

Public Educational Forum on Mitigation

June 18, 2012

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

Hosted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission & the public

AGENDA – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Welcome: Commissioner James F. McHugh, Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Remarks: Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland)

Panel Discussion (moderated by Marc Draisen)

- Vera Koliass
- Kathleen Conley Norbut
- Karen B. O'Connell
- Mary Kay Peck
- Stephen C. Smith

Closing remarks: Chairman Stephen P. Crosby, Massachusetts Gaming Commission

The public is encouraged to submit questions for the panel on the note cards provided. Questions will be posed to the panel, time permitting. Following the Forum, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission will hold a public meeting at Noon. Forum participants are welcome to attend.

Karen Spilka is a State Senator from Ashland, representing the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk District, including all or part of Ashland, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway, and Natick. A Senator since 2005, she currently serves as the Assistant Majority Whip, sits on three legislative committees, and serves as Senate Chair of the Women's Caucus, the MetroWest Caucus, and the BioTech Caucus. She was previously Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging technologies, and the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. She served in the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2005. Prior to becoming a legislator, Senator Spilka was in private practice as an arbitrator and mediator, specializing in labor and employment law and community and court mediation. She has also worked as a labor and employment attorney on behalf of employees, unions, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and the state. She is a graduate of Northeastern Law School and Cornell University.

Marc D. Draisen has served as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) since 2002. A Boston native, Mr. Draisen has also served as the President & CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), and Executive Director of Citizen's Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA). From 1991-1995, he served as State Representative from Boston and Brookline (11th Suffolk District). Earlier in his career, Mr. Draisen helped to further the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the administrations of Governor Michael Dukakis and Boston Mayor Kevin White. He holds a Master's Degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Vera Kolias, AICP is a Principal Planner with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Vera is the principal author of the CMRPC 2010 report titled “Gambling on Development: A Report to the Warren, MA Casino Study Committee.” She also works on various zoning technical assistance projects for communities, regional economic development initiatives, affordable housing proposals, and many other local and regional planning projects. Before joining CMRPC, Ms. Kolas was the Town Planner for the Southborough and Assistant Director of Planning for Peabody. She holds Master’s Degrees in Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as well as bachelor degrees in Natural Resources Planning and French from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA.

Kathleen Conley Norbut, M. Ed., LMHC is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, educator, community and social justice activist. She served on the Town of Monson’s Finance Committee and two terms on the Board of Selectmen as the fourth woman elected to the Board of Selectman in the town’s history. Kathleen is a lifelong Massachusetts resident who attended Tufts University, graduating on the Dean’s List with a BS in Biology-Psychology. She was a co-captain of the women’s varsity swim team and the first female undergraduate to work as a student Athletic Trainer at Tufts. Kathleen moved to Western Massachusetts over twenty years ago to attend graduate school at Springfield College. She is currently the coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps in Western Massachusetts and deployed for the four federal disasters in 2011, including the June 1 tornadoes that devastated her hometown of Monson. Kathleen is a nationally certified instructor for Psychological First Aid and conducts trainings on emergency preparedness. Kathleen served on two superintendent search committees and on the Hampden County District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Task Force. Kathleen was honored for her work combating family violence by the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley. She is a founding member of the Western MA Casino Task Force, and co-founder & former president of the coalition United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts.

Karen B. O’Connell, Esq. is an attorney, former Main Street Director in Boston and currently serves as the Director of Economic Development for the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts. She is also on the Board of Blue Hills Bank, a community based bank based in Boston and also serves on their Charitable Foundation Board. In her current position as Economic Development Director, Ms. O’Connell’s role is to explore the full range of economic development tools available to the town and provide the information, resources and public-private partnerships necessary to put Dedham in a competitive, leadership position by effectively managing economic growth and implementing a strategic plan for sustainable development. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Juris Doctor from the Boston University School of Law.

May Kay Peck, FAICP is the founding principal of MKPeck Associates, specializing in planning and management services. Ms. Peck has 30 years of local government experience as a city manager, assistant city manager, community development director and planning director. During her tenure as Henderson, NV city manager, the city was recognized by the International Association for City and County Managers for outstanding customer service and for its efforts in measuring and improving performance. The city also received the Trailblazer Award for Organizational Excellence from the Nevada Quality Alliance. Throughout her career, Ms. Peck has managed a number of award-winning projects, including the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Regional Plan, the Downtown Henderson Investment Strategy, the Henderson Visual Interactive Code, and the Springhill, Montana, Community Plan. While president of the American Planning Association, Ms. Peck laid the foundation for the organization’s first communication plan and led its first membership growth strategy, resulting in a 23% increase. She has given numerous presentations and keynote speeches throughout the country and around the globe on leadership, management excellence and planning performance.

Stephen C. Smith is Executive Director of the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District, a regional planning agency serving 27 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts. SRPEDD is a public agency planning for land use, economic development, transportation and the environment in the region. Mr. Smith has been Executive Director of SRPEDD since 1983, having previously held the positions of Deputy Director and Water Quality Project Director. Mr. Smith has a Bachelor of Economics from Colgate University and a Master’s Degree from the University of Rhode Island. He lives with his wife in Assonet.