casino yes votes have come from communities who
- 12 can shift most of their burden onto other
- 13 communities while reaping most of the cash
- 14 rewards. I just wanted to point that out,
- 15 because it doesn't seem to be the way the
- 16 process is supposed to work.
- Now I'll try to go quickly through
- 18 what I wrote. On November 5, my wife and three
- 19 young children joined me as we walked into the
- 20 East Boston High School to join the majority of
- 21 my neighbors in voting no to casino in our
- 22 neighborhood. The neighborhood of East Boston
- 23 is a special place. It's a family
- 24 neighborhood. We've had our three kids since

- 1 moving there eight and a half years ago. And
- 2 one of the things that we love about the
- 3 neighborhood is that it's full of families.
- 4 There are families who are growing
- 5 up in the same house that their grandparents
- 6 bought. There are families who came to our
- 7 country looking for safety, a place to work.
- 8 And they found a welcoming community in East
- 9 Boston.
- 10 There are families who want to live
- 11 and raise their kids in an active, diverse,
- 12 urban neighborhood. Unlike the center of the
- 13 city or the Seaport District we're in right
- 14 now, if you go to East Boston, you'll see
- 15 numerous schools filled with tomorrow's future
- 16 leaders. You'll see kids playing on the few
- 17 playgrounds that we do have. You'll see
- 18 families walking hand in hand down the street.
- 19 And I believe this is all true of Revere as
- 20 well.
- 21 Because East Boston is a family
- 22 neighborhood, my family joined the fight
- 23 against brining in an adult entertainment
- 24 complex to our neighborhood, to our

- 1 residential, hard-working neighborhood. And
- 2 since our elected politicians, they changed
- 3 their minds and started supporting expanded
- 4 gaming in the Commonwealth a few years ago
- 5 after being all against it previously, people
- 6 are only hearing one side of the story.
- 7 So, it was up to volunteers giving
- 8 up their time with family and their own free
- 9 time to share the well-documented problems that
- 10 casinos bring. So, our whole family engaged
- 11 our neighbors in conversation. We joined in
- 12 standouts and reminded people that we as the
- 13 people have the final say in this development,
- 14 at least that's what we were told.
- 15 You can imagine our excitement on
- 16 November 5 when East Boston said no. We said
- 17 no because we've borne enough burdens for the
- 18 state. We host the airport and all of the
- 19 traffic and pollution that it brings. We're
- 20 only connected to our city by tunnels and have
- 21 to pay a toll to go to our own City Hall.
- We have two drawbridges which grid
- 23 off the streets when they go up to let the
- 24 tankers through, these same tankers that

- 1 spilled oil in our rivers. We have a lack of
- 2 green space given our very dense population.
- 3 So, we said no. But does what we said matter?
- 4 Our vote wasn't even acknowledged
- 5 during your hearing on November 7 two days
- 6 later which was insulting. You didn't have a
- 7 plan for what to do if one of the neighborhoods
- 8 couldn't be bought by Suffolk Downs.
- 9 To you use your football analogy
- 10 Chairman, we stopped them on their final play
- 11 as time ran out but then you decided to take
- 12 the ball from our hands and give it to them and
- 13 add in an overtime period.
- So, I have a question for you. How
- 15 would you explain it to her six-year-old son
- 16 who has been right at your side through the
- 17 whole journey? What would you tell him after
- 18 you've followed all of the rules, the community
- 19 has said that they didn't want to casino at
- 20 Suffolk Downs and then they still can put a
- 21 casino at Suffolk Downs. That shouldn't happen
- 22 in democracy.
- Should I tell my son that money and
- 24 power always get their way? Should I tell him

- 1 that votes are a charade to make us feel like
- 2 our opinions matter? I want to instill more
- 3 hope in him than that and I'm sure each one of
- 4 you would too.
- So, I urge you to take the side of
- 6 the people who will bear the burden not the few
- 7 who will reap the rewards. The roads to a
- 8 casino at Suffolk Downs will always go through
- 9 our neighborhood no matter which side of the
- 10 track you put it on. East Boston doesn't want
- 11 to be a driveway to a casino. We've said it
- 12 loud and clear. So, please listen.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MS. MILLER: Good evening, Chairman
- 15 Crosby and members of the Mass. Gaming
- 16 Commission. My notes are a real mess, so I
- 17 hope I can get through this. My name is Gail
- 18 Miller and I've been an East Boston resident
- 19 since 1981 living in Orient Heights.
- 20 On November 5 I voted no on a
- 21 Suffolk Downs casino proposal. And I don't
- 22 know why I have to appear here today to plead
- 23 our position. What transpired before your
- 24 Commission allowing the proposal to go forward

- 1 by a new applicant with some of the same
- 2 players from the previous application stretches
- 3 the intent of the legislation in creating the
- 4 gaming bill.
- 5 Our elected officials Senator
- 6 Petrucelli, Representative Basile, City
- 7 Councilor LaMattina all agree that this was not
- 8 the way it was supposed to be. These three
- 9 electeds supported a casino at Suffolk Downs
- 10 strongly. After the vote, they respected our
- 11 vote.
- 12 I will speak on for the most part
- 13 some environmental issues. I am a founding
- 14 member of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, an
- 15 organization formed over 25 years ago to
- 16 protect, enhance and preserve Belle Isle Marsh
- 17 Reservation and its environs, which this casino
- 18 proposal is a part of. And Belle Isle Marsh
- 19 Reservation is a DCR property which is a
- 20 stone's throw away from this potential assault
- 21 on the environment, a casino at Suffolk Downs
- 22 property.
- This reservation while not entirely
- 24 managed by the DCR is about 360 acres. I am

- 1 not here speaking on behalf of the
- 2 organization, however, I am currently a board
- 3 member. Friends of Belle Isle did submit
- 4 comments on the environmental documents, which
- 5 Mohegan Sun conveniently borrowed from the
- 6 previous casino proposal for East Boston, even
- 7 though it's a new location, different impacts,
- 8 different applicant officially. I will add
- 9 that the two separate MEPA documents for the
- 10 relocated stable area and the casino itself
- 11 must be reviewed in its entirety not as
- 12 separate documents or separate proposals.
- In addition to concerns about this
- 14 smoke and mirror approach by way of these
- 15 environmental documents, they have not fully
- 16 outlined all of the impacts. For example, no
- 17 mention at all about the buses alone that will
- 18 be bringing thousands of folks to the area.
- 19 Where will they park? How many? Impacts on
- 20 air quality. This and other issues they say
- 21 they will get to later. And so it goes, we're
- 22 done with surprises.
- 23 Remembering that East Boston and
- 24 Chelsea are environmental justice communities,

- 1 it is the human environment that needs elevated
- 2 attention also. Belle Isle Marsh along with
- 3 parcels within this casino proposal and
- 4 abutting this proposal are designated as an
- 5 area of critical environmental concern. What
- 6 does that mean for this reservation that is the
- 7 largest remaining wetland in the city of
- 8 Boston?
- 9 It simply means that it should get
- 10 the ultimate concern regarding impacts
- 11 including the consideration for a no bill's
- 12 proposition if impacts cannot be managed.
- 13 Given the sensitive nature of this natural
- 14 resource within the confines of East Boston,
- 15 Winthrop and Revere, we don't believe you can
- 16 manage the impacts in a favorable manner.
- 17 Lighting alone 24/7 will change the
- 18 nesting and roosting patterns of our bird
- 19 population, which finds Belle Isle Marsh to be
- 20 an important stopover. Should one species
- 21 suffer, we all suffer.
- This site is surrounded by Sales
- 23 Creek, which Suffolk Downs has been cited for
- 24 as neglectfully polluting. The EPA cited

- 1 Suffolk Downs and of course they are making
- 2 amends and trying to clean up the area and take
- 3 care of business now after many years of
- 4 neglect. It's also bordered by a manmade
- 5 wetlands in the neighborhood that evolved in
- 6 the midst of the Global and Irving oil tanks
- 7 that is home to more seasonal and roosting
- 8 birds.
- 9 Impacts from a casino from noise and
- 10 pollution added pollution will most assuredly
- 11 affect the nesting and roosting habits of the
- 12 bird life alone, not to mention the other
- 13 wildlife the public sees less of.
- 14 While Revere has applied in February
- 15 for a \$4.8 million grant from the federal
- 16 government to improve the Sales Creek area,
- 17 there is not even a bona fide proposal from
- 18 this casino applicant to contribute in any
- 19 significant way to environmental improvements
- 20 to this entire site. For the city of Revere to
- 21 ask the federal government for a grant while
- 22 knowingly entertaining this casino proposal and
- 23 not mandating some resource improvements by the
- 24 developer is a travesty. Those that are

- 1 impacting the area get it pass on this front,
- 2 simply wrong.
- 3 The critical corridor that McClellan
- 4 Highway is designated as will invite probably
- 5 25,000 projected cars a day to this site
- 6 further fouling the air quality.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Ms.
- 8 Miller.
- 9 MS. ENGMAN: Good evening. My name
- 10 is Heather Engman. I am a resident of
- 11 Winthrop. And one thing that has occurred to
- 12 me as I've been listening to the testimony this
- evening is that we've been hearing an awful lot
- 14 about horseracing and jobs at the track. And
- 15 it occurred to me that the definition of gaming
- 16 establishment in the legislation includes all
- 17 amenities to the gaming establishment of which
- 18 the track is one.
- 19 So, this would seem to strongly
- 20 support the argument that Boston where the
- 21 track, the amenity to this gaming establishment
- 22 is located is also a host community, but I'm
- 23 really here to talk about Winthrop.
- I live in Winthrop with my husband

- 1 and my four-year-old daughter. And I'm gravely
- 2 concerned about my family's future in Winthrop
- 3 and about the future of Winthrop itself if the
- 4 casino moves in next door.
- 5 My husband and I bought a house in
- 6 Winthrop in 2008. And we quickly recognized
- 7 the opportunity for the house and the community
- 8 in Winthrop. Winthrop is a small town. It
- 9 really has that small-town feel where you know
- 10 all of your neighbors but it's located directly
- 11 adjacent to the city. It's really quick
- 12 commute into the city with access to the
- 13 subway. And Winthrop has really been a dream
- 14 come true for my husband and I because we never
- 15 thought we'd be able to afford to buy a home so
- 16 close to the city.
- 17 We have a house that we love. We've
- 18 gotten involved in the community. And we've
- 19 made very, very good friends in Winthrop. And
- 20 I'm devastated by the thought of a casino
- 21 moving in one mile away from my home and
- 22 jeopardizing the financial investment we've
- 23 made in our home and threatening the sense of
- 24 community that we've worked hard to build in

- 1 town.
- 2 I'm opposed to the casino for all of
- 3 the usual reasons including increased crime,
- 4 substance abuse, drunk drivers and decline in
- 5 property values. But I really want to focus on
- 6 the unique position that Winthrop is in. It's
- 7 a small town. We only have two roads in an out
- 8 of town, both of which are within a mile of the
- 9 casino. It's not going to be possible for
- 10 Winthrop residents to drive around the casino
- 11 or try to avoid the hassle in some way. There
- 12 is no other way to do it but to pass right by
- 13 and travel on Route 1A and Route 145. And it's
- 14 really put Winthrop in a compromised position
- 15 in terms of traffic.
- 16 Additionally, unlike other host
- 17 communities and surrounding communities which
- 18 cover a much larger geographic area, many of
- 19 the homes in Winthrop including mine are closer
- 20 to the Suffolk Downs property than are entire
- 21 neighborhoods in Revere. Given its proximity
- 22 to the casino, Winthrop will experience the
- 23 exact same adverse impacts as Revere and East
- 24 Boston, but one Winthrop as a community is

- 1 being forgotten and overlooked.
- 2 And most concerning to me is that
- 3 over the course of the last couple weeks, we've
- 4 learned from the Winthrop Town Council that
- 5 Mohegan Sun has demonstrated a complete
- 6 disregard for the town of Winthrop. Mohegan
- 7 Sun has indicated to our town officials that
- 8 there will be no adverse impacts on the town.
- 9 This statement is disingenuous and as a
- 10 homeowner in the community it's insulting.
- 11 Mohegan Sun has been unwilling to
- 12 acknowledge and discuss the impacts of the
- 13 casino that the casino would have with our town
- 14 councilors. And in the words of Town Councilor
- 15 President Peter Gill tonight, Mohegan Sun has
- 16 been truly unrealistic and insulting in its
- 17 treatment of Winthrop.
- 18 If Mohegan Sun is willing to
- 19 disregard, insult and mistreat Winthrop at this
- 20 stage in the process as it's trying to earn its
- 21 casino license and impress the Gaming
- 22 Commission, it will be even more likely to take
- 23 advantage of Winthrop and mistreat Winthrop
- 24 once it gets a license.

- 1 And based on the information we have
- 2 this far, it's clear that Mohegan Sun intends
- 3 to nickel and dime the working people of
- 4 Winthrop.
- 5 This is not unlike what's happening
- 6 in East Boston. Following the no vote on
- 7 November 5, Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun
- 8 immediately turned their backs on East Boston
- 9 residents and the needs of that community.
- 10 Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun are demonstrating
- 11 a complete disregard for their neighbors.
- 12 This is truly alarming. And I think
- often of statements that the Gaming Commission
- 14 has made and Chairman Crosby in particular that
- 15 communities that don't want to have a casino,
- 16 don't have to have one. And that's not the way
- 17 that this process seems to be playing out. The
- 18 Mohegan Sun Casino presents absolutely no
- 19 economic benefit to the town of Winthrop.
- 20 We have heard all night about the
- 21 proposed benefits, economic benefits,
- 22 development opportunities to other communities
- 23 but there aren't any for Winthrop.
- 24 And a last note, Winthrop already

- 1 hosts a portion of Logan Airport as well as the
- 2 MWRA treatment facility. The casino would be a
- 3 third problem and a third thing that needs to
- 4 be mitigated and it just isn't fair. Thank you
- 5 so much.
- 6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. I just
- 7 want to take a quick break here. It's now
- 8 about 9:20. We want to be respectful of your
- 9 all time. If you're registered to speak, would
- 10 you just raise your hand?
- So, we've got a bunch. We happy to
- 12 stay on for a while if you all prefer to do
- 13 that. If you feel like it would be better to
- 14 have another night, we could do that. If you'd
- 15 like to have us stay on, raise your hand, only
- 16 the speakers. If you are a speaker would you
- 17 like to stay, raise your hand. If you're a
- 18 speaker and you would like us to go home, raise
- 19 your hand. Let's give it a shot. So, let's
- 20 stick with it for a while and see how we do.
- Let's move on, Sir.
- MR. FIELDING: Hello, my name is
- 23 Stephen Fielding. And I'm here to speak on
- 24 behalf of the greatest generation. As the

- 1 Director of the Revere Rossetti-Cowan Senior
- 2 Center, I am positive that our senior
- 3 population will benefit greatly from Mohegan
- 4 Sun Casino.
- 5 The revenue generated for the city
- 6 of Revere will give Mayor Rizzo the financial
- 7 strength to do the following: he will be able
- 8 to earmark monies to refurbish and meet the
- 9 immediate needs of our current existing
- 10 building that is physically deteriorating. And
- in the not-too-distant future, build a new one-
- 12 level senior center that meets the needs of an
- increasing number of seniors, the fastest
- 14 growing segment of our population.
- This revenue will provide monies to
- 16 increase additional senior center staff that
- 17 will assist seniors enabling them to have a
- 18 more direct attentive array of services that
- 19 include informational, referral, medical and
- 20 healthcare opportunities. This revenue will
- 21 expand programs, services and activities in the
- 22 areas of health, nutrition, exercise,
- 23 education, lifestyle management and
- 24 entertainment.

- 1 This revenue will allow the hiring
- 2 of additional external instructors, specialized
- 3 medical and nursing professionals and other
- 4 experienced individuals in an ancillary number
- 5 of fields that are directly related to seniors.
- 6 This revenue will enable the senior
- 7 center to purchase customized technology driven
- 8 software such as MySeniorCenter.com, which is a
- 9 database tracking system and other 21st century
- 10 devices to monitor our senior population's
- 11 participatory involvement.
- 12 And finally, the revenue will
- increase our transportation services including
- 14 funding for drivers to accommodate the
- 15 escalating number and demand for rides to the
- 16 senior center, medical appointments, local
- 17 pharmacies, banks, library and other pertinent
- 18 places of business, giving seniors the ability
- 19 to remain independent and entrenched in
- 20 community living rather than isolation,
- 21 loneliness and despair.
- In conclusion, I ask you to
- 23 comprehend fully what this all means to the
- 24 senior population, what it means to the city

- 1 and the most treasured citizens that we have,
- 2 our seniors who have worked their entire lives
- 3 and deserve the utmost respect and benefits the
- 4 revenue from a Mohegan Sun destination resort
- 5 casino would bring. Thank you.
- 6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. I'm
- 7 going to read a few more names while you're
- 8 coming forward. And maybe everybody can try
- 9 hard to truncate their remarks and we can get
- 10 everybody in. Antonio Amaya, Jordan Schultz,
- 11 Kim Hanton, Stephen Fielding -- no Stephen
- 12 Fielding already spoke, William Jackson, Jesse
- 13 Purvis.
- MS. HANTON: Good evening, I'm sorry
- 15 it's so late. My name is Kim Hanton and I am
- 16 lifelong resident of Revere.
- 17 My professional career which spans
- 18 30 years as a behavioral health specialist has
- 19 been at a behavioral health agency within a
- 20 Revere site and within other neighboring
- 21 communities. I am the Director of Addiction
- 22 Services for North Suffolk Mental Health. I am
- 23 present to testify before you on Revere's
- 24 capacity to meet the needs of residents on a

- 1 topic that is not so glamorous, behavioral
- 2 health which includes addiction.
- Revere is a city that I have seen
- 4 identify their challenges and face them head-
- 5 on. How we do this is by listening,
- 6 identifying needs and building partnerships
- 7 with agencies, developing task force steering
- 8 committees and working closely with our
- 9 community coalition. Revere is not a city that
- 10 denies the existence of behavioral health
- 11 issues.
- 12 Several years ago, the opioid
- 13 epidemic that plagued New England was very
- 14 present in Revere. We the city of Revere
- 15 joined forces to combat this challenging
- 16 crisis. We did this when it was not such a
- 17 popular topic.
- 18 We are now a leading community
- 19 fighting this battle. We are the first city in
- 20 the nation to put equip our fire apparatus with
- 21 Narcan. Narcan is an intranasal pharmaceutical
- 22 used to reverse opioid overdose. Once again,
- 23 this was not a popular stand at that time.
- 24 Soon after that Revere was

- 1 identified as a leader in this undertaking. We
- 2 were approached by our neighbors Chelsea,
- 3 Saugus, and Winthrop to help organize and
- 4 support their mission to combat against opioid
- 5 overdose. This started out as a goodwill
- 6 approach to our neighbors and now it is a
- 7 regional partnership supported by the
- 8 Department of Public Health and the Bureau of
- 9 Substance Abuse through a grant.
- I testify to this because I believe
- 11 this shows the Commission that when Revere has
- 12 the opportunity to grow and establish
- 13 strategies to develop a healthy community,
- 14 Revere shares the wealth and their knowledge
- 15 and commitment. We have the infrastructure and
- 16 the commitment from our leadership to continue
- 17 our journey in being healthy.
- 18 So, I say yes to Revere and Suffolk
- 19 Downs and Mohegan Sun's partnership for this
- 20 would provide Revere and our neighbors the
- 21 funding to support healthy communities. Thank
- 22 you.
- 23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 24 Matthew Morano, Brian Perrin, Astrid Weins,

- 1 Hakim Cunningham, Bob Marra, any of you folks,
- 2 if you've heard your name please come up, Ariel
- 3 Schmidt.
- 4 MR. MORANO: Good evening. I will
- 5 try to keep this brief. My name is Matthew
- 6 Morano and I'm opposed to a Mohegan Sun Casino
- 7 at Suffolk Downs.
- 8 Over the past two years I've worked
- 9 to fight a casino at Suffolk Downs along with
- 10 hundreds of other dedicated individuals who
- 11 volunteered thousands of hours of their time.
- 12 To be clear, there is no money to be had in
- 13 opposing the casino and there is nothing for --
- 14 There is only something very
- 15 significant for us to lose. And the stakes are
- 16 very high for our communities. I believe that
- 17 a casino at Suffolk Downs will have negative
- 18 impacts on Revere, East Boston and Winthrop
- 19 with increases in crime, addiction, traffic and
- 20 pollution rates. These communities already
- 21 bear the burden of an expanding airport, major
- 22 highways and tunnels and a regional sewage
- 23 treatment plant. When is enough enough?
- I also believe that Mohegan Sun and

- 1 Suffolk Downs lack the legitimacy to proceed
- 2 with a casino license application. The gaming
- 3 legislation clearly states that if a proposed
- 4 casino is located in more than one city or town
- 5 it must win a referendum vote in both
- 6 communities. East Boston voted no.
- 7 Similarly, Mohegan Sun failed to win
- 8 its vote in Palmer. Despite these failures and
- 9 in violation of the gaming legislation and the
- 10 Mass. Gaming Commission's own application
- 11 timelines, we find ourselves here again
- 12 tonight. We are now presented with a shotgun
- 13 marriage between two losing casino proponents
- 14 who each spent millions of dollars in making
- 15 their case to voters but failed to win the
- 16 required elections.
- 17 Mohegan Sun is a third-tier regional
- 18 casino operator with a questionable capital
- 19 partner. Meanwhile, Suffolk Downs has shown a
- 20 blatant disregard for voters in East Boston,
- 21 the gaming legislation and the Mass. Gaming
- 22 Commission.
- 23 Together this ragtag team has put
- 24 forward a half-baked plan for a low-rise

- 1 sprawling gambling shack that would be
- 2 established in densely settled neighborhoods.
- 3 Is this the best we can do in Greater Boston?
- 4 Is this the type of operation we want to grant
- 5 a license to print money?
- To my knowledge, no other proposed
- 7 casino in the Commonwealth has generated this
- 8 amount of opposition nor has any other proposed
- 9 casino applicant received as many second
- 10 chances and waivers as the Mohegan/Suffolk
- 11 Downs team. It is time for the preferential
- 12 treatment to stop and for all applicants to
- 13 play by the same set of rules. It is time to
- 14 reject the Mohegan Sun Casino project at
- 15 Suffolk Downs. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: If your name has
- 17 been read, just please stand up and get in
- 18 line. Sir, was your name read? William
- 19 Jackson, I read your name. You can just come
- 20 up. You go ahead and then Mr. Jackson can go
- 21 next. If I read your name, you are invited to
- 22 come up front and speak.
- MR. MARRA: My name is Bob Marra. I
- 24 live in Hyde Park. I work at Cambridge Health

- 1 Alliance, a health system across the river. I
- 2 work primarily in Everett doing community
- 3 health work, which means whatever the community
- 4 decides is health work.
- 5 And one of the priorities in our
- 6 community is working with people coming back
- 7 from prison to home. And I work very closely
- 8 with our doctors who refer patients who have
- 9 that background. And I work with Cambridge,
- 10 Somerville and Everett police with those folks.
- 11 And jobs are critically important.
- 12 I'm trying to help with the jobs and housing.
- 13 And as many of you know, especially a few of
- 14 you up here that's a really tough assignment.
- 15 This casino is very important but the
- 16 legislation as currently written, as you also
- 17 know is not going to help a lot of those folks
- 18 unless it's changed. Your staff is working
- 19 very closely with us. I work with Action for
- 20 Regional Equity. We really appreciate that.
- 21 The testimony has already been submitted on
- 22 that. Some folks are going to talk tomorrow,
- 23 including my good friend former city Councilor
- 24 Chuck Turner.

- 1 I just want to make one other
- 2 comment about the assignment you've been given,
- 3 which is not only to locate these casinos which
- 4 I think you're going to do well, like I think
- 5 you're going to do well with people coming home
- 6 from prison.
- 7 Everybody also seems like they want
- 8 you to solve the problems of poverty in our
- 9 respective low income communities. In
- 10 Springfield, in Everett, in Chelsea, in Revere,
- 11 I think that's a little tough assignment. And
- 12 I was just thinking about that tonight as I was
- 13 listening to folks and what might help do that.
- 14 I am dressed like this, not in my finery
- 15 because I just came from Baltimore visiting my
- 16 daughter and visiting a good friend of mine who
- 17 I went to high school and college with, a BC
- 18 grad.
- 19 He spent 30 years overseas in
- 20 African Indonesia working for Catholic Relief.
- 21 He came home only to be the number two guy at
- 22 Catholic Relief working for a good Bostonian
- 23 which some of you may know, Ken, the guy who is
- 24 also the ambassador to the Vatican right now.

- 1 As he told me, the ambassador's over there
- 2 right now working with the President, working
- 3 with the Pope trying to deal with this problem
- 4 of poverty. Trying to get folks to share what
- 5 they have with folks who don't have anywhere
- 6 near as much.
- 7 And as we all know, there are a lot
- 8 of people in our communities who have a lot who
- 9 need to share that. And I think you see the
- 10 people together here, I heard a few people
- 11 testify today that wouldn't it be amazing if we
- 12 could all work together. We all have similar
- 13 feelings I think about this issue and trying to
- 14 help our communities. If we could work
- 15 together including the people like you
- 16 including -- If you go back to your public
- 17 policy institute, which I hope you will after
- 18 this gig, and you work with my former boss, I
- 19 think we might have a shot at dealing with this
- 20 a lot better than these sorts of revenues that
- 21 come from casinos that come from soda that come
- 22 from cigarettes that come from alcohol.
- That seems to be the only thing that
- 24 we collectively can agree on. Let's get those

- 1 sin tax revenues. Let's not go after the tough
- 2 things, the money that a lot of us do have. I
- 3 think if we worked on that together we won't be
- 4 needing casinos to solve all of our problems.
- 5 And I think I'll just leave with
- 6 that. I think there's a better way. I think
- 7 if we go home and work a little harder in a
- 8 different way we might solve the problems that
- 9 people are all looking for you to solve that
- 10 you can't solve.
- I think you're doing a great job
- 12 actually with what you've got dealt with you.
- 13 I think you got dealt not a very good hand,
- 14 which some of us gave you. But give it a shot,
- 15 help those folks coming out of jail. They need
- 16 some help. Thanks.
- 17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
- 18 Marra. Mr. Jackson.
- MR. JACKSON: My name is Bill
- 20 Jackson. I am from Revere. I want to thank
- 21 you members of the Gaming Commission for giving
- the people of Revere the opportunity to express
- 23 their views on our community as a host
- 24 community for the Mohegan Sun resort and

- 1 casino.
- 2 My theme today is ask not what the
- 3 resort casino can do for Revere, ask what
- 4 Revere can do for the resort casino. You see,
- 5 Revere has been a host community for decades,
- 6 welcoming tens of thousands if not millions of
- 7 people to spend their leisure time or even
- 8 vacation time in our city, an afternoon at
- 9 Wonderland Amusement Park or perhaps the
- 10 Greyhound racing track or Suffolk Downs
- 11 thoroughbred racing track.
- 12 And on a personal note, every year
- 13 my three brothers and I as well as some of
- 14 their children gather at Suffolk Downs on
- 15 Kentucky Derby day for an afternoon of racing a
- 16 tradition of 20 years or more, which helps to
- 17 keep us together as a family. And of course,
- 18 the beautiful Revere Beach, it has been
- 19 proposed by me that trolley cars will bring
- 20 visitors from their hotels to the beach for a
- 21 day of swimming or just to walk the beach.
- 22 Picture if you will, the trolleys going down
- 23 Revere Beach with people getting on and off.
- 24 Perhaps to visit a restaurant on the

- 1 beach or one of the many excellent ethnic
- 2 restaurants on Shirley Avenue. And yes, the
- 3 world famous Kelly's Roast Beef. As a
- 4 destination resort, people from around the
- 5 country will come not for a day or an evening
- 6 but rather for several days as a vacation.
- 7 The entertainment industry is in the
- 8 blood of thousands of our citizens. Why?
- 9 Because most of the people who work or worked
- 10 in the entertainment industry, which I just
- 11 outlined some of that are or were Revere
- 12 citizens. We are ready and rearing to go.
- 13 Even today, we remain a welcoming community.
- I am proud to be a member of the
- 15 Office of New Revere residents -- And that
- 16 document I gave you is a little outline. -- an
- 17 organization established by Mayor Rizzo who in
- 18 his campaign promised to form a group to
- 19 welcome people from around the world to Revere
- 20 and he did.
- 21 Let me quote from our mission
- 22 statement whose slogan is all together Revere.
- 23 Our goal is to successfully welcome and
- 24 integrate new citizens from around the world

- 1 into the civic, economic, social and cultural
- 2 life of Revere. From Peru, Chile, Brazil,
- 3 across the ocean to Greece, Indonesia, Morocco,
- 4 Egypt, Thailand and beyond, they have come and
- 5 they are ready to join the Mohegan Sun
- 6 organization in Revere.
- 7 And let me mention something,
- 8 several of these people who I know personally,
- 9 come with college degrees, Master's degrees and
- 10 beyond. Lady and gentlemen, thank you for
- 11 listening. May I close on a historic note.
- 12 Revere takes its name from --
- 13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
- 14 Jackson.
- MR. JACKSON: -- the British are
- 16 coming, the British are coming, no, the casinos
- 17 are coming, the casinos are coming and they're
- 18 coming to Revere.
- 19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Brian Perrin,
- 20 Astrid Weins, hang on just one second, Hakim
- 21 Cunningham, Ariel Schmidt, Barry Kaplovitz,
- 22 Lisa Alberghini.
- DR. WEINS: Good evening. Thank you
- 24 for letting me speak tonight. My name is Dr.

- 1 Astrid Weins. I am a wife. I'm a mother and I
- 2 am also a physician at Brigham and Women's
- 3 Hospital and I am a homeowner and a resident of
- 4 the surrounded community of Winthrop.
- 5 As opposed to a lot of the East
- 6 Boston residents who spoke tonight and stated
- 7 that they don't know why they're here because
- 8 they voted no, I know why I am here. Why am I
- 9 here? Because this casino will be closer to my
- 10 home than it would be to the homes of many
- 11 Revere residents. And we as opposed to them
- 12 had no vote. No one has ever asked for our
- 13 input in the process.
- 14 Winthrop is now in the unfortunate
- 15 position of having to negotiate for mitigation
- 16 a projected impact resulting from plans we had
- 17 no part in. Impacts that are extremely hard if
- 18 not impossible to predict on our community. It
- 19 is this uncertainty that scares me and my
- 20 family the most.
- 21 On top of that, recent events have
- 22 not instilled a lot of confidence into the
- 23 fairness of the process. While I sympathize
- 24 greatly with a lot of the proponents speaking

- 1 tonight, to me, the benefits I heard about
- 2 tonight for every single one of them I can add
- 3 in my head but not to Winthrop.
- 4 My fellow Winthrop residents have
- 5 already alluded to a large number of diverse
- 6 negative impacts on our daily life and our
- 7 community as a whole, all of which are
- 8 aggravated by Winthrop's unique geographic
- 9 location.
- 10 As a physician and as a scientist, I
- 11 see my obligation to my town and drawing your
- 12 attention to some important and in my opinion
- 13 greatly underestimated local community health
- 14 issues in Winthrop caused by a gambling
- 15 operation of this size in a densely populated
- 16 area like ours. I am not a public health
- 17 specialist.
- The following points represent my
- 19 personal opinion. However, it does not take
- 20 much imagination to envision the detrimental
- 21 effects for Winthrop. Winthrop is already
- 22 severely underserved from a local community
- 23 health standpoint. We have very few primary
- 24 care practitioners in town. We have no

- 1 emergency or urgent care treatment centers.
- 2 Therefore, we heavily rely on communities like
- 3 Revere and also of course Boston with its
- 4 world-class medical facilities for our medical
- 5 care.
- 6 Traffic congestion due to a large
- 7 entertainment complex like this casino would
- 8 not only compromise our access to these
- 9 facilities, it would also interfere with
- 10 ambulance care coming into our town including
- 11 but not limited to services to our senior
- 12 residents, and even more importantly emergency
- 13 medical services.
- Just imagine having a baby or even
- 15 worse experiencing a stroke or a heart attack
- 16 in Winthrop while a big event at the casino
- 17 complex floods the streets. What would direct
- 18 implications of a casino to Winthrop public
- 19 health consist of? Frankly, tonight is the
- 20 first time that I've heard a colleague mention
- the words casino and health benefits or health
- 22 improvements in the same sentence. The only
- 23 worst thing I can think of is someone saying
- 24 that a casino will solve the problem of

- 1 gambling addiction.
- 2 Moreover, as thoroughly documented
- 3 by a large body of peer-reviewed studies in the
- 4 medical literature, gambling is closely
- 5 associated with alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse
- 6 prostitution, obesity, nutritional habits --
- 7 poor nutritional habits and last but not least
- 8 all facets of mental illness, which we haven't
- 9 really talked about at all tonight. All of
- 10 these adverse effects have clearly been shown
- 11 to be the most severe within a radius of 10
- 12 miles surrounding a casino. Winthrop would
- 13 clearly be located within that radius.
- 14 I predict that the Winthrop
- 15 community health system would be absolutely
- 16 ill-prepared and overwhelmed by even the
- 17 mildest increase in these issues because we
- 18 don't get the mitigation that we deserve.
- 19 Quite frankly, I'm very concerned
- 20 about this. Of particular concern are also
- 21 environmental hazards, which have already been
- 22 alluded to tonight. So, I'm not going to
- 23 mention them again. Winthrop's energy supply
- 24 delivery infrastructure is dated. Disruption

- 1 of gas and electricity service during
- 2 construction can be anticipated.
- Noise would be produced, airborne
- 4 dust chemicals and other compounds would be
- 5 released into the environment. Air pollution
- 6 would result also from the traffic. These
- 7 environmental hazards have the potential to
- 8 exacerbate chronic diseases and allergies in
- 9 our population, particularly prevalent in
- 10 seniors and children.
- So, taken together not only does a
- 12 casino conflict with my idea of community
- 13 revitalization in Winthrop, it potentially
- 14 undermines all of the efforts that are already
- 15 being made. As a result, at the very least I
- 16 want to see a casino as far away from my home
- 17 as possible. Thank you for letting us share
- 18 our concerns tonight.
- 19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Dr.
- 20 Weins. As this gentleman comes forward, Ariel
- 21 Schmidt, Barry Kaplovitz, Lisa Alberghini,
- 22 Richard Dolan, Paul Umbrello.
- MR. SCHMIDT: Good evening, Mr.
- 24 Chairman. I am Ariel Schmidt from Leominster,

- 1 Massachusetts. Yes, we did vote yes for the
- 2 slot machines.
- 3 Respected members of the
- 4 Massachusetts Gaming Commission, I'm
- 5 representing Schmidt Printing from Worcester to
- 6 express our support for the Mohegan Sun project
- 7 in Revere.
- 8 On the 17 December was the first
- 9 vendor meeting that we participated in. During
- 10 the second part of that vendor meeting, we had
- 11 a one-on-one meeting. And during that meeting
- 12 I expressed to Mr. Supranod (PHONETIC) that we
- 13 were a certified Hispanic minority company
- 14 doing business in the Greater Boston Metro
- 15 area. Two days after that, I received an
- 16 invitation from Mohegan Sun to meet with their
- 17 Mohegan Sun purchasing department on the 7
- 18 January.
- 19 Resulting from this meeting, we
- 20 received specifications for several
- 21 publications that are used in the Mohegan Sun
- 22 Casino operation in Connecticut. We submitted
- 23 pricing and we were told that we would be part
- 24 of the vendors if the vote of the Commission

- 1 was given to them. Demonstrating Mohegan Sun's
- 2 commitment to the minority vendors, Schmidt
- 3 Printing is currently participating now in an
- 4 RFP for printing for an upcoming Mohegan Sun
- 5 event in Connecticut.
- 6 Geetle (PHONETIC) Services, Inc. is
- 7 a Fitchburg minority company doing business in
- 8 the Boston Metro area also. They had a very
- 9 warm welcome at the February 4th vendor forum
- 10 in Revere. Even though both of our companies
- 11 are outside the 15- mile area, we do
- 12 participate in Region A.
- 13 At the last Thursday's meeting event
- 14 that El Mundo, a Boston Hispanic newspaper held
- 15 the Latino career Expo and the professional
- 16 mixer, Mohegan Sun was the only casino sponsor
- 17 helping with this promotion for the Hispanic
- 18 minorities.
- I believe that Mohegan Sun's Revere
- 20 project is the correct project for you to
- 21 support. Not only on their diligence in
- 22 seeking out minorities throughout Region A but
- 23 also to the ethics that they have demonstrated
- in all of Mohegan Sun's three other venues.

- 1 I hope that the respected members of
- 2 the Massachusetts Gaming Committee choose
- 3 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts to bring new jobs, to
- 4 sustain present jobs at Suffolk Downs, to bring
- 5 economic opportunity to the entire Region A and
- 6 economic growth to minority businesses and
- 7 their employees. Muchas gracias.
- 8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 9 Richard Dolan, Paul Umbrello, Patricia Noonan,
- 10 Jaimie McNeil.
- MS. ALBERGHINI: Members of the
- 12 Commission, thank you very much for the
- 13 opportunity to speak. My name is Lisa
- 14 Alberghini and I live in Winthrop.
- 15 And I have to say, I'm delighted to
- 16 have heard the woman who spoke just before me,
- 17 apparently a neighbor whom I didn't know. And
- 18 I made a new friend. I also did not vote no on
- 19 November 5 because I'm from Winthrop and we
- 20 weren't given the chance to vote, despite the
- 21 fact that I live closer than two-thirds of the
- 22 residents in Revere.
- So, I didn't vote no, because I
- 24 didn't have the chance. But I do know why I am

- 1 here tonight. And that's because of the
- 2 disingenuous and fatally flawed process so well
- 3 described by many before me. That would be the
- 4 polite way to say it, I think. Many people
- 5 here support the casino for jobs they believe
- 6 will be saved or created. I sure hope that
- 7 that comes true, that that holds true if in
- 8 fact a casino comes, which it shouldn't.
- 9 But experience shows that promises
- 10 of jobs do not hold true. I want to speak
- 11 briefly on two things tonight. You should deny
- 12 any license in Eastern Massachusetts, across
- 13 the Commonwealth, I believe, but especially in
- 14 Eastern Massachusetts because of how densely
- 15 populated the area is.
- 16 And secondly, if a license is
- 17 granted, you have the obligation to ensure that
- 18 mitigation to all surrounding communities is
- 19 adequate. And tonight I'm going to speak about
- 20 Winthrop. On the first point you should deny
- 21 the license because of countless concerns that
- 22 have not been addressed by Mohegan Sun. It's
- 23 so hard to spend more time on this because
- 24 you've heard it and I have so little time.

- 1 Gambling addiction rates double,
- 2 rates and assaults and crime and everything
- 3 increases. In the areas where Mohegan Sun and
- 4 Foxwoods casinos operate, the five surrounding
- 5 towns have crime increase of over 21 percent
- 6 from pre-casino times. And these influences
- 7 especially should not be allowed near schools.
- 8 There's a school within 1000 feet of this
- 9 casino and many, many more within a couple of
- 10 miles.
- 11 Traffic impacts will be severe. You
- 12 have the ability to decide to deny both Revere
- 13 and Everett proposals. There is no
- 14 requirement that the Mass. Gaming Commission,
- 15 of course you know, grant three licenses, in
- 16 fact that you grant any.
- 17 You have the opportunity to do that
- 18 but not the obligation. And you have to look
- 19 at the impacts. And in doing so, I think that
- 20 they point to denying both of these
- 21 application.
- On the second point of mitigation,
- 23 if a casino license is granted in that
- 24 unfortunate event, mitigation is required

- 1 under. Winthrop is not getting adequate
- 2 compensation. In traffic, you heard it before,
- 3 Winthrop is a peninsula. It has one road in
- 4 and one road out. And God forbid, as the woman
- 5 before me just spoke, God forbid someone be
- 6 stuck in Winthrop in a life-threatening
- 7 situation and not be able to get out of town.
- 8 I understand traffic studies. I'm a
- 9 developer. My husband's a developer and on the
- 10 planning board. We see traffic studies done
- 11 all of the time. We know that they can show a
- 12 particular bias as any study can. And even
- 13 with the peer-review that Mohegan Sun says has
- 14 been done here, the thought, the notion that
- 15 the very community potentially suffering the
- 16 effect is not provided with the funding to
- 17 undertake a review on their own is absurd.
- 18 And if you look at other laws in
- 19 Massachusetts like 40B, communities can require
- 20 developers to pay for those kinds of studies.
- 21 On mitigation proposals, again two-thirds of
- 22 the people in Revere live further away from the
- 23 proposed casino than my neighbors, but they're
- 24 getting tens of millions of dollars annually in

- 1 mitigation and we are getting a pathetic
- 2 fraction of that.
- What's worse is an inference by
- 4 Mohegan Sun that just because they have reached
- 5 agreements with seven of the 10 surrounding
- 6 communities Winthrop should also accept
- 7 whatever they decide to give us. The seven of
- 8 the 10 surrounding communities are three and a
- 9 half to almost 11 miles away. And Mohegan Sun
- 10 says that we are comparable to them. That's an
- insult at best to be considered comparable to a
- 12 community that is 11 miles further away is
- 13 completely insulting.
- 14 Certainly, Revere is getting a lot
- 15 as you've heard here tonight. It seems Mohegan
- 16 Sun works to satisfy those they need and then
- 17 they disregard everybody else. And I actually
- 18 believe that the odds in fact are against
- 19 Revere in terms of getting what they think that
- 20 they're actually going to get.
- 21 I really applaud the courageous
- 22 people of East Boston for their struggle to
- 23 protect their communities. But Mohegan Sun's
- 24 job is to make money for themselves and their

- 1 investors. And it does not get any more
- 2 complicated than that. Your job and our job is
- 3 to protect our communities. I think that that
- 4 -- I'm hoping that your decisions will lead to
- 5 that.
- One last thing, I haven't much time.
- 7 Please hold a hearing in Winthrop. It's not
- 8 good that people have left here tonight. It's
- 9 not good that we've been asked to truncate our
- 10 comments. It is incredible that we have this
- 11 one opportunity to state our concerns for all
- 12 of the surrounding communities.
- 13 CHAIRMAN CRSOBY: Thank you.
- MR. DOLAN: Hi, my name is Richard
- 15 Dolan. And I know why I'm here. I'm here to
- 16 speak on behalf of Mohegan Sun. My note will
- 17 take two minutes.
- 18 Revere used to be known as the Miami
- 19 of the North. We even planted pine trees at
- 20 the end of the beach. That area became known
- 21 as the Point of Pines. Alas, the winter took
- 22 care of those pine trees. We had over a mile
- 23 of beachfront amusements, hotels, nightclubs,
- 24 dance halls, one located at the end of a pier.

- 1 A movie theater, food and ice cream plus frozen
- 2 custard, arcades, two rollercoasters and summer
- 3 cottages. We had Jerry Vale, Rodney
- 4 Dangerfield, Barbara Streisand, Frank Sinatra,
- 5 Wayne Newton and Count Basie and his band of
- 6 renowned, among others too many to list, all
- 7 performing at the Frolic Nightclub.
- 8 Our two-and-a-half mile Crescent
- 9 Beach drew up to 50,000 or more people that
- 10 enjoyed our beach for sun and surf every
- 11 weekend. Yes, we were a vacation destination
- 12 that I am sure everyone in this room and the
- 13 city of Revere remembers.
- 14 Part of Suffolk Downs located within
- 15 our city is home for thoroughbred racing going
- on 80 years, the only thoroughbred racetrack in
- 17 New England. Without a casino, this track will
- 18 close. Revere is the only city in the state,
- in the state that has voted yes by more than 60
- 20 percent twice. How many times do we have to
- 21 vote yes before it finally sinks in that we
- 22 want Mohegan Sun?
- We want to be a destination city
- 24 once again. Mohegan Sun will make that happen.

- 1 It is time to stop talking and start building.
- 2 I am a lifelong Revere resident going on 75
- 3 years. And I want to compliment everybody for
- 4 being here for six hours. That's how
- 5 passionate we are. Thank you for listening to
- 6 me. And I'm Richard Dolan. Thank you.
- 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dolan.
- 8 MR. UMBRELLO: Good evening, Mr.
- 9 Chairman, members of the Commission. I thank
- 10 everybody for staying late. But I have a great
- 11 speech, not a lot of people left to hear it,
- 12 but I appreciate those who stuck around. I'm
- 13 Paul Umbrello. I'm owner and managing partner
- 14 of Charles River Racing Stables. I'm here
- 15 today to talk on behalf of myself and the
- 16 hundreds of race horse partners that I manage
- 17 within my stable.
- I know as members of the board, you
- 19 have a tough decision to make in awarding
- 20 Everett or Revere the casino license. In my
- 21 opinion, it's a matter of weighing out the
- 22 existing situation. If we take Lady Justice
- 23 and our two scales, we know in Everett and
- 24 Revere we can add a resort casino. We can add

- 1 the construction jobs. We can add the casino
- 2 jobs, the road improvements and the revenue
- 3 both cities will generate.
- 4 For me what tips the scale in favor
- of Revere and Mohegan, it's the retention as we
- 6 hear of those existing jobs, some outside the
- 7 track operations, the trainers, our vets, the
- 8 jockeys which again they'll rent from local
- 9 neighboring cities, apartments, housing and
- 10 whatnot. Again, revenue coming into the towns,
- 11 not just the track, not just the casino. Your
- 12 grooms, your feed suppliers, and I'm going list
- them all because it's important, the farriers,
- 14 your tack guys, our transporters that move our
- 15 horses, the wait staff at the track, your
- 16 tellers, the hostesses, your track announcers,
- 17 track handicappers, all of the admin., your
- 18 food and beverage suppliers, track staff
- 19 itself, our track photographer, the list
- 20 continues. This is hundreds of jobs and
- 21 millions dollars in existing revenue.
- 22 For many if not most of these
- 23 individuals, this is all they've ever known.
- 24 Without the marriage of Mohegan and Revere

- 1 casino and Suffolk Downs, I can't see the track
- 2 continue to operate. Some people lose their
- 3 jobs, some will have to relocate, which I
- 4 already know their families, their businesses
- 5 to other states to compete at racetracks
- 6 elsewhere.
- 7 Sell their farms, loss of homes, how
- 8 does that continue to help this economy and
- 9 this Commonwealth? Me, personally I
- 10 potentially will be out of business. My
- 11 business alone over the years has contributed
- 12 hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the
- industry outside of the track, again to my
- 14 trainers, to the vet, the feed guys. I
- 15 advertise locally. I buy merchandise in power
- 16 for my partners with local businesses. My
- 17 racing silks I can buy overseas, out of state,
- 18 I buy locally. I contribute back. Again, not
- 19 just the casino, not just the track.
- 20 I also have at this time, again
- 21 supporting the industry, a verbal commitment
- 22 from a breeder in Kentucky who is willing to
- 23 come to Massachusetts, acquire land and
- 24 continue and contribute to the Mass. breeding

- 1 program. Again, more jobs more revenue.
- 2 Two comments I want to make that are
- 3 not a part of my speech, and I'll simplify this
- 4 before closing. I hear people say that the
- 5 casino will take away from revenue or hosting
- 6 community or other communities. I'll make it
- 7 as simple as this and I hope the message is
- 8 clear.
- 9 At the end of the day, when I'm done
- 10 at the races, I'll go over to the Stop and Shop
- and buy 40 to 50 pounds of organic carrots, not
- 12 the regular ones. And when you look at that
- audit trail of those carrots, it's going to go
- 14 back to a farm, who's then going to take a
- 15 supplier to transport those carrots to a
- 16 distribution warehouse. Who is then going to
- 17 bring that to your Stop and Shop, who is then
- 18 going to have somebody which could be anybody
- 19 in this room or who was here earlier that's
- 20 going to stock that on the shelf. So, that
- 21 when I grab it and I check out to that cashier
- 22 and then walk back to the track to feed my
- 23 horses, that dollar and it's a small amount,
- 24 again not just the casino, not just the

- 1 racetrack, has an impact to the community as a
- whole.
- In closing, I know that the people
- 4 at Suffolk Downs are like one big family. We
- 5 know each other by our first names. As an
- 6 owner, it's very exciting winning a race. And
- 7 if we don't, most of us we congratulate the
- 8 other owners and the trainer in good
- 9 sportsmanship.
- 10 For me this is one race we all need
- 11 to win. We can do that if Revere and Mohegan
- 12 is awarded the casino license. And I have to
- 13 make, which is not here and I was going to say
- 14 thank you for your time. I have to make within
- 15 that last minute, because I keep hearing it,
- 16 for me who goes to a casino but more to the
- 17 track, I hear references of crime, drug abuse,
- 18 alcoholism, drunk driving, please don't label
- 19 me. I take offense to that. And that's me and
- 20 there's many others. I challenge those to come
- 21 see the other side of the industry. And again,
- 22 I thank you for your time.
- 23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- MR. KAPLOVITZ: Thank you, my name

- 1 is Barry Kaplovitz. I'm from Winthrop.
- 2 A little more than three decades
- 3 ago, I had a passing acquaintance with Chairman
- 4 Crosby. Let me just say that it's a brave man
- 5 who takes a job that will almost insure that
- for the rest of his natural life he'll be named
- 7 as a defendant in numerous lawsuits.
- 8 I'm going to start out with a quick
- 9 thing. One of the great services the
- 10 Commission did was they put online the Mohegan
- 11 Sun presentation. I just want to work off of
- 12 that because there are an enormous number of
- 13 internal inconsistencies. And it would be very
- 14 useful for the Commission to actually review
- 15 the YouTube video that you actually sat while
- 16 it was being presented to you.
- 17 They say what we do here will make
- 18 Revere remarkable again. For Winthrop it will
- 19 make daily life nearly unnavigable. They say
- 20 that they will draw enormous numbers of
- 21 customers to their casino because the public
- 22 transportation access is unprecedented, their
- 23 word, unprecedented in our industry.
- So, I want to ask Commissioner

- 1 Cameron, Boston lives under a mushroom cloud of
- 2 college students, many of whom are good at
- 3 Adobe Photoshop, a lot of fake IDs, a lot of
- 4 high-quality fake IDs. A lot of students who
- 5 don't finish in four years. A lot of 21-year-
- 6 old juniors, 22-year-old juniors, 24-year-old
- 7 seniors. And they're going to be taking the
- 8 trains, some of them and they're legal to
- 9 Mohegan Sun. And there are going to be a lot
- 10 of 18 and 19 and 20-year-old freshman and
- 11 sophomores who are going to have those fake
- 12 IDs. And they're going to be taking the train
- 13 to Mohegan Sun.
- 14 And the police chief in Revere said,
- 15 and he was very thoughtful about it that his
- 16 policemen will be facing out. So, what kind of
- 17 TSA type operation will you have to checking
- 18 IDs at this casino? When college students go
- 19 to a Beyoncé concert at TD North Garden and
- 20 decide to hit the casino at 11 or 12 or one in
- 21 the morning. And now that Mayor Walsh would
- 22 like to get the T to run close to 24 hours a
- 23 day, what are you going to do when they leave
- 24 at 3:30 in the morning, and some of them have

- 1 gambled, and some of them have drank and
- they're underage or maybe not underage.
- And they're in a bad mood as they
- 4 hit the T station and they get on the Blue
- 5 Line. Your sign says you're introducing the
- 6 Commonwealth to successful and ethical
- 7 development of expanded gaming. But in fact,
- 8 you are injecting a casino into the economy and
- 9 the social ecology of Eastern Massachusetts.
- 10 So, I would like to know -- They
- 11 said in their video 600,070 already in the MS
- 12 database, the Momentum numbers. Let's say they
- double it and they make it 1,200,000, well,
- 14 half to one percent of that is about 8- or 9000
- 15 people who could become problem gamblers and
- 16 maybe even pathologically problem gamblers.
- 17 They're talking about 4000 jobs at the casino,
- 18 2500 construction jobs, saving roughly 1500
- 19 jobs in Revere. So, you're going to trade 9000
- 20 jobs that you are going to create -- You're
- 21 going to create 9000 jobs and you might create
- as many as 9000 problem gamblers in their 3.7
- 23 million adults within 60 miles of Revere.
- So, my question is this plan feels

- 1 like two college students, juniors who chose a
- 2 major and at the end of their junior year
- 3 realized they weren't going to succeed at this
- 4 major and they changed their majors. It was
- 5 Suffolk Sterling and Mohegan Sun/Palmer, and
- 6 now it's Mohegan Sun/Revere. I don't know
- 7 whether they can do this.
- 8 Let's stipulate that they can
- 9 created a lexus in Uncasville, Connecticut but
- 10 they've never sited a casino within five miles
- of a city of 650,000 people. And in fact,
- 12 they've only really sited one casino in a
- 13 community of about 50,000 people, which is
- 14 really when you add Scranton -- I'm sorry
- 15 Atlantic City, which they really took over a
- 16 casino operation. And in Scranton and Wilkes-
- 17 Barre, they have about 18,000 people, about the
- 18 size of Winthrop. And Scranton is 15 miles
- 19 away. Wilkes-Barre is five. How experienced
- 20 are they really at siting these casinos?
- 21 They say they know how to do this,
- 22 but your job will be to scrub not only the
- 23 numbers that they project for revenue that
- 24 they'll yield, but how will they deal with a

- 1 smash and grab robbery in their realty section
- 2 -- I mean in their retail section where
- 3 somebody runs out on the street afterwards,
- 4 gets into a get-away car and rush into driving
- 5 fast through the streets of East Boston. Those
- 6 are the problems I want to hear you on.
- 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.
- 8 Kaplovitz. Nice to see you again. While this
- 9 gentleman comes forward, Patricia Noonan,
- 10 Jaimie McNeil, Kate O'Neil, Alfred Pucillo,
- 11 Jose Martinez, Beth MacBlane. If your name was
- 12 read, please come forward.
- MR. MCNEIL: Good evening, Chairman
- 14 Crosby, Commissioners. May name is Jaimie
- 15 McNeil. I am a lifelong resident of the North
- 16 Shore in Boston. I'm here tonight representing
- 17 Unite Here, Local 26.
- 18 Unite Here is the gaming, food
- 19 service and hotel workers union. We represent
- 20 over 100,000, 100,000 gaming workers as well as
- 21 hundreds of thousands of hotel and food service
- 22 workers.
- For over 50 years, the members of
- 24 our organization have struggled --

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Excuse me, Mr.
- 2 McNeil. Excuse me one second. Could you ask
- 3 those people to talk more quietly or shut the
- 4 door or something, Brian? Thank you. Sorry, I
- 5 apologize.
- 6 MR. MCNEIL: Thank you, Mr.
- 7 Chairman. For over 50 years, our members have
- 8 struggled to create good jobs in the gaming
- 9 industry. We have marched. We've gone on
- 10 strike. We've even gotten arrested in order to
- 11 ensure a decent standard of living for our
- 12 families.
- 13 I'm here tonight to oppose the
- 14 Mohegan Sun proposal. Unite Here opposes this
- 15 proposal based on the poor labor record of the
- 16 operator, Mohegan Sun, at its existing casinos
- 17 and the inadequacy of the so-called labor
- 18 harmony agreement that is entered into with
- 19 certain unions for this proposed project. In
- 20 Connecticut, Mohegan Sun operates entirely
- 21 nonunion. At Mohegan Sun's casino in
- 22 Pennsylvania, the vast majority of the workers
- 23 including all of the hospitality and gaming
- 24 workers are nonunion.

- 1 Mohegan Sun has a poor record on job
- 2 retention as well. One in five full-time jobs
- 3 were eliminated at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut
- 4 over the past three years. As Mohegan Sun
- 5 prepared to open their Pennsylvania hotel, the
- 6 general manager announced the jobs would pay as
- 7 little as \$8.25 an hour. That \$17,000 a year
- 8 before taxes for full-time work. That's below
- 9 the poverty level for a family of three.
- 10 That's a stark contrast to our jobs
- 11 here in Boston, which are starting at \$18.51 an
- 12 hour for housekeepers. These jobs also include
- the best, the best benefits in the hospitality
- 14 industry in terms of healthcare benefits.
- Mohegan Sun has made promises about
- 16 creating union jobs here in Revere. However,
- 17 there are fundamental weaknesses with the
- 18 neutrality agreement that Mohegan Sun signed
- 19 has with certain unions. That agreement does
- 20 not cover contracted our operations.
- 21 Mohegan Sun can subcontract out a
- 22 majority of the resort in order to avoid the
- 23 agreement. They have already announced they
- 24 will contract out one hotel. Based on our

- 1 union's experience, vast experience in the
- 2 gaming industry, we expect this project will
- 3 have a minimum of 10 separate employers, over
- 4 half of the expected workforce is not covered
- 5 by that agreement.
- 6 That is not a plan for labor
- 7 harmony, over half. Good jobs are the primary
- 8 form of economic development from casinos.
- 9 Based on Mohegan Sun's labor record, the
- 10 Commission should be very concerned about
- 11 Mohegan Sun's willingness to create good,
- 12 middle-class jobs here.
- Thank you so much to the Commission
- 14 for this opportunity.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, Mr.
- 16 McNeil.
- MS. MACBLANE: Good evening and
- 18 thank you for the opportunity to provide
- 19 comment. My name is Beth MacBlane and I am
- 20 with the Mystic River Watershed Association,
- 21 also known as MyRWA. We are a 501(c)(3)
- 22 nonprofit organization founded in 1972 by a
- 23 group of concerned citizens.
- 24 Our mission is to protect and

- 1 restore clean water and related natural
- 2 resources within the basin's 22 communities and
- 3 to promote responsible stewardship of Mystic
- 4 River natural resources through educational
- 5 initiatives and science-based advocacy.
- 6 As an environmental organization, we
- 7 are particularly attuned to how proposed
- 8 projects will impact existing environmental
- 9 conditions within the highly urbanized areas of
- 10 Mystic River communities. MyRWA has been
- 11 actively engaged in evaluating the prospective
- 12 environmental impacts of both of the resort
- 13 casinos proposed to be built in the Mystic
- 14 River watershed.
- 15 Broadly, these issues include
- 16 impacts on water quality, wildlife and aquatic
- 17 habitat, wetlands impacts and protection,
- 18 wastewater and storm water management and water
- 19 conservation. We are here today to request
- 20 that the Gaming Commission give strong
- 21 consideration in its decision-making to
- 22 initiatives that provide for protection and
- 23 restoration of the local environment.
- 24 Such initiatives that are included

- 1 in the resort casino development proposals and
- 2 gaming license applications will become an
- 3 important component of the benefits that
- 4 results from casino development in the
- 5 Commonwealth.
- 6 We urge the Commission to study and
- 7 evaluate carefully the expanded environmental
- 8 notification form, the draft and final
- 9 environmental reports, and the Secretary of
- 10 Energy and Environmental Affairs certificate as
- 11 these documents are to provide a clear and
- 12 unambiguous picture of the proponents'
- 13 treatment of and consideration to improving and
- 14 enhancing the Mystic River Watershed.
- 15 Restoration and preservation of
- 16 local natural resources will provide important
- 17 benefits to all residents of the host and
- 18 surrounding communities.
- 19 Given its scale and scope the resort
- 20 casino project proposed by Mohegan Sun at
- 21 Suffolk Downs represents an extraordinary
- 22 opportunity for proponents to provide important
- 23 leadership and support for the transformation
- 24 of this hard-working urban river system to a

- 1 healthy condition.
- 2 To support this interest the
- 3 Watershed Association has met with
- 4 representatives of Mohegan Sun and its
- 5 consulting team to outline specific ways that
- 6 additional protection and restoration of the
- 7 local natural environment can be incorporated
- 8 into the development process. We are pleased
- 9 that Mohegan Sun has been responsive to these
- 10 recommendations.
- In addition, we have outlined a
- 12 number of concerns in letters to the Secretary
- 13 of the Executive Office of Energy and
- 14 Environmental Affairs. We have noted that the
- 15 project site includes portions of Sales Creek
- 16 abuts Belle Isle Marsh and includes part of the
- 17 Rumney Marshes area of critical environmental
- 18 concern. The Rumney Marshes area of critical
- 19 environmental concern encompasses over 1000
- 20 acres of highly productive saltmarsh, salt
- 21 meadow, tidal flats and shallow sub tidal
- 22 channels.
- This area of critical environmental
- 24 concern is extremely valuable to our region for

- 1 the habitat, climate resilience and other
- 2 environmental services it provides. The
- 3 Association seeks to ensure that any potential
- 4 impacts on this critical environmental resource
- 5 be closely scrutinized and mitigated.
- 6 We have also recommended that best
- 7 management practices be used to remove nutrient
- 8 loads and other urban pollutants from storm
- 9 water discharges, additional setbacks and
- 10 improved treatment of Sales Creek be
- 11 undertaken. And that the proponent develop a
- 12 lower Mystic River watershed inventory that
- delineates our opportunities for potential
- 14 ecological restoration. Such an inventory will
- 15 help provide a much needed foundation through
- 16 which to prioritize prospective habitat and
- 17 ecological restoration projects in the area.
- 18 The Watershed Association plans to
- 19 monitor and remain in contact with the
- 20 proponent and relevant authorizes during the
- 21 preparation of the notices of intent and all
- 22 other state and local permit applications to be
- 23 filed under the Massachusetts Wetlands
- 24 Protection Act and other state and local

- 1 ordinances.
- 2 We are encouraged by efforts to date
- 3 and the stated commitment of the Mohegan Sun
- 4 Massachusetts development team to setting high
- 5 standards of excellence with regard to site
- 6 design and environmental protection.
- 7 We look forward to the Opportunity
- 8 to review in greater detail plans for the
- 9 resort casino and the ways that proponents will
- 10 support restoration of their local natural
- 11 environment through this significant project.
- 12 It is important to our efforts and
- to efforts of all local and regional
- 14 environmental advocates that the Gaming
- 15 Commission makes a clear statement that
- 16 protection and restoration of the local natural
- 17 environment is a high priority of the
- 18 Commission and a component of the license
- 19 provided. Thank you, again and have a good
- 20 night.
- 21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 22 much. We are going to take a guick break in
- 23 deference to our transcriber. And we will be
- 24 back in 10 minutes or less.

1 (A recess was taken) 2 3

CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We can bring this

- to a conclusion. Mr. Morris, you're invited to 4
- speak. 5
- MR. MORRIS: First, I want to thank 6
- you for giving me the honor to speak in front of 7
- you. I would like to say a few things before I 8
- 9 start that people mentioned here.
- 10 Mohegan Casino did two things that
- nobody, like I said mentioned here, they donated 11
- \$50,000 to the Revere High School to help the 12
- kids that could not come up here. They are also 13
- donating \$2 million to (INAUDIBLE). 14
- That did not come up here. So, I 15
- wanted to thank Mohegan Sun wherever they are 16
- 17 because they give us not lip service. They
- don't give us lip service, they give us 18
- 19 community service. So, thank you again. I'll
- be very brief. 20
- Revere says yes twice, but let me 21
- tell you, Mr. Crosby, if we voted 100 times we 22
- 23 would still say 100 yeses. So, that's the first
- 24 thing I wanted to get out of the way.

- 1 Mohegan Sun does a good job, but to
- 2 me they do an excellent job. And they do an
- 3 excellent job for the schools, the roads, the
- 4 security, the senior center, the hospital, the
- 5 nursing home, the jobs, the police department,
- 6 the fire department and the library. Thank you
- 7 again.
- 8 And Mayor Rizzo, thank you for
- 9 everything to do to help to bring the casino to
- 10 Revere. Okay. I want to be fast. The bus is
- 11 waiting for me.
- 12 Also a lot of people come in if we
- 13 get the casino and that'll be up to you people
- 14 to make sure that we do, so more people coming
- into the city will be good for the businesses,
- 16 the restaurant, the gas station, the
- 17 supermarket, the theaters, the hotels and
- 18 especially the 800 to 1000 jobs. But I don't
- 19 want to use the word jobs. I want to use the
- 20 word careers because that's what's going to be
- 21 at the Mohegan Casino careers. So, thank you
- 22 again for that.
- Like I say, I only live 500 feet
- 24 from Suffolk Downs. Five hundred feet, so every

- 1 time I sneeze, the horses jump up. That's good.
- 2 It will bring in more money for the
- 3 Commonwealth. So, please give the license to
- 4 the city of Revere. And I thank you for your
- 5 time and I still got three minutes, but thank
- 6 you.
- 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Nice job, thank you.
- 8 MS. O'NEIL: Good evening,
- 9 Commissioners. My name is Kate O'Neil. I am a
- 10 resident of Boston and I'm speaking before you
- 11 today as a representative of Unite Here.
- 12 My union pays close attention to the
- 13 gaming industry because we work in it. And we
- 14 have concerns about the suitability of Brigade
- 15 Capital, the majority owner of the proposed
- 16 casino. This is not the first time Brigade has
- 17 invested in Massachusetts. One of Brigade
- 18 Capital's specialties is investment in
- 19 distressed debts.
- 20 In 2011, Brigade bought debt in
- 21 Evergreen Solar a few months after Evergreen
- 22 closed its Massachusetts plant and just prior to
- 23 Evergreen filing for bankruptcy. Brigade was
- 24 one of the note holders that signed a

- 1 restructuring support agreement submitted with
- 2 the bankruptcy filing.
- 3 Later in the process, Evergreen
- 4 Solar's note holders sued Mass. Development to
- 5 recover taxes paid on the Massachusetts
- 6 facility. This action was dismissed by the
- 7 bankruptcy judge.
- 8 As part of the suitability
- 9 determinations, we wonder if the Gaming
- 10 Commission was made aware of the role of Brigade
- 11 Capital in the Evergreen Solar bankruptcy here
- 12 in Massachusetts. We also are concerned about
- 13 Brigade Capital's business model as a hedge
- 14 fund. It is unprecedented for a major casino in
- 15 the United States to be developed and majority-
- 16 owned by a hedge fund.
- 17 One reason is that hedge funds are
- 18 not usually long-term owners of real estate. In
- 19 order to generate returns for their investors,
- 20 hedge funds typically sell their investments
- 21 within three to five years.
- 22 Another reason it is so unusual is
- 23 the potential for a hedge fund to experience a
- 24 sudden loss of liquidity if large investors

- 1 choose to cash out. Many institutional
- 2 investors in hedge funds are accustomed to being
- 3 able to withdraw or redeem their investments
- 4 with a maximum wait time of 90 days.
- 5 The right to redeem is one reason
- 6 there have been a number of hedge fund runs in
- 7 recent years. In fact, during the recent global
- 8 financial crisis, many hedge fund managers were
- 9 inundated with redemption requests from
- 10 investors worried about the plummeting value of
- 11 the hedge funds' assets.
- 12 In 2008 alone, the hedge fund
- 13 managers received an estimated 399 billion in
- 14 redemption requests. What happens if the
- 15 Brigade fund has to liquidate like so many of
- 16 its peers have had to do over the past several
- 17 years? Who will own the casino then? Or what
- 18 happens if a hedge fund cannot honor redemptions
- 19 and files for bankruptcy, will the unpaid
- 20 redemption requests convert to debt? And the
- 21 funds limited partners, the pension funds, the
- 22 sovereign wealth funds, the endowments and
- 23 foundations become the creditors? Will those
- 24 institutions then need to be licensed?

- 1 Even if the hedge fund does not
- 2 experience a traumatic liquidity event such as
- 3 an investor run, how long can it realistically
- 4 be expected to hang onto a resort casino? What
- 5 is Brigade Capital's exit strategy for this
- 6 investment? To what type of buyer are they
- 7 likely to sell the casino? A private equity
- 8 firm, another casino company? What if there are
- 9 no suitable buyers around when the fund
- 10 determines that it's time to cash in on the
- 11 equity value of the resorts?
- 12 Regulators are put in a tough spot
- when a majority-owner wants to or needs to sell
- 14 a casino after it's up and running. You as
- 15 Commissioners or your successors would be under
- 16 considerable pressure to find a new owner
- 17 suitable so that the Commonwealth's tax revenue
- 18 would not be interrupted. Would Commissioners
- 19 feel obliged to approve a transaction even if
- 20 the buyer never would've been found suitable by
- 21 this body in 2014?
- Licensing a new casino to a hedge
- 23 fund would add several layers of uncertainty to
- 24 Massachusetts new gaming industry and perhaps

- 1 help pave the way for a future owner who would
- 2 not otherwise pass muster with this Commission.
- 3 I know you've been careful and thoughtful in
- 4 your decision-making as a Commission. And we
- 5 ask you to consider these questions in your
- 6 evaluation of this applicant.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Alfred
- 8 Pucillo, Jose Martinez, Jonathan LaMaster, Steve
- 9 Stoddard, Carol Facella, Robert Young. Also,
- 10 Robert Fung, Trent Sheppard, Christopher Graham,
- if any of you are here.
- MR. YOUNG: Good evening, my name is
- 13 Robert Young. And I am a spokesperson for
- 14 Palmer businesses for a Palmer Casino.
- 15 I'm just here today to let you know
- 16 that I am a proponent of the casino gaming in
- 17 Massachusetts. I've been for it since before
- 18 the bill came out and I still agree that it is a
- 19 good opportunity for economic development and
- 20 job creation in the Commonwealth.
- 21 What I'm here to do is to impart
- 22 some wisdom that I've had over the last five
- 23 years. I stood in front of numerous bodies like
- 24 this friends, colleagues, union members, I'm a

- 1 20-year member of the IBPO. I'm a disabled
- 2 veteran serving honorably after 26 years. A lot
- 3 of my peers I sat in front of. And I've
- 4 extolled the same virtues on Mohegan Sun that a
- 5 lot of people here have today.
- 6 Except five years later, I have the
- 7 vision of hindsight that a lot of people don't
- 8 have here. I've seen what has happened. I've
- 9 seen the promises that have been made. I've
- 10 seen the words come from their executive staff,
- 11 their hired PR people. And I have also seen the
- 12 lack of effort and the things that they did not
- 13 do to make those words come true.
- 14 Part of your job as a Gaming
- 15 Commission is to provide successful and ethical
- 16 development of expanded gaming in Massachusetts.
- 17 I will tell you the way Palmer was treated and
- 18 our citizens were treated was not because we did
- 19 not want gaming in our community. It was
- 20 because the community responded and said we do
- 21 not trust Mohegan Sun to deliver on the promises
- 22 they made to our community.
- Their community host agreement was
- 24 not one of the best ones but it was not a bad

- 1 one either. But our citizens said by a margin
- 2 of less than 100 that they don't believe that
- 3 they would follow through.
- I am here to say that the ethical
- 5 development of expanded gaming is your mantra
- 6 and this company has already proven to one
- 7 community in the Commonwealth to be unethical.
- 8 For you to allow them to be in another community
- 9 and take a chance of proving that again is your
- 10 just due. I please hope that you make the right
- 11 decision. Thank you.
- 12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Charles
- 13 Caroll, Debra Witherspoon, Steward Landers
- 14 Steven Roussel.
- MR. GRAHAM: How are you doing? My
- 16 name is Christopher Graham. I am a business
- 17 owner in Dorchester, Massachusetts Lorenz Island
- 18 Kuisine. And I'm here to definitely support the
- 19 Mohegan Sun coming into Massachusetts.
- 20 As a business owner we look for
- 21 different ways and different avenues to create
- 22 jobs in our community. I am also a United
- 23 States vet. I know coming back one of the
- 24 things we look for are jobs. And creating jobs

- 1 with the Mohegan Sun or creating jobs outside of
- 2 Revere is what we're about.
- My company at this point, we are in
- 4 desperate need of job creation. There's people
- 5 in our community every day that will come to me
- 6 for jobs and it's hard to provide that. So, the
- 7 ripple effect that this would have for our
- 8 community is not that small as others are
- 9 thinking in this room.
- 10 It affects us in Dorchester,
- 11 Mattapan, Roxbury, Hyde Park, JP and beyond
- 12 that. We are in the process right now of
- 13 creating a plant, a company, a manufacturing
- 14 company. And it would be such a wonderful
- 15 relationship or marriage to see something like
- 16 that go through because of the fact that Mohegan
- 17 Sun would be moving into Massachusetts. It
- 18 creates a positive effect on our community
- 19 that's beyond Revere.
- 20 I know I hear individuals from
- 21 Winthrop speak that they don't want something
- 22 like this in their backyard, because they might
- 23 not have an infrastructure for health. And I
- 24 say this is such a perfect opportunity or segue

- 1 into creating a health facility, looking into
- 2 building something that they don't have to drive
- 3 through there to go into Boston if someone is
- 4 having a baby or someone is sick or somewhere
- 5 along that line.
- 6 Don't think on the small
- 7 possibilities or negative. Think about the
- 8 whole entire Massachusetts, if you want to put
- 9 it that way. Think about the people in
- 10 Dorchester, Massachusetts who don't have jobs
- 11 and now have an opportunity to put food on the
- 12 table of their home. Those people who are
- 13 scared at night because they're not sure if they
- 14 wake up in the morning their lights will be on.
- 15 If they come home and their gas will be on.
- 16 And God forbid their landlord
- 17 decides to evict them because they can't get a
- 18 job. This is very important for us and the
- 19 state of Massachusetts right here in Boston to
- 20 allow something like this to happen because
- 21 it'll not just affect like I say Revere or
- 22 Winthrop or any of the surrounding communities.
- 23 The ripple effect does affect all of us. Thank
- 24 you.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Rose
- 2 Napolitano, Susan Jennings, Kathi Wyatt, Luella
- 3 Surette, any of you folks. Yes, Sir.
- 4 MR. ROUSSEL: I thank you for having
- 5 me. In my letter to the Gaming Commission, I'd
- 6 like to talk about two topics that's important
- 7 to me.
- 8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Your name, Sir?
- 9 MR. ROUSSEL: My name is Stephen
- 10 Roussel. I'm from Winthrop, Mass.
- In my letter to the Gaming
- 12 Commission, I'd like talk about two topics
- 13 that's very important to me. First is
- 14 transparency. Both the Wynn/Everett proposal
- 15 and the Mohegan Sun of Massachusetts/Revere
- 16 proposal, we are dealing with two very different
- 17 companies for a casino license here in Eastern
- 18 Massachusetts.
- 19 One company Wynn is not transparent
- 20 and open on their RFA-1 and their RFA-2
- 21 applications as they promised. The other
- 22 proposal of Mohegan Sun is completely open and
- 23 transparent. Wynn has several confidential
- 24 pieces of material in their application the

- 1 Mohegan Sun does not have. At last count, Wynn
- 2 had 59 answers or attachments that they
- 3 requested to remain confidential.
- 4 Mohegan Sun's proposal only has one
- 5 attachment that has requested confidentiality.
- 6 The fact is that the Mohegan Sun/Revere project
- 7 is being more transparent than the Wynn/Everett
- 8 project and that would be evidenced on the RFA-1
- 9 and the RFA-2 applications when you review them.
- 10 Second, the outward facing issue.
- 11 It's important to me to know that the selected
- 12 proposal will work not in isolation but in a
- 13 partnership with the surrounding communities and
- 14 be a good corporate neighbor. To me there's a
- 15 difference between the Wynn/Everett proposal
- 16 compared to the Mohegan Sun proposal in Revere.
- 17 Mohegan Sun's proposal is a good
- 18 example of a proposal building bridges of
- 19 outward facing and supportive to the local
- 20 community and businesses. Mohegan Sun's
- 21 Momentum rewards points program is a
- 22 collaborative marketing to help tourism and
- 23 other industries. This program will strengthen
- 24 business partnerships between Mohegan Sun and

- 1 the surrounding businesses. This program is
- 2 transparent and will increase revenues and
- 3 complement local businesses.
- 4 Wynn proposal selects too few
- 5 companies, TD Garden, Boston Symphony. Second,
- 6 it's too secretive. Third, it's more inverted,
- 7 a marketing program that will cannibalize and
- 8 work against surrounding businesses.
- 9 Mohegan Sun has partnered with over
- 10 200 businesses and is willing to spend \$10
- 11 million with Revere businesses, \$15 million with
- 12 businesses within the 15-mile radius.
- Wynn will spend \$50,000 with
- 14 business vouchers. Wynn's project has requested
- 15 a complimentary spend of over \$2000 to remain
- 16 exempt. I do not like secretive or unknown
- 17 marketing plans. This does not pass my own
- 18 transparency test.
- 19 Wynn had 59 answers or attachments
- 20 that remain confidential. The Mohegan Sun's
- 21 proposal only had one attachment that required
- 22 to be confidential. To me that's a big
- 23 difference in application in proposal. The
- 24 Mohegan Sun proposal has an outward Momentum

- 1 reward points program that would market 200
- 2 businesses and retailers to grow revenue for
- 3 outward facing neighbors.
- 4 In conclusion, I am asking the
- 5 Gaming Commission to review my request that the
- 6 selected proposal be transparent and work with
- 7 surrounding businesses to create long-lasting
- 8 working relationships. Thank you for your time
- 9 and consideration.
- 10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 11 Anybody else whose name I've read? Tony Celona,
- 12 Gina Walker, Dino Tavano, Patty Reardon, Annette
- 13 O'Brien.
- 14 MR. TAVANO: I said I'd be the last
- 15 speaker, but I was only kidding.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: State your name,
- 17 please.
- 18 MR. TAVANO: I'm sorry, Dino Tavano
- 19 from East Boston. I'm not going to argue points
- 20 at all with a former Supreme Court Justice or
- 21 any of you folks. I think you're doing a good
- 22 job. I didn't come to schmooze either, but
- 23 since everybody's open the door, I guess I can
- 24 do that. I'll get to the point.

- 1 I heard one other person speak about
- 2 the five criteria that you guys are using to
- 3 come up with your choice for a location.
- 4 Commissioner Stebbins, I'm sorry, I could I just
- 5 ask you real quick what yours is Commissioner
- 6 Stebbins?
- 7 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Economic
- 8 development.
- 9 MR. TAVANO: Economic development,
- 10 I'll speak quick to that. I think that
- 11 obviously Revere/Mohegan Sun gives the
- 12 opportunity for a whole lot more economic
- development than Everett.
- 14 They have surrounding land that is
- 15 buildable now and a workforce that is ready and
- 16 willing to go to work. I think part of the job
- 17 thing a lot of people missed was lot of
- 18 teenagers are going to have part-time jobs.
- 19 There are going to be a lot of part-time jobs.
- 20 There are going to be a lot of collateral
- 21 industries opening up over there that are going
- 22 to open opportunities for those kids as well as
- 23 union workers and all of the other worker that
- 24 we've heard about. And I'm sorry, Commissioner

- 1 Zuniga was?
- 2 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Finance.
- MR. TAVANO: Finance, I'm going to
- 4 skip that one. That's way out of my league.
- 5 Commissioner Cameron?
- 6 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Mitigation.
- 7 MR. TAVANO: Mitigation is another
- 8 area that I'm probably not knowledgeable enough
- 9 to speak to, but I'm sure you're going to do a
- 10 good job.
- The agreement that was made between
- 12 Mohegan and the host community, surrounding
- 13 communities here, I think that's much better
- 14 than the other ones. I guess all I really have
- 15 to say is the building, the site and building,
- 16 site is the keyword. I think that if you look -
- 17 I looked at the satellite aerial picture, as
- 18 far as I could see I don't think there is a
- 19 comparison between the two sites. With that
- 20 said, I've waited so long. Last one out, shut
- 21 off the lights.
- 22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank of you for
- 23 your patience. Patty Reardon, Annette O'Brien,
- 24 Paul Coruccio, also Terrence M. Burke maybe, I'm

- 1 not sure. Okay, you're next. Gregory Sheron.
- 2 MR. CORUCCIO: Good evening. And I
- 3 appreciate the patience of the casino commission
- 4 and those in attendance, especially those who
- 5 are still here this evening. My name is Paul
- 6 Coruccio. I am a Winthrop resident, a Winthrop
- 7 small business owner and a Winthrop property
- 8 owner. And I will keep it short tonight.
- 9 In fact, if you want to copy and
- 10 paste what Ms. Heather Engman from Winthrop had
- 11 said as my comments, I would be happy with that
- 12 because it mirrors exactly my sentiments and
- 13 basically what I have written.
- 14 But I will go off the board. I have
- 15 waited eight hours and 15 minutes so I will take
- 16 a few more minutes of your time and just say a
- 17 few remarks.
- 18 You can mark me as being opposed to
- 19 any Suffolk Downs casino until or unless
- 20 Winthrop is designated as an official host
- 21 community. And the reason for that is Winthrop
- 22 is uniquely positioned unlike any other
- 23 community in the Commonwealth. Winthrop will be
- 24 impacted at least as significantly as any host

- 1 community.
- 2 I will summarize some of those
- 3 reasons in which I believe Winthrop should be
- 4 designated as a host community before any casino
- 5 should be located at the Suffolk Downs site.
- 6 First off, Winthrop is of course as everybody
- 7 has said less than a mile from the Suffolk Downs
- 8 property.
- 9 Secondly, Winthrop has only two
- 10 egresses. In order to enter or exit Winthrop
- 11 from either entrance, you have to pass the
- 12 proposed Suffolk Downs casino every time.
- 13 Winthrop residents would encounter
- 14 added congestion. It will be impossible for
- 15 Winthrop residents to avoid the casino site or
- 16 to get home or for any travel whatsoever without
- 17 encountering this congestion.
- 18 The same condition would impact
- 19 safety vehicles or ambulances, which frequently
- 20 shuttle Winthrop residents to hospitals or for
- 21 emergency services. Being within a mile of the
- 22 casino site, Winthrop will be directly impacted
- 23 by any changes in crime, property value,
- 24 increased municipal spending or negative social

- 1 impacts.
- 2 As a community, Winthrop has never
- 3 been asked or sample as to what their position
- 4 is on the Suffolk Downs community project. And
- 5 in fact, theirs is an active, as you can see and
- 6 organized anti-casino movement within the
- 7 community of Winthrop.
- 8 There's been a lot of talk from the
- 9 city of Boston to grant Boston host community
- 10 status regardless of the positioning of any
- 11 casino in our particular district whether that's
- 12 Everett or the East Boston/Revere site. But to
- 13 even consider that and to ignore the needs of
- 14 the community of Winthrop would be a dereliction
- 15 of responsibility.
- 16 Winthrop is far more impacted than
- 17 Boston or nay other community when it comes to a
- 18 Suffolk Downs casino site. Winthrop is as
- 19 impacted as any host community. And Winthrop is
- 20 actually more impacted because no resident of
- 21 the community of Winthrop could avoid the impact
- 22 from a Suffolk Downs casino development.
- In fact, it is entirely possible for
- 24 some areas of Revere in many sections of Boston

- 1 to conduct their daily lives with no impact from
- 2 any Suffolk Downs casino development. This is
- 3 because some of the sections of Revere or Boston
- 4 are greatly geographically removed from the
- 5 Suffolk Downs development. And this is untrue
- 6 of any Winthrop, any resident of Winthrop. It
- 7 would be impossible for us to ignore it.
- 8 And finally Mohegan Sun has balked
- 9 at any mitigating proposal by the city -- by the
- 10 town of Winthrop. I just think that is simply
- 11 inexcusable. For these reasons, I implore you
- 12 to designate Winthrop as a host community in any
- 13 development at the Suffolk Downs location or not
- 14 approve that site.
- 15 Please mark me again as against
- 16 locating any casino at Suffolk Downs unless
- 17 Winthrop is considered a host. Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Also
- 19 Jeff Howe, Lou Ristano, Terence Burke.
- 20 MR. BURKE: Thank you Commissioner
- 21 Crosby for this opportunity to speak to you
- 22 folks this evening. I'm here to speak in favor
- 23 of the proposed Suffolk Downs/Mohegan Sun
- 24 racetrack proposal.

- 1 My name is Terence Burke. I live in
- 2 Andover, Massachusetts and I own Dodge Grain
- 3 Company. Dodge Grain provides feed, hay and
- 4 bedding to the horsemen at Suffolk Downs. Dodge
- 5 Grain is one of the many small businesses that
- 6 provide services to the horsemen at Suffolk.
- 7 Dodge Grain is a small, family-owned
- 8 business based in Salem, New Hampshire and has
- 9 serviced Suffolk Downs for over 50 years. I'm a
- 10 third-generation owner of Dodge Grain and I have
- 11 worked at Suffolk for 34 years.
- 12 When Suffolk is running, Dodge Grain
- 13 has five full-time employees that work at
- 14 Suffolk. And these are Mass. residents. In
- 15 2013, we paid over \$15,000 in income tax based
- on those wages earned in Massachusetts.
- 17 Dodge Grain provides industry-
- 18 specific feeds to the racehorses at Suffolk.
- 19 The unique needs of thoroughbreds are quite
- 20 unique and different from those of stable, show
- 21 or even horses in the harness racing industry.
- In 2013 Dodge Grain remitted to the
- 23 state of Massachusetts over \$110,000 in sales
- 24 tax based on racehorse related products sold in

- 1 Massachusetts. Of that, over \$40,000 was
- 2 related to direct sales at Suffolk Downs.
- Many of our vendors are located in
- 4 Massachusetts including our primary shavings
- 5 vendor which is based in Yarmouth and their
- 6 trucking company's transportation hub is in
- 7 Billerica. Our feed trucking vendor is located
- 8 in Westport, Massachusetts. Our trailer leasing
- 9 company in Methuen and our business insurance is
- 10 purchased from an agent in Westford. All of
- 11 these small businesses provide services to Dodge
- 12 Grain when we sell horse feed at Suffolk Downs.
- The future of Dodge Grain is tied to
- 14 the future of thoroughbred racing at the Suffolk
- 15 Downs/Mohegan Sun proposal. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 17 much.
- MR. SHERON: Hi, my name is George
- 19 Sheron. I'm going to be very quick here because
- 20 I don't know why I'm here, because I already
- 21 voted no in East Boston. And Suffolk Downs lays
- 22 in East Boston.
- 23 And I don't even know why all of the
- 24 talk was about Suffolk Downs because it's about

- 1 a casino. And with the impacts that it's going
- 2 to have mainly on East Boston coming from the
- 3 South Shore and wherever, especially with the
- 4 talk of Winthrop, I just don't know how you can
- 5 let this go through. That's all I have to say.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Maria
- 8 Tereso, Jeannine Beaudoin, Dennis Marchella.
- 9 Come right up. If I'm saying your name, please
- 10 com up.
- MS. BEAUDOIN: My name is Jeannine
- 12 Beaudoin. I live in East Boston, taught many
- 13 years in Winthrop, so I'm very happy for the
- 14 opportunity to say a few words and to thank you
- 15 for giving me the opportunity to our neighbors
- in Winthrop and other places, to be able to
- 17 share their ideas and their concerns. Because
- 18 that was something that I felt really needed to
- 19 happen.
- 20 They did not get to vote. And I
- 21 think that an evening like this evening, I
- 22 understood, was to give an opportunity for
- 23 surrounding communities to be able to share
- 24 their concerns and their thoughts. So, I want

- 1 to thank you for really hanging in there with
- 2 us. I know it's not easy for you guys. You
- 3 have a tough job to do.
- I know that there are many conflicts
- 5 that arise. One of them being introducing the
- 6 Commonwealth to the successful and ethical
- 7 development of expanded gaming. Expanded
- 8 gaming is the word that catches me.
- 9 I have relatives who live in Las
- 10 Vegas. I've been there several times, visited
- 11 them. I had a little bit of fun in the casinos.
- 12 And when I heard the Governor speak a number of
- 13 months ago referring to gambling as an innocent
- 14 entertainment, at that time, I had just enough
- 15 information to say there is something there that
- 16 he is just not getting.
- 17 Because as I got to reflect on what
- 18 was happening in my neighborhood because of
- 19 other people that really had given up their
- 20 time. Young families would come and do phone
- 21 banking with the kids on their laps. Other
- 22 people who would give up precious time and
- 23 resources in order to help fund a group that
- 24 really felt they wanted to fight for their

- 1 neighborhoods and let the economic development
- 2 that was taking place have a chance to really
- 3 come to fruition without having to appeal to an
- 4 outside industry that I've come to realize the
- 5 house always wins.
- 6 And if they can cut enough of that
- 7 to satisfy their prospective places where they
- 8 hope to move into, that's good. But we know
- 9 that that is not always going to happen. In
- 10 East Boston we found out that the people that
- 11 had been trusted, Caesars, it wasn't going to
- 12 happen quite so nicely.
- 13 Anyway that being said, I think that
- 14 as I began to read more literature and become
- 15 more informed, I said, huh, there are a lot of
- 16 people out there that are getting one side of
- 17 the story. And I happen to volunteer with a
- 18 group in one of the centers in East Boston, the
- 19 social center where seniors come for lunch.
- 20 And I came to see what was
- 21 happening. They had been groomed, and that's
- 22 okay because that's what businesses do. They
- 23 want you as clients so you want to prepare the
- 24 road for a good perspective down the line thing.

- 1 Free dinners, free Valentine's Day party,
- there's nothing wrong with that except that when
- 3 they're being sponsored by someone who has a lot
- 4 of money to do that. Suffolk Downs is a good
- 5 neighbor, but also plugging in with this outside
- 6 gambling industry, I'm saying I need to get some
- 7 information out.
- 8 And it's been very difficult to get
- 9 into each of the senior centers, very difficult.
- 10 Just one little example, in Revere, we finally
- 11 got the okay to visit. We were supporting our
- 12 friends in Revere. An okay to go in finally on
- 13 a Sunday afternoon to speak to a group of
- 14 citizens at the Jack Satter House and realized
- 15 that simultaneously there were a few busloads
- 16 being organized, I think it was two or three by
- 17 Mohegan Sun for a free dinner somewhere.
- So, it's that kind of stuff that
- 19 makes it very difficult for us with our limited
- 20 resources, limited finances to really get the
- 21 word out.
- We're not out to brainwash people.
- 23 We wanted to give them the other side of the
- 24 story, the side they're not getting. The

- 1 business people it's normal. You want to put
- 2 your best foot forward. And they were doing
- 3 that very effectively, very well. And I have to
- 4 respect you for that.
- 5 But what we wanted to see happen was
- 6 that seniors and yes, businessmen also,
- 7 families, individuals, the elderly would have a
- 8 chance to begin to think so that when they had a
- 9 vote, they really would be voting, informed
- 10 which we didn't have a chance to do. Revere
- 11 didn't have a chance to do that. I just wanted
- 12 to say that Revere probably is not here because
- 13 they're having a hearing next week. So, maybe
- 14 that's why they're not here tonight.
- 15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 16 much. Jason Delockery also.
- 17 MR. MASCHELLA: Dennis Maschella,
- 18 good evening Mr. Chairman and members. Thank
- 19 you for waiting for me and Jason.
- 20 I'm a Veterans of Foreign War Post
- 21 Commander in Revere the Mottolo 4524. I'm also
- 22 a third-generation of Revere. As a Veteran's
- 23 advocate, I'm in favor of Mohegan Sun Casino and
- 24 resort. Mohegan Sun has been very generous to

- 1 veterans as well as Suffolk Downs. Having met
- 2 many Mohegan Sun representatives, they assured
- 3 me that our returning veterans would have jobs.
- 4 In 1970 when I returned home from
- 5 Vietnam, there wasn't any jobs available. With
- 6 the new casino resort, our returning men and
- 7 women will have jobs and careers, something that
- 8 my generation didn't have.
- 9 To show you how this all works, on
- 10 Sunday, April 27 I'd like to invite the
- 11 Commission to come to Suffolk Downs. We're
- 12 having our fourth annual Wounded Vet Motorcycle
- 13 Run. We are honoring three severely injured
- 14 veterans from the war.
- We expect to have close to 10,000
- 16 people attend our event. And I have to give out
- 17 a special thanks to Mohegan Sun and Suffolk
- 18 Downs who came to us to offer their help and
- 19 their support.
- 20 In closing, I would just like say
- 21 you will see Sunday what a resort casino would
- 22 do to help veterans because we can run these
- events at this casino that we can't do normally.
- 24 I'd like thank you for your time and

- 1 I'd like to thank Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun
- 2 for their assistance. And I hope you guys and
- 3 ladies can make our motorcycle event. If
- 4 anybody wants a ride, let me know.
- 5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
- 6 much.
- 7 MR. DELOCKERY: Thank you members of
- 8 the Commission and Chairman Crosby. My name is
- 9 Jason Delockery. I am the general manager of
- 10 MOMs, Motorcycles of Manchester. We are opening
- 11 up our third location in Revere, Massachusetts.
- 12 We are family run and owned business. It's been
- 13 family run since 1973. We are on our 40th year.
- I have a little bit of insight on
- 15 not only business but also I was a rep. for
- 16 Victory Motorcycles for seven years prior to
- 17 coming to work for the MOMs family. I'm reading
- 18 this on behalf of the president in the owner of
- 19 the MOMs family, Motorcycle of Manchester, Mr.
- 20 Joe Wheeler.
- 21 Dear members of the Mass. Gaming
- 22 Commission. My name is Joe Wheeler. I am the
- 23 owner/president of the successful motorcycle
- 24 dealership MOMs, Motorcycles of Manchester, Inc.

- 1 I operate businesses in multiple locations
- 2 throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire and
- 3 most recently embarked on our newest dealership
- 4 in Revere, MOMs Boston.
- I know personally the challenges and
- 6 anticipation of growing your business to a new
- 7 location. Significant planning and
- 8 consideration goes into crafting the right
- 9 actions to ensure that this development is a
- 10 success.
- 11 We ask questions like is my business
- 12 the right fit for the local community location?
- 13 Will I attract new customers? Will the market
- 14 support this expansion? Will the costs outweigh
- 15 the benefits? And so many other very real and
- 16 very crucial questions. Although new to Revere,
- 17 I've seen the positive impact that Mohegan Sun
- 18 is already having in the community that we are
- 19 not a member yet -- that they are not a member
- 20 yet.
- I've read in host community
- 22 agreements, have talked to local business owners
- 23 and residents. A common theme is road
- 24 improvements, jobs and the financial support for

- 1 the first responders. I have also talked with
- 2 representatives from Mohegan Sun about the
- 3 Mohegan Sun points partnership program and have
- 4 chosen to partner for a number of reasons,
- 5 including the marketing opportunities for our
- 6 business through this program to their existing
- 7 million plus database, and the target
- 8 demographic employees that will increase
- 9 awareness to support my new location in Revere
- 10 as well as the potential financial impact that
- 11 accepting points at a dealership would have.
- 12 Additionally, I have talked to
- 13 colleagues which also are dealerships that I
- 14 called on myself that have done business in
- 15 relationship with Mohegan Sun in Connecticut
- 16 location and am impressed with the information I
- 17 received about their model for conducting their
- 18 business and success our Connecticut
- 19 counterparts have realized through the business
- 20 relationship.
- I look forward to the opportunity of
- 22 working with Mohegan Sun in Massachusetts in a
- 23 similar capacity. With the name we all know and
- 24 love, high standards for conducting business,

- 1 genuine interest in the region and commitments
- 2 made to their host community, it's apparent that
- 3 Mohegan Sun is a fit for this location, the city
- 4 of Revere.
- I encourage you to award the Region
- 6 A resort casino license to Mohegan Sun. Thank
- 7 you in advance for your time and consideration.
- 8 Warm regards, Joe Wheeler, owner and president
- 9 of Motorcycles of Manchester, Incorporated.
- 10 I'd like to close on a personal
- 11 note. I'm also a father of a two-year-old, a
- 12 husband. I also own my own company and live in
- 13 Lee, New Hampshire and commute an hour and 20
- 14 minutes every day to Revere. I wake up happy
- 15 about that every day.
- 16 Not only that as I'm looking to move
- 17 my entire family not anywhere else but the city
- 18 of Revere because of this casino that is coming.
- 19 I see great things because of it. And I'm
- 20 willing to invest my time, my family's time into
- 21 something that will grow and be prosperous for
- 22 this community. Thank you very much for your
- 23 time and thank you for staying so late to hear
- 24 all of us speak.

- 1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.
- 2 Giordana Mecagni, Maureen White. Are there any
- 3 other speakers?
- 4 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: How about a
- 5 show of hands?
- 6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Is there anybody
- 7 we haven't got? Then I think we have a motion
- 8 to adjourn.
- 9 I would just say for me this has
- 10 actually been tremendously informative. This
- 11 was not just the same old noise over and over
- 12 again. There was a lot of really thoughtful
- 13 comments. People were courteous for the very
- 14 most part. It was a long, long time, but it was
- 15 from my standpoint time very well spent.
- 16 So, I want to thank you all and
- 17 those folks who are no longer with us. Motion?
- 18 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Motion to
- 19 adjourn.
- 20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All in favor, yes.
- 21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Aye.
- 22 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.
- 23 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.
- 24 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

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               CHAIRMAN CROSYB: Thank you very
 2
   much, folks.
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               (Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.)
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- 1 ATTACHMENTS:
- 2 1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission March 25,
- 3 2014 Notice of Meeting and Agenda

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- 5 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 6 The Honorable Daniel Rizzo, Mayor of Revere
- 7 The Honor Judith Kennedy, Mayor of Lynn
- 8 Salvatore LaMattino, Boston City Councilor
- 9 Adrian Madara, Chief of Staff Rep. Carlo Basile
- 10 Peter Gill, Pres., Winthrop Town Council
- 11 Bruce Tobey, Special Counsel, Town of Winthrop
- 12 Anthony Zambuto, City of Revere, Council Pres.
- 13 Joseph Cafarelli, Chief of Police Revere
- 14 Richard Boyajian, Winthrop Town Councilor
- John Powers, Revere City Councilor
- 16 Dr. Paul Dakin, Superintendent, Revere Public
- 17 Schools
- 18 Craig Mael, Winthrop Town Councilor
- 19 John Festa, Dir. of Economic Development Revere
- 20 Linda Calla, Winthrop Town Councilor
- 21 Frank Stringi, Dir. Planning and Community
- 22 Development, Revere
- 23 Gene Doherty, Revere Fire Department Chief

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- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Michael Hinojosa, Dir. Parks and Community
- 3 Development, Revere
- 4 Paul Burns, Councilor-at-Large, Palmer
- 5 Jay Ash, City Manager Chelsea
- 6 Rita LaSerra, resident East Boston
- 7 Eric Weill, Revere Board of Health
- 8 Yemisi Oluwole, resident Somerville
- 9 Daniel Skeritt, resident Everett
- 10 Michael Mangan, resident Everett
- 11 Janelle Campbell, resident Revere
- 12 Deborah Davis, resident Dorchester
- 13 Maureen White, resident East Boston
- 14 Kathleen Orlando, resident East Boston
- 15 William Lagorio, resident Revere
- 16 Celeste Myers, No Eastie Casino
- 17 Leslie Gould, Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce
- 18 Josiah Spaulding, Citi Performing Arts Center
- 19 Carol Tye, Revere Public Schools
- 20 Louis Ciarlone, resident Revere
- 21 Ann Marie Casey, North Boston Convention and
- 22 Visitors Bureau
- 23 Marianne Wright, resident East Boston
- 24 Daralyn Reardon, resident Revere

- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Paige Benson, resident Saugus
- 3 Anthony Chianca, resident East Boston
- 4 Christopher Welling, resident Boston
- 5 Pauline Glynn, resident North Reading
- 6 Roger Brunnell, International Union of Painters
- 7 and Allied Trades DC 35
- 8 Diane Modica, resident East Boston
- 9 Chris Drapala, resident Malden
- 10 John Ribiero, resident Winthrop
- 11 Matthew Cameron, No Eastie Casino
- 12 Brian Gannon, resident East Boston
- Jane O'Reilly, resident East Boston
- 14 David Searles, resident East Boston
- 15 Steve Holt, resident East Boston
- 16 Mary Berninger, resident East Boston
- 17 Ana Lanzilli, Suffolk Downs employee
- 18 Gina Walker, Passenger Transportation Solutions
- 19 Ann Guange, resident East Boston
- 20 Anthony Zizza, resident Saugus
- 21 Richard Sheehan, resident Rowley
- 22 Barry Hock, UNITE HERE
- 23 Bob Upton, President, Revere Chamber of
- 24 Commerce

- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Sandy Levin, resident Revere
- 3 Rosalee Vincent, resident East Boston
- 4 Beverly Sheets, resident Revere
- 5 Michele Jeffrey, resident Revere
- 6 James Sinatra, resident East Boston
- 7 Robert Pyles, resident East Boston
- 8 Gary Ferragamo, resident Revere
- 9 Rinus Oosthoek, Exec. Dir., Salem Chamber of
- 10 Commerce
- 11 Lorene Schettino, resident East Boston
- 12 Ed Deveau, resident Revere
- 13 Arthur Guinasso, resident Revere
- 14 John Vitagliano, resident Winthrop
- 15 Matilda Bonfarcedi, resident Revere
- 16 Justin Pasquariello, resident East Boston
- 17 Stephanie Scopa, resident East Boston
- 18 Matthew Neave, resident East Boston
- 19 Gail Miller, resident East Boston
- 20 Heather Engman, resident Winthrop
- 21 Stephen Fielding, Dir. Revere Rossetti-Cowan
- 22 Senior Center
- 23 Kim Hanton, resident Revere
- 24 Matthew Morano, resident East Boston

- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- Bob Marra, Cambridge Health Alliance
- 3 William Jackson, resident Revere
- 4 Astrid Weins, resident Winthrop
- 5 Ariel Schmidt, resident Harvard
- 6 Lisa Alberghini, resident Winthrop
- 7 Richard Dolan, resident Revere
- 8 Paul Umbrello, resident Waltham
- 9 Barry Kaplovitz, resident Winthrop
- 10 Jaimie McNeil, UNITE HERE
- 11 Beth MacBlane, Mystic River Watershed Assoc.
- 12 Morris Morris, resident Revere
- 13 Kate O'Neil, UNITE HERE
- 14 Robert Young, Palmer Business for a Palmer
- 15 Casino
- 16 Christopher Graham, Lorenz Island Kuisine
- 17 Steven Roussel, resident Winthrop
- 18 Dino Tavano
- 19 Paul Coruccio, resident Winthrop
- 20 Terence Burke, Dodge Grain
- 21 George Sheron, No Eastie Casino
- Jeannine Beaudoin, Friends of East Boston
- 23 Dennis Maschella, Veterans of Foreign War
- Jason Delockery, MOMs

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

7

- 8 I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify that the
- 9 foregoing is in compliance with the
- 10 Administrative Office of the Trial Court
- 11 Directive on Transcript Format.
- 12 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
- 15 hearing was taken and further that I am not
- 16 financially nor otherwise interested in the
- 17 outcome of this action.
- 18 Proceedings recorded by Verbatim means, and
- 19 transcript produced from computer.
- 20 WITNESS MY HAND this 28th day of March,
- 21 2014.

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