



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

January 30, 2025

Jordan Maynard, Chair
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St., 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chair Maynard:

I wanted to first thank you and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for your ongoing support of the City of Springfield, as we continue to make great strides in building off of the excitement and significant private investment of MGM Springfield.

Enclosed you will find the city's application to the Community Mitigation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Program. As per the guidelines we have included project forms for each category.

In addition, we have submitted a waiver form given our significant financial needs as a result of documented impacts and in advancing economic development in the Convention Center/Main Street district, of which MGM Springfield is a key anchor.

As per the guidelines, "if any municipality determines that the proposed grant amount is insufficient to mitigate identified casino related impacts, it may request a waiver for those specific projects." As such, we have compiled all projects of need in our application, and realize the need for a financial waiver.

Our attached request from the Community Mitigation Fund totals \$2,903,700. This total request represents our block grant allotment of \$1,403,700 as well as a \$1,500,000 waiver, and is in line with previous total awards for Springfield in recent years, approximately \$3 million per year.

As you know from your work on the Commission, Springfield has made great advances in partnership with MGM Springfield and the MGC, the latest being the long-awaited completed redevelopment of 13-31 Elm Street on Court Square as well as the restoration of Court Square Park, opening this Spring – thanks to the support of the Community Mitigation Fund.

We will continue to build off of that positive energy and appreciate MGC's support in recognizing the significant impacts of being a Host Community and partnering to best catalyze positive economic and community development.

We hope you will look favorably on these requests and please feel free to reach out to myself or my Development Division should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Domenic J. Sarno
Mayor

"Good health & God Bless."

CC: Tim Sheehan, Chief Development Officer
Joe Delaney, Chief, MGC Division of Community Affairs



FY 2026 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2026 grant round.
- II. Each municipality may only submit **ONE** application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. Forms can be found below as Parts A-E. If there is more than one project in a category, please copy the form. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation for all projects identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Municipal Grant Manager will be the person responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports. The application must be signed by the municipal administrator or an individual with signatory authority. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID BD25-1068- 1068C-1068L-109685

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2026 Application Guidelines visit

<https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Municipal Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: City of Springfield
Vendor Code: V6000192140
Name: Brian Connors
Title: Deputy Development Officer
Email Address: bconnors@springfieldcityhall.com
Telephone: 413-787-6664
Address: Planning & Eco. Dev, 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA 01107

Grant Budget Summary

Your community's FY 2026 proposed allocation can be found at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>. Use the space below to total all requests by category. Please clarify how many discreet projects your community plans to undertake per category.

Total FY 2026 Allocation:		
Application Totals by Category	# of Projects	Requested Amount
A. Community Planning	1	\$250,000
B. Public Safety	1	\$400,000
- Police	1	\$200,000
- Fire	1	\$200,000
C. Transportation	1	\$1,500,000
Construction	1	\$120,000
Planning	1	\$180,000
D. Gambling Harm Reduction	1	\$253,700
E. Specific Impact	1	\$253,700
TOTAL		\$2,903,700 (includes waiver request)

- I. Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement?
 Yes
 No

- II. If yes, you must fill out a CMF Municipal Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix E to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

Budget Category Summary

Use the space below to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting "add row"). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Community Planning	Springfield Regional Visitors / Events Center	Adaptive Reuse Design and Implementation Strategy for Old First Church as Centerpiece to Court Square & Regional Visitors & Event Anchor	\$250,000

B. Public Safety -Police	AXON MY-90	The City of Springfield proposes implementing Axon's My90 and Community Request platforms to address the public safety challenges associated with operating the gaming establishment.	\$400,000
-Fire	Overtime	Overtime needs to support the additional staffing required since the introduction of the Tactical Emergency Response Vehicle (TAC unit) to casino response	\$200,000
C. Transportation - Construction	Springfield Downtown Public Realm II	Construction of Phase II Main St & Convention District Public Realm Streetscape Improvements to Priority Development area around MGM at State/Main, Willow and Union St. Economic Development Projects	\$1,500,000
-Planning	2025 Local and Regional Traffic Study (w/PVPC)	Complete a new traffic study on the impacts of MGM Springfield throughout the region. Study will be done in partnership with request from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). Springfield portion will also focus on future local demand of district.	\$120,000
D. Gambling Harm Reduction	Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI)	To advance the work of the GARI by focusing on research knowledge translation. This concept involves the process of transforming research findings into actionable insights that inform policies, programs, and services.	\$180,000
E. Specific Impact	Regional Attraction Improvements: Symphony Hall	Funding will support repairs and upgrades to chandelier, curtains, as well as well as improved audio and visual communication systems for improved operations.	\$253,700

Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.



Signature:

Date: January 30, 2025

Name and Title of Signatory:
Brian Connors, Deputy Development Officer



APPENDIX E – RFR 1068-1068C-1068L-109685
MUNICIPAL BLOCK GRANT FY 2026 WAIVER FORM

Applicants may request a waiver of a condition set forth in the Application for the Commission’s consideration. All requests for waivers or variances shall be submitted with the Application. The Commission may in its discretion waive or grant a variance from any provision or requirement contained in the FY 2026 Guidelines.

Applicant: City of Springfield
Program Manager: Brian Connors, Deputy Development Officer
Email: bconnors@springfieldcityhall.com
Telephone: 413-788-0383
Address: 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA 01104

I. Financial Variance Request:
If your municipality’s proposed allocation is insufficient to mitigate identified casino related impacts, you may use the space below to request additional funds. Municipal waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and award decisions will be based on available funding.

Please Note: The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under a municipality’s annual CMF allocation.

CMF Designated FY 2026 Grant Amount: \$1,403,700
Requested Amount Over Designated: \$1,500,000

Basis of Waiver Request:

As per the guidelines, “if any municipality determines that the proposed grant amount is insufficient to mitigate identified casino related impacts, it may request a waiver for those specific projects.” As such, we have compiled all casino related impact projects of need in our application, and through that process realize the need for a financial waiver.

Our attached request from the Community Mitigation Fund totals \$2,903,700. This total request represents our block grant allotment of \$1,403,700 as well as a \$1,500,000 waiver, and is in line with previous total awards for Springfield in recent years, approximately \$3 million per year.

As this question notes that the intent of the waiver is to fund significant projects, it’s clear in our application that a significant project with a request of \$1.5 million is to assist in the funding of \$4.5 million worth of Public Realm II construction. As MGC CMF has been supportive of the recent construction of Public Realm I improvements in Court Square, as well as design of Public Realm II, this request is in line with expectations the city has provided in recent years as we move forward in the Implementation Blueprint and the Main Street/Convention Center District.

II. Programmatic Requirement Variance Request:

A municipality may request a waiver from any application requirement. Municipal waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and applicants will be notified of the Commission's decision.

Basis of Waiver Request:

As all projects outlined in our application are of an eligible nature, an established impact, and not requesting more than 30% of total project costs, we are not seeking a Programmatic Requirement Variance Request.

Part A-Community Planning - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, drawings etc.

Project Name: Springfield Regional Visitors & Events Center	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Brian Connors	Name:
Title: Deputy Development Officer	Title:
Department: Planning & Economic Development	Department:
Email Address: bconnors@springfieldcityhall.com	Email Address:
Telephone: 413-787-6664	Telephone:
Address: 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA 01104	Address:
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>While the casino continues to attract visitors to downtown, these patrons primarily visit the casino only, with less visitation and spin off/reallocated spending to Springfield’s downtown attractions and businesses. COVID and the slow return of the casino to pre casino operations continue to hamper the casino’s full engagement and “opening” to downtown. Paired with the City’s continued efforts to secure new investment in the downtown Main Street & Convention District (MSCD) around the casino, the City seeks to enhance the District offerings, tourism attraction, and visitor exposure through a new regional Visitors & Events Center at Old First Church, one of the City’s most prominent buildings and historic centerpiece to Court Square Park, the physical and symbolic arrival space to the City and region. The City currently owns the historic building which has sat essentially vacant since religious services ceased in 2008, though sees great potential for Old First Church’s reuse given its prime central location in downtown and at the crossroads of MGM, MassMutual Center, Symphony Hall and City Hall.</p> <p>As first identified in the City’s MSCD plan (<i>See Attachment A Excerpt</i>), funded in part through the MGC’s Community Mitigation Funds, the City seeks to turn the historic building into a key signature arrival and special events center to showcase and market the area’s and region’s tourism and business attractions in downtown and further compliment the casino’s complete “urban resort” offerings. Additionally, this project is proposed as part of the broader City efforts in conjunction with the MGC to promote and revitalize the economic development potentials stymied by the initial MGM Casino real estate purchases and over inflation of properties in downtown. This project builds on the City’s comprehensive and multi-faceted redevelopment strategy supported over the last five plus years by the MGC and evidenced through some of their major milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the City’s authoring of the <i>Main Street and Convention District Master Development Plan</i> to prioritize, promote and guide both public and private investment / development; • the City’s purchase of threat/blight properties (Clocktower & Colonial Block Buildings) and subsequent repositioning through marketing and Developer RFPs, successfully attracting a national development entity, McCaffery Interests, to invest in their adaptive reuse and the district 	

- critical regulatory updates / enhancements through the Court Square Urban Renewal Plan Amendment 12 (CSURP) to promote, guide and streamline development process; and
- public realm improvements in Court Square Park and surrounding area to strengthen downtown connectivity to the casino, improve the community/pedestrian experience and set the table for new downtown private investment.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

The City has been intentional in its efforts to attract MGM Springfield visitors to experience other attractions in Downtown Springfield. A visual barrier at time of opening in 2018 was the vacant and underutilized properties on the other side of State Street, often serving as a reason not to leave the campus and cross into the Downtown. Through collaborative efforts, and the support of MGC and MGM Springfield, the redevelopment of 13-31 Elm Street as well as the recent redevelopment of Court Square Park, and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority's acquisition of the Shean Block have all signaled positively to visitors reason to further explore the city. With these improvements, and new visitors who will be making that journey, we believe it's imperative to understand how to best utilize the historic centerpiece of Court Square – Old First Church, and do so in a way that is accessible for the public to fully enjoy.

The Old First Church Visitors and Events Center will serve not only an important physical focal point to the downtown district but also the key to the broader tourism strategy to more fully and completely market Springfield and the region to tourists, businesses, and residents alike. Additionally, the City will work with other area stakeholders and anchor attractions to fully promote and program the utilization and sustainable operations of the center. Through this, the City will be able to more comprehensively promote downtown and entice casino patrons to visit the full range of tourism and business offerings in downtown around the casino and region.

Though currently underutilized, the City sees great potential for Old First Church's reuse given its prime central location in downtown and at the crossroads of MGM, MassMutual Center, Symphony Hall and City Hall. Again referencing the City's MSCD plan, the City seeks to advance these preliminary reuse ideas into viable concepts, designs, business plans/proformas, and implementation strategies for turning the building into a signature arrival and special events center to showcase and market the area's and region's tourism and business attractions in downtown and further compliment the casino's complete "urban resort" offerings. Building on the preliminary vision of the MSCD plan, the City believes the Old First Church revitalization has potential to serve as:

- an iconic central destination hub for visitors, casino patrons and residents and launching point for exploration of area cultural attractions, entertainment offerings, retail/restaurants, businesses, and the casino resort;
- a one-of-a-kind event space in the main historic church volume for the region, the City, civic organizations, the casino, and especially MassMutual Center directly across from their facility for conference breakout sessions, headliner/signature presentations, special announcements, social/networking parties, or even awards dinners tied to major conferences, conventions or civic

events; similarly, Old First Church could offer a unique venue to area/regional residents for weddings, receptions, funerals and other special events at the historic heart of the Springfield's downtown

- a unique art & educational exhibit space / marketplace for area artisans, nationally recognized travelling art shows (e.g. Immersive art programs), or similar tourism generating events
- an intimate music and performance venue, complementing Symphony Hall and MGM's entertainment offerings with smaller shows, lectures, and attractions, much like City Stage once served
- a new central home for area tourism related and business improvement agencies, for new offices, storage and events planning

The requested funding is critical to help advance the conceptual design advancement enough to formulate and test the financial viability, and then market to third party partners to help implement. The Old First Church scope includes the following key components:

1. **Facility Conditions Assessment FCA (\$80K):** building conditions assessment, code compliance review, critical predevelopment repairs/upgrades; estimate of costs; **(COMPLETED BY CITY)**
2. **Reuse Assessment & Conceptual Architectural Design:** through City planning and architecture team, advance industry research, market potentials, and design test fits to understand the reuse potentials and best utilization of existing historic space; advance conceptual design to determine near term stabilization plan and estimated magnitude costs for the project; establish preferred program/programming;
3. **Business Plan / Pro forma:** market research, demand & program viability; ownership structures, operations & programming strategy/commitments; development pro forma; potential incentives/funding;

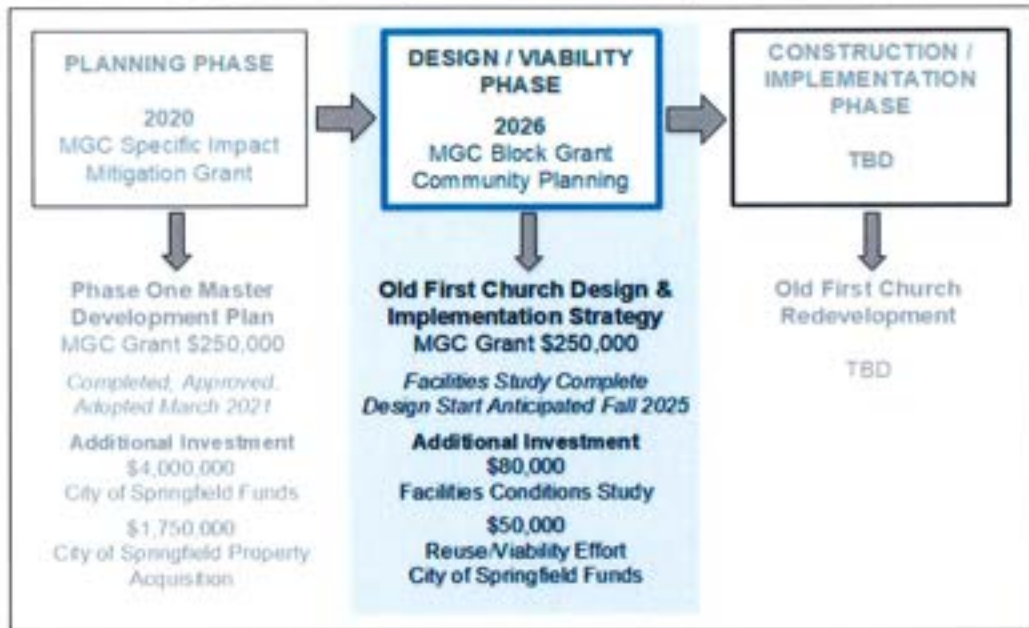
Implementation Alternatives & Solicitation: Potential development structures & processes for implementation (Developer RFP, P3, City led, etc.); preferred alternatives; stakeholder outreach/engagement/commitments; solicitation strategy; solicitation document, process execution, and developer / partner selection

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
• Design: Reuse Research/Assessment, Conceptual Design/Program & Magnitude Costs	5 - 6 months		± 100,000 – 125,000
• Financial: Business Plan / Pro forma	3 - 4 months		± 50,000 – \$75,000
• Implementation: Implementation Alternatives / Process & Solicitation Process * Note: Tasks/Timelines may overlap	8 – 12 months		± 125,000 – \$150,000

<p>Final MGC Grant allocations across key tasks may vary depending on final needs but will not exceed \$250,000.</p> <p>MGC Grant to be paired with City investment of \$80,000 FCA effort already completed, and an additional \$50,000 allocated through City funds for total project costs of \$380,000</p>		TOTAL:	\$250,000
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FY 2026 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application: City of Springfield, MA
ATTACHMENT A: Old First Church Excerpts from MSCD Plan: Community Planning

THE IMPLEMENTATION BLUEPRINT



MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Phase One

MARCH 2021

Prepared by The Chicago Consultants Studio, Inc. on behalf of the City of Springfield MA

Area Existing Conditions

- The District's major destination anchors, MGM and MMC, drive much of the tourism, economic activity, and market demand in the area
- These anchors provide critical activation and opportunity though currently isolated to within each fostering growing insularity in the District
- Abundant vacancies (many of which are former retail/restaurants), underutilized buildings, and undeveloped parcels, have contributed to growing disinvestment and blight creating negative perceptions and impediments to development and investment
- Highest concentration of these vacancies or underutilization exists along the City's primary Main Street corridor, directly adjacent to MGM and MMC
- Surrounding District lacks clear identity, cohesion, unified character and overall vibrancy creating a negative environment for pedestrians/visitors and impediments to development and investment

The amount and concentration of vacancies and underutilization along Main St., presents an unique opportunity for the City to comprehensively affect, direct, control, and coordinate cohesive development in this area.

Properties in transition, vacant or underutilized include:

1. "Masonic Building" 113 State Street
2. "Colonial Building" 1155 Main Street
3. 19-21 Stockbridge
4. 101 State Building (MGM)
5. "Shean Building" 1212 Main St.
6. 1242 Main Street
7. 13-31 Elm Street
8. **Old First Church (City owned/SRA)**
9. 1127 Main Street
10. 24 Park Street
11. MassMutual Center South Entry
12. Civic Center Garage (MCCA)
13. Parking Lot (Chart Organization)



II. ASSESSMENT



Phase One Implementation Initiatives

The initial assessment of the properties and adjacencies within the District offers a logical separation into the following "sub zones" with distinct needs, challenges and opportunities:

- A. The Main Street Corridor**
Primary focus on Main Street properties not contributing to the character, activation and ancillary development in and around MGM and MMC
- B. Court Square Reactivation**
Reactivation of the central arrival space to downtown through anticipated development, public realm enhancements, and potential reuse of City assets
- C. MassMutual Center Complex**
Repositioning and enhancement of MMC complex to address deficiencies through expanded facilities, enhanced environment and competitive programming
- D. Willow Street Area Connection / Enhancements**
Reconnecting Willow Street area to Main Street and City park network with longer term potential for redevelopment and City enhancement

As identified, the sub zones reveal unique potential to create new episodes, environments and pedestrian experiences that draw on the immediate area assets but unlock new value through creative repositioning, redefinition and enhancements. More importantly, the potential expansion, overlap, synergy, and interplay between each sub zone presents a much more diverse, rich plan that begins to drive toward a far more exciting, diverse and and comprehensive downtown District experience which will be attractive to new developers and investors.

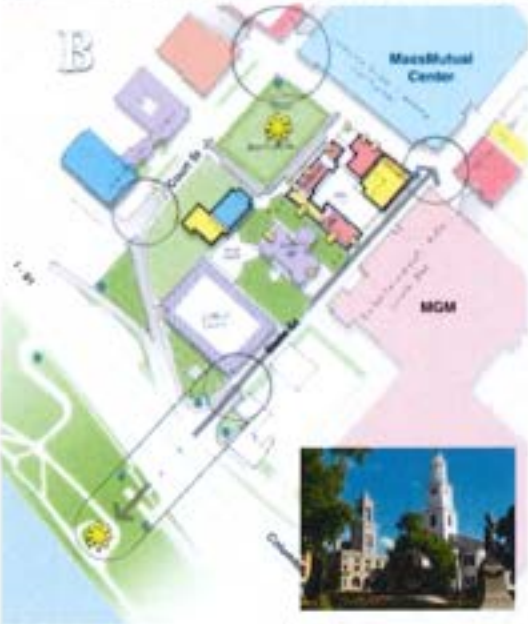




B Court Square Reactivation Downtown's Ceremonial Civic Space

The historic heart of downtown, Court Square has been in existence in some form since Springfield's beginnings in 1636. It serves many functions including:

- the City's main arrival point, ceremonial gathering space, and "front door" to downtown
- a prominent address to some of the City's major assets and districts, including some of the City's most treasured architecture:
 - *Cultural and Civic institutions*, "the Municipal Group" consisting of City Hall, Symphony Hall and clock tower Campanile, and Juvenile Courthouse Building by H.H. Richardson
 - *Downtown office and business core*, MetroCenter/CBD
 - *Convention, Conference and Arena*, MMC
 - *Entertainment, retail and casino complex*, MGM
 - Other notable structures: **Old First Church**, City-owned and important historic centerpiece, though vacant/inactive; and former Court Square Hotel, now under redevelopment as market rate residential and retail/restaurant
- an important "crossroads" and linkage for downtown and the various functions that line it



Court Square is more than just the park itself. In 1902 as part of the City's golden jubilee, Court Square was expanded to reach the Connecticut River. The construction of I-91 in the late-50s severed this connection creating the impasse that still exists today. With renewed interest and investment in the area, particularly MGM, the City's Riverfront Park and 31 Elm Street project, Court Square should once again be considered in this larger context, bound by Court St., Main St., State St. and the River. With this brings both need and opportunity to rethink, reactivate and reengage Court Square, its uses and functions, the space and flow, and key surrounding buildings. A new plan should focus on:

- Reestablishing Court Square as an active front door, ceremonial space and new attraction
- **Creative reuse of the City-owned Old First Church building as a "centerpiece" on the square with potential to serve as a multipurpose asset for all the cultural, civic, entertainment and convention/conference functions surrounding it**
- New park layout respective of historic significance and mature vegetation, but offering an alternate overlay of landscape and hardscape to update and enhance the space, usage and flow
- Strengthen edges, linkages and overall connectivity to address and unite with the river, Symphony Hall, City Hall, MMC, Main Street, MGM Springfield and other area uses
- Better leverage the vast array of architecture in and around the square
- Engage/accommodate 31 Elm project to leverage new residential vitality and ensure maximization of ground floor activation and integration

Court Square Center For the Arts Downtown's Renewed Civic Heart and Destination Space

Court Square is rich with potential, given its importance and foundational role to Springfield, its physical space serving as an important "arrival and gateway" to downtown, civic gathering space, and natural amenity, its rich and diverse architecture chronicles Springfield's growth as a City and now its important role as the centerpiece to a transforming the District and downtown.

A Redefined Court Square

Rethinking Court Square in a broader context allows it to truly function as the linchpin between the distinct downtown anchors, both physically as an enhanced landscape park and spatial connector, and programmatically as a functional amenity that serves and participates in the overlapping uses and anchors surrounding the space. Court Square is also defined by the buildings surrounding it which provide a rich canvas on which to create an altogether new experience to enliven the edges while maintaining the historic core.

Court Square as a Destination Attraction

The "Court Square Center for the Arts" concept revolves around the whole space becoming a destination attraction, with regular "events", that would provide new activation and attract visitors into downtown. The simple illumination of key buildings and historic features of Court Square, programmed to regularly set times and even seasonally could bring a entirely new purpose and meaning to Court Square. Advances in lighting technology and 3-D mapping would enable the surrounding architecture to become a canvas and feature event for the city, much other Cities have done on significant structures. Building on the energy and activity of MGM's entertainment plaza, Court Square would be renewed as the civic heart, new destination space, and feature attraction at the City's front door.





New Landscape / Streetscape Plan and Activation

Court Square is rich with an abundance of historic features, mature landscape, fountains, memorials, and structures. However the space remains static and underutilized. New planning should look at ways to integrate the historic character with a new design for landscape, hardscape, and programmatic uses. An "overlay" approach would seek to preserve the formal, historic features, while offering:

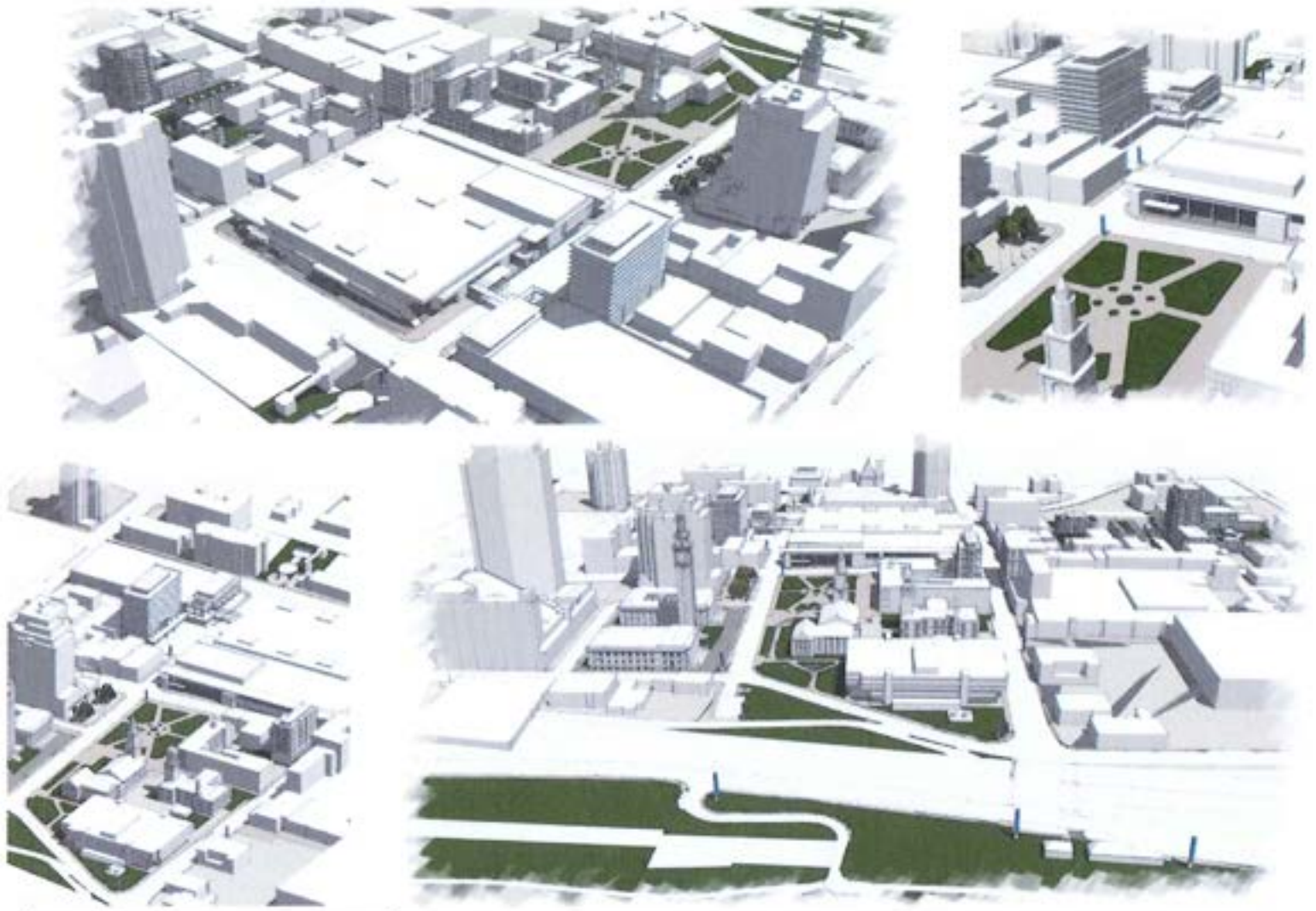
- New landscape arrangements that integrate mature trees and monuments with a new layout, planting beds, lighting and natural features while addressing and reinforcing dead zones, weak edges and lost interstitial spaces
- More pedestrian oriented features through inviting, usable lawn areas, benches, special lighting and display areas to reactivate the space, including potential for outdoor exhibits, markets, or even occasional usage by MMC for outdoor convention/conference exhibits or functions
- Alternative pathways, pedestrian routes and street crosswalks that more directly respond to and connect the primary uses and anchors both in and around Court Square, including restored / redefined connections to the Riverfront, State St./MGM, Symphony Hall/City Hall and MMC

Old First Church Cultural Events Center

As the historic centerpiece to Court Square and a transforming downtown district, Old First Church should be reactivated with new purpose that reinforces the District as well. With the historic main space of the church and three story building behind, the Similar to the Park Ave Armory in New York or the Epiphany Center for the Arts in Chicago, Old First Church has great potential to serve as:

- A new "center for the arts" as an extension of the downtown cultural experience filling a void for unconventional performing and visual arts in an intimate and historic space
- A unique events center for the City and residents for special civic functions, dinners, services, weddings/ceremonies and community gatherings
- An extension of MMC as a special use space for presentations/lectures, meetings, break out space, social events, and dinners





District Conceptual Views





Sub Zone Strategies

Court Square Center for the Arts

- Pursue new detailed *Court Square Park Improvements and Reactivation Plan* based on opportunities, needs, and directions identified herein
- Advance coordination of the *Old First Church Feasibility Study* to creatively assess design potentials, constraints, new directions for alignment with the District plan
- Continued interface/engagement with ongoing projects area stakeholders including 31 Elm St. redevelopment and 1248 Main St. renovation to ensure and assist project conformity to District plan

MassMutual Center District

- Conduct Convention Center "charrette" with MCCA, MMC, MGM, area hoteliers, businesses and key stakeholders to reaffirm needs, test potentials and advance viable strategies to reposition the convention center within the District plan as a critical anchor and economic engine
- Advancement of detailed *Convention Center Repositioning Study* in conjunction with CVB, MCCA, and MGM to assess market, new growth potentials, facility planning and operational enhancements
- Establish regular engagement MCCA/MMC to collaborate on and advance civic center garage design and new south convention center entry to ensure conformity with District plan / potentials
- Pursue stakeholder interface and related due diligence for potential convention expansion into adjacent properties and/or reuse of existing buildings
- Engage with MCCA on potential funding sources for planning and implementation

Willow Street Collection

- From proposed *District Infrastructure and Unification Plan*, pursue near term implementation of enhancements along Willow St and Cross St.
- Complete District parking study and plan with SPA aligned with District plan to determine preferred parking solutions and key steps to implement
- Advance stakeholder engagement and input on longer term potentials as mixed use redevelopment and consolidation of parking
- Pursue Civic and Business leadership outreach to explore civically-sponsored residential redevelopment initiative to assist with project leadership, advocacy, and end-user program (e.g. employee housing assistance programs)



Potential Sequence

The implementation of the District plan will involve a logical sequence of steps over the next decade plus that will continue to evolve in response to the market, site/parcel availability, funding, and overall momentum. Much like the process with MGM, the City plays an important ongoing role as a "master developer" of sorts to guide these steps, build interest, secure investment and ensure implementation in conformity to the Plan. The following suggests initial near-term, mid-term and long-term steps beginning with continued engagement and implementation of projects underway which are important first steps to changing reestablishing a positive environment for subsequent investment. The near-term Step 1 is the likewise important first phase catalyst to help further jump-start development, and public and private investment. These steps will evolve and shift in response to area opportunities, needs and strategic adjustments by the City.

Current District Projects and City Coordination / Facilitation

Currently, the amount of ongoing projects in the District represent a significant initial phase that done properly will add to the broader district appeal and opportunity. The City should continue its positive leadership and facilitation role to ensure successful implementation and integration. These projects currently include 31 Elm St., MCCA Civic Center Garage, Skyview, 101 State St., Chart Organization property renovations, and 1248 Main St.

STEP 1 (Near Term, through Year 3)

The near-term strategy project are perhaps the most critical in creating the proper character, excitement, value enhancement, and critical investment to spur interest and expansion; these steps also build on the Plan and advance important implementation initiatives/studies to assist subsequent steps:

- Main St. property coordination, assessment and development facilitation
- Developer identification, outreach, solicitation(s) and implementation
- District-wide enhancements, streetscape / landscape planning, and initial phase implementation
- Convention Center South entry and Main St. activation
- Convention Center planning, repositioning and implementation
- Court Square and Old First Church design/feasibility study, implementation strategy, solicitation
- District parking assessment, planning and implementation strategies
- Additional site control/acquisition as/if available

Part B- Transportation (Planning) The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, etc.

Project Name: 2025 Local & Regional Traffic Study (with PVPC)	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant. If there are multiple people involved in the grants management, please add more lines to accommodate their information.	
Project Contact:	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Brian Connors	Name: Eric Weiss
Title: Deputy Development Officer	Title: Director of Economic & Municipal Collaboration
Department: Planning & Economic Development	Department: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Email Address: bconnors@springfieldcityhall.com	Email Address: Eweiss@pvpc.org
Telephone: 413-788-0383	Telephone: 413-781-6045
Address: 70 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA 01104	Address: 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01103
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility causes or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>As stated in the guidelines, Transportation Planning and Construction projects for road and intersection improvements will only be funded on routes that have been identified in the Environmental Impact Report for the gaming establishment as carrying at least 1 percent of the casino related traffic. The data provided in the guidelines shows the City of Springfield far exceeding that number.</p>	
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>	
<p>This project is proposed in partnership with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), which will be applying for its own allocation of funding – combined the two awards will allow for the completion of a local and regional traffic study.</p>	
<p>The City of Springfield plans to contract with PVPC to partner on this project, which will provide updated traffic data related to MGM Springfield both in Springfield, and throughout the region. As this data has not been comprehensively assessed in the region in a single volume since the opening of MGM Springfield, many new projects and programs – including the Community Mitigation Fund – are left to rely on data that is a decade old and prior to opening of the casino, without a full understanding of actual impacts. There has been some anecdotal evidence that trip journeys to the casino have been more localized and north to south than initial projections, we hope this study can confirm those anecdotes and provide a clear picture of traffic impacts related to the casino in Springfield and beyond.</p>	

Springfield itself has completed a 2022 "lookback" traffic study, which it will provide and incorporate into this work, however the focus of this project in Springfield will be to look at future demand related to associated economic development projects in the adjacent blocks, which are essential to reversing the economic stagnation and have been supported through MGC and the Community Mitigation Fund, under ongoing implementation of the Main Street/Convention Center District and the Implementation Blueprint.

One of the key drivers of these projects is a projected \$68 million renovation of currently vacant commercial buildings across the street from MGM Springfield's hotel, for conversion into over 90 units of market rate and mixed income housing, with associated ground floor retail and residential amenities. This project, being led by a renowned Chicago based national development group, McCaffery, is expected to spark the spinoff economic development long expected by MGM Springfield.

To assist in supporting that development and the growth of the neighborhood in MGM Springfield's wake, the city and Springfield Redevelopment Authority (SRA) have been working collaboratively on advancing a new mixed use parking structure on Willow Street. Through their efforts along with the planning and design team, CCS & Walker Consultants, the city received a 2022 Specific Mitigation award to advance the conceptual design and implementation strategies for the parking structure development.

Current designs include reactivation of underutilized and uninviting parking lots between Main St. and Willow St. with two phases of development including parking structures partially lined with residential and ground floor retail. The City has advanced to a two-phase project approach which was necessary to align with near term acquisition efforts, projected costs and funding, and most viable implementation strategies.

Phase 1 is anticipated to accommodate nearly 300 spaces in a 4.5 story structure lined with 6,500 SF of ground floor retail and 30 to 40 residential units estimated at approximately \$22.2M. This garage project has been supported recently by a pair of Community Mitigation Fund grants of \$1.5 million each, for a total of \$3 million. The new parking facility will help support the needs of the new mixed use development from McCaffery, additional future redevelopment along Main St., as well as existing tenants in the neighborhood like Community Music School, and some of the demand spilling over from the MassMutual Center.

As direct impact to this neighborhood, these buildings, the real estate market, and parking needs have long been established by the city and MassGaming - what has not been addressed is the future traffic demand caused by the resulting redevelopment of this area.

Under this project, the city requests that MassGaming support PVPC's request for an updated regional traffic study, to realize current data around traffic counts, patterns, and journeys to MGM Springfield throughout the region. That PVPC request will be combined with this request, to utilize a single team to provide a comprehensive, updated report on existing traffic in Springfield, throughout the region, as well as future demand in this immediate impact area around MGM Springfield.

Excerpt from PVPC application:

Upon receipt of this grant, the PVPC will work in concert with a specialized traffic/transportation consultant who will examine and assess the current problems caused by casino-generated traffic on downtown Springfield and surrounding communities. The project will focus on traffic and transportation-related issues, questions, and concerns, although a broader scope of impacts could emerge and be entertained at some future date. The PVPC, along with an eligible traffic/transportation consulting, is uniquely qualified to spearhead this. In addition to providing technical expertise in grant management and transportation planning, the PVPC's experience in outreach and collaboration with member communities that have been impacted by the MGM Springfield casino will lead to a better understanding of its impacts on their cities or towns.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
PVPC Traffic Study (Springfield share)	16-month timeline		\$120,000
	TOTAL:		\$120,000

Part B- Transportation (Construction) The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, etc.

Project Name:
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant. If there are multiple people involved in the grants management, please add more lines to accommodate their information.

Project Contact:	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Brian Connors	Name:
Title: Deputy Development Officer	Title:
Department: Planning & Economic Development	Department:
Email Address: bconnors@springfieldcityhall.com	Email Address:
Telephone: 413-787-6664	Telephone:
Address: 70 Tapley Street, Springfield MA 01104	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility causes or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

Transportation Construction Grant

As established in the City of Springfield’s prior mitigation grant applications, the real estate conditions surrounding MGM Springfield have suffered sustained decline, property disinvestment and area blight due in large part to the over inflated and speculative market caused by the MGM project. This continued stagnation of large segments of real estate and lingering effect of the COVID pandemic, renders major street corridors and pedestrian connections to the casino unappealing and devoid of life, pedestrians, tenants, and vibrancy, all key aspects that are essential to attract residents, tourists and development interests. The City’s Main Street and Convention District Plan (from the MGC 2020 Grant) recommended addressing not only the physical structures but also the declining public realm and pedestrian environment to strengthen the critical connections throughout the District to area anchors and prevent growing isolation around the casino. Through prior MGC Community Mitigation Grant funding, the City has been able to advance both the design and construction of the Phase One improvements to the public realm including major public spaces, Court Square Park, and the surrounding streets and pedestrian paths to reunite and greatly enhance the pedestrian experience.

The City’s current grant funding from the 2025 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund (Transportation Planning) is advancing the design and engineering for the Phase Two project along adjacent primary streets and approach corridors emanating from Court Square, MGM and MassMutual Center (MMC). This includes an area roughly bound by Main St., State St., Willow St., and Union St. which will further enhance, unify, connect, brand, and activate the pedestrian experience around the casino while continuing the City’s Complete Streets/shared streets program and vehicular safety improvements begun in Phase One, nearing completion. Currently advancing through schematic design, the City seeks to complete Design and Construction Documents for the next phase improvements (site plan, landscape/streetscape design, wayfinding signage and engineering) within the next six to eight months. This effort builds on the landscape master plan and District palette established from the Phase One Court Square area project with specific focus on further expanding connectivity to MGM and MMC, particularly along the State Street and Main Street Corridors. Further the Phase Two project will add great value to the City’s/SRA’s efforts around the advancing Clocktower and Colonial building renovation project (113 State St., 1152 Main and 21 Stockbridge), MCCA’s planned South Entry for the MassMutual Center on State & Main St., and the advancing Willow St. area central mixed-use parking infrastructure project among others.

Together with the Phase One Court Square Public Realm project, these improvements will help cohesively knit the area together around MGM, setting the stage for much needed economic investment, new business/tenant attraction, increased tourism, and residential usage. Initial magnitude construction estimates for the project identified above (see Attachment B) are approximately \$6,000,000 of which the City seeks to implement a Part One \$4,500,000 project with assistance of \$1,500,000 from the MGC toward successful implementation of critical enhancements around the MGM anchor. As with last year's MGC block grant application and demonstration of the casino's adverse impact, the area conditions remain problematic though are slowly improving due in large part to sustained efforts and investment by the City, in collaboration with the MGC. This strategic, incremental public investment in the area has begun to show positive signs of attracting new interest and private investment, which are the cumulative building blocks to the area's revitalization. The status of area is as follows:

Negative Impacts:

- As previously demonstrated in the City's prior MGC grant applications, the stymied market conditions inadvertently caused by MGM Springfield acquisitions continue to perpetuate a negative image, lack of investment, and resulting depressed physical environment around MGM, deterring patrons from venturing out beyond the casino property
- Aside from the City's ongoing projects, there remain little change in additional private investment or improvements to areas surrounding MGM that would encourage economic growth as evidenced by:
 - continued absence of landlord investment, renovation or upkeep of prime structures
 - no new tenants or business openings in the prime spaces that line Main Street immediately adjacent to MGM and MMC
 - lack of pedestrian activity, continuity, and street life/vibrancy critical to attracting developers/investors, businesses, visitors, and residents to the area, with the exception of the recently opened 13-31 Elm Street residential conversion and pending opening of Court Square Park
- The continuing negative impact is evident in the conditions surrounding MGM where prime buildings and storefronts lining large segments of the Main Street corridor remain largely unoccupied and/or in poor, declining condition. Among these include the MGM owned 101 State St. under scaffolding, 1208 Main St. "Shean" Building, 1127 Main St. (former Patel Buildings), 1021 Main St. former restaurant, 24 Park St. vacant lot and 55 State St. vacancy adjacent to MGM main vehicular entry.

In response and following recommendations from the Court Square Urban Renewal District and Main Street and Convention District (MSCD) plans, the City through the Springfield Redevelopment Authority has been proactively acquiring these blight properties, as the private market has yet to respond on their own. As with the Clocktower/Colonial Building projects, the City's goal is to strategically reposition, support, promote and offer these properties to the market through a similar solicitation process used to attract McCaffery Interests, though now with the guarantee of a greatly improved public experience, attractive/active environment and branded destination district.

Positive Impacts:

- Mitigation grants paired with City and State funds have helped advance a number of key projects critical to jumpstarting investment activity and reactivation of the area around MGM. These include:
 - The nearing completion of the Court Square Park and surrounding area Public Realm Phase One Project construction which has updated and reactivated Court Square Park and enhanced the pedestrian environment, public safety, and connectivity between MGM and area anchors including Symphony Hall, City Hall, MassMutual Center, Bruce Landon Way and Pynchon Park.
 - The successful opening of the 13-31 Elm Street residential project, bringing new renters/residents and future retail / restaurants uses is beginning to activate the heart of downtown, while growing the market and demand for goods and service; additionally the speed to near 100% occupancy on the residential rentals is indicative of the growing interest in living downtown, and great "proof" of the

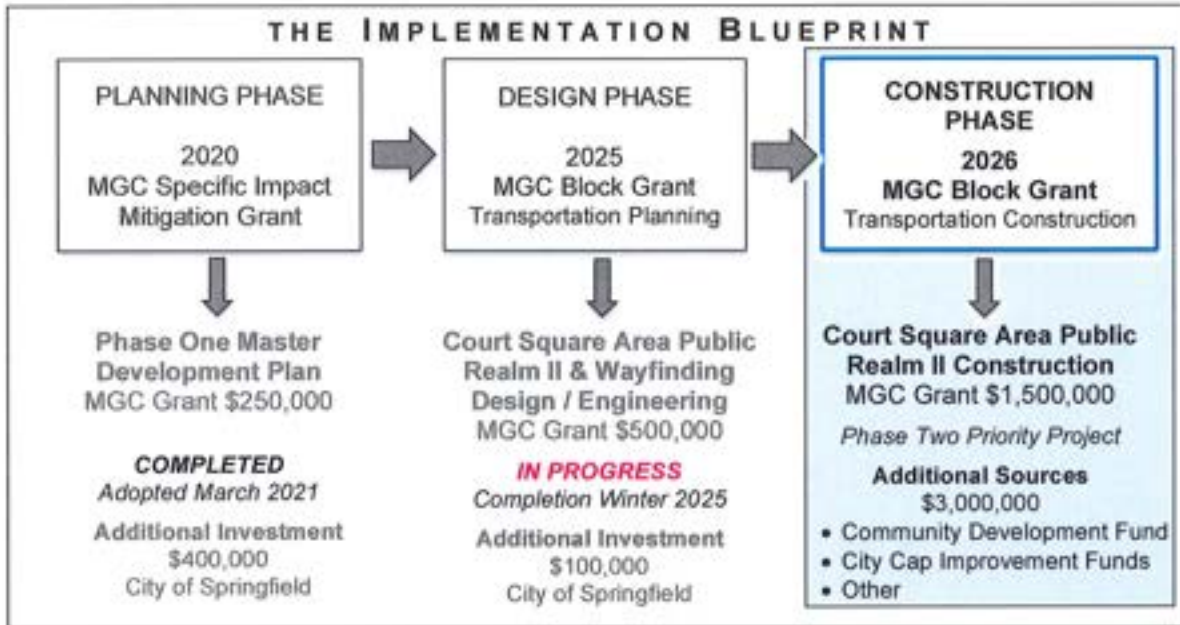
- The continued advancement of the proposed ±\$60M project by McCaffery Interest, a national developer, for the purchase and renovation of city-owned properties including 113 State St. Masonic Building, 1155 Main St. Colonial Building and 19-21 Stockbridge. The proposed project will bring important retail, restaurants and residential directly across from MGM and MMC, to enliven Main Street for residents, tourists, conventioners, and businesses. The requested grant will help fund the construction of important public improvements surrounding the project, MGM and MMC to replan, program and reinvigorate the key streets, spaces and corridors with high quality pedestrian environment. These improvements are critical City requirements in the SRA's redevelopment agreement with McCaffery to better plan, enhance and unify the east side of Main Street with the west/MGM and surrounding area.
- As expressed above, the City continues to implement their MSCD and Court Square Urban Renewal District plans through key acquisitions of underutilized, blight properties primarily along the Main Street Corridor. These include many listed above that were identified as underutilized properties though important opportunities for downtown: 1208 Main St. "Shean" Building, 1127 Main St. (former Patel Buildings and surface parking lot), 24 Park St. vacant lot, and the Community Music School surface parking lot (to enable the Willow St Mixed use garage project and required parking for area development). Further the City strongly requests repairs, renovation, and reprogramming of the MGM-owned 101 State St. building which has remained under unsightly scaffolding since 2018 (an obstruction to planned public realm improvements and traffic visibility) and still does not have active ground floor retail uses as required in the Host Community Agreement.

The City's team is advancing the design and engineering for public realm improvements and district signage for the entire area bound by Main St., State St., Willow St. and Union St. in anticipation of currently planned and future redevelopment, MMC improvements and the reopening / reengagement of MGM casino retail/restaurants located along Main Street. The City will phase the implementation of these improvements, likely in two parts, to best align and coordinate with the planned redevelopment. Phasing will be required for a project of this size and scale so as not to cause major disruption of traffic flow nor impede accessibility to the area, as well as to properly sequence with planned construction, typical near or after completion of the building redevelopment projects. This is to avoid damage to improvements if installed first or even "undoing" of improvements if required to adjust to reuse plans if coming after.

As such, the City anticipates a Part One phase to include the area approximately from State to Cross street, coinciding with the planned mixed-use garage and McCaffery redevelopment, followed by a Part Two later phase improvements to be coordinated with future redevelopment from Cross street to Union. Included in Attachment B is the initial rough order of magnitude cost estimate for both the public realm and signage projects for the entire area, totaling approximately \$6.0 M. As the designs proceed through Design Development and Construction Documents, revised budget estimates will be prepared to monitor overall cost as well as enable the City to realign the final Part One scope, fee and phasing toward the targeted \$4.5M project, and subsequent \$1.5M MGC CMF ask requested here.

For the Part One project, the City's 2026 MGC Block Grant (Transportation Construction) request seeks funding support of \$1,500,000 for an approximate \$4,500,000 construction project to initiate bidding, award, and implementation of these improvements. The City's request follows a similar progression of prior MGC funded efforts from planning, to design and engineering, and now to construction which will continue the realization of the City's revitalization plan in the MGM, Main Street and Convention Center district and restoration of developer/ investor confidence in the area, much like McCaffery. This continued support has proven extremely beneficial if not essential to the successful implementation of the City's guiding Main Street & Convention District Master Development Plan (2019 MGC Specific Mitigation Grant). The sustain efforts and public investments in the area by the City together with support from the MGC CMF, have begun to yield incremental, positive momentum toward revitalizing the area around the casino, setting the stage for redevelopment and private investment.

This Phase Two Public Realm project is critical to continuing this momentum and is a key City commitment to not only to McCaffery's \$60M investment in the historic renovations (Clocktower, Colonial and Stockbridge buildings) but also MassMutual Center's south entry improvements, MGM's retail/restaurant reopening along Main and planned future redevelopment (Sheen building, 101 State, 1121 Main St.



II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

As a key component to the City's Main St & Convention District Master Development Plan, public realm improvements sought from this grant will help build on the success of Phase One and continue the transformation of inactive streetscapes, disconnected spaces and vacant buildings along major street corridors and adjacent to MGM Springfield, into a cohesive destination district. As expressed previously, while the MGM Springfield campus is clearly defined with attractive edges, signage, landscape, lighting, and high quality pedestrian experience, immediately adjacent to the casino the environment changes dramatically outside the confines, turning away investors, developer, tenants, visitors and residents. This dichotomy of experience can be remedied through continued strategic investment in the public corridors, streets, and open spaces to improve continuity, connection and pedestrian environment. Improving and unify the character and identity of the area through this Phase Two project will continue the integration of MGM Springfield into the City and as an important anchor and desired economic catalyst to this emerging, dynamic and "cohesive" district.

The City's progressing conceptual design and engineering outline a number of improvements that will significantly enhance the site conditions, activate the area, and restore pedestrian connectivity around MGM, MMC, and the Main Street Corridor. McCaffery's proposed reactivation of the ground floor at 113 State St / Clocktower Building and 1157 Main St. / Colonial Building with new retail, restaurants and resident activity space, requires much needed improvements to the adjacent streets, sidewalks, alleys and opens spaces to fully realize and leverage the potential. As outlined previously, conditions around MGM and MMC, particularly along Main Street, are not attractive or conducive to development, though have great potential when considering the prime adjacency to MGM's retail/restaurants, hotel entries. The City's planning, design and engineering team are advancing the street, sidewalk and open space designs to help remedy the inconsistencies in the public environment and create a more dynamic, active and cohesive pedestrian experience. As outlined in Attachment B, these will include improvements to the area bound roughly by Main St, State St, Willow St and Union (and including Stockbridge St., Crossett St., Cross St., Park St. and potential interstitial connections), with primary focus on the following:

- **Sidewalk / Roadway Reconfiguration & improvements** to upgrade overall street and sidewalk layout/efficiency (including continued implementation of the City's Complete Streets planning and shared street model from Court Square), increase pedestrian safety, maximize outdoor space and usage (outdoor dining, retail display, public space/seating), and upgrade streetscape/hardscape modernization including paving, lighting, landscape and street furnishings building on the design palette from Court Square project and MGM; further the designs will address incorporation of planned redevelopment including the Willow St. Central garage, and renovation and residential reuse of future existing Main St. Buildings as well as connectivity to existing anchor developments, such as Stockbridge Court.
- **Improved Street Crossings / Connectivity:** through strategic bumpouts, wider crosswalks and potential "raised table" crossings along Main and State street to unify, connect and activate both the West of Main St, MGM side, with the east side of Main Street and planned new south entry to MMC
- **Pedestrian improvements:** through improved alleys and/or existing easement providing additional pedestrian only access from major streets into the redevelopment zone; including potential "shared street" pedestrian focus design, new paving, lighting, landscape and furnishing as key, safe connecting spaces
- **Potential public Open Space:** potential for expanding Springfield's interstitial network of pocket parks and "off Main" pedestrian connectivity through strategic placement of new carved out spaces within future development; the City's planned Central garage design contemplates utilization of residual areas for new pedestrian oriented landscaped open space to serve visitors, residents and businesses.

- **Signage / Wayfinding:** defining, unifying, and branding the District with clear markers through identify signage/pylons and way finding signage to delineate the district boundaries, showcase key anchor attractions and amenities within it and provide another form of district activation through lighting and potentially sound; the scope of this signage is anticipated to be primarily focused around the Public Realm Phase One and Two Project limits; additionally, this effort will explore refurbishment and rebranding of the currently failing directional signage program from over seven years ago;
- **Street parking / bus stop** reorganization/reconfiguration of street parking and public transit stops to best accommodate retail/restaurants and resident amenity spaces contemplated for Main Street, including redevelopment of the Clocktower/Colonial St. projects, MGM reopening and reengagement with Main St., and future redevelopment at 1127 Main and others

The City recognizes this project alone cannot remedy the full impact of MGM. However, these improvements are an essential step to a sustained, incremental, and multi-tiered strategy begun in 2019 with the support of the MGC, to cumulatively reposition the City and District around MGM as a prime investment opportunity, restoring developer confidence, economic growth, job generation and community activation in the area.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget			
Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Construction of Public Realm Phase Two: Streetscape, Hardscape, Landscape, Lighting & Wayfinding Signage Improvements	Anticipated 2026 – 2028		\$4,500,000 (Includes \$1,500,000 CMF request)
PART ONE: Approximate Area of Main, State, Willow and Cross Streets, (inclusive of Main Street from State to Union)			
PART TWO: Remainder: approximately Willow (Cross to Union), Park, Union Streets <i>(See Attachment B for more details on scope/budget)</i>	TBD		\$1,500,000
	TOTAL:		±\$6,000,000 *
			<i>* Initial Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate</i>

FY 2026 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application: City of Springfield, MA
ATTACHMENT B: Transportation Construction Exhibits: Public Realm Two

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Public Realm Two Site Plan / Scope | (Copley Wolff) |
| 2. Public Realm Two Rough Order of Magnitude Costs Estimate | (Copley Wolff) |
| 3. 2022 Preliminary Signage Plan / Conceptual Direction | (GoodGood) |
| 4. Signage Rough Order of Magnitude Costs Estimate | (GoodGood) |
| 5. Initial Existing Signs Refurbishment Scope Recommendations | (GoodGood) |

Zone	Length (LF)	Area (SF)	Avg SF Cost	Subtotal Cost
1 Main Street	1080	44,120	\$ 45	\$ 1,985,400
2 State Street	345	11740	\$ 35	\$ 410,900
3 Willow Street	910	23140	\$ 35	\$ 809,900
4 Union Street	355	8560	\$ 35	\$ 299,600
5 Stockbridge Street	325	11370	\$ 50	\$ 568,500
6 Cross Street	300	5110	\$ 30	\$ 153,300
7 Peabody Lane	310	4440	\$ 30	\$ 133,200
8 Pedestrian Passage	440	9515	\$ 50	\$ 475,750
9 Pocket Park	230	8590	\$ 70	\$ 601,300
			Grand Total	\$ 5,437,850

Notes

1. Average Square foot costs include pedestrian hardscapes, plantings, site furnishings, site lighting and miscellaneous site drainage.
2. Costs do not include vehicular areas except for raised/pedestrianized crossings.
3. Signage and way-finding not included.
4. Major civil utility improvements are not included.
5. Traffic signalization is not included.

Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

COURT SQUARE RECOMMENDATIONS: Proposed Sign Types Option 1

Sign Type 1 (option 2): fabricated aluminum cabinet, painted, internally illuminated. "Court Square" lighted cabinet with applied dimensional painted text. Perforated Aluminum upper cabinet.

Sign Type 2: fabricated aluminum cabinet, painted, internally illuminated. "Court Square" lighted cabinet with applied dimensional painted text, etched image, and perforated aluminum base.

Sign Types 3: fabricated aluminum plate, painted. Dimensional text. Option: Internally illuminated.

Sign Type 4: fabricated aluminum cabinet, painted. Internally illuminated. Lighted cabinet with applied imagery and text and dimensional painted numbers.

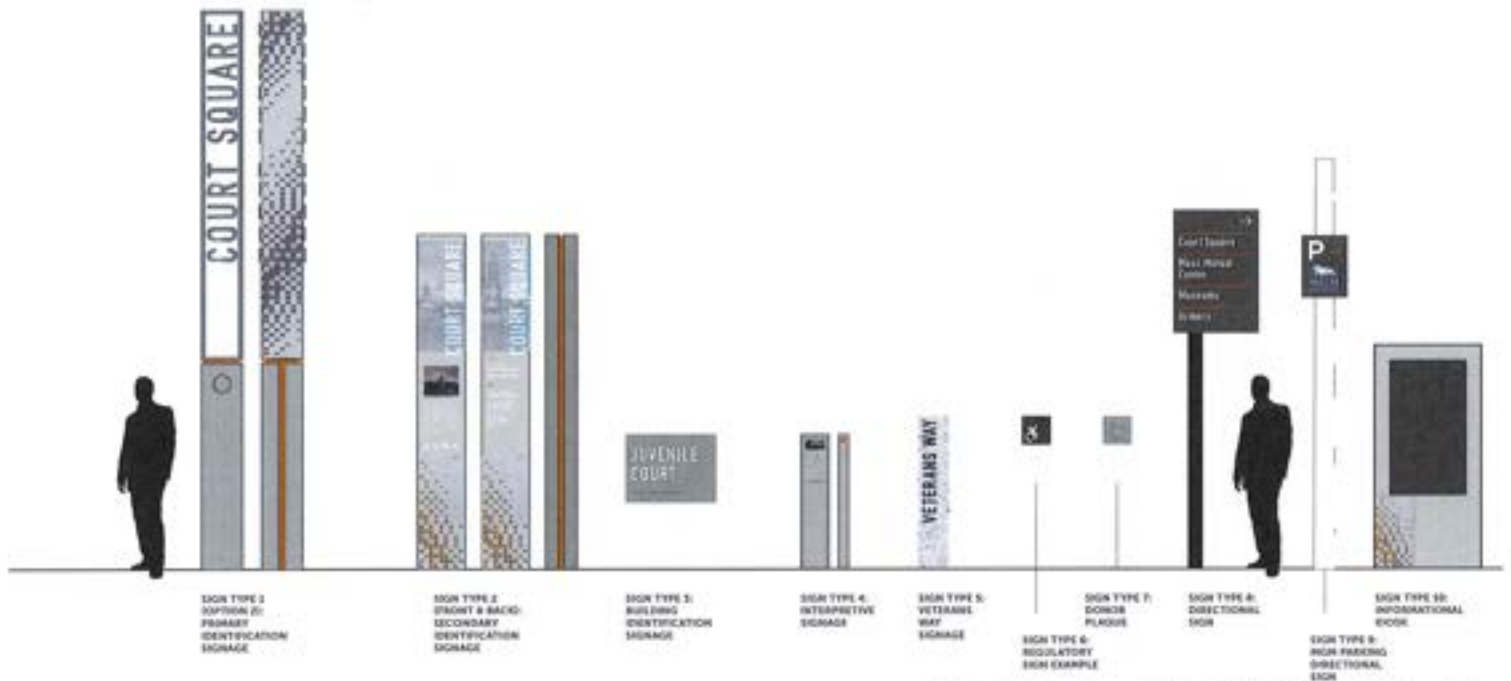
Sign Type 5: granite post, sandblasted and infilled text. Option: inlaid metal letters.

Sign Type 6: painted aluminum plate

Sign Type 7: painted aluminum plate with surface detail.

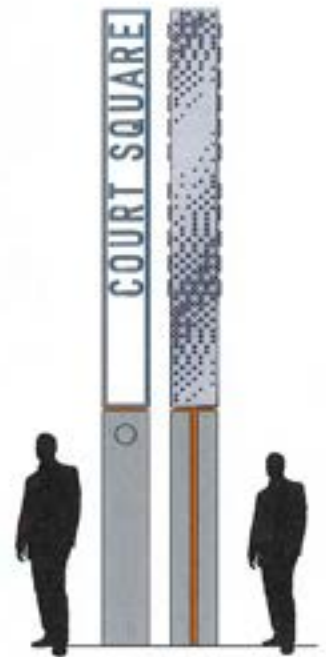
Sign Types 8-9: painted aluminum panel with applied reflective vinyl graphics.

Sign Type 10: fabricated aluminum cabinet, painted. Integrated outdoor media display or cabinet for changeable graphic. Perforated aluminum base.



SIGNAGE TYPE 1: PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION

The District Plan



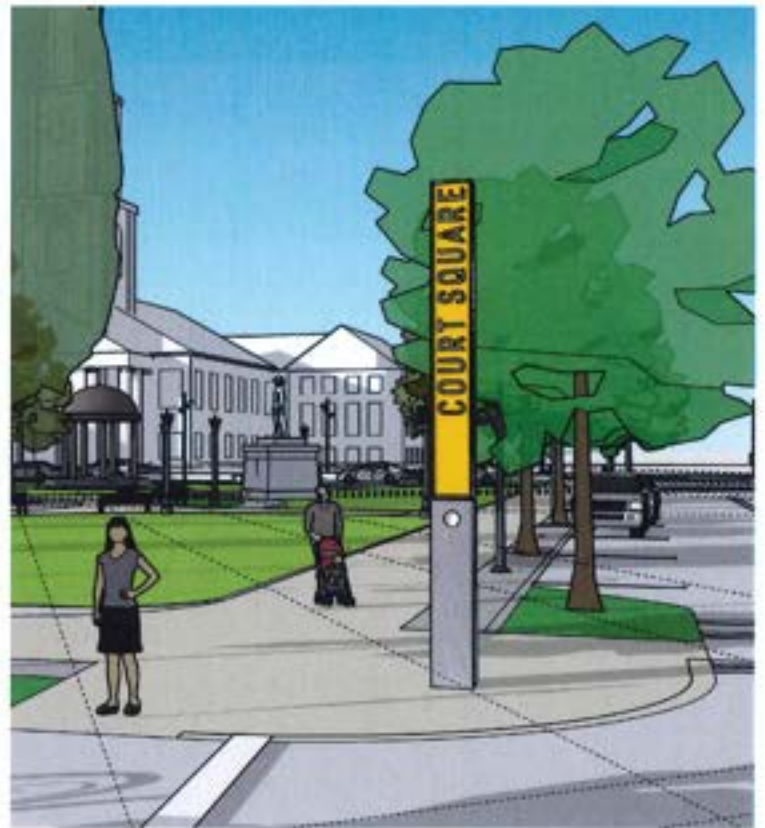
SIGNAGE TYPE 1
OPTION 2L
PRIMARY
IDENTIFICATION
SIGNAGE

Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE 1
**PRIMARY ID
SIGNAGE GOALS**

1. Identification
2. Lighting allows for remote control integration for variation in color throughout year.

Other types of content could include:
3. Directional



Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

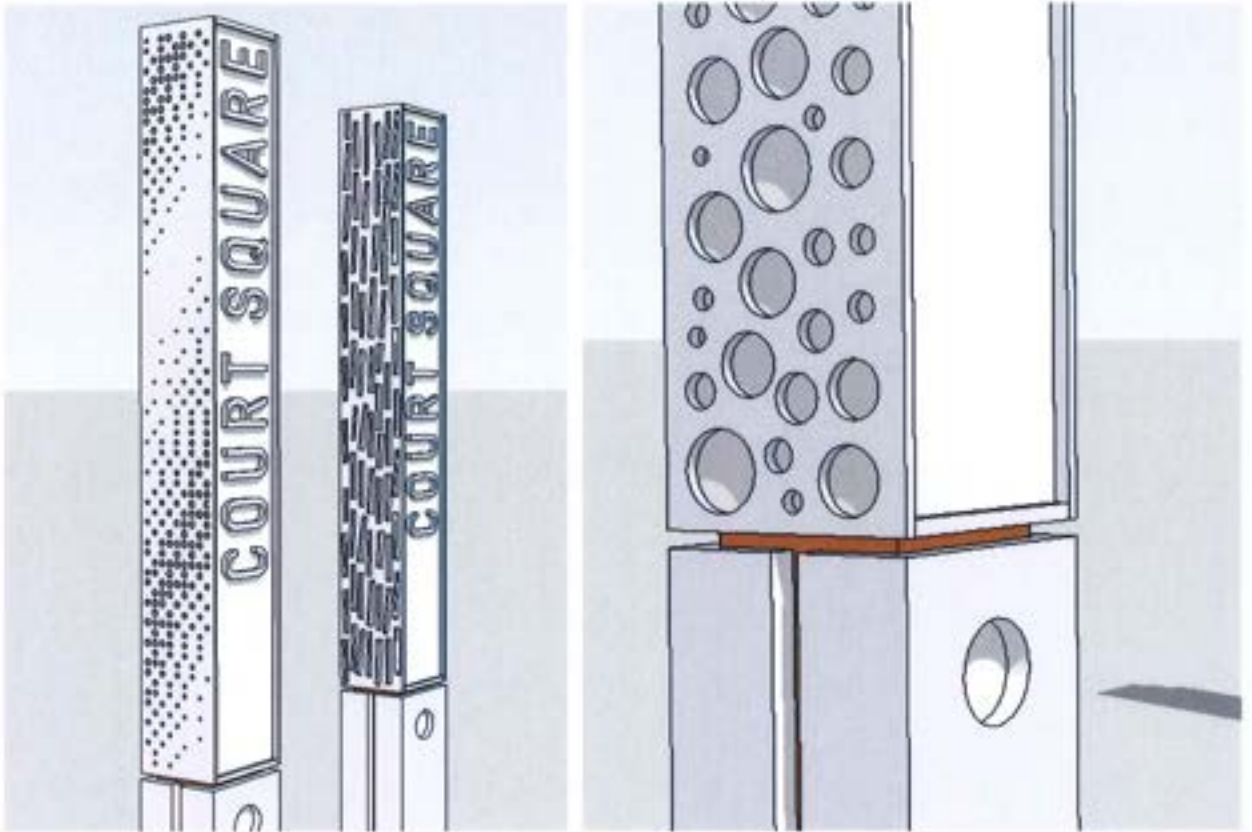
SIGN TYPE 1 PRIMARY ID SIGNAGE

- Design includes:
- + perforated aluminum patterning which can vary based on location.
 - + control over color of lighted totem



Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE 1
**PRIMARY ID
SIGNAGE**
Examples of variation in
patterning for perforated
aluminum cabinet



Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE 1
**PRIMARY ID
SIGNAGE**
Located in front of
Roderick L. Ireland
Courthouse



Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE L
**PRIMARY ID
SIGNAGE**
Located at
Pynchon Park

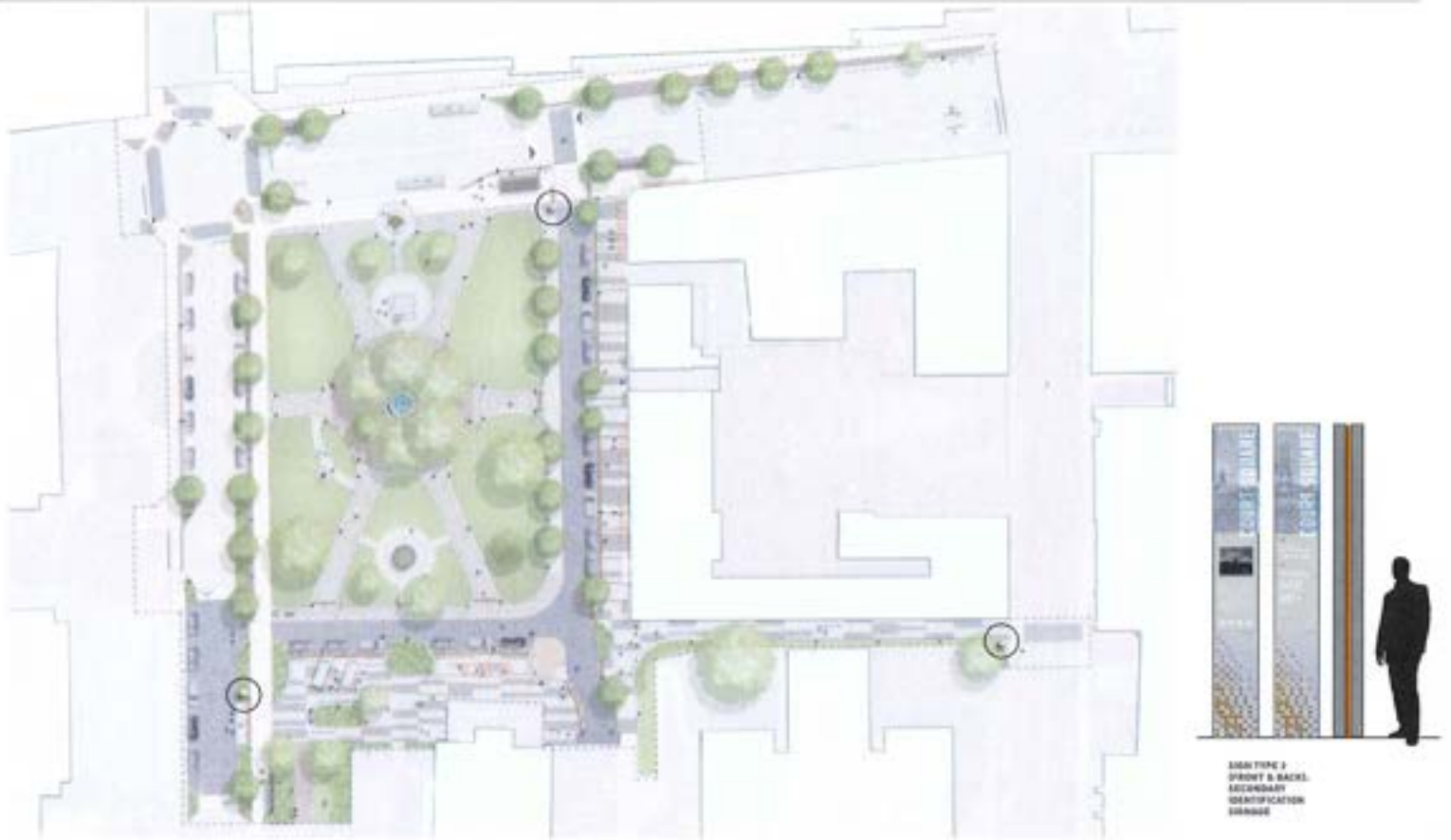


Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE 1
**PRIMARY ID
SIGNAGE**
Located at
Riverwalk



SIGNAGE TYPE 2: SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION



Signage & Wayfinding / Style & Branding

SIGN TYPE 2: SECONDARY ID SIGNAGE GOALS

1. Identification
2. Directional
3. Rules including
Iconography

Other types of content
could include:

4. Interpretive content
for Court Square-
specific details

Design includes perforated
aluminum cabinet.

Center section of cabinet
options include:
+ Colored LED light
+ or powder coated-
aluminum cabinet



Please accept the following for Quotation Number: NOT A REAL QUOTE

Scope: Exterior ID Signs - Sign and installation - budgetary only

Item	Name	Description	Qty	Unit	Install	Ext. Qty	Ext. Install	Total
1	Type 1 Primary ID	Approximately 12" wide x 12" deep x 14' tall, freestanding, 4 sided, internally illuminated neighborhood ID sign The upper portion is illuminated with RGB, programmable LED's and has custom perforated sides (2 sides) and 1/2" dimensional text (2 sides) The lower portion is painted aluminum with inset orange detail and 1/4" painted aluminum text The sign mounts below grade to concrete foundations All line voltage electrical and data (for DMX lighting controls) provided by others (Not in fabricators scope) Cost of product includes excavation and concrete, install cost is for placing unit onto the foundation)	6	\$44000.00	\$3500.00	\$264000.00	\$21000.00	\$285000.00
2	Type 2 Secondary ID	Approximately 12" wide x 8" deep x 7' tall, freestanding, double sided, non-illuminated neighborhood informational sign Each sign face is brake bend aluminum with powder coated (Direct (Embed) graphics which wrap around an inset aluminum structure The sign mounts below grade to concrete foundations Cost of product includes excavation and concrete, install cost is for placing unit onto the foundation)	6	\$20000.00	\$2800.00	\$120000.00	\$16800.00	\$136800.00
3	Type 8 Directional ID	Approximately 33" wide x 8" deep x 11' tall, freestanding, single sided, non-illuminated directional sign Sign face is flat, painted aluminum with out and applied vinyl text and graphics The post is painted structural aluminum Arrows and text are reflective vinyl The sign mounts below grade to concrete foundations Cost of product includes excavation and concrete, install cost is for placing unit onto the foundation)	6	\$10500.00	\$2800.00	\$63000.00	\$16800.00	\$79800.00
4	Retrofit Concrete rehab	This cost would be for stripping the existing paint on site using a hand held drum sander with special paint stripping drum. Sandblasting or chemicals are not recommended as the signs are in public spaces. Sandblasting would require the area be tented off, and depending on the media that blasts the concrete airborne concrete can cause silicosis if inhaled Once the paint is removed the cost is for a mineral based primer to be used and a mineral based paint applied. Mineral based paints are recommended as they allow the concrete to breath. Trapped moisture is what causes paint to peel from masonry. This is just a guess as to how long it will take to strip the existing paint. A trial should be done in order to get a good sense of actual labor costs. The city could potentially have their facilities personal do this work under guidance for proper removal and what primers and paints should be used. This would ultimately save Springfield money	8	\$232.00	\$800.00	\$1856.00	\$6400.00	\$8256.00
5	Retrofit refinish and vinyl	It is recommend that the entire sign gets removed and brought back to a shop for proper painting and rehab. All of the text would almost definitely be ghosted and while the new text is going to be the same font, if the messages change at all or don't align perfectly the panels will not look nice and the point is to rehab the entire sign. Painting in the field is always a last resort as 2 part Urethane paints need to be sprayed. The cost to tent or barrier off a sign in a public space is always going to be more than the removal and installation. Painting on site always costs more as well as specialty equipment needs to be brought in vs using a paint booth that is existing in a shop The price to remove and install is based upon multiple units being done per day. Otherwise if it is a single sign, that price would be much higher to account for all the travel time.	8	\$1182.00	\$600.00	\$9456.00	\$4800.00	\$14256.00
6	Retrofit new map	No installation is part of this line item if the signs are removed and rehabbed in a shop setting The sign is to get disassembled for paint and the map panel can get the old vinyl graphic stripped and a new print with UV clear laminate applied. This is assuming that the map is a vinyl print over a panel. If a new panel is required or the panels are not in a condition to accept a new map, additional charges would apply.	8	\$485.00	\$0.00	\$3880.00	\$0.00	\$3880.00
Product Total (Install and product)						\$462192.00	\$45800.00	\$527992.00
Survey		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes						\$5000.00
Design / Shop Drawings		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes						\$21000.00
Engineering		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes						\$10000.00
Permit Fees		If required priced as additional						\$0.00
Travel		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes						\$1200.00
Parking							NA	\$0.00
Police Detail							NA	\$0.00
Physical Samples		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes						\$10000.00

Color Samples		TBD by contractor who is awarded - amount shown for budgeting purposes	\$2000.00
Truck Rental		NA	\$0.00
Equipment Rental		NA	\$0.00
Lift Rental		NA	\$0.00
Subtotal			\$577192.00
Sales Tax-	6.25%	Sales tax not priced as it is for a municipality	\$0.00
Grand Total			\$577192.00

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The purpose of this proposal is for ROM (rough order of magnitude) pricing

This proposal does not constitute an actual price for goods or services and its intention is for cost study purposes only

It would be safe for the purchasing entity to carry 10-20% more for the project in order to have the proper budget and to account for pricing increases or any missed costs as outlined above.

Green Bee Creative, LLC

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. **ACCEPTANCE** - These terms and conditions constitute the entire and exclusive agreement between the parties unless modified in writing on the front side here. No other modification of these conditions of sales shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by both parties
2. **CANCELLATION** - Orders accepted cannot be cancelled without compensation to the seller for all direct and indirect costs and lost profits
3. **OVER-RUN AND UNDER-RUN** - A variation of not more than 10% under or over the quantity specified shall be considered as compliance with the order. The variation shall be allowed or charged at the unit price of the order.
4. **TERMS** - Net 30 Days to accounts with established credit, 1.5% monthly on outstanding balance beyond terms.
5. **TENDER OF DELIVERY** - Tender of delivery occurs when seller notifies buyer of completion of the order and availability of the goods to buyer.
6. **RIGHT OF TITLE** - Right of Title passes at our dock.
7. **TRANSPORTATION CHARGES** - Where prepaid charges are incurred on behalf of buyer they are payable immediately. Seller reserves the right not to extend this accommodation. If shipper is not indicated by buyer, seller as agent for buyer will select at our discretion, the shipping method to be utilized. Seller accepts no responsibility for performance of law of performance of selected shipper.
8. **STORAGE** - Seller has no obligation to store finished goods or other contract materials after tender of delivery beyond what seller deems to be a reasonable period. Thereafter, upon ten days written notice to the buyer, seller has the right to to charge for storage or to remove the goods to a public warehouse at buyer's expense without waiving its right to declare buyer in default of this agreement and in addition to any and all rights and remedies available under the Uniform commercial Code.
9. **PROOF OF PROTOTYPES** - Unless otherwise stated, seller will not show proofs or prototypes before proceeding with production, in which case seller's only obligation is to produce commercially acceptable reproduction of customer's art or specifications. Where seller agrees to submit proofs or prototypes in advance, buyer is responsible for any additional costs incurred for changes in art or specifications.
10. **DESIGNS** - The buyer shall not usurp, or make use of, any exclusive design, plan, drawing, sketch, dummy, written copy, or idea submitted by seller, which as not been purchased by buyer.
11. **DELIVERY DATES** - Delivery dates are subject to unforeseen delays due to natural and man-made causes or events, and seller shall incur no liability for such delay.
12. **PRICES** -
 - (a) Prices are based on continuous and uninterrupted production of entire order. Expenses incurred and a result of buyer's failure to deliver art, "hold press" instructions, etc. shall be billed to buyer.
 - (b) Prices are based on art work as seen at time of quotation. Where art or other specifications are changed, prices are subject to revision.
 - (c) Prices quoted are subject to remission where prices or availability of material, etc. change before acceptance of this order.
 - (d) Prices quoted do not include sales, use, excise or similar taxes.
13. **DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES** - SELLER DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, EXCEPT FOR ANY EXPRESS WARRANTIES SET FORTH ON THE FACE HEREOF, PURCHASER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR BREACH OF ANY WARRANTY IS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 14 BELOW.
14. **LIMITATIONS OF REMEDIES** - Buyer sole and exclusive remedy in the event of any breach or default is hereby limited to either return of the goods for credit or replacement of the goods, whichever seller in its sole exclusive discretion selects. In no event will seller be liable for consequential damages.
15. **CLAIMS** - All claims for goods damaged or lost in shipment by buyer or buyer's consignee must be made within five days. Buyer or buyer's consignee must retain original cartons or containers for inspection by seller.
16. **MATERIAL FURNISHED BY BUYER**
 - (a) Quotations are based on printing on suitable surface. Seller reserves the right to test surface before accepting order and, when condition of material warrants, revise price upward or refuse order.
 - (b) Seller does not guarantee adhesion, opacity or any other performance of ink on buyer's stock unless expressly stated on the face hereof and unless seller is given the opportunity to make advance tests, in which case seller will match sample submitted to and approved by buyer. Seller is not responsible for problems resulting from difference in material from that tested and approved.
 - (c) Seller is not responsible for imperfect printing resulting from curled, distorted sheets, sheets with wheelmarks or other indentations, etc. Imperfect prints caused by these conditions will be billed for.
 - (d) Seller reserves right to destroy allowable spoilage during run. Where seller goes back to press to make up allowable under-run, at buyer's request, buyer will pay for additional makereadies, etc.
 - (e) Seller is not responsible for change of moisture content, curling, etc. of buyer's material while on seller's premises.
 - (f) Seller's signature on receipts is not a confirmation or acceptance of amount or condition of buyer's materials received other than number of containers or skids and their exterior conditions.

Preliminary Map Kiosks Assessment & Recommendations Springfield, MA

The existing Map Kiosks in Springfield are showing significant wear and require repairs and refurbishment. The current signage is not aging well, with issues affecting both durability and usability including:

- The painted concrete base is deteriorating, with visible peeling
- The header vinyl and paint have very low contrast, reducing legibility
- Vinyl details, including directional arrows, are misregistered
- From a graphic standpoint, the content hierarchy lacks clarity, making navigation less intuitive
- Street names are listed but not effectively organized, and local attractions are not clearly highlighted.

Updates to the existing kiosks should first be explored as a means to cost effectively leverage the prior investment, utilize the existing sign locations and structures, and potentially update / rebrand some of the content to more cohesively link to the new "district" signage contemplated within the Main Street & Convention district area. Our proposed updates include enhancements such as sandblasting and repairing the concrete base, refinishing the sign itself—which requires removal to an offsite location—and overall map redesign and replacement.

Before proceeding, we recommend testing improvements on a single sign to assess feasibility in terms of labor, cost and effectiveness.

Part C- Public Safety - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, catalog cuts of proposed equipment purchases, quotes, training course syllabus, etc.

Project Name: Overtime Offset due to Surge from TAC 1 Implementation	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
Project Contact:	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Bernard J. Calvi	Name: Leslie Gulluni
Title: Fire Commissioner	Title: Administrative Analyst
Department: Fire Department	Department: Fire Department
Email Address: bcalvi@springfieldcityhall.com	Email Address: lgulluni@springfieldcityhall.com
Telephone: (413) 787-6411	Telephone: (413) 787-2422
Address: 605 Worthington Street, Springfield MA	Address: 605 Worthington Street, Springfield MA
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>The operation of MGM Springfield has had a significant adverse impact on the Springfield Fire Department's annual budget. Since the casino's opening, emergency response calls to the casino and its surrounding five-block area have substantially increased, creating a noticeable shift from historical call patterns. Prior to the opening of MGM Springfield, the department responded to an average of 15,447 emergency calls annually. However, in the three years since the casino opened to the public, this number has surged to an average of 17,292 calls per year. This increase in emergency calls has placed considerable strain on the department's resources, further exacerbating the challenges in maintaining adequate staffing, equipment, and response capabilities.</p>	
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>	
<p>The Tactical Emergency Response Vehicle (TAC unit) significantly enhances the ability to address medical and elevator extrication incidents at the casino without detracting from the response capabilities of the apparatus designated to service the broader downtown area. TAC 1 was put in service full time to help serve the community in the area of the MGM casino. The TAC unit is able to navigate with greater agility through the congested MGM campus and the surrounding downtown area. By putting this specialized vehicle into service, the SFD has been better equipped to meet the increased operational demands created by the casino's heightened response tempo, ensuring a more efficient and effective emergency response.</p>	
<p>While the TAC unit is the primary response vehicle to medical calls in the vicinity of the casino, in the event</p>	

that the TAC unit is already on a run, Engine 1 and Truck 1 may also respond to medical emergencies in this area.

Due to putting this additional apparatus into service we have had to increase our minimum manning per shift, resulting in a surge of overtime.

We are asking for a portion of that overtime surge to be offset by this grant funding.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Overtime	TOTAL:	1	\$200,000

Part C- Public Safety - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, catalog cuts of proposed equipment purchases, quotes, training course syllabus, etc.

1. Project Name: AXON MY90/COMMUNITY REQUEST	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
Project Contact:	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Kyla Raimer	Name:
Title: Grant Administrator	Title:
Department: Police	Department:
Email Address: kramer@springfieldpolice.net	Email Address:
Telephone: 413-787-6831	Telephone:
Address: 130 Pearl Street, Springfield, MA 01105	Address:
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p> <p>Identified Impacts: The Commission has identified public safety related impacts associated with the gaming establishments, which municipalities may cite in their applications. There may be other impacts that have not been identified by the Commission that could be eligible for grant funds. If a municipality has identified additional impacts to be addressed, the applications must identify the impact and provide sufficient evidence that the impact is caused or is associated with a gaming establishment.</p> <p>Increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees.</p> <p>It is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain types of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking. Other crimes that may be attributable to casinos include increased assaults, fraud, and property crimes.</p>	
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>	

The City of Springfield proposes implementing Axon's My90 and Community Request platforms to address the public safety challenges associated with operating the gaming establishment. These advanced tools enhance communication, build trust, and streamline community involvement, creating a more effective and collaborative approach to public safety. Together, the platforms will provide a comprehensive framework for gathering community feedback, collecting evidence, and addressing safety concerns transparently and securely.

The Axon My90 platform will be vital for collecting anonymous feedback from key stakeholders, including gaming establishment employees, patrons, residents, and public safety personnel. This feedback will provide actionable insights into public safety interactions, workplace concerns, and broader community sentiments. By leveraging this data, Springfield can identify trends, address gaps, and implement targeted improvements to enhance safety outcomes.

In tandem, the Axon Community Request platform will enable community members to contribute evidence, video footage, or tips directly to law enforcement through secure and customizable public portals. These portals will simplify the process of gathering information during investigations or community initiatives while ensuring accessibility for all users, including those who require multi-language support. With features like automated file categorization and two-way communication, the platform will enhance investigative efficiency and foster greater transparency between law enforcement and the community.

The program's implementation involves several key steps. First, Springfield will work with Axon to customize the My90 surveys and Community Request portals to meet the city's unique needs. Employees, patrons, residents, and law enforcement personnel will complete the surveys. The team will tailor the portals to specific public safety initiatives or investigations. They will securely manage feedback and evidence submissions, encrypt data to protect sensitive information, and maintain a transparent chain of custody.

The insights gathered from the My90 platform will inform targeted training programs for public safety personnel, focusing on areas such as de-escalation, cultural sensitivity, and crime prevention. Additionally, the Community Request platform's streamlined workflows and automated tools will reduce the time spent on evidence organization and review, allowing law enforcement to focus on solving cases and improving community relations.

Through this initiative, Springfield will enhance its ability to address the unique public safety impacts associated with the gaming establishment, such as increased visitation, workplace concerns, and crimes like human trafficking and fraud. Combining these platforms will improve communication, foster trust, and ensure all community members have a voice in public safety efforts.

By integrating Axon’s My90 and Community Request platforms, the City of Springfield will create a safer and more collaborative environment, benefiting residents, employees, and visitors. This proactive approach aligns with community-driven policing principles and positions Springfield as an innovative and inclusive public safety practice leader.

The budget to complete and fully implement this project totals \$654,000, as highlighted in the attached quote. The Springfield Police Department is requesting \$400,000 of FY26 MGC funds to allocate specifically to Axon MY90/Community Request. The remainder will be paid through a separate funding source.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Axon MY90/ Community Request	ASAP	500	\$400,000.00
	TOTAL:		\$400,000.00

Part D- Gambling Harm Reduction- The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include other relevant research, Requests for Proposals, etc.

Project Name: Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI)* Utilizing Community Participatory Research to Increase Community Knowledge of Gambling Among Young Adults in Springfield	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant	
Project Contact:	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Helen Caulton-Harris	Name: Theresa Glenn
Title: Commissioner	Title: Program Coordinator
Department: Springfield Department of Health and Human Services	Department: Springfield Department of Health and Human Services
Email Address: hcaulton@springfieldcityhall.com	Email Address: tglenn@springfieldcityhall.com
Telephone: 413 787-6458	Telephone: 413 750-2065
Address: 311 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105	Address: 311 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>Problem Gambling Among Young Adults</p> <p>Since the MGM Resort Casino opened its doors in 2018, thousands of individuals visit the casino each year. While many may be considered recreational gamblers, research shows that a percentage of Massachusetts residents who gamble are at risk for problem gambling or already have a gambling addiction. According to research by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the prevalence of problem gambling in Massachusetts in 2021 was 1.4% of the population aged 18 and over. An additional 8.5% of the population aged 18 and over were classified as at-risk gamblers (Volberg et al., 2023).</p> <p>To date, little is known about how the presence of the MGM resort casino in Springfield affects the gambling behavior of Springfield young adults. Although it is illegal for young people under the age of 21 in Massachusetts to gamble at a casino, young people experience heavy media advertisement campaigns of casino and sports betting venues. They also witness the gambling behaviors of others, including members of their intimate and community social networks. The MGM Resort Casino helps to normalize gambling as a socially acceptable form of entertainment in Springfield.</p> <p>Young adults, defined here as 18–24 years of age, are known to be at risk for problem gambling because of cognitive immaturities and lack of development of executive function. These factors increase impulsivity and risk-taking behaviors (Chambers & Potenza, 2003). This vulnerability may increase as gambling opportunities for young people increase online, via video gaming and most</p>	

recently with the addition of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts.

Gambling disorder is considered an addictive behavior that causes disruptions to many areas of life: psychological, physical, vocational, financial and social. Individuals with a gambling disorder, as well as those with less severe problem gambling, have an increased preoccupation with gambling. This can lead to adverse consequences for the individual, their family and friends, and their community.

Research has identified that gambling participation typically increases during adolescence and peaks in young adulthood, when risk for gambling problems is also increased (Delfabbro, King, & Griffiths, 2014; Volberg et al., 2010). In addition, online gambling is one of the strongest predictors of gambling problems in young adults (Responsible Gambling Council, 2016). Gamblers 18–20 years are significantly more likely to have chased their losses and bet more than they could afford.

Additional studies show that youth and college age students engage in gambling activities and are at risk for problem gambling (Werner et al., 2020). Individuals who have a parent with a gambling problem are more likely to have problems too (Black et al., 2019; Nowak, et al., 2014; Derevensky et al., 2015).

In addition to casino gambling, young adults are increasingly exposed to free and paid online gambling such as online casino gambling and sports betting. An area of increasing concern is video gaming which offers in-game purchases that mirror gambling. Though the primary area of focus of this proposal is problem gambling, it is important to note that the introduction of “gambling” features by the gaming industry blur the line between gaming and gambling (Zendle & Bowden-Jones, 2019). Recent research has found that gamers who buy video game ‘loot boxes’ are up to two times more likely to gamble (Coelho et al., 2022).

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: GAMBLING AWARENESS RESEARCH INITIATIVE (GARI)

To address potential harms associated with gambling among young adults, the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI) was launched in 2023 through a collaboration between the Springfield Department of Health and Human Services, the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences, the New North Citizens’ Council, and two cohorts of Springfield youth and young adults aged 17 to 26. During the first year of funding (2023), the GARI project completes a CMF Gambling Harm Reduction Grant (Type 1) to engage young adults in a process of identifying a casino or gambling related issue that warranted further investigation. After completing the research plan in 2024, the project applied for and received FY 2025 funding to execute the research. The research is underway combining digital storytelling with creative crowdsourcing contest methodologies to further explore the impacts of problem gambling on Springfield young people, their families, and the broader community.

The Next Phase: Research Knowledge Translation

The FY26 Community Mitigation Grant presents a significant opportunity to advance the work of the GARI by focusing on research knowledge translation. This concept, emphasized by researcher Rachel Volberg, PhD, and highlighted in discussions with the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC), involves the process of transforming research findings into actionable insights that inform policies, programs, and services. The MGC explicitly identifies knowledge translation as a priority in its research agenda, underscoring its potential to amplify the impact of gambling-related research across Massachusetts communities.

The 2019 MGC report, *A Research Strategy for Gaming in Massachusetts*, elaborates on knowledge translation, defining it as “a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve health outcomes, provide effective services, and strengthen systems,” (Citation0. This approach is recognized by organizations such as the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as essential for bridging the gap between research and practice (Citation).

The report also outlines key strategies for minimizing gambling-related harm through the development of “knowledge pathways,” which engage host and surrounding communities, inform policies and programs, and guide future research (Glynn, J. & Vander Linden, M., 2019). These strategies resonate deeply with GARI’s goals, particularly in addressing the growing challenges posed by sports betting, video gaming, and other emerging trends that heighten gambling risks for youth and young adults.

Young Adults and Gambling: An Evolving Landscape

Over the past two years, GARI has explored the unique challenges faced by young adults (ages 16–26) in Springfield. Findings reveal that this population is disproportionately affected by gambling-related harm, driven by factors such as increased access to sports betting platforms and evolving features in video games, like loot boxes and microtransactions, that mimic gambling behaviors. These insights highlight the urgent need for harm mitigation strategies tailored to young adults’ experiences and vulnerabilities.

The GARI Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC), (formerly identified as the community advisory board or CAB), has played a pivotal role in these efforts, advocating for community engagement as a cornerstone of research dissemination. Through ongoing dialogue and creative projects, YAAC members have identified opportunities to expand the scope of their research and deepen community connections. This includes extending outreach to populations beyond those directly involved in the current phase of the project and fostering broader awareness and critical conversations about gambling harms.

Leveraging Arts-Based Research Approaches

Arts-based research offers a powerful framework for advancing GARI's knowledge translation goals. As noted by Leavy (2018), arts-based methods provide unique opportunities to:

- Access hidden or overlooked knowledge
- Challenge resistance to difficult topics
- Disseminate findings to diverse audiences in engaging ways
- Enhance empathy, transparency, and reflexivity in the research process
- Inspire critical awareness, action for social justice, and amplification of marginalized voices

"Good critical arts-based research grasps our imaginations, grabs a hold of our souls, and unabashedly strives to affect our very ways of living, being, and co-being, as researchers, as social scientists, as people" (Finley, 2014).

PROPOSED COMPONENTS

During FY26, GARI proposes to focus on research knowledge translation in ways that share the findings of FY25 research as well as build on these findings to advance understanding of gambling related harms among older adolescents and young adults in Springfield. This will be completed through 3 project components. 1) Development of an interactive gambling harm reduction curriculum that will be presented in a workshop format; 2) Implementation and evaluation of this curriculum in community settings in Springfield; and 3) Participation at 3 broad Springfield community events by the Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC). This work will expand and advance the findings of the FY25 Creative Crowdsourcing Contest and Digital Storytelling research. The following is a description of the planned work for FY26.

1. Development of Workshop Curriculum: Enhancing Community Knowledge and Engagement

Building upon the findings from the FY25 Digital Storytelling and Creative Crowdsourcing Contest, the GARI project proposes the development of a curriculum designed to engage the Springfield community and broader audiences. The GARI team will discuss and make decisions about who the curriculum will be tailored to, with the potential of including young people, parents, caregivers, policymakers, and others. The curriculum will address critical issues surrounding problem gambling, including misconceptions identified by the YAAC, and will incorporate insights from previous research efforts.

The workshop materials, developed primarily by the YAAC with guidance from the GARI leadership team, will include a range of creative and interactive components. These may feature videos, visual art, and other creative elements drawn from the FY25 research. To ensure accessibility and relevance, the curriculum and accompanying materials will be made available online through the GARI website (<https://www.gariproject.org/>), enabling statewide dissemination and adaptation by

similar initiatives and others interested in adapting the work of GARI for their own communities.

Central to the curriculum design is a participatory approach, ensuring that lessons learned, facilitation strategies, and important considerations for inclusive participation are integrated. Interactive and engaging elements will enhance the workshop's ability to resonate with participants and foster meaningful engagement.

2. Implementation and Evaluation of GARI Workshops and Expanding the GARI Research

The GARI curriculum will be implemented by YAAC members, supported by the GARI leadership team, with a minimum of 5 community groups at Springfield organizations that serve older adolescents and young adults such as the Springfield Impact Center, which serves young adults who are experiencing housing instability and ROCA Inc, a social services organization that assists young adults at risk for violence and other health issues. To evaluate the workshops' effectiveness, pre- and post-test surveys will be administered to participants, assessing their knowledge of gambling and problem gambling. In addition to closed-ended questions, some open-ended questions will be posed to participants, such as, "What did you find helpful about the curriculum?" "What additional topics or resources would you have liked to see included?" and "How can the broader community better support young people in addressing problem gambling?". The findings from these evaluations will guide the refinement of the curriculum and inform future research and interventions.

The proposed workshops will also serve as platforms for gathering community feedback and exploring new insights into gambling among youth and young adults in Springfield. Discussions within these workshops will provide valuable information for refining the curriculum and identifying new themes or ideas for further investigation.

In addition to the workshop pre- and post-surveys, we will conduct up to 5 focus group discussions with workshop participants to explore topics such as improving problem gambling education, supporting young adults at risk for problem gambling, and identifying strategies for broader community engagement. The YAAC members will be trained by UMass in focus group facilitation and will co-facilitate these with a member of the research team. Focus groups will be recorded with permission, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed to identify emerging themes, offering deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities for addressing gambling-related harms in Springfield. All research will be reviewed and approved by the UMass Amherst research Internal Review Board (IRB) prior to community sessions.

3. YAAC Participation at Broad Springfield Community Events

The Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC) is proposing to participate in 3 outreach and educational events that are offered at annual Springfield community events, including Problem Gambling Awareness Month, March 2026, Springfield's Public Health Month Celebration, April 2026 and the

Springfield Pride Parade, June 2026. The event presentations will be based on the contents of the GARI curriculum and may be tailored to specific populations, including parents, young people, and various community groups, with the aim of fostering awareness about problem gambling and engaging the broader community in meaningful conversations. The YAAC will take a leadership role in planning and organizing these events, ensuring that they are both relevant and impactful.

The target audiences for these events will include racially and ethnically diverse populations, LGBTQIA+ individuals, youth and young adults in Springfield, college students, and possibly older youth engaged in local sports. Additionally, events will be designed to accommodate broader audiences, creating inclusive spaces for community dialogue.

The YAAC envisions a variety of innovative event formats to attract and engage participants. The group will work together to select the best format for the events. Possible formats include:

- **Performance Based:** Cultural and community-based performances, such as drag shows featuring YAAC members and allies, will provide opportunities to bring visibility to LGBTQIA+ youth and raise awareness around gambling-related issues.
- **Participatory Format:** Interactive activities that educate and inform participants on topics related to the GARI work. This may include events such as debates on gambling-related topics, which will invite attendees to actively engage with the content. Other possibilities include a workshop on video gaming which highlights gambling-like features in popular games, such as loot boxes and microtransactions, using hands-on demonstrations. Similarly, sports betting education may be incorporated into community events as determined by the YAAC.
- **Skits/Sharing FY25 digital stories:** Theater performances and/or sharing some of the digital stories developed by FY 25 YAAC participants (with YAAC participant consent) will explore gambling themes in creative and thought-provoking ways. For instance, performances might tackle seemingly unrelated topics that gradually reveal connections to gambling behaviors, offering new perspectives to participants.

Through these events, the YAAC aims to foster critical dialogue, elevate underrepresented voices, and empower the community to address problem gambling. By creating inclusive and interactive spaces, these efforts will not only raise awareness but also strengthen the collective capacity to mitigate gambling-related harms.

FY26 GARI Scope of Work

Timeline	Activity	Organization(s) Responsible
July 1, 2025 – August 15, 2025	Development and Execution of Project Contracts with Community Partners	SDHHS
August 15, 2025 – September 12, 2025	Recruitment of Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC) members, (if needed)	UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC
September 12, 2025 – June 30, 2026	42 YAAC Meetings Weekly 2.5 hour in person YAAC meetings at New North Citizens' Council Youth Services.	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC
September 12, 2025 – December 20, 2025	GARI Gambling Curriculum Development The YAAC/UMass research team will lead this process.	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC
January 1, 2026 – March 1 2026	Up to 5 GARI Gambling Curriculum Workshop Focus Groups YAAC members will be lead facilitators with the support of the GARI leadership team.	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC
March 1 – April 15 th 2026	GARI Gambling Curriculum Data Analysis With the support and guidance of the UMass research team.	UMASS
March 2026	Problem Gambling Awareness Month Event by YAAC Participants	
April 2026	Community Public Health Month Event About Problem Gambling Related Concerns Developed and Hosted by GARI YAAC-led and supported by the GARI leadership team.	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC
June 6, 2026	Community Event in Celebration of PRIDE Awareness Month and the Pride Parade About Problem Gambling Related Concerns	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC

	Developed and Hosted by GARI YAAC-led and supported by the GARI leadership team.		
June 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026	Final Data Analysis and Final Report Preparation Finalization of all of the findings and preparation of the final report.	UMASS, SDHHS	
June 2026	Dissemination of Findings in the Springfield Community	YAAC, UMASS, SDHHS, NNCC	

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
<p>University of Massachusetts, Amherst Center for Community Health Equity research will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership of the PAR research implementation and data analyses for the curriculum development focus groups. • Offer mentorship to Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC) participants. • Assist with the planning and facilitation of YAAC meetings, community presentations and other events. • Assist with completion of the final research report • Attend project team meetings <p>Budget Justification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Faculty Time (Profs. Derosé, L Evans, Volberg): 144 hours @ \$118 per hour = \$16,992 • Total CCHER Staff Time (B Evans): 24 hours @ \$79 per hour = \$1,896 	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	Hours/Personnel	\$72,847

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Graduate Student Time: 688 hours @ \$66 per hour = \$45,408 • Total Undergraduate Student Time: 304 hours @ \$22 per hour = \$6,688 • Mileage (48 trips x 52 miles x 70 cents/mile) \$1,747 • Transcription of Focus Groups: \$116 <p>*See Attachment B for Full CCHER, UMass Scope of Work and Budget Justification</p>			
<p>New North Citizens' Council (NNCC) NNCC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend project team meetings • Host the YAAC meetings at the NNCC Youth Services Center • Provide YAAC Stipends and Hourly Compensation for Outside of Meetings Project Work -Total \$ 52,500 Including the Following: YAAC Participants (10 participants x \$100 once a week x 42 Meetings) - \$42,000 Starting September 2025 <p>Provide hourly compensation for YAAC members for project related activities, (e.g., data collection and analyses with UMASS researchers, preparing for presentations and other project activities in addition to YAAC meetings) (1 hour a week x \$25 an hour x 42 weeks = \$10,500)</p>	<p>July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</p>		<p>\$81,090</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food Total - \$9,150 Including the following: 42 YAAC meetings (42 meetings X \$200 for 10 YAAC members =8,400 Refreshments for 5 curriculum focus groups - \$750.00 • Provide incentives for curriculum focus group participants Total \$2,500 Curriculum Focus Group Participants \$50 per participant for a total of 50 participants = \$2,500 • Provide transportation to research participants to resource and community events: In-Kind • NNCC Project Personnel Total - \$9,568 Jarix Santiago – (2 hours a week x 52 weeks) - \$3,744 Rosemarie Oliveras (4 hours a week X 52 weeks) – \$5,824 NNCC Administrative Cost 10% = \$7,372 			
<p>Springfield Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS) Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Presentation Expenses for 3 community events during Public Health Month, Problem Gambling Month and Pride Parade Event Venue \$ 4,500 • Photography and Video Support for Project Website and Social Media and Community Events \$3,213 	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026		\$14,363

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Supplies – \$3,500 • Videography and Photography for Community Events - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes travel time for team contracted ○ docupromo videos explaining the project/work of GARI, short interview footage of some of those involved, and clips of the events ○ Photography of events • Transportation - \$500 • Attendance at Conferences - \$150 • Printing Costs – \$1,500 • Office Supplies - \$1,000 			
Project Total			\$168,300 \$258,215.70
SDHHS/City of Springfield Administrative Cost (6.5%)			\$11,700
	TOTAL:		\$180,000
In Kind Services – SDHHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Time for Theresa Glenn 10 hours a week for 40 weeks = \$14,510.80 • Fringe @ 39@ = 5,659.21 • Total Cost= \$20,170 			
Total Project Cost			\$200,170

APPENDIX A

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX B

Center for Program Evaluation
School of Public Health and Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Proposed Budget for Theresa Glenn
Springfield Department of Health and Human Services

Provider: The Center for Program Evaluation in the Department of Health Promotion and Policy at the University of Massachusetts provides program evaluation services to academic, community, state and federal partners. Services include evaluation planning and design, needs assessments, grant writing, evaluation implementation and report writing. Services are performed by faculty in the Department of Health Promotion and Policy, Center staff, graduate and undergraduate students. Rates are established by the University of Massachusetts Budget Office and audited annually (see attached). Rates are per hour of service and include salary, fringe and indirect costs.

Scope of work: Tasks associated with this project include co-facilitation of the Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC); implementation of the community-based participatory research plan developed with the YAAC (data collection and analysis); advise on the development of the workshop curriculum; development of focus group guides and pre- and post-surveys and analysis of focus group and survey data; development and evaluation of the public art installation; preparation of a community presentations about the project, poster and oral presentations at national conferences, journal articles for scientific journals, and a final report for the MA Gaming Commission; coordination with Ms. Glenn and other team members, as needed.

Budget period: approx. 7/1/25 to 6/30/26

Total Faculty Time (Profs. Derose, L Evans, Volberg): 144 hours @ \$118 per hour	\$16,992
Total CCHER Staff Time (B Evans): 24 hours @ \$79 per hour	\$1,896
Total Graduate Student Time: 928 hours @ \$66 per hour	\$45,408
Total Undergraduate Student Time: 304 hours @ \$22 per hour	\$6,688
Mileage (48 trips x 52 miles x 70 cents/mile)	\$1,747
Transcription (Subscription \$66, 10 audio hours x \$10/hr.)	\$116
Total for budget period:	\$72,847

Proposed Personnel

Kathryn P. Derose, PhD, MPH (40 hours)

Dr. Derose is Professor in the Department of Health Promotion & Policy at UMass Amherst, Core Faculty of the Center for Community Health Equity Research (CCHER), and an expert in community partnered research. She will coordinate the UMass team, oversee the graduate student, contribute to focus group and survey procedures, and contribute to presentations, journal articles, and the final report.

Linnea Evans, PhD (80 hours)

Dr. Evans is Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion & Policy at UMass Amherst, Core Faculty of the Center for Community Health Equity Research (CCHER), and an expert in mixed-methods researcher who focuses on the social exclusion processes that link racial and ethnic minoritized groups to disadvantaged health.

Dr. Evans will oversee focus groups and surveys, will provide oversight to the graduate and undergraduate research assistants working on the project, and will co-author presentations, journal articles, and the final report

Rachel Volberg, PhD (24 hours)

Dr. Volberg is a Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at UMass Amherst and an expert in problem gambling and gambling addiction. She will advise the team throughout the project and will contribute to presentations, journal articles, and the final report.

Brenda Evans, MPH (24 hours)

Ms. Evans is the CCHER Community Research Liaison and has extensive experience in community health issues, especially in the Springfield area. She will advise the team throughout and will contribute to presentations, journal articles, and the final report.

Geraldine Puerto, MPH, (688 hours)

Ms. Puerto is a PhD student in the Department of Health Promotion & Policy and has been the graduate research assistant involved in the development of the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI) and Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC, formerly the Community Advisory Board). She will work with Ms. Glenn to continue to facilitate the YAAC, will work under the supervision of Drs. Evans and Derosé in carrying out the CBPR research plan, will have primary responsibility for the public art installation component and evaluation, and will co-author presentations, journal articles, and the final report.

Undergraduate student (TBD) (304 hours)

We will recruit a senior from the UMass undergraduate public health program to provide additional support to this project, including the CBPR data collection activities.

APPENDIX C

Letters of Support



GARI, Springfield Department of Health and Human Services
311 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105

January 17, 2025

Helen Caulton-Harris, Commissioner
Springfield Department of Health and Human Services
311 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Dear Ms. Caulton-Harris,

On behalf of the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative, (GARI) formerly the Young Adult Gambling Project, we are writing in support of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) application to mitigate gambling related harms.

Our project is excited to continue working to better understand and address gambling related harms among young adults in Springfield. With current and previous funding from the CMF our YAAC (Young Adult Action Collective) is dedicated to addressing this serious health issue in our community. With FY 26 CMF we plan to focus our work on both sharing the information we have learned in this current fiscal year with other young adults, older adolescents and other groups, as well as continue to expand and enhance our research. Springfield needs GARI. Thank you for your leadership and the support of your staff of the Springfield department of Health and Human Services as well as the support of the New North Citizens Council and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

As members of GARI we wish to share with you why we personally think the work of GARI is important to the health of our city, now and in the future.

Thanks to the conversations I've had with the passionate, and dedicated folks at the GARI project, my eyes have been opened to the danger that gambling addiction brings to our communities, and the root causes that drive people to turn to gambling. In my life I've seen people close to me make harmful decisions through gambling, and I seek to turn people to more healthy outlets, that will allow them to lead more fulfilling lives; for themselves, and their loved ones. - James Rosado, GARI YAAC Member

GARI is important to me because I get to reach out to parents about buying in game currency (Microtransactions) in video games and how it can possibly become a gateway to gambling. Whether it's gaming or Sports betting it is important for us to get knowledge out there especially in the school systems. Our goal is to be more involved in the community with

presentations and outreach so that the world can see what we are doing. - Victor Martinez, GARI YAAC Member

I want Springfield to be a place where my siblings & future family can have comfort and trust in. That is why I believe the GARI project should be taken seriously and given as much support and funding as possible. - GARI YAAC Member

As a YAAC member who is new to the program, I really think this program is very helpful and a wonderful piece of knowledge when it comes to the gambling world. Gambling happens in any part of the world but, when it comes to Springfield that is a low-income city gambling happens a lot more and people lose their lives and jobs when it comes to gambling. The GARI team is apart with the most wonderful people who think about our community and economy and I personally believe this program will change people and help people for the better. Thank you.- GARI YAAC Member

My statement remains as always, I want to be able to come back to Springfield knowing a program and organization like GARI is being used as a resource for youth in a community I grew up in and didn't see resources like this. More funding should be received so that this can be passed down and continue for years on end. The additional funding isn't only for me but for the next group of 18-24 year old's that GARI will be passed down too. – Monet Murphy, GARI YAAC Member

Thank you for your continued support of our project! Because of our love of the Arts, we believe that by leading with them in our work we will be able to share information in creative ways that will be most meaningful to our peers and the community as a whole. We truly care about the well-being and health of Springfield and the further opportunity to be leaders and peer educators to reduce gambling related harms in our city.

Sincerely,

Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC) of the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

School of Public Health
& Health Sciences

Department of Health Promotion and Policy

Kathryn P. Derose, PhD, MPH

Professor

January 16, 2024

Helen Caulton-Harris, Commissioner
Springfield Department of Health & Human Services
311 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Dear Commissioner Caulton-Harris,

We are honored to continue our partnership with the Springfield Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS) in promoting prevention and health equity. We are excited to support SDHHS's proposal for the FY 26 Community Mitigation Fund, Massachusetts Gaming Commission (Part D: Gambling Harm Reduction) grant, particularly in the areas of community engagement and research activities related to the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI).

The UMass Department of Health Promotion and Policy, along with its Center for Program Evaluation, brings together a diverse team of researchers dedicated to understanding and addressing health disparities. Our faculty's research aims to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and public health practice through quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies that inform policies promoting health equity. Additionally, we are committed to mentoring graduate and undergraduate students with an interest in health equity, offering them valuable professional opportunities to apply their skills in real-world settings.

We are excited about this opportunity to deepen our collaboration with you in understanding gambling-related issues affecting youth and young adults in Springfield, with the support of the Young Adult Action Collective (YAAC) that drives GARI. We are particularly pleased that this phase will include research knowledge translation, ensuring our prior research has a direct and meaningful impact at the local level. Additionally, we look forward to continuing to learn about the ongoing effects of gambling in our communities and identifying the changes needed in local policies and/or programs to mitigate harm. As with our previous projects, Drs. Kathryn Derose, Linnea Evans, and Rachel Volberg, along with community research liaison Ms. Brenda Evans, will provide guidance throughout all phases of the project. Drs. Derose and Linnea Evans will also collaborate closely with PhD student Ms. Geraldine Puerto, who will lead and co-lead various tasks alongside the YAAC. We will also recruit an undergraduate public health student to assist with GARI-related data collection.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with SDHHS and contributing to the success of the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative. Together, we can make meaningful progress in addressing gambling-related harm and advancing health equity in Springfield. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information as we move forward with this important work.

Sincerely,



Kathryn P. Derose, Ph.D., M.P.H.



2455 Main Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01107-1907
Tel. 413*737-3229 Fax 413*301-6938 www.newnorthcc.org

January 8, 2025

Helen Caulton Harris, Commissioner
Springfield Department of Health and Human
Services
311 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Dear Ms. Caulton Harris,

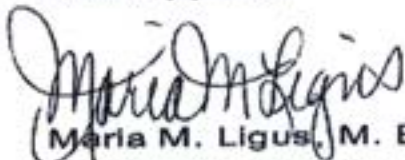
On behalf of the New North Citizens' Council (NNCC), I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund application and the proposed Springfield Young Adult Gambling Project. Our organization welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Springfield Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS) to develop a project which engages adults ages 18-24 in a process to further understand problem gambling among their age group.

As our mission states, NNCC provides advocacy, public and human services to preserve and support families resulting in the improvement of quality of life, with an emphasis on the multicultural community. We serve Springfield and adjacent communities within Hampden County. We have a long history of working with youth and young adults to enrich and uplift their health and overall well-being. This includes workforce development, mental health counseling, intervention, outreach, recreational programming and more. Two of our programs specifically address the needs of young adults ages 18-24. These programs include the Connecticut River Valley YouthBuild and the Gun Violence Prevention Program.

There is a serious need to gain further understanding of problem gambling among young people of color in our community as well as to investigate the unintended impacts of gambling on this age group. The proposed project by SDHHS is a needed step that can help inform future problem gambling related programs and services in Springfield.

NNCC wholeheartedly supports the efforts of SDHHS and look forward to working with the Springfield Young Adult Gambling Project staff to develop a better understanding of problem gambling among Springfield's young and emerging adults.

Sincerely yours,


Maria M. Ligus, M. Ed.
Executive Director

Part E- Specific Impact If you are applying for a SI grant you should reach out in advance to MGC Staff to ensure project eligibility. A community may also use this Specific Impact Grant to break out administrative and staffing costs associated with the grant as a whole. -

Project Name: Regional Attractions Improvements: Symphony Hall			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact: Tom Ashe		Additional Project Contact (if applicable)	
Name: Tom Ashe		Name:	
Title: Executive Director		Title:	
Department: Dept. of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management		Department:	
Email Address: tashe@springfieldcityhall.com		Email Address:	
Telephone: 413-787-7770		Telephone:	
Address: 200 Trafton Road, Springfield MA 01108		Address:	
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. This category is for projects that do not fit in any other category but may use any impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines that are relevant. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>			
<p>Symphony Hall in Springfield, MA, a historic venue renowned for hosting concerts, theatrical performances, and cultural events, has experienced increased usage due to the tourism and programming drawn by MGM Springfield. The facility is in need of improvements to continue providing performance and event space and to remain a regional tourism attraction. The facility has seen increase programming sponsored by MGM, as well as increased attendance from MGM patrons and employees. Over the last three years (January 2022 to January 2025), Symphony Hall has hosted one hundred thirty (130) events and/or performances, with an average attendance rate of one thousand two hundred and fifty (1,250) visitors per event.</p>			
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>			
<p>Symphony Hall is a historic structure with an extremely ornate aesthetic. The ceilings and decorative trim throughout the building depict an old work craftsmanship that is hard to come by in today's world. Additionally, the lighting, sound and communication systems, as well as curtains, are in need of upgrades for increased safety and performance. Repair of these spaces has been challenging to accomplish on a limited budget with a patch and repair focus and has been impacted by increased usage of the facility. MGC Community Mitigation Fund funding will support restoration of the chandelier and curtains, as well as improved audio and visual communication systems for improved operations.</p>			
Proposed MGC Grant Budget			
Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
Symphony Hall			\$253,700
	TOTAL:		\$253,700

**MGC FY26 Community Mitigation Fund
Fiscal Year 2026**

**Specific Impact Category
Project**

Funding Request

1. Symphony Hall

\$253,700 Total

Symphony Hall in Springfield, MA, a historic venue renowned for hosting concerts, theatrical performances, and cultural events, has experienced increased usage due to the tourism and programming drawn by MGM Springfield. The facility is in need of improvements to continue providing performance and event space and to remain a regional tourism attraction. The facility has seen increase programming sponsored by MGM, as well as increased attendance from MGM patrons and employees. Over the last three years (January 2022 to January 2025), Symphony Hall has hosted one hundred thirty (130) events and/or performances, with an average attendance rate of one thousand two hundred and fifty (1,250) visitors per event. Symphony Hall is a historic structure with an extremely ornate aesthetic. The ceilings and decorative trim throughout the building depict an old work craftsmanship that is hard to come by in today's world. Additionally, the lighting, sound and communication systems, as well as curtains, are in need of upgrades for increased safety and performance. Repair of these spaces has been challenging to accomplish on a limited budget with a patch and repair focus and has been impacted by increased usage of the facility. MGC Community Mitigation Fund funding will support restoration of the chandelier and curtains, as well as well as improved audio and visual communication systems for improved operations.

Itemized Scope of Work:

A. Dimmer System/Chandelier - \$75,000

1. The existing chandeliers are very old and the wiring/ controls are failing. They are unique and possibly one of a kind requiring a specialty contractor. A contractor is needed to dismantle the existing units, rewire them, convert them to LED if possible and install a new dimmer control system to integrate to house lighting.

B. Curtains - \$148,700

1. Existing curtains are deteriorating internally. These are likely not IFR (inherently fire-retardant) curtains. We would be looking to remove existing curtains and rigging and install new IFR curtains with a CAL rating of 117 or 133. This would improve safety in the facility as well as improve the aesthetics of the main stage.

C. Audio & Visual Communication Line - \$30,000

1. The Symphony Hall team is requesting an additional CAT6 communication line to be run from the lighting and sound booth down to the equipment room below. This will greatly improve functionality at shows/ performances.

Springfield Symphony Hall Event Listing January 2022-January 2025

Day	Date	Event	Event Start Time	Attendance
Wed	3/9/22	Springfield Public Forum	6:00 PM	800-1000
Sun	3/13/22	Boyz II Men	8:00 PM	1573
Sun	3/20/22	Tom Segura	7:00 PM	2228
Sat	3/26/22	MOSSO Concert	7:30 PM	600
Fri	4/8/22	Bay Path University	9:30 AM	1200
Thur	4/14/22	Brit Floyd - Rescheduled to August	7:30 PM	
Fri	4/22/22	Springfield Symphony Orchestra	7:30 PM	576
Sat	4/30/22	Peppa Pig	2:00 PM	1189
Sat	5/14/22	Springfield Symphony Orchestra	7:30 PM	574
Sun	5/15/22	Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra	3:00 PM	237
Wed	5/25/22	An Evening for Ukraine	6:00 PM	1200
Fri	6/3/22	Minnechaug	7:00 PM	1900-2200
Sat	6/4/22	Spfld Intern Charter Grad	7:00 PM	800
Mon	6/6/22	Central High	6:00 PM	2300
Tue	6/7/22	Sci Tech High	6:00 PM	1800
Thur	6/9/22	Duggan	6:00 PM	1000
Mon	6/13/22	Commerce High	6:00 PM	1900
Tue	6/14/22	Renaissance	6:00 PM	800
Wed	6/15/22	Putnam	6:00 PM	2000
Thur	6/16/22	Alternative	6:00 PM	400
Fri	6/17/22	Chelsea Handler	8:00 PM	2111
Sat	6/25/22	Jay Leno	7:30 PM	1252
Tue	6/21/22	Title XI Event- Public Forum and BBHOF	7:00 PM	900 -1000
Thurs	7/23/22	MOSSO concert	7:30 PM	700
Mon	8/1/22	Brit Floyd	7:30 PM	1232
Tue	8/16/21	Summer School Grad	6:00 PM	600
Wed	8/17/22	Jason Bonham	7:30 PM	903
Thu	8/18/22	Backroads Festival	7:30 PM	1644
Sat	9/10/22	Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement	7:00 PM	1900
Sun	10/16/22	President's Own Marine Band	3:00 PM	900-1200
Sat	10/22/22	SSO - Sensation Beginnings	7:30 PM	800
Sat	11/5/22	SSO Mozart	7:30 PM	796
Sun	12/2/22	Cirque Holiday Musica	8:00 PM	1692
Sat	12/3/22	SSO - Holiday Show	7:30 PM	1422
Sun	12/11/22	Spirit of Springfield Holiday show	2:00 PM	1500
Sat	12/17/22	ABB Nutcracker	1:00 PM	771
Sat	12/17/22	ABB Nutcracker	4:30 PM	783
Sat	1/14/23	SSO - Audacity of Hope: Celebrating MLK JR	7:30 PM	1096
Sun	2/12/23	Menopause the Musical	3:00 PM	1258
Sat	2/18/23	Boyz II Men - Cancelled	8:00 PM	
Sat	2/25/23	SSO - Mardi Gras!	7:30 PM	1511
Sat	3/4/23	MercyMe	7:00 PM	2001
Sun	3/5/23	Public Forum - Scott Kelly	2:00 PM	900-1100
Sat	3/11/23	SSO - Fearless Women	7:30 PM	752

Sun	3/26/23	Air Force Band - Spirit of Spfld	2:00 PM	1200
Sat	4/15/23	SSO - Madness & Mystery	7:30 PM	938
Sat	5/13/23	SSO - Beauty Amid Chaos	7:30 PM	893
Sun	5/14/23	SSO Youth Concert	3:00 PM	262
Fri	5/18/23	Sweet Adelines	All day	600
Sat	5/19/23	Sweet Adelines	All day	600
Sun	5/21/23	The Temptations & The Four Tops	7:30 PM	1434
Fri	6/2/23	Minnechaug Graduation	7:00 PM	1900-2200
Sat	6/3/23	SICS Graduation	5:00 PM	800-1000
Mon	6/5/23	Alternative Spfld Schools Grad	6:00 PM	400
Tue	6/6/23	Central Grad	6:00 PM	2300
Wed	6/7/23	Sci-tech Grad	6:00 PM	1800
Thu	6/8/23	Longmeadow Grad	6:00 PM	2100
Mon	6/12/23	Duggan Grad	6:00 PM	1000
Tue	6/13/23	Commerce Grad	6:00 PM	1900
Wed	6/14/23	Renaissance Grad	6:00 PM	800
Thu	6/15/23	Putnam Grad	6:00 PM	2000
Fri	6/30/23	Chicago	8:00 PM	1771
Fri	7/7/23	Boyz II Men	8:00 PM	1275
Sat	7/23/23	Gladys Knight	8:00 PM	1101
Sat	8/12/23	BBHOF Enshrinement	7:00 PM	2000
Wed	8/16/23	Summer School Grad	6:00 PM	500
Thur	10/5/23	Nurse Blake	8:00 PM	1258
Fri	10/6/23	Blippi	6:00 PM	1015
Sat	10/14/23	SSO Classical - Opening Night	7:30 PM	877
Tue	10/24/23	Springfield Public Forum - Heather Cox Rickardson	6:00 PM	800-1000
Sun	10/29/23	Brit Floyd	8:00 PM	1054
Sat	11/4/23	SSO Classical Heavenly!	2:30 PM	977
Sun	11/12/23	Bob Dylan	8:00 PM	2303
Sat	11/18/23	Chelsea Handler	8:00 PM	1677
Sun	11/19/23	Free Public Forum - Ruth Carter	2:00 PM	600-900
Tues	11/21/23	Maverick Music City	7:00 PM	2180
Fri	11/24/23	Joe Bonamassa	8:00 PM	1887
Sat	12/2/23	Jerry Seinfeld	7:00 PM	2308
Wed	12/6/23	Cirque Musica Holiday Show	7:00 PM	1613
Sat	12/9/23	SSO Holiday Pop	4:00 PM	1751
Sun	12/10/23	Spirit of Springfield Holiday Show	3:00 PM	1200-1500
Sat	12/16/23	ABB The Nutcracker	1:00 PM	1298
Sat	12/16/23	ABB The Nutcracker	4:30 PM	1309
Mon	1/1/24	Mayors Inauguration		200
Sat	1/13/24	SSO Classical - Classics & Jazz	7:30 PM	995
Sat	1/20/24	Get the Led Out	8:00 PM	1276
Sat	2/10/24	SSO Pops - Havana Nights	7:30 PM	1634
Fri	2/17/24	Aaron Lewis	8:00 PM	2215
Sat	3/9/24	SSO Classical - Fantasias	2:30 PM	859
Sat	3/16/24	Andrew Dice Clay	8:00 PM	779
Mon	3/25/24	Theater Works School Show	10:00 AM	1199
Sat	4/6/24	SSO Classical - An American Celebration	7:30 PM	976

Wed	4/10/23	Police Swearing in Celebration	12:00 PM	800
Sat	4/20/24	Spirit of Springfield US Army Field Band	3:00 PM	1200-1500
Fri	4/26/23	Bay path Graduation	5:00 PM	800
Sat	5/4/24	SSO Special Event - Bugs Bunny	2:30 PM	1257
Sat	5/4/24	SSO Special Event - Bugs Bunny	7:30 PM	1219
Sun	5/5/24	Glenn Miller Orchestra	3:00 PM	625
Fri	5/10/24	Sweet Adelines		600
Sat	5/11/24	Sweet Adelines		600
Sat	5/18/24	SSO Season Finally - Magic and Glory	7:30 PM	806
Sun	5/19/24	SSO Youth Orch Show	3:00 PM	338
Thur	5/30/24	Theresa Caupito	7:30 PM	2489
Sun	6/2/24	Longmeadow Graduation	1:00 om	2100
Mon	6/3/24	Putnam Graduation	6:00 PM	2000
Tue	6/4/24	Alternative Graduation	6:00 PM	600
Wed	6/5/24	Central Gradations	6:00 PM	2300
Thur	6/6/24	SciTech Graduation	6:00 PM	1800
Fri	6/7/24	Minnechaug Graduation	7:00 PM	2200
Sat	6/8/24	SICS Graduation	5:00 PM	800
Tue	6/11/24	Duggan Graduation	6:00 PM	900
Wed	6/12/24	Commerce Graduation	6:00 PM	1900
Thurs	6/13/24	Renaissance Graduation	6:00 PM	800
Wed	6/19/24	SSO Juneteeth	3:00 PM	885
Tues	8/13/24	Summer School Graduation	6:00 PM	500
Sun	09/15/24	"Cancelled PodCast"	7:00 PM	1556
Sun	10/13/24	BBHOF Enshrinement	5:00 PM	1500
Wed	10/16/24	Mo Rocco Public Forum	6:00 PM	600-900
Sat	10/19/24	SSO Opening Night	7:30 PM	798
Sat	11/16/24	SSO Classical - Echos of Americas	7:30 PM	1071
Fri	11/22/24	Magic of Motown	7:30 PM	569
Tue	12/3/24	The Rock Orchestra	8:00 PM	2498
Wed	12/4/24	Swan Lake Ballet	7:00 PM	1123
Thur	12/5/24	Springfield Public Forum	6:00 PM	600-900
Sun	12/8/14	Spirit of Springfield Holiday Show	2:00 PM	1200
Sat	12/14/24	SSO Holiday Pops	4:00 PM	1422
Sat	12/21/24	ABB - The Nutcracker Show 1	11:00 AM	609
Sat	12/21/24	ABB - The Nutcracker shows 2	2:30 PM	913
Sat	12/21/24	ABB - The Nutcracker shows 3	6:00 PM	745
Sun	12/23/24	Aaron Lewis	8:00 PM	1746
Sat	1/18/25	SSO Classical - A New Musical World	3:00 PM	759