

February 14, 2019

The Honorable William Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
c/o Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Secretary Galvin:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, we are pleased to offer our support to MGM Springfield's application for recognition of its adaptive reuse effort with respect to the new \$900 million MGM Springfield casino.

During the commission's review of MGM Springfield's application in 2014, we routinely acknowledged the incredible uniqueness of this facility – its open and accessible design as well as its many historic preservation projects and tributes to the city's rich and innovative history. In the global gaming industry, we are confident that there is not a project that compares with the distinctiveness of this resort casino and goal to be a destination located in the heart of an urban community.

We hope that the Massachusetts Historical Commission will consider the many elements within this project that helped to preserve or reuse key buildings and salvaged architectural fixtures throughout the development. Throughout the construction period, we monitored all of the preservation efforts as well as our licensee's working partnership with the local historical commission. From the physical relocation of the 1887 French Congregational Church and renovation of the 1895 State Armory head house, which was damaged during the 2011 tornado, the development also protected the facades of several historic buildings along State and Main Street including the 1912 Union Electric building and 1846 Chandler Hotel. The replication of the 1909 YWCA building elements on the new facility and the preservation of the stained glass dome from the 1912 Union Electric building were among the intentional and impressive homages to Springfield's past that are re-energized in the community.

During the commissioners' tour of the facility just prior to opening, we saw Springfield's history exhibited throughout the casino property and in the resort's hotel. We were impressed with the engaging and interpretive signage that would allow visitors to understand the significance of the city's history and nine historic sites located within the resort.

Thank you for considering recognition of the significant adaptive reuse efforts of this unique development project.

With regards,

Cathy Judd-Stein

Chair

Gayle Cameron
Commissioner

Eileen O'Brien

Commissioner

Enrique Zuniga

Commissioner

Bruce Stebbins Commissioner

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