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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Cameron

James F. McHugh

Bruce W. Stebbins

Enrique Zuniga

RE: HOST COMMUNITY HEARING - REVERE

August 11, 2014 4:00 p.m. - 8:06 p.m.

REVERE HIGH SCHOOL

101 School Street

Revere, Massachusetts

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

2

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good afternoon
4 and welcome. I'm going to begin with some
5 formalities here just to set the stage and
6 remind everybody what we're about. Today is
7 Monday, August 11, 2014 and this is a public
8 hearing before the Massachusetts Gaming
9 Commission relative to the application for a
10 Category 1 resort casino gaming establishment
11 submitted by Mohegan Sun Massachusetts, LLC.

12 My name is Jim McHugh. I am one of
13 the Commissioners. I'm joined by Commissioner
14 Gayle Cameron on my right, on my immediate left
15 Commissioner Enrique Zuniga and on my far left
16 by Commissioner Bruce Stebbins.

17 We're located that the Revere High
18 School Auditorium, 101 School Street in Revere,
19 and are here today to conclude the public
20 hearing that began on June 24, 2014. This is
21 the third session of that hearing.

22 As you may recall, we left the
23 public hearing open so that interested
24 individuals who did not previously have a

1 chance to provide comments would have a chance
2 to do so, and to allow individuals an
3 opportunity to comment on any event that has
4 occurred since we began this hearing on June
5 24. This is not, however, intended to provide
6 individuals with a second opportunity to offer
7 the same comments but we are looking tonight
8 for comments about matters that have occurred
9 since we began.

10 The Commission's scheduled, as many
11 of you know and indeed probably all of you
12 know, to begin final deliberations for the
13 award of the Region A gaming license the week
14 of September 8. The public support for Mohegan
15 Sun proposal or the lack of support will be an
16 important factor that the Commission will
17 evaluate in making the final award of the
18 license.

19 Accordingly, your presence here
20 today, at the previous hearings and the written
21 comments you've submitted will play an
22 important role in the decision we ultimately
23 make. So, thank you all for being a part of
24 this process.

1 Before we begin, I'd like to remind
2 everybody what the process is and establish the
3 ground rules that we'll follow tonight. The
4 hearing is intended to provide the Commission
5 with the opportunity to address questions and
6 concerns relative to the applicant's proposal
7 to build a gaming establishment as those plans
8 were set out in its RFA-2 that is the second
9 stage application.

10 The inquiry may include topics
11 related to the scope and quality of the gaming
12 establishment, the amenities, the integration
13 and additionally the Commission will receive
14 input from members of the public and any
15 impacted community.

16 At the previous hearing, we heard
17 presentations by the applicant as well as
18 presentations from representatives of the host
19 community of Revere and from surrounding
20 communities. We then began by taking public
21 comments and we'll pick up at that point today.
22 At the conclusion of the comments from members
23 of the public, we will afford the applicant an
24 opportunity to make any closing comments it

1 would like to make.

2 In an effort to make the best use of
3 our time, we ask that any member of the public
4 proceed as follows in addressing all of us on
5 the stage here. First, any member of the
6 public who would like to address the Commission
7 must be on our list of speakers. If you sent
8 an email to the address on our website or
9 signed up as you came in the building today,
10 your name has been added to the list.

11 If you haven't, please be sure to
12 add your name to the list which is located near
13 the entrance to the room. We ask that only
14 people from the host or surrounding communities
15 speak here today.

16 Second, when I call your name,
17 please come to the microphone and state your
18 name and tell us where you are from. I'm going
19 to call two names initially. And then I'm
20 going to call somebody always to the on-deck
21 circle which is right behind Mayor Rizzo. It's
22 the seat marked reserved. That way we can get
23 people to transition from the audience to the
24 podium quickly. So, that will help us make

1 sure the hearing proceeds smoothly.

2 Third, in order to ensure that
3 everybody wants to speak and gets an
4 opportunity to do so, we ask that you please
5 limit your comments to four minutes in length.
6 We have a clock up front that will count down
7 the time so you'll be able to tell how much has
8 elapsed. Please be sure your comments or
9 questions relate to the particulars of this
10 proposal and not to your views on gaming and
11 casinos in general.

12 With those remarks, -- I forgot and
13 will add this. For those of you who have
14 submitted written comments about this project,
15 please understand that all of those comments
16 have been read. Many of them are in the
17 packets that we received tonight, and we've
18 read many more. All of the comments that were
19 submitted by any of you and those of you not in
20 attendance have been read by all of us.

21 At the conclusion of the hearing and
22 the one we'll conduct tomorrow in Everett, the
23 Commission will officially close the mandatory
24 statutory hearings. And the law says that the

1 Commission must take action on the applications
2 between 30 to 90 days from the date that the
3 public hearings have closed.

4 So, with those preliminaries, I'll
5 begin calling the names of individuals who have
6 signed up to speak. I note here among the many
7 representatives of the city, Mayor Rizzo, did
8 you want to speak first, Sir, or were you going
9 to go toward the end? All right.

10 Then I'll begin Anthony Zambuto, a
11 member of the Revere City Council, Mr. Zambuto.
12 Mr. John Powers of the Revere City Council.
13 Mr. Ira Novoselsky of the Revere City Council.
14 And let me call Arthur Guinasso of the Revere
15 City Council to the on-deck circle, seat I
16 guess I should say, if I might. Mr.
17 Novoselsky.

18 MR NOVOSELSKY: Thank you very much,
19 Commissioner. I'm not used to being the
20 leadoff hitter on the team, but I am proud to
21 be in this position right now.

22 Good afternoon, Commissioners.
23 Welcome back to Revere. The last time I
24 appeared before you, I brought to your

1 attention my personal and immediate impacts of
2 the Mohegan proposal to my neighborhood as the
3 Ward 2 councilor of which the area directly
4 abuts the proposed site. Today, I appear
5 before you to relate the overall impacts of the
6 proposal.

7 As a former city council president,
8 I am familiar with the various cities and towns
9 in the area with their respective issues.

10 Clearly, the Mohegan Sun project with a dozen
11 surrounding community agreements totaling over
12 \$50 million per year is the superior project.
13 On every level, this project reaches out to the
14 region.

15 In our own host community agreement,
16 20 percent of the jobs will go to the Revere
17 residents but 75 percent will go to folks
18 within a 15-mile radius of the project. To
19 that end, Mohegan Sun has been conducting
20 outreach efforts around the neighboring towns
21 of Salem, Saugus, Chelsea, Lynn to mention a
22 few and down to the city of Boston itself and
23 Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury as well as within
24 that 15-mile radius.

1 In terms of small business
2 development, nearly 400 businesses have signed
3 up for the Momentum Points program, a program
4 that pushes player points out into the
5 community, potentially millions in revenue,
6 compared to gift cards on Main Street and with
7 other projects. There is no other proposal
8 that goes to this level. There is no
9 comparison.

10 And on the subject of small business
11 and local vendors, there is proposed \$10
12 million in buying commitments from vendors in
13 Revere, backed up by commitments for \$50
14 million in buying commitments for businesses
15 within 15 miles, again, in neighboring cities,
16 towns and the city of Boston.

17 In terms of traffic, I have been
18 working with the traffic engineers for the past
19 four years to assist in developing a traffic
20 plan to ease the flow of traffic in, around and
21 out of the project area. I believe that the
22 \$45-\$60 million committed by Mohegan Sun will
23 help alleviate the traffic impact, although we
24 know that nothing is perfect. Also, we know

1 that there will have to be some tweaking once
2 we get rolling and realize that things have to
3 be adjusted in many of the solution locations.

4 In the end, in my mind one must ask
5 which project does the least amount of harm for
6 the most good. Weighing it much like plotting
7 it on a graph on the X and Y axis, if you were
8 to do that, the solution point, the point where
9 those lines cross would point to our project in
10 Revere.

11 Everything I have mentioned shows
12 the potential economic impact for not only our
13 immediate region but the entire Commonwealth of
14 Massachusetts. I consider the Mohegan proposal
15 far superior of any proposal that is before
16 you. Together with Suffolk Downs as our home
17 team, we hope to be excited to deliver the
18 Mass. Gaming industry signature project.

19 Please take all of this into
20 consideration to allow Mohegan Sun to be the
21 choice for the casino gambling license in
22 Region 1. Thank you for consideration in this
23 matter. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you Mr.

1 Novoselsky. Mr. Guinasso and Steve Reardon,
2 Councilor Steve Reardon is next to the on-deck
3 seat, please.

4 MR. GUINASSO: Mr. Chairman, members
5 of the Commission, good afternoon. My name is
6 Arthur Guinasso, city councilor representing
7 Ward 3 in the city of Revere.

8 I have lived in Revere my entire
9 life and appreciate the opportunity I've had
10 attending several of these hearings. Why I'm
11 about to say may seem presumptuous and I
12 apologize if it does so, but to me the answer
13 and selection seems obvious.

14 I realize that you have heard and
15 will hear from many people today. It is not my
16 intent to restate all that has been said or all
17 that will be said. Instead, I would like to
18 briefly summarize much of what I've thought
19 about and heard at hearings over these past
20 several months.

21 The fact is Mohegan Sun Resort
22 Casino at Suffolk Downs will offer a much
23 greater benefit on a regional basis than our
24 opposition. It's not even close. From our own

1 host agreement to the various surrounding
2 community agreements, to the tens of millions
3 of dollars being spent on locally bought goods
4 and services and Mohegan Sun reward club point
5 program. Mohegan Sun will transform not just
6 Revere but the entire region.

7 As dramatic as that is, we must also
8 consider Mohegan Sun's location. Its proximity
9 to Logan Airport and accessibility by public
10 way transportation is unparalleled. And has
11 been said that the preservation of a 78-year
12 history of thoroughbred racing and the hundreds
13 of jobs and supports.

14 In addition to all this, the
15 proposed infrastructure improvements and
16 traffic solutions that will accompany this
17 project will propel the city of Revere and our
18 regional neighbors into a bright and prosperous
19 future.

20 I'd like to emphasize the word
21 traffic solution. It has been said but bears
22 repeating, our traffic plan improves every
23 intersection and roadway directly impacted by
24 the resort. The same cannot be said of our

1 neighbors to the West. Again, it seems obvious
2 to me, Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs is the
3 right choice for not only the reasons that I
4 have described but for the numerous other
5 ancillary benefits that we in Revere as a
6 region can reasonably anticipate.

7 We have the right location. We have
8 the right transportation plan. We have the
9 right mitigation package. Mohegan Sun is the
10 right operator for Massachusetts and the North
11 Shore. Now is the time for Revere and the
12 region to move forward. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Reardon
14 and next is Representative RoseLee Vincent.

15 MR. REARDON: Thank you,
16 Commissioners, Ward 4 City Councilor Steven
17 Reardon. I have not had the opportunity to
18 speak to you before. But I do want to thank
19 you all for the tremendous work that you've
20 been doing.

21 I think few people appreciate the
22 difficulties with instituting a completely
23 novel program, novel legislation, a novel idea
24 to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Some

1 people think that these things can be done with
2 no bumps in the road and that's virtually
3 impossible. I think you folks have done a
4 great job especially in keeping this an open
5 debate for everybody to engage in, especially
6 the people that you see here tonight.

7 I also appreciate your patience
8 because I know what you've heard is somewhat
9 redundant. So to avoid that, I am hoping to
10 elucidate a little bit on the historical
11 perspective of the gaming industry in
12 Massachusetts particularly here in Revere.

13 Prior to the 1930s, Revere was
14 essentially a bedroom community for Lynn
15 workers who thrived in the factories of Lynn
16 and Chelsea. We also had a seasonal, obviously
17 a seasonal tourist industry at Revere Beach.
18 And believe it or not, we actually had farms in
19 the city at that time.

20 Then came the racing legislation in
21 the 1930s. And within a few months of each
22 other, Wonderland and Suffolk Downs both opened
23 to throngs of people coming in and visiting at
24 that time was the only legalized gaming in

1 Massachusetts, in fact, other than Las Vegas
2 most of the rest of the country.

3 So, Revere having Suffolk Downs and
4 Wonderland I think I'm not stretching it when I
5 say Revere is the birthplace of the gaming
6 industry in Massachusetts. For many years
7 thereafter the industry thrived. The industry
8 provided great paying jobs, allowed citizens to
9 feed their families, to buy homes in the city,
10 to educate their children and it offered
11 financial security for our residents as well.

12 As late as the 1970s, the businesses
13 -- the gaming business in Revere was thriving
14 through both of these complexes both at Suffolk
15 Downs and at Wonderland in Revere. And
16 although I was busy working in the family
17 business, most of my friends at that time put
18 themselves through college working at
19 Wonderland Park. And again, the other
20 businesses that thrived were the local
21 businesses including the restaurant café that I
22 worked in.

23 At one time, in fact, over 30 police
24 officers worked at Wonderland Park and were

1 able to get overtime pay paid for by Wonderland
2 to address the traffic issues that we dealt
3 with. And we dealt with those traffic issues
4 without too much complaint. Just in
5 preferences for gaming, unfortunately,
6 including the proliferation of the lotteries
7 and casinos in other jurisdictions made it very
8 difficult to maintain a racing facility and
9 maintain the level of racing that it once had.

10 This also coincided with the decline
11 in our tourism on Revere Beach. These
12 phenomena are not unusual. It's fairly true
13 nationwide that racing facilities without the
14 support of gaming revenue in some way, shape or
15 form have difficulty thriving.

16 So, you can see that this industry
17 -- And I hate to use the word gaming because
18 it's sometimes considered to be only gaming. --
19 this is an industry that has grown much more
20 than gaming. And this is what Mohegan Sun is
21 offering.

22 This marvelous facility that they
23 are proposing to build just a mile or so from
24 here -- And this is what it'll do for our

1 community. I ask that you grant this license
2 to this project for the city of Revere and
3 Mohegan Sun and allow the rejuvenation and
4 revitalization of the gaming industry here in
5 Revere, which again is the birthplace of the
6 industry in the Commonwealth.

7 This industry is the very fabric of
8 our community. It is our history and it is our
9 destiny. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Reardon. All right, Representative
12 Vincent.

13 MS. VINCENT: Thank you for allowing
14 me the opportunity to speak today. My name is
15 RoseLee Vincent and I am a proud lifelong
16 Revere resident. I'm here today to voice my
17 wholehearted support for Mohegan Sun's proposal
18 for a Revere casino.

19 The basic intent of the expanded
20 gaming legislation was to create jobs, generate
21 local aid and be a source of economic growth
22 for the Commonwealth. As a legislator, it is
23 my firm belief that Mohegan Sun Massachusetts
24 meets and exceeds the intention of that bill

1 better than any other applicant.

2 Mohegan Sun will be providing 2500
3 construction jobs and 4000 permanent jobs with
4 preference to local applicants. I'm excited
5 that Mohegan is committed to providing 75
6 percent of these permanent jobs to people
7 residing within a 15-mile radius. This project
8 will be exactly the type of facility that will
9 fuel sustained economic development for the
10 entire North Shore for generations to come.

11 The surrounding cities and towns
12 recognize this as well. They've embraced the
13 notion and have all reached generous agreements
14 with Mohegan Sun. This targeted regional
15 economic growth was a driving force behind the
16 legislation. And this proposal ensures just
17 that.

18 On a personal note, as a lifelong
19 neighbor of Suffolk Downs, I know there are
20 hundreds of jobs at stake, in fact, thousands
21 more across New England dependent on the horse
22 racing industry. A Mohegan Sun Casino would
23 not only preserve those jobs but create job
24 growth within the industry.

1 The bottom line is that a Mohegan
2 Sun Casino in Revere makes perfect sense
3 because of Revere's rich history with Suffolk
4 Downs, its superior location and most
5 importantly because Mohegan Sun's proposal not
6 only meets but surpasses the guidelines set
7 forth in the expanded gaming legislation.

8 In closing, thank you for your time
9 and your consideration. It is my hope when all
10 things are considered you will look favorably
11 upon Mohegan Sun Massachusetts. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.

13 MR. ZAMBUTO: Good evening,
14 Commissioners. My name is Anthony Zambuto. I
15 am the City Council President. I apologize for
16 being late. I understand I was called while I
17 was still in my car.

18 I want to thank you for an
19 opportunity to speak to you once again. So, I
20 decided what I probably should do is summarize
21 some of the things I talked about before.

22 I told you in my first appearance
23 that I was thrilled to speak after 15 years on
24 this city council to speak for the entire city

1 council. I don't know if we've ever been in
2 unanimity on anything before, but we certainly
3 are on the fact that Revere, Mohegan Sun should
4 be the casino awarded in this area.

5 I told you in my first appearance
6 that this is obviously transformational for the
7 city of Revere with economic development and
8 the fact that it will give us more than 20
9 percent of our budget in growth every year. As
10 someone who served on the city council, I know
11 how important growth is because when I first
12 came on the city council, I learned that you
13 need a certain amount of growth just to sustain
14 what's going on without raising taxes.

15 This will truly be wonderful for the
16 city of Revere. But more important, it will
17 bring Revere Beach back to the destination it
18 always was. The fact that this is such an
19 outreaching proposal and all of the surrounding
20 communities are really excited about this is
21 because it truly is a rising tide that lifts
22 all boats.

23 I talked about the traffic solutions
24 in my last appearance. I told you about the

1 Route 16 interchanges that you go on Route 16
2 West to a ramp right to Route 1 North and
3 eliminate all of that traffic from Bell Circle.
4 The ramp coming off Route 1 South to Route 16
5 East to 1A to eliminate all of that other
6 traffic going to Bell Circle.

7 I talked about the Boardman Street
8 overpass. And really what this will do not
9 just to mitigate the traffic that's going to
10 come to the casino, but to really improve our
11 existing traffic situation here.

12 We just had the National Sand
13 Sculpting Festival. I think the estimates were
14 6- to 700,000 people in three days. We had no
15 trouble getting them here. One of the reasons
16 were the Blue Line. A lot of people took
17 public transportation.

18 We all know that there's a stop at
19 Mohegan Sun on the Blue Line at Beachmont
20 Station. There's no other casino anywhere that
21 has that kind of an amenity. I just think it's
22 unbelievable what it will do for this region.

23 All of our partners in the
24 surrounding communities have all truly been

1 cheerleaders because they know what it's going
2 to do for the surrounding communities. To
3 bring back -- The Mohegan Sun proposal will
4 really be a destination not just for Revere
5 Beach but Suffolk Downs and Revere Beach have
6 always been destinations. It's just going to
7 revitalize it.

8 I guess I know you have a tough
9 decision, but the way I see it you have two
10 different proposals. One's an outreaching
11 proposal that is Mohegan Sun. You see all of
12 our partners and the wonderful agreements
13 they've made with all of the surrounding
14 communities.

15 The other is a Las Vegas model that
16 seeks to keep everybody in that casino and no
17 outreach to anybody else. I hope you decide on
18 Mohegan Sun. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
20 Zambuto.

21 MR. POWERS: Good afternoon, ladies
22 and gentlemen. I'm sorry for being a little
23 late today.

24 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Powers?

1 MR. POWERS: Yes. Councilor Powers,
2 Ward 5, city of Revere. First of all, I want
3 to thank all of you as well as Chairman Crosby
4 for your diligence and all of the input that
5 you've received and had from residents of the
6 area.

7 I'm a little partial towards Suffolk
8 Downs. I was born the day Suffolk Downs opened
9 July 10, 1935. I guess I shouldn't be dating
10 myself.

11 As Representative Vincent said, the
12 intent of the Legislature when casino gambling
13 was enacted and authorized in Massachusetts was
14 to bring additional revenue into our
15 Commonwealth and to provide jobs for those who
16 are unemployed and those who were to come in
17 the future.

18 And I think to do that you have to
19 make a casino and an entertainment complex
20 convenient, easy to get to. Otherwise, people
21 won't come. And I'm going to tell you now why
22 I believe that Suffolk Downs, Mohegan Sun is
23 the best location for this casino.

24 First of all, it'll be built much

1 quicker. There will be no contamination on
2 that site whatsoever. Secondly, there is no
3 question as to the ownership of that site,
4 who's involved with it and who isn't involved
5 with it. Thirdly, there is a direct rapid
6 transit line just four stops from the proposed
7 site. There's a direct link through the Ted
8 Williams Tunnel from the Mass. Turnpike which
9 will bring tourists in from the East, the South
10 and the West at a very good speed.

11 The potential to build a commuter
12 stop at the rail of Wonderland over in back of
13 Wonderland that would have a walk over similar
14 to what they have at station one over in
15 Medford where people could come from the North
16 Shore, get off there, walk over North Shore
17 Road and go two stops to the proposed casino
18 site. That would not only mitigate traffic to
19 the casino but also traffic that's going to the
20 airport currently.

21 Recently, a 1900-car garage was
22 built at Wonderland just two stops from the
23 casino site. Eight hotels, five in Revere and
24 three in East Boston and one under

1 construction, the Hilton Garden Inn, are all on
2 this side of the Callahan, Sumner tunnels.
3 There are three hotel sites in Revere ready to
4 go, the Shaw's site directly across from the
5 proposed casino, the Lido which is two stops
6 away from the proposed casino. And also the
7 trailer park which has been a burden on the
8 city of Revere for many years that will become
9 a hotel if this casino license is awarded.

10 Let me say this, Mohegan Sun has an
11 excellent record of providing gaming, concerts
12 and other entertainment venues, which have
13 resulted in revenue, jobs and services for
14 local businesses in the areas where they
15 operate.

16 Suffolk Downs for 79 years has
17 provided millions and millions of dollars in
18 tax revenue to the Commonwealth of
19 Massachusetts. In addition, countless families
20 in East Boston, Revere and the region through
21 employment at Suffolk Downs have had the
22 necessary income to send their children to
23 college, purchase homes and make life a little
24 better.

1 And I would add many are still
2 employed at Suffolk Downs. That's why it has
3 to remain open. Suffolk Downs has not only
4 been a good neighbor, but also has an excellent
5 track record, if you'll excuse the pun. It's
6 time for the Commonwealth to say thank you. To
7 do otherwise would be defying logic. Thank
8 you.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
10 much. All right, I'm going to ask Frank
11 Stringi to come to the podium please. And then
12 the next speaker is John Festa. Mr. Festa,
13 let's use that seat right there next to
14 Councilor Zambuto if I could as the on-deck
15 circle, good. Thank you, Councilor.

16 MR. STRINGI: Good afternoon. My
17 name is Frank Stringi and I'm the planning
18 director for the city of Revere. I've spoken
19 before the Commission a number of times
20 regarding the merits of Mohegan Sun proposal
21 and what is being done to improve
22 transportation and infrastructure as well as
23 the urban design benefits of the proposal and
24 commitment to open space and green initiatives.

1 But today, I want to talk about the
2 intangibles. You can't quantify these. You
3 can't put a statistic on them or a rating and
4 they can't be analyzed or evaluated. The first
5 time we met with Mohegan Sun team, we told them
6 our urban design and planning mission was to
7 view this development as an exercise in
8 planning that when completed will demonstrate
9 how a resort casino can not only improve but
10 enrich the quality of life with an urban
11 setting and enhance the economic, cultural and
12 social aspects of the Greater Boston area.

13 This mission has been very important
14 to the city of Revere as well as the region and
15 to the Gaming Commission. This mission has
16 been the main theme throughout our discussions
17 and during the development of the host
18 community agreement.

19 I can tell you Mohegan Sun has
20 listened not only to the wishes of Revere but
21 to our neighbors in Chelsea, Winthrop, Boston,
22 Malden, Lynn, Saugus, Salem, Medford,
23 Cambridge, Everett and Somerville. I
24 personally have learned from my experience

1 during many meetings with the Mohegan Sun team
2 that they are willing to go above and beyond
3 the requirements not just to make this project
4 right but to make it acceptable to all parties.

5 They have addressed each detail with
6 compassion and they've addressed all interests.
7 Throughout every design and site plan review
8 meeting we've had, the Mohegan Sun team has
9 been genuine. The Mohegan Sun team has been
10 understanding. The Mohegan Sun team has been
11 compassionate. And above all, the Mohegan Sun
12 team has listened.

13 This is what has distinguished this
14 team of professionals from all others from my
15 own personal experience. So, really all of the
16 elements are in place to deliver a high-quality
17 resort casino at this site.

18 Let's face it, the right development
19 team is here. The history is there. The jobs
20 are there. The infrastructure is there. The
21 regional highway system is there. The public
22 transit system is there. The regional local
23 support is there. And above all, who could be
24 a better neighbor than Revere Beach and Suffolk

1 Downs and be minutes from Logan International
2 Airport and downtown Boston.

3 So, when you look at it in its
4 entirety, there is no other location within the
5 Commonwealth that can deliver like this one.
6 Again, thank you for coming to the city of
7 Revere. And really, I thank you for the
8 enormous time and personal sacrifice each one
9 of you have put into this process.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: John Festa and
11 Bob Hass, Councilor Bob Haas is the next
12 speaker if he could come the ready chair there.

13 MR. FESTA: Thank you, Judge McHugh
14 and members of the Gaming Commission. My name
15 is John Festa and I am Director of Economic
16 Development in the city of Revere.

17 And I'm here once again to let you
18 know just how important the approval of the
19 gaming -- of the Mohegan Sun gaming license
20 would be to our city and in particular to our
21 economic vitality. My family has lived here
22 and invested here for over 60 years. It is a
23 city we love. It is also a city that is at a
24 crossroad.

1 I have seen Revere's best days, the
2 days when thousands flocked to Revere Beach
3 during the summer months maybe to have a hotdog
4 at Joe and Nemo's or a pizza at Bianchi's or
5 have a roast beef sandwich at our famous
6 Kelly's Roast Beef. Families from near and far
7 would wait patiently in line to ride the bumper
8 cars, the Himalaya or the Virginia Reel. Those
9 were great days.

10 However, just after the devastating
11 Blizzard of '78, the beach seems to have lost
12 its way. The rides have been destroyed.
13 Maintenance of the beach went through a decline
14 as a result of state budget cuts and water
15 quality has suffered for many years from
16 neglect prior to the Boston Harbor cleanup.

17 Today, after years of decline there
18 is a reasonable optimism. Interest in our city
19 has never been stronger. To be clear, a lot of
20 this interest is predicated on what happens at
21 Suffolk Downs. That is why I am here tonight
22 once again to help you understand what this
23 project will mean to our community.

24 You see, we're not trying to create

1 and turn ourselves into a tourist town. We
2 have always been one. The days when Revere was
3 a thriving tourist destination filled with
4 opportunity can once become a reality.
5 However, I am fearful that the interest and
6 potential resurgence that I've identified may
7 be for not if Mohegan Sun has not earned the
8 licensed.

9 Let me just cite one example. Prior
10 to November 4 last year, a large existing hotel
11 chain in Revere, eager for expansion had made a
12 proposal for an additional 110 rooms in the
13 city. As a result of the November vote, they
14 withdrew their proposal. They cited their
15 reason for withdrawal as a defeat of the
16 referendum.

17 Obviously, they did not understand
18 that Revere may have had options, nor did we,
19 until we got final approval from the Commission
20 and holding a second successful referendum.

21 And you may have seen the recent
22 MAPC report that indicates that Revere offers
23 much more in way of collateral investment
24 opportunities. They visited Revere Beach and

1 seen firsthand what this project could mean to
2 Revere and our region. The opportunities that
3 exist mean more tax revenues to the city and
4 Commonwealth, more jobs and more investment in
5 infrastructure and transportation.

6 Now that I just mentioned how this
7 will impact regional development, you may know
8 Mayor Rizzo and I have always viewed this as a
9 destination resort style casino as a regional
10 development project.

11 Let me give you two examples. I
12 spoke with Jay Ash, Town Manager of Chelsea.
13 And he expressed to me that he has a potential
14 \$150 million commercial project in the waiting
15 if the license gets granted to Mohegan Sun.

16 Second, I spoke with James Cowdell,
17 Executive Director of Economic Development in
18 Lynn. And he expressed to me that he has two
19 multimillion dollar developments waiting if a
20 license gets granted to Mohegan Sun.

21 We believe that this type of
22 partnering and regional view have earned us the
23 support of many of our neighboring cities and
24 towns. It is this type of cooperative spirit

1 that clearly separates us from our competition.

2 Members of the Commission, I've seen
3 what closing down one track can do for revenue
4 and jobs. And in one day, we saw hundreds of
5 people put out of work, and a 36-acre parcel
6 put dormant where it continues to sit vacant
7 five years later. I don't want to see this
8 happen again.

9 To help revitalize the Wonderland
10 dog track location, our host community
11 agreement calls for a massive plan to be
12 delivered to the city within one year of the
13 license being granted. In addition, we will
14 benefit a continued interest in development on
15 ongoing Wonderland TOD project and transform an
16 empty nine-acre piece of land formerly occupied
17 by the Shaw's Supermarket site.

18 In closing, I respectfully ask you
19 members of the Commission to look favorably on
20 the application as presented to you by Mohegan
21 Sun. And I want you to look at all of the
22 aspects of their proposal and compare all of
23 the criteria to the competition. I'm confident
24 you will see they are a clear choice from jobs

1 and economic development. Thank you for your
2 time.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
4 Festa. All right, Councilor Haas and then next
5 will be Mayor Judith Kennedy of Lynn. Mayor
6 Kennedy if you'd come down and be prepared to
7 take the next step.

8 MR. HAAS: Ladies and gentlemen, my
9 name is Bob Haas. I reside at 350 Revere Beach
10 Boulevard. I'm a city councilor currently and
11 I served eight years as mayor of this fine
12 city.

13 I'd just like to review a lot of
14 issues that we addressed in the past. First of
15 all, jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. We're all talking
16 about the jobs. They're going to be 75 percent
17 within the 25-mile radius of Revere. That's
18 economic stimulus at its best.

19 Grant economic development as I
20 spoke be reaching out to all of the people who
21 have joined Mohegan Sun in their awards
22 program. And that's another stimulus factor.

23 Then you look at the quick-end
24 resorts no long-term environmental concerns.

1 If you look at Revere, we have no major
2 environmental concerns. Where if you look at
3 the other company they have major economic and
4 environmental concerns.

5 Also, all of the abutting citizens
6 and towns they are all committed to this area.
7 You have all of the surrounding communities
8 namely, Everett, Revere, East Boston or Boston,
9 they all of them have joined the agreement to
10 go forward with this project. And they're
11 going to work in partnership.

12 They're going to bring the city and
13 state roads up to date, something the city of
14 Revere cannot afford to do. We're talking
15 about this will keep live racing. We talk
16 about live racing. If we do not get Mohegan
17 Sun approved for this site, live racing will
18 die. At least it guaranteed it to continue for
19 at least 15 years. And I think that's a major
20 consideration.

21 Also, transportation is already as
22 indicated before we have four stations within a
23 mile of it, two on the property of it. And
24 also, we're looking at what happens now if you

1 look at what's going on.

2 The jobs, jobs and jobs. The best
3 boost of the economy will be Mohegan Sun a
4 quicker end results. No economic cleanup of
5 the environmental in Revere compared to our
6 opponent. All surrounding communities have
7 agreed to this. So, I basically say as a
8 former mayor, city councilor, I think it's a
9 great opportunity for the city of Revere, for
10 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for the
11 general area.

12 I believe it's a no-brainer, but you
13 people have to look at all of the facts and
14 figures here. I mentioned a couple of things
15 but I didn't want to be redundant and mention a
16 lot of things that were already said in the
17 past.

18 So, I thank you as a lifelong
19 resident of the city of Revere. And hopefully
20 when you make your decision, it will be Revere
21 and Mohegan Sun. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
23 Councilor Haas. Mayor Kennedy and the City
24 Manager Ash, Jay Ash will be next if you'd come

1 forward. Good afternoon.

2 THE HON. JUDITH KENNEDY: Good
3 afternoon, Commissioners. I have spoken to the
4 casino commission before. And I will reiterate
5 today my unqualified support for the siting of
6 a casino in Revere.

7 However, there is one aspect of
8 siting the casino here and specifically in
9 choosing Mohegan Sun that I did not touch on in
10 my earlier testimony. I have had an
11 opportunity to go with a delegation from Lynn
12 down to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut to get a
13 look at how the casino operates behind the
14 scenes.

15 And the reason why I wanted to go
16 there was not to learn the inside secrets of
17 the gaming industry, but to look at how the
18 employees are treated. Because we all know
19 that there are a lot of things that go into
20 defining a good job.

21 And one of those parts of that
22 definition is how the employees are treated.
23 And I can tell you, there were people with
24 smiles on their faces everywhere I went from

1 the food prepares to the custodians to the
2 people who worked in maintaining the hotel.

3 The gentleman from upper management
4 who was taking us through the casino and
5 through the hotel operations knew many of these
6 employees by name.

7 So, while it is important to bring
8 jobs to the area, and very much so in the case
9 of my city of Lynn, I also think it's important
10 to bring good jobs where people are treated
11 with dignity from the top down to the bottom.
12 I have seen with my own eyes that Mohegan Sun
13 does this. And I would like you to take that
14 fact into consideration when you're deciding to
15 whom to grant this casino license. Thank you
16 for listening to me.

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
18 much. Mr. Ash and Kate Fox will be the next
19 speaker. Mr. Ash.

20 MR. ASH: Thank you. The gaming law
21 mentions region or regional 45 times. That's
22 significant because the Region A license should
23 benefit more than just the host community of
24 either Revere or Everett. It should also

1 benefit the entire region.

2 Since we last spoke, it has become
3 evident that one of the two casino applicants
4 has continued a decidedly regional approach to
5 their potential development while the other
6 continues to ignore regional equity.

7 The former is Mohegan Sun with 12
8 voluntary surrounding community agreements
9 negotiated and no arbitration petitions needed
10 to address its responsibilities and desires to
11 have a positive impact on the greater Revere
12 region. Mohegan easily outdistances Wynn.

13 Wynn has only one-third of the
14 voluntary agreements Mohegan does, only four.
15 And Wynn chose to take the legal route to beat
16 back the concerns of its most proximate
17 neighbors, Boston, Somerville and Chelsea,
18 while Mohegan heeded those concerns and found a
19 way to alleviate them including in Boston,
20 Somerville and Chelsea.

21 For years, I have said that our
22 communities being overrun by the potential
23 negatives associated with casinos is not
24 inevitable. Combating that inevitability

1 requires a true partnership and a genuine
2 respect between all of the communities to be
3 impacted and our casino host.

4 I am most concerned and deeply
5 disappointed by the refusal of Wynn to accept
6 the obligations they have to address impacts in
7 our region and to ensure that the development
8 is at least a neutral if not a positive in
9 surrounding communities.

10 Conversely, as evident by the sheer
11 number of surrounding community agreements
12 Mohegan Sun was able to negotiate, it is
13 obvious to me who is looking out for
14 surrounding communities, namely Mohegan Sun.
15 And who could care less about surrounding
16 communities and I truly believe that is Wynn.

17 As you've heard me say before, if we
18 and I can't get Wynn now to want to be
19 cooperative with us when arguably we're needed
20 the most, then what shot do we have
21 collectively when they are awarded a license
22 and need nothing from us?

23 And let's not agree to allow lip
24 service of the support of the region to be

1 acceptable evidence when it is so much more
2 easily quantifiable by the financial commitment
3 each proponent is making to its surrounding
4 communities.

5 I would respectfully suggest that
6 evidence is these following numbers that should
7 absolutely guide your decision-making. Mohegan
8 Sun has committed \$25 million annually in
9 payments to surrounding communities to mitigate
10 potential impacts and ensure that our
11 communities are positioned to grow along with
12 its operation. \$25 Million compared just \$3.5
13 million by Wynn, \$25 million versus \$3.4
14 million.

15 In today's dollars that's \$325
16 million less for surrounding communities if you
17 are to accept the Wynn proposal. I say in
18 today's dollars, because the gap is even wider
19 when you consider that in what can only be
20 interpreted as an act to punish those who were
21 not as supportive of the Wynn proposal. The
22 Wynn arbitration proposals did not include
23 inflation adjustments, while the Mohegan Sun
24 voluntary agreements do so.

1 So, the \$325 million gap is going to
2 work out to be significantly more all at the
3 expense of those surrounding communities that
4 have been ignored by Wynn while championed by
5 Mohegan.

6 I'm for Mohegan because their core
7 business is here in New England and they've
8 been part of us for 400 years. I'm for Mohegan
9 because Mitchell Etess thought it important
10 enough to visit my office to talk about how we
11 can promote the region's vitality instead of
12 sending the lawyers. I am for Mohegan because
13 they'll be located in a place that has been a
14 center of regional economy for 75 years and not
15 a toxic wasteland.

16 So, I would ask you to support
17 Mohegan Sun. The region supports them and we
18 hope you will as well. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
20 Kate Fox and the next speaker is Patricia
21 Gentilli. Ms. Fox.

22 MS. FOX: Thank you for the
23 opportunity to speak today. My name is Kate
24 Fox and I am the Executive Director of the

1 Office of Tourism and Cultural Affairs in
2 Salem, Massachusetts. I'm also on the Board of
3 Directors of the North of Boston Convention and
4 Visitors Bureau. But today, I am here on
5 behalf of Mayor Kim Driscoll. And I'd like to
6 submit her remarks as she is unable to attend.

7 Mayor Driscoll submits, dear members
8 of the Commission, I would like to express my
9 support for the proposed resort casino to be
10 located in the city of Revere at the current
11 Suffolk Downs site.

12 Salem is located just a few miles
13 north of the proposed location. And I look
14 forward to collaborating with officials from
15 Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs as well as my
16 colleagues in the city of Revere on areas of
17 shared concerns, specifically the economic
18 opportunities this developer would provide to
19 our region.

20 The new jobs that will come from the
21 proposed resort casino will help many people in
22 the construction industry here on the North
23 Shore who have suffered higher unemployment
24 over the last economic recession than many

1 other types of workers.

2 In addition, once up and running the
3 proposed development will create many new
4 permanent and stable jobs with good benefits
5 for residents of our region.

6 Finally, we anticipate the proposed
7 casino development will have positive impact on
8 the growth of our own local tourism and
9 hospitality industry.

10 Clearly, a multimillion dollar
11 expenditure to improve the area of Revere will
12 be a boost to the entire North Shore region. I
13 support the efforts to appropriately redevelop
14 this site and know that it will provide
15 extensive benefits to our local economy,
16 increase job opportunities and enhance the
17 growth of our hospitality, travel and tourism
18 industries. Very truly yours, Kim Driscoll,
19 Mayor, city of Salem.

20 And as the director of Destination
21 Salem, I couldn't agree more. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
23 Fox. President Gentilli and the next will be
24 Vincent Ragucci.

1 MS. GENTILLI: Good afternoon,
2 Commissioner. My name is Patricia Gentilli.
3 And I'm the President at North Shore Community
4 College with a campus in nearby Lynn.

5 I had the pleasure of testifying
6 before your committee on behalf of the
7 statewide community colleges in June. At that
8 time I explained that I started with North
9 Shore in January 2014. But prior to that I was
10 the dean at Atlantic Cape Community College in
11 Southern New Jersey who oversaw the Casino
12 Career Institute as well as other
13 responsibilities.

14 In that position, I worked closely
15 for 14 years in partnership with all of the
16 casino and hotel resort properties in Atlantic
17 City. During my tenure with Atlantic Cape, I
18 traveled extensively to many new gaming venues
19 to help higher public education, gaming
20 commissions, enforcement agencies and other
21 entities with education programs geared to the
22 gaming industry, including domestic and
23 international partnerships.

24 One of the public community colleges

1 I had the pleasure of helping was Three Rivers
2 Community College in Connecticut with its
3 education program in collaboration with Mohegan
4 Tribal Nations Mohegan Sun Resort. It was
5 through that work that I first got to know the
6 human resources executives, culture and
7 educational interests of both the Tribe and the
8 casino and hotel operations.

9 Then in the fall of 2012, Resorts
10 Atlantic City partnered in a management
11 operations agreement with Mohegan Sun who
12 became the first Indian-owned casino operator
13 to enter the Atlantic City market.

14 Due to the positive relationships
15 already established by Atlantic Cape Community
16 College, the new management quickly became a
17 collaborative education and training partner in
18 the Atlantic City Casino Consortium that my
19 community college had established in 1992 and
20 which continues to bring education and training
21 services to both potential and incumbent gaming
22 and hospitality workers.

23 As Mohegan Sun looks to establish a
24 presence in Eastern Massachusetts due to its

1 positive past collaborative agreements with
2 public community colleges, I look forward to a
3 strong public/private endeavor to ensure that
4 area residents are given opportunities to get
5 the training and education needed to take the
6 thousands of jobs that would be created with a
7 casino resort in Revere.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to
9 address the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on
10 the Mohegan Sun project.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
12 President Gentilli. Mr. Ragucci and Jay
13 Campbell is next. Mr. Ragucci.

14 MR. RAGUCCI: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman, thank you Commissioners. My name is
16 Vincent Ragucci, Jr.

17 And as an Everettite, I want to tell
18 the people of Revere, especially the Mayor of
19 our condolences for the loss of one of your
20 people last night in the fire. And also we
21 hope for a speedy recovery from your tornado
22 and the damage that it did to your city. I
23 hope the correctness happens as quickly as the
24 tornado went through.

1 Think about this for a minute.
2 Everett and Revere look like we are preparing
3 for a World War III. Many of the people here
4 remember the great football team and football
5 games that were played between Everett and
6 Revere for many, many, many years. Thanks to
7 the MIAA that doesn't happen any longer.

8 I personally have attended almost
9 every hearing and I've been involved with
10 Everett United for over two plus years. The
11 point is at every single meeting, somebody is
12 there from the Wynn group. They explain to us
13 every piece of business, everything that is
14 happening so that the entire group knows
15 exactly what's going on.

16 When we attend these hearings, it's
17 not personal against the people of Revere.
18 It's against Mohegan Sun and the people at
19 Mohegan Sun for not telling the people of
20 Revere everything that they should know about
21 the agreements that have been signed.

22 I'm a former retired banker. And in
23 my banking career, hedge funds were the last
24 place you went for financing because of the

1 extreme high payments that have to be paid to
2 those funds. Just as important Mohegan Sun has
3 set up a number of individual corporations.

4 So, what happens is if the
5 corporation hits a breakeven point and there is
6 no place other than from gambling profits for
7 the hedge fund to take its income from, guess
8 what, the cities and towns that have all of
9 these great, according to what some of the
10 speakers have said, have these agreements are
11 not going to get paid. That includes the city
12 of Boston.

13 Those are the important things that
14 I wish and I hope that the Commissioners
15 review. Wynn is going to build a five-star
16 hotel.

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: No, no, no.
18 Just a minute now just a minute. We are here
19 to listen to everybody who has something to
20 say. So, let's do that please. Mr. Ragucci,
21 go ahead.

22 MR. RAGUCCI: Thank you. Wynn is
23 going to build a five-star resort. Mohegan Sun
24 is going to build a three-star resort. At the

1 same time, it's \$100 almost a \$200 billion
2 commitment. Profits from Wynn are guaranteed.
3 Money will come into the cities and towns for
4 the duration that they are in business in this
5 state. So, Commissioners I hope you take all
6 of that into consideration.

7 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
8 much, Sir. Jay Campbell is the next speaker to
9 be followed by Jim Buckley. Mr. Campbell.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you very much
11 for allowing me to speak here tonight. My name
12 is Jay Campbell. I work in Charlestown. I
13 live in Medford. I'm one of those poor people
14 that are going to be stuck in traffic if Wynn
15 builds the casino. That's the standard thought
16 process.

17 I've spoken to the Commission
18 before. I actually think Wynn is a better
19 hotel, a better development than Mohegan Sun.
20 And I really never planned on speaking here at
21 the Commission. One of the reasons -- There's
22 a whole bunch of reasons why but I just believe
23 that it's better.

24 But I never planned on speaking at

1 the Commission here until I read a week ago or
2 two weeks ago about the financial reports and
3 how Wynn did and how Mohegan did. I've never
4 been to the Wynn Casino. I've been to the
5 Mohegan Sun Casino. I never really thought much
6 about it until I started looking into it.

7 And I was really alarmed when I
8 started to research it and surprised for a
9 whole bunch of reasons. The biggest surprise
10 to me was Brigade the 60 percent owner with the
11 capital. Looking into the developments that
12 they're involved with Trump which is now being
13 shut down. They're being sued. And they have
14 stock shares.

15 Out in Las Vegas, they attempted to
16 do the same type of thing they're trying to do
17 here. They were one of the financial backers
18 of a resort out in Las Vegas that never was
19 built. And I looked at the court records
20 because they just won an appeal and now they're
21 going back to sue. There's 44 venture funds
22 involved with this lawsuit.

23 So, I asked myself how many people
24 are going to own this project? Mohegan is

1 doing something that I think makes sense. In
2 New York they're hoping to get one of the
3 licenses to build in upstate New York. And
4 they're doing a 50-50 ownership with the
5 landlord, with the owner, with the developer.

6 Here you have an owner that won't do
7 anything for the development. And the people
8 who are going to be running it are minority
9 owner. They only own, I believe, 40 percent,
10 30 or 40 percent. You have the 60 percent
11 owner, which is venture-capital firm, which
12 one of the ones that they're involved with have
13 just been downgraded by Moody's to basically
14 they're not returning any of their financials.
15 At least that was the last thing Woody's had
16 reported in 2012.

17 There's all of these red flags to
18 me. I don't understand how it's going to work.
19 I don't understand from reading one of the
20 articles saying that Mohegan in Boston will
21 have nothing to do with Mohegan in Connecticut.
22 They won't be allowed to advertise or promote
23 in Revere. Does that mean they can't have any
24 advertisements?

1 If you go in the North End, you'll
2 see displays, billboards on some of the
3 different items saying we're closer than you
4 think. We're only 90 minutes away.
5 Springfield is 90 minutes away. It just
6 doesn't make sense. The Fitch ratings, Moody's
7 have all talked about downgrading some of the
8 casinos because of regional.

9 The Wynn casino brings in
10 international plus being a local. I just think
11 there's a lot of questions. A lot of things
12 that to me that just don't make sense. One of
13 the biggest things that didn't make sense was,
14 you probably know about this group, Keep Vegas-
15 Style Casinos Out of Neighborhoods. That's in
16 the state of California.

17 They're putting on a proposal right
18 now that they want to save that any Indian
19 owners, Tribal owners have to stay on their
20 reservation. They cannot build casinos outside
21 of the reservation. That's what Mohegan Sun
22 wants to do.

23 This group is funded by Brigade
24 Capital. They spent over a million dollars on

1 this initiative. Over \$1 million on a
2 statewide ballot that they got on there to say
3 that casinos shouldn't be in neighborhoods,
4 which this one is. And it shouldn't be run by
5 tribal organizations, which this one will be.
6 I just all of the way around it just doesn't
7 make sense to me.

8 I just want thank you. I'll leave
9 it with that. And I just wanted to leave my
10 binder with somebody that shows the stuff that
11 I pulled up and why.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Right there.
13 Thank you very much. All right, Mr. Buckley,
14 Mr. Jim Buckley and John Vitagliano will be the
15 next speaker after Mr. Buckley.

16 MR. BUCKLEY: Good evening everyone
17 and thank you to the Commission for allowing me
18 the time to speak this evening. My name is Jim
19 Buckley and I'm a lifelong resident of East
20 Boston.

21 My grandmother was born and raised
22 on Leyden Street. She married my grandfather
23 and built a home on Ashley Street, where they
24 still reside today. And my mother has owned

1 and operated a business in Eastie for over 30
2 years. So, my roots are strongly entrenched in
3 this community.

4 I grew up playing Pop Warner in East
5 Boston Stadium, baseball at Noyes Park and
6 basketball at the Orient Heights Community
7 Center. As an adult, I'm active in the
8 community as a board member for two separate
9 East Boston organizations. And in my personal
10 work as a financial services professional, my
11 business runs over 30 percent through clients
12 that have ties to East Boston.

13 For these reasons and many more, I'm
14 very passionate about East Boston and about the
15 North Shore community. Just like every other
16 person who is passionate about a cause or a
17 community, they have both pros and cons when
18 discussing that passion. The pros to me are
19 the community atmosphere, the close-knit
20 environment, and the neighbor type mentality
21 where people are always willing to help others
22 before themselves.

23 Cons to living and working in this
24 community are mostly based around

1 infrastructure. The schools need work. And in
2 turn, great young families who love it here
3 move to the suburbs for better school
4 districts.

5 The public fields, such as Noyes
6 Park where I played as a kid, are neglected due
7 to budget cuts and are now unattractive to kids
8 who want to play sports at the park.

9 And of course, everyone here can
10 tell you that traffic is terrible. Whether it
11 is in the morning when you sit on Boardman
12 Street as a cop lets five cars at a time
13 through the light only to turn it back to red.
14 Or whether it is evening as you sit in traffic
15 out at the tunnel, dreaming of a four-lane
16 highway on a two-lane street.

17 Thanks to the partnership with
18 Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs, we have found
19 our solution. You want to fix the traffic
20 problem, how about \$45 million in road
21 improvements including an overpass to relieve
22 that cop and his five-car rule at Boardman
23 Street. How about additional lanes alleviating
24 the backup in the tunnels? I would vote yes to

1 that.

2 Need to improve the school system,
3 how about \$18 million directly towards
4 educational programs and process improvements
5 including job training for school staff. How
6 about an additional \$30 million to improve the
7 infrastructure of the Umana Middle School along
8 with building a brand-new youth center for the
9 kids to go during the winter and remaking Noyes
10 Park for the kids to play in the summer. I
11 would also vote yes to that.

12 In college, I studied as an
13 economics major where I learned the difference
14 between micro versus macroeconomics. At a
15 micro-level sure there are cons to a casino as
16 there are in any business.

17 But at the macro-level there are
18 cons to not getting this casino. Without this
19 license, Suffolk Downs, a staple in our
20 community and an economic engine for jobs could
21 close. Not only will 4000 jobs not be created,
22 but 2000 jobs could be lost. That's 6000
23 families affected negatively by this decision.
24 Without our license, our schools continue to

1 age, the parks will rot away and yes, traffic
2 will still suck.

3 Over the last decade the city has
4 grown in pockets, first in the explosion of
5 Somerville, biotech companies and young
6 professionals. Then it was Charlestown and the
7 renewed vigor at the Navy Yard. And most
8 recently, it's been South Boston and the
9 Seaport district was completely redone.

10 Well, now it's East Boston's time to
11 shine. The harbor front is ready to be built
12 on. The ferries are adding their stops.
13 Orient Heights T stop has been overhauled. And
14 the signature business of East Boston, Suffolk
15 Downs, is bringing a casino to this great city.
16 And I would vote yes to that. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: John
18 Vitagliano and next is Morris Morris. Mr.
19 Vitagliano.

20 MR. VITAGLIANO: Commissioners, my
21 name is John Vitagliano. I live in Winthrop.
22 I was born in Winthrop. I've lived there for
23 most of life except for 12 years when I
24 lived --

1 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Just a minute,
2 just a minute. Quiet please so that we can
3 hear Mr. Vitagliano. Thank you.

4 MR. VITAGLIANO: Thank you,
5 Commissioners. I live in Winthrop. I was born
6 in Winthrop. I've lived there for most of my
7 life except for 12 years when I lived in East
8 Boston.

9 And I am a strong supporter of the
10 Mohegan Sun Resort Casino proponent for Revere.
11 And I urge the Commission to vote affirmatively
12 for the Mohegan Sun design. There are many,
13 many benefits for this proposal for the city of
14 Revere that you've already heard. From the
15 standpoint of the town of Winthrop, we would
16 benefit enormously from the very generous
17 surrounding community agreement that has
18 already been agreed to. \$2 Million a year to
19 my town would be of enormous economic benefit
20 to our town, which has been somewhat stagnant
21 economically.

22 Another issue for example that we've
23 all thought about is what would this proposed
24 casino actually look like. That question was

1 answered today very well, far better than I
2 could by the American Institute of Architects
3 in their letter to you. And I happen to see
4 the Boston Business Journal article that
5 referenced this issue.

6 This is a major issue for those of
7 us who live around here and will be looking at
8 this structure for some time. And the
9 assessment of the American Institute of
10 Architects when they did their comparative
11 analysis of the Mohegan Sun design proposal
12 versus that of the Wynn proposal speaks for
13 itself.

14 It's basically night and day. The
15 Wynn proposal was actually recommended by the
16 American Institute of Architects to be
17 dismissed and urging Wynn to simply start out
18 all over again because it is such a bad design.
19 And I would concur with that.

20 And I think that's an important
21 consideration for all of us who live in this
22 region, because again your decision will be a
23 decision that affects the entire region not
24 only the great city of Revere.

1 Also by the way, I've been involved
2 in transportation projects for a long time. I
3 was a member of the Massachusetts Port
4 Authority for 14 years on the board for a
5 record. And I am thoroughly familiar with the
6 transportation issues in this area.

7 And I am completely convinced that
8 the transportation proposals that Mohegan Sun
9 has put on the table as part of their proposal
10 will completely resolve any of issues that are
11 attendant on their proposed casino.

12 In fact, go actually two or three
13 steps further and actually relieving a number
14 of existing transportation bottlenecks that
15 have not been able to be resolved through the
16 standard public sector funding sources.

17 So, with that again, I urge you to
18 approve as soon as possible and completely the
19 Mohegan Sun Casino proposal for Revere. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
22 Vitagliano. All right, Morris Morris. And
23 next to speak is David Coombs, if you'd come to
24 the on-deck chair. Mr. Morris.

1 MR. MORRIS: Thank you for letting
2 me speak before you. First of all, I want to
3 thank Mayor Dan Rizzo right here who did a
4 terrific job when we had the tornado. Thank
5 you Mayor, God Bless you.

6 I want to thank Mr. Danny Goodwin
7 from public works that helped clean up the city
8 in two or three days when some towns take
9 months. Thank you, Danny.

10 And I want to thank the fire
11 department that came down to our senior center
12 to shut off the gas, because I was there when
13 the tornado hit. I also want to thank Chief
14 Cafarelli of the police who did a beautiful job
15 coordinating it.

16 But most of all Mayor Dan Rizzo set
17 up a fund to help the people that lost their
18 homes. Some people lost their businesses and
19 they lost their jobs. So, he's helping to make
20 a contribution to that.

21 But you people can make the best
22 donation to the city of Revere by giving us the
23 casino. That would be your contribution. I
24 would also like to thank the casino, Peter

1 Schultz, Chip Tuttle, they made a donation to
2 the tornado fund. Nobody asked them to do it.
3 They did it because they give us community
4 service and not lip service.

5 Also, I heard people talk about
6 Everett making a five-star hotel and Mohegan
7 three-star hotel. When I look at this book and
8 I look at the pictures of this hotel, to me it
9 looks like a 10-star hotel.

10 Also, I would like to say, unless
11 I'm wrong on this one, Everett is going to
12 donate \$50,000 to businesses, Mohegan Sun \$10
13 million. That's a 200 to one ratio, my friend.
14 So, for one dollar you're going to make \$200.
15 And that's what the city of Revere is going to
16 do. We're going to get that casino.

17 Also, before we go ahead with
18 Everett we have 850 plus jobs now, now not
19 tomorrow but now. These people at Suffolk
20 Downs with Chip Tuttle in charge have done a
21 fabulous job. They've hired veterans. And
22 that's what we need more jobs, more veterans to
23 do it. So, I hope they take care of that.

24 And last but not least, I happen to

1 be a senior. I was there during the tornado
2 when it was hit. We lost a lot of things that
3 day at the senior center. And when the casino
4 comes in, the first thing they said to us they
5 would help us. So, they do give us community
6 service and not lip service like I always say
7 to them.

8 I've got 57 seconds. I just want to
9 repeat to you again, the Gaming Commission,
10 when you vote make sure you vote for the city
11 of Revere because we are way ahead of every
12 city in Massachusetts to have the casino here.
13 You've weighed the pros and the cons and I hope
14 these people that win the casino give
15 themselves a big hand for coming here.

16 I want to thank you each and every
17 one. I know you don't answer questions. But
18 if I can ask you one, I would like to know what
19 happens if there's a two-to-two vote, how does
20 that work out?

21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Oh, it's not
22 going to happen, Mr. Morris.

23 MR. MORRIS: Okay, thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: It's a tough

1 act to follow. Mr. Coombs and then Lorene
2 Schettino.

3 MR. COOMBS: Thank you. My name is
4 David Coombs. And I'm the Executive Vice
5 President of Steve Connolly's Seafood Company.

6 First of all, I appreciate the
7 opportunity to come and speak to you about the
8 casino proposal. But I also think I might have
9 found a new salesman. That guy has more
10 enthusiasm than anybody that I deal with.

11 We're a fresh seafood company with
12 plants in Boston and Gloucester and Nantucket
13 Island. And our customers are primarily four-
14 and five-star and diamond clients in the hotel,
15 resort and high-end cruise line and private
16 club business across the country and down in
17 the Caribbean.

18 And I'm proud to say we have sold
19 seafood to Mohegan Sun down in Connecticut
20 since 1996. We consider Mohegan Sun to be a
21 great client and a pleasure to do business
22 with. They are professional in their approach
23 to buying, pay within terms. They're really an
24 ideal customer from both of those standpoints,

1 especially the economy the way it is these
2 days. And our experience with Mohegan has been
3 nothing but positive since day one.

4 Coincidentally, our plant in Boston
5 is at 34 New Market Square which is a main area
6 for wholesale food distributors in the Boston
7 area, probably in the state. We're active
8 members of the New Market Business Association,
9 which represents us and all of our neighbors
10 including those in the dreaded meat and poultry
11 businesses.

12 But I have to say Mohegan has made a
13 solid effort reach out to members of the
14 association to talk about what they buy and
15 also their plans to source locally. Hopefully,
16 if this project comes to fruition it will lead
17 to good solid business for a lot of local
18 companies. I support Mohegan in their efforts
19 to obtain a license. Thank you for your time.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
21 Coombs. Lorene Schettino and John Nazzaro will
22 be next. Mr. Nazzaro, if you would come to the
23 front. Ms. Schettino.

24 MS. SCHETTINO: My name is Lorene

1 Schettino and I'm a lifelong resident of East
2 Boston as well as a local business owner of
3 East Boston.

4 I want to first commend the
5 Commission and Mayor Walsh for reaching a
6 surrounding community agreement. I live on
7 Leyden Street, which is an abutting street of
8 Boardman Street. And the overpass is very
9 important to me.

10 There are mornings that I can't even
11 get off my street to drive a few blocks to my
12 office. This is a much needed improvement that
13 will not happen if Mohegan Sun and Suffolk
14 Downs are not awarded a license.

15 I'd also like to add that Suffolk
16 Downs is a great neighbor. And I would hate to
17 see the track shut down and the jobs and
18 potential jobs lost.

19 I am sure that Mohegan Sun will
20 follow suit on being part of the community.
21 Finally, I plan on remaining in East Boston for
22 the rest of life. And I feel that the
23 surrounding community agreement will only make
24 East Boston a better place to live than it

1 already is today. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.

3 Mr. Nazzaro followed by Chip Tuttle.

4 FR. NAZZARO: Hi, my name is Father
5 John Nazzaro. And I am the Executive Director
6 of the Salesian Boys and Girls Club. We
7 service young people from East Boston, Revere
8 and Winthrop.

9 And I welcome the opportunity to
10 speak publicly this afternoon to publicly
11 affirm Mr. Fields and Mr. Chip Tuttle for their
12 association with our Boys and Girls Club for
13 over seven years sponsoring our scholarship
14 dinner.

15 In June, we have a scholarship
16 dinner to help needy kids. I just left 200
17 kids at our camp that we have. Over half of
18 them benefited from that scholarship dinner
19 that is hosted by Suffolk Downs and this past
20 year Mohegan Sun helped as well.

21 It's very important to know that the
22 young people need help. And I don't think
23 anyone here would disagree with that. I feel
24 in my heart that the association we've had with

1 Suffolk Downs and with Mohegan Sun will help us
2 impact more young people that we serve at the
3 Salesian Boys and Girls Club.

4 I feel that it's important for
5 everyone to know that the most precious gift we
6 have is our young people. And our young people
7 need help. Each morning when I get up in the
8 morning I say the same prayer. Each time I say
9 mass, I say the same prayer.

10 I pray that young people may be the
11 sign of hope and future for a better world that
12 we have. And I pray for the young people
13 who've run away from home, those who have
14 succumbed to the allurements of substance abuse
15 that the love and mercy of God may help them
16 are a positive example like we have at the
17 Salesian Boys and Girls Club will help them to
18 be recovered, productive and wonderful citizens
19 in our community. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Fr.
21 Nazzaro. Mr. Tuttle and Wanda Geer is next.
22 Mr. Tuttle.

23 MR. TUTTLE: Thank you members of
24 the Commission. Chip Tuttle from the

1 surrounding community of Salem. Thank you
2 Father John for your kind words.

3 Commissioners, thanks very much for
4 the chance to address you again and for your
5 diligence and your patience, especially your
6 patience throughout this process. When it
7 began, I didn't need these glasses to read my
8 remarks.

9 While I've had the privilege in the
10 past of addressing you as an applicant, today
11 I'm here representing the people that you
12 oversee as the regulators of thoroughbred
13 racing in Massachusetts. Honoring your request
14 that we restrict our remarks today to events
15 since June 24th, I want to talk specifically
16 about Suffolk Downs' agreement with the city of
17 Boston, its recent agreement with Boston and
18 what that means for the future.

19 Our separate agreement with Boston
20 was signed the week of July 7, the same week
21 that Suffolk Downs turned 79, and the same week
22 that Mohegan Sun and Boston finalized a
23 generous surrounding community agreement.

24 As you know, Mohegan Sun is leasing

1 40 acres of our property in Revere. Our
2 agreement with Boston requires that we, Suffolk
3 Downs, master-plan the Boston side of the
4 property with the city in ways that complement
5 Mohegan Sun's development. But most important,
6 the agreement provides a legal requirement for
7 us to race for at least the initial 15-year
8 term of the Region A gaming license should that
9 license be awarded to Mohegan Sun.

10 The agreement legally requires us to
11 live up to the public pledge that we made to
12 you in January to preserve and enhance Suffolk
13 Downs' 79-year legacy as one of the areas
14 sporting and entertainment venues. And we were
15 happy to include that language in our agreement
16 with Boston because it's consistent with our
17 vision for the future of our facility.

18 A better customer experience, acres
19 of open space, more park like with paddocks
20 where people can get up close and appreciate
21 the horses. And more than a racing and
22 simulcast facility, a multi-use equestrian
23 recreational facility and a community resource,
24 a venue for special events, entertainment and

1 charitable causes. Perhaps the host to the
2 equestrian games in the 2024 Boston Olympiad.

3 Over the last few months, and again,
4 I'm sure you'll hear from people tonight,
5 several members from the diverse, hard-working
6 group of people whose livelihoods depend upon
7 the future of Suffolk Downs. You heard from
8 Maryann Wright at one of your hearings, a
9 mutuel clerk worried about where she turns if
10 her job and health benefits go way.

11 You heard from young Janelle
12 Campbell who wants to follow in the footsteps
13 of her aunt, Tammi Piermarini one of the
14 leading riders in the country wants to do it
15 here, not in Pennsylvania or Florida.

16 You've heard from some of the most
17 pie-eyed hopeful optimistic people in the
18 world, Massachusetts thoroughbred breeders who
19 just keep going whose businesses support family
20 farms and a way of life, and who watched as
21 their contemporaries in neighboring states
22 thrive with proceeds from expanded gaming while
23 they struggle for one more year.

24 People ask me all of the time what

1 happens to Suffolk Downs if Mohegan Sun does
2 not earn this license? Unfortunately, the area
3 will lose a part of its history. It may take a
4 few years but the track will be developed. It
5 sits on 160 acres on two MBTA stations and a
6 regional highway minutes from an international
7 airport in downtown Boston. Our owners will be
8 fine. I'll be fine. I'm fortunate and have
9 other business interests.

10 But what about Maryann Wright and
11 about Janelle Campbell? What happens to
12 Lorenzo and Able Juarez, brothers, stable hands
13 for our leading trainer Jay Bernardini. One a
14 recent US citizen, the other going through the
15 process trying to make better lives for their
16 families? What happens to the hundreds of
17 other people like them? What happens to George
18 Brown's farm in Rehoboth and the dozens of
19 others like it throughout the Commonwealth?

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
21 Tuttle. Thank you very much. We get the
22 point.

23 MR. TUTTLE: We appreciate your
24 consideration for these people. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Wanda Geer and
2 Mary Reed is next. Ms. Geer.

3 MS. GEER: Thank you, Commissioners,
4 for allowing us this forum to speak in support
5 of Mohegan Sun proposed casino in Revere. This
6 is Mary Reed my Mom. We represent Tartts
7 Daycare Center.

8 Tartts Daycare Center is a
9 multigenerational family business spanning six
10 decades. Established in 1946, Tartts remains
11 100 percent minority owned and 100 percent
12 family-owned. We are one of Boston's oldest
13 minority- and women-owned businesses. Tartts
14 is an equal opportunity employer with over 40
15 full- and part-time employees and we operate
16 out of two Boston locations.

17 The reason we support Mohegan Sun's
18 bid for the proposed Revere casino is because
19 we believe that Mohegan Sun has a sincere
20 commitment to providing quality child care for
21 their employees. The positive and thoughtful
22 conversations we have had with Mohegan Sun's
23 team regarding childcare have demonstrated to
24 us that they understand that staff morale and

1 retention are just a few of the many benefits
2 of having an on-site childcare for their
3 employees.

4 Mohegan Sun recognizes that
5 employees will appreciate the peace of mind
6 that on-site childcare provides. Children will
7 be within walking distance of employees'
8 workplace and are attending a curriculum based
9 early learning program with a proven track
10 record of excellence. My Mom, Mary Reed will
11 be finishing the comments.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you Ms.
13 Geer. Ms. Reed.

14 MS. REED: Thank you, Commissioners.
15 Let me just extend again, my thank you to all
16 of you for allowing us to be here. Tartts, as
17 my daughter has said, has established a
18 reputation as one of Boston's premier brands in
19 high-quality early childhood education.

20 We do not advertise. We rely solely
21 on word-of-mouth. And yet Mohegan Sun
22 approached us proving that they have a careful
23 consideration -- they have given careful
24 consideration to their commitment to diversity

1 and more importantly to high-quality for the
2 choice of vendor.

3 So, I have a question. What is the
4 value of a partnership with Mohegan Sun? Well,
5 Mohegan Sun shares Tartts' vision of excellence
6 in childcare for their employees. And Mohegan
7 has a proven track record of excellence in
8 service for their patrons.

9 Thank you again for the opportunity
10 to voice our support for Mohegan Sun. We're
11 excited by the possibilities they offer, their
12 perception and the value they will bring to
13 Revere and Massachusetts as a whole. Thank you
14 very much.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
16 Reed. All right. The next speaker is Richard
17 Feinberg followed by Louis Ciarlone.

18 MR. FEINBERG: Thank the four of you
19 for coming to Revere. My name is Richard
20 Feinberg. And I live in Swampscott. And for
21 those who don't know, that's about seven or
22 eight miles down the road.

23 My wife and I are both retired
24 school teachers. And I teach US Government and

1 Politics at Bunker Hill Community College as an
2 adjunct. And if you're nice to me at the end
3 of my brief presentation I will tell you who
4 will be the next president in 2016.

5 First, let me tell you that my wife
6 and I are the quintessential small gambler. We
7 like to go to casinos and we play a game called
8 two four hold'em poker. Not the big game that
9 you see on television, just a small game where
10 we'll sit for three or four hours. Maybe win a
11 hundred, maybe lose a hundred, but I assure you
12 we won't spend the family grocery money.

13 I would also like to tell you that
14 I've been to a lot of casinos of my life and
15 there are none better than Mohegan Sun in
16 Connecticut. They are impeccably clean, but
17 more importantly than that I think of Demoulas
18 when I think of the employees. They love their
19 job. They love their bosses and they are type
20 of people that make it a pleasure to go there.
21 Whether you're handicapped, my wife sometimes
22 has to be pushed around in a wheelchair.
23 Whether you're a senior citizen, they can't do
24 enough to make sure that you have a good time.

1 I'm just going to say quickly, I
2 don't know Mayor Rizzo, but I have watched him
3 during this debate for gaming. I don't think
4 you could find a better spokesman for his city.
5 I want you to know I've never met Mayor Rizzo
6 and I've only seen him on television a few
7 times, but he's really made a good classy
8 presentation for his city of Revere which will
9 benefit the North Shore and the entire state.

10 And I think that if Mohegan Sun runs
11 like they do in Connecticut -- And I'm sure
12 Mayor Rizzo will make sure they do. He's got a
13 lot at stake here. -- I think we've got a
14 number one facility.

15 Finally, I would like to tell you
16 that the next president in 2016 will be a
17 woman. It will be a woman whose husband was
18 already president, but it will not be Eleanor
19 Roosevelt. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Ciarlone,
21 Sue Sullivan is next please.

22 MR. CIARLONE: Commissioners
23 Cameron, Zuniga, Stebbins and McHugh, thank you
24 for allowing me to address you once again

1 today. My name Louis Ciarlone and I live at
2 410 Park Avenue in Revere.

3 I am currently a business agent for
4 IBEW Local 103, the union that represents the
5 vast majority of the unionized workforce at
6 Suffolk Downs. I worked at Suffolk Downs as a
7 mutuel clerk for over 22 years and was
8 previously elected as their spokesperson by my
9 fellow employees for 12 years.

10 I would first like to commend
11 Mohegan Sun, Suffolk Downs and the city of
12 Boston for a thorough, fair and generous
13 surrounding community agreement. By placing
14 the guarantee of live thoroughbred racing into
15 that agreement, the three parties have
16 reinforced the original letter of commitment
17 that Suffolk Downs gave to the Commission.

18 There can now be no doubt that
19 racing will continue at Suffolk Downs well into
20 the future if Mohegan Sun is granted the Region
21 A license. The members I represent could not
22 be more thankful or happy by the placement of
23 this provision into the Boston agreement.

24 This will probably be the last time

1 I will be able to address this Commission
2 before you make your final decision on the
3 Region A application. I speak for the hundreds
4 of workers at Suffolk Downs, workers with good
5 jobs and benefits, workers who perform their
6 jobs with dignity and confidence for decades.

7 Workers who can point to family ties
8 with Suffolk Downs that date back more than a
9 half a century. Workers who have bonded as a
10 family. Workers who have grown up in the
11 thoroughbred racing industry. Suffolk Downs
12 has little to no employee turnover. Many of
13 the full-time workers who work at Suffolk Downs
14 have worked there as their only job from the
15 time they were 18 years old.

16 I'm talking about a family of
17 workers, a generation of workers. Workers who
18 respect the company and a company that respects
19 them, not much unlike our brothers and sisters
20 at Wonderland a few short years ago. I was
21 there that fateful day when similar bonds that
22 I have described to you were dissolved and
23 broken by a ballot question.

24 I watched as Representative

1 Reinstein and the Wonderland workers cried when
2 those doors were shutting. Hardly any of the
3 workers at Wonderland could find a job that
4 duplicated the good union jobs that they lost.
5 I resent the fact that some of our detractors
6 can cavalierly dismiss these good jobs at
7 Suffolk Downs and in the racing industry as
8 routinely as throwing out a pair of old shoes.

9 These are jobs performed by people
10 who are the salt of the earth. Mutuel clerks,
11 bartenders, waitresses and waiters, assistant
12 starters and valets, program sellers, money
13 counters, cooks, cleaners, dishwashers,
14 equipment operators, laborers, plumbers and
15 electricians, carpenters, workers in feed
16 granaries and breeding farms, owners, trainers,
17 jockeys, exercise riders and grooms are some of
18 the many jobs performed by hard-working men and
19 women who are dependent on the thoroughbred
20 industry to provide a living wage for their
21 middle-class families.

22 As awful as that horrible day at
23 Wonderland was four years ago, if Mohegan Sun
24 doesn't win this license or if there is no

1 casino on Suffolk's property because our
2 opponents repeal the gaming law, all of these
3 people will lose their jobs and the result will
4 be tenfold worse than it was for our brothers
5 and sisters at Wonderland.

6 I respect the work that the
7 Commission has done and the fact the petition
8 is a heavy burden on each of you. I want to
9 leave you with this last through hundreds maybe
10 thousands of some of the most decent, hard-
11 working and caring people you would ever want
12 to meet plead with you to save their jobs and
13 the industry they love when you make your final
14 decision. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
16 Sue Sullivan, another tough act to follow.
17 Kathleen Orlando is the next speaker after Ms.
18 Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan.

19 MS. SULLIVAN: Good evening. I'm
20 Sue Sullivan and I'm the Executive Director of
21 the New Market Business Association. And the
22 New Market Business Association is the cohesive
23 voice of the New Market Industrial District,
24 which is the largest industrial business area

1 in Greater Boston and is located just south of
2 South Station surrounded by the areas of the
3 South End, South Boston, Roxbury and
4 Dorchester.

5 Representing the second-largest
6 business association in Boston I have over 235
7 member businesses representing over 20,000
8 employees. Most of these employees are blue-
9 collar employees, long-lasting family members
10 and members of organization and companies that
11 have been in this area for upwards of 50 years.

12 Forty percent of these companies are
13 wholesale food distributors. In fact, if you
14 live in Greater Boston, it is a fact that there
15 is a 90 percent chance of anything you eat that
16 is fresh has come through the New Market area.
17 Twenty-five percent of our companies are
18 building contractors or building supply
19 companies. And 20 percent of these companies
20 are in service businesses that can be utilized
21 in casino either building or operations.

22 Clearly, the purchasing dollars that
23 will be generated by the construction and
24 operation of any casino in the Greater Boston

1 area will be in the billions. By any standard,
2 it is a potential game changer for thousands of
3 small, medium and even large sized businesses.

4 Only one of the two potential casino
5 operators understands this impact and their
6 responsibility to both the city of Revere and
7 the greater surrounding community. That
8 operator is clearly Mohegan Sun.

9 In their host agreement, they have
10 not only protected the businesses of Revere,
11 but also the thousands of other businesses in
12 the area. By creating the 15-mile buying
13 radius for a large number of their annual
14 buying dollars, they have promised that we will
15 not be watching companies from other parts of
16 the country get the lion's share of their
17 purchasing dollars. It will stay here.

18 The operators of Mohegan Sun have
19 been proactive and forthcoming in reaching out
20 to the local businesses. Even doing
21 preliminary meet and greets with the purchasing
22 people. The other casino applicant has been
23 nonexistent and non-caring.

24 Why should we trust Mohegan Sun?

1 I'll get a little personal here. I grew up
2 about five miles from Mohegan Sun in
3 Connecticut. My high school is less than a
4 football field away from it. I know a lot of
5 people who are their employees. I know a lot
6 of people who live in the surrounding
7 communities. And all they talk about is not
8 only the economic impact of Mohegan Sun, but
9 the intangibles such as their contributions to
10 local schools, to organizations and to personal
11 involvement in the area.

12 Speaking for the 235 members of the
13 New Market Business Association, I very, very
14 much hope that you will vote in favor of
15 Mohegan Sun as the casino operator.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
17 Sullivan. Kathleen Orlando and next is Joe
18 Todesca. Ms. Orlando.

19 MS. ORLANDO: Good afternoon. Thank
20 you for once again allowing me to speak before
21 you today. As a lifelong resident of East
22 Boston, I stand before you today in full
23 support of Mohegan Sun's plan for a resort
24 casino in Revere, Massachusetts.

1 Since I last spoke here, Mohegan Sun
2 has entered into a surrounding community
3 agreement with Mayor Walsh and the city of
4 Boston. This is amazing news. This proves
5 that Mohegan Sun and our new Mayor listened to
6 the residents of East Boston and together
7 worked hard to reach an agreement that
8 compensates East Boston and provides us with
9 things such as a new youth center, a senior
10 center and major road improvements.

11 This speaks volumes to Mohegan Sun's
12 commitment to Revere, all of the surrounding
13 communities and the Commonwealth as a whole.
14 No other applicant has made an effort or shown
15 any interest in making such commitments.
16 Mohegan has done everything to ensure that a
17 resort casino in Revere would be an
18 overwhelming success, and that horseracing will
19 continue for a minimum of 15 years and once
20 again thrive in the state of Massachusetts.

21 Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs are
22 the perfect combination. And together will be
23 a huge success story. Throughout this process,
24 I have come to meet some of the most amazing

1 people at Suffolk Downs. I have learned so
2 much from them and their stories about their
3 employer that they respect so much and the
4 horseracing industry in which they have
5 dedicated their entire lives. They are a
6 family. Not often do you see employees stand
7 up for a company and remain so loyal.

8 Recently, we have seen this with
9 Market Basket. When the media first broke the
10 news about the situation at Market Basket, I
11 immediately thought of the employees of Suffolk
12 Downs who too are fighting to keep their jobs
13 and stand with an employer who has treated so
14 well.

15 They will fight to the end to keep
16 horse racing alive in Massachusetts. And this
17 plan has overwhelming support. You can see
18 that in this room today as well at all of the
19 other prior hearings. There is little
20 opposition to this plan.

21 The opposition has been limited to a
22 handful of folks that attend each meeting and
23 talk about a no-vote in November in East
24 Boston. What they fail to mention is that

1 thousands of East Boston residents voted yes on
2 November 5 and today still stand in support of
3 the project in Revere.

4 In fact, many of the people who
5 voted no have now changed their position. When
6 Mohegan announced their plan, many Eastie
7 residents expressed that if Mohegan Sun was the
8 gaming partner on November 5 they surely would
9 have voted yes, which proves that no votes were
10 due to a fact that a gaming partner -- I'm
11 sorry. -- that many no votes were due to the
12 fact that the gaming partner was unclear but
13 not that East Boston residents were opposed to
14 a casino.

15 East Boston residents have a renewed
16 faith that although the casino will not be in
17 East Boston, Mohegan Sun and Mayor Walsh have
18 made certain that East Boston will be
19 compensated for any negative impacts this
20 project could bring while keeping its
21 neighborhood and friend for 78 years in
22 business.

23 Thank you to all of my friends at
24 Suffolk Downs for fighting for what you believe

1 in. To Mohegan Sun, Mayor Rizzo and Mayor
2 Walsh to listening to the residents of Revere
3 and East Boston. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Joe Todesca
5 and the next person is Bobby McKenna. Mr.
6 Todesca.

7 MR. TODESCA: Good evening,
8 Commission. Thank you for giving me the
9 opportunity to speak here tonight. My name is
10 Joe Todesca. I'm a lifelong resident of East
11 Boston.

12 I spoke in front of you on numerous
13 occasions in the past on behalf of Suffolk
14 Downs and Mohegan Sun. I have been a supporter
15 of this project when it was initially proposed
16 in East Boston. And have stood 100 percent
17 behind my neighbors in Revere since the
18 November 5 election.

19 The people of Revere have spoken
20 twice and both times they said yes. They want
21 this. They need this. My hometown of East
22 Boston also needs it. Recently Mohegan Sun and
23 the city of Boston reached a surrounding
24 community agreement, the richest of its kind.

1 And I commend our Mayor Marty Walsh, and
2 Mohegan Sun for working hard and coming up with
3 such a generous agreement.

4 This agreement includes \$45 million
5 in road improvements. \$5 million spent in
6 goods and services to East Boston local
7 businesses, funding first-time homebuyers,
8 funding of public services and addiction, a
9 state-of-the-art youth and senior center,
10 improvements to the Umana School, improvements
11 to Noyes Park, improvements to LoPresti Park,
12 which has a special meaning to me and my family
13 because that park is named after my
14 grandfather, the late Senator Michael LoPresti,
15 Sr.

16 These are just a few things I
17 mention, but they are all things that East
18 Boston desperately needs to help our community.
19 I'll say it here and I'll say it now, without
20 this project none of the things that I
21 mentioned will happen. No other project will
22 have the benefits Mohegan Sun is offering right
23 now. This is an opportunity of a lifetime.
24 The jobs, the saving of the racetrack,

1 commitment that Mohegan Sun has shown this
2 entire region is the reason why I believe
3 Mohegan Sun is not the best choice but the only
4 choice. Thank you for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
6 Sir. Bobby McKenna is next, followed by
7 Matilda Bonfardeci.

8 MR. MCKENNA: Before you start the
9 clock, I really want to thank you for these,
10 because I think these have really brought us
11 together. And I don't feel like we've been
12 this much like Revere in a really long time.
13 So, I want to thank you for this. This brings
14 us together.

15 Members of the Commission, a host
16 city needs two things, the best site, check,
17 and truly understanding what we're asking for
18 and if we can handle it. We handled it for 100
19 years with the Cyclone, Blue Beard's Palace and
20 Walt Disney's inspiration Wonderland Park.

21 But then the jumbo jets took the
22 crowds away. We're haunted by the ghosts of
23 those rollercoasters. Proud cities like
24 Lowell, Brockton, New Bedford never had second

1 chances with industries they were built around.
2 We do. It's unprecedented. We're the only
3 ones around who have done this kind of thing
4 before and it's legendary.

5 We've been dying to do this again.
6 This is the fight of our lives. We're not
7 fighting alone. New friends like Kathleen
8 Orlando, Anthony Chonka, Joe Todesca and
9 Suffolk Downs own poet laureate, Kathi Wyatt
10 stood up like neighbors we've known all of our
11 lives who all know how to properly pronounce
12 Revere.

13 We know saving Suffolk Downs isn't
14 -- please, I'm not going to finish. -- We know
15 saving Suffolk Downs alone isn't reason enough
16 to vote for us. Accessibility, growth
17 potential, surrounding attractions community
18 and businesses is. But we keep saying save
19 Suffolk Downs and 800 jobs because it doesn't
20 seem like two plus two equals four anymore.
21 But we know how they can guarantee staying open
22 for 15 years, a \$1.5 billion casino paying you
23 rent. I didn't go to Harvard. I went to Mr.
24 Blazy's math class down the hall and I did that

1 one in my head.

2 While there are just 4000
3 chambermaid jobs, we're not building the Tower
4 of Babel. That hearing's tomorrow night. Like
5 any big company there's jobs in every field and
6 we're the first 800 draft picks. I want one.
7 I'm a veteran with a bachelor's degree and two
8 Canadian nickels in my pocket because the
9 Coinstar machine at Stop and Shop wouldn't take
10 them.

11 We need jobs that are dignified and
12 not degrading. We need these jobs. We know
13 the casino's main traffic is Thursday, Friday,
14 Saturday night after rush hour. It's not a
15 Justin Bieber concert every night.

16 We also know who's going to give us
17 millions of dollars to fix places like Boardman
18 and Curtis Street if we don't get it, nobody.
19 We know there won't be crime waves, chaos or
20 evil circus clowns running loose in the
21 streets, because cities like ours with casinos
22 Bangor, Maine and Philly, no increase in crime,
23 a decrease in drug crimes and burglaries
24 because more police are on the streets. Police

1 like my Uncle Kenny Foley who kicked the Hell's
2 Angels off of the beach in the 70s or Chief
3 Cafarelli who drags terrorists out of boats in
4 Watertown.

5 We know safe and clean is best for
6 business and best for us. No casino, Suffolk
7 Downs is closed and bulldozed. And once we
8 remove all of those human chains of protestors,
9 the historic barns will go too. Whatever takes
10 its place, it will be more problems, more
11 abandoned shopping carts on Winthrop Ave. and a
12 whole lot of nothing we can do about it.

13 Boston papers never compared both
14 sites or this would've been over a long time
15 ago. The Herald loved Mr. Wynn because of his
16 Rex Ryan/Bobby Valentine way with words. And
17 if it isn't about Gisele the Globe isn't
18 interested.

19 So, I walked that half mile from
20 Sullivan Square, past the Water Commission, the
21 bus yard. The only place I found with food was
22 at the very end, a gas station with a Snickers
23 bar and a Gatorade. But I had to take it
24 outside because there was no place to sit. A

1 woman with heels with shopping bags is supposed
2 to walk all that way.

3 Every problem that they have, they
4 want to fix it with duct tape and sheetrock
5 screws. Our track and our beach are the
6 perfect spot because they were picked out 80
7 and 140 years ago. Theirs is in mechanics row
8 on a street known as chemical lane. This is a
9 resort. That is the last resort. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Ms. Bonfardeci
11 and the next will be Bob Upton. Mr. Upton come
12 down. Ms. Bonfardeci.

13 MS. BONFARDECI: Good afternoon
14 members of the Mass. Gaming Commission. My
15 name is Matilda Bonfardeci and this is not the
16 first time I speak before you, but the third.

17 For the record, I am a longtime
18 resident of Revere and support the Mohegan Sun
19 Suffolk Downs Resort. I've spoken in the past
20 about things like the benefits I see for the
21 families here in Revere such as a million
22 dollars a year to our schools, a new rec.
23 center, a new high school to be built and of
24 course saving the jobs at Suffolk Downs.

1 I spoke about how we are failing as
2 a community and how throughout this process we
3 really have worked as a team. I have spoken
4 about how badly we need the jobs and the
5 revenue. And of course I've said over and over
6 again how much we back our mayor, a man whom
7 has the city's best interest at heart.

8 So, I said to myself what else can I
9 really say? Well, one thing I can still say
10 and I don't mind repeating is this, we still
11 need jobs. We still need the revenue and we
12 still need a yes to the Mohegan Sun license for
13 Suffolk Downs.

14 With that said, I did in fact think
15 of something else to say today and I'd like
16 share with you a bit of my personal journey
17 through this. When I first heard on the news
18 that a proposal was going in front of the
19 legislation to expand the gaming law, I was
20 intrigued. When Governor Duval Patrick signed
21 it into law, I said to myself well, finally
22 some money that has been leaving this state on
23 a daily basis will now become possibility of
24 staying in ours.

1 When Revere East Boston became one
2 of the candidates, I was thrilled. I started
3 to get more involved. I attended one of the
4 many informational gatherings that Chip Tuttle
5 and his team put together. I was astonished at
6 how much was at stake for Revere.

7 So, I made it my personal mission to
8 get out there and spread the word and help in
9 any way I could. I held gatherings with moms
10 and friends throughout the city to make sure
11 they understood that this is a good thing for
12 Revere and not to listen to the false notions
13 that casinos are bad. Instead to tell them
14 that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity
15 and that we should not let it pass by.

16 When it came to voting time, I phone
17 banked, held signs and may I add in the cold,
18 gave out bumper stickers and pins, put signs on
19 my lawn the words vote yes. And I did this all
20 with great pride because I love my city.

21 When East Boston voted it down, I
22 was personally very sad but I didn't lose hope.
23 When the Mass. Gaming Commission found a legal
24 way for us to retake the vote, I was elated.

1 So, once again I did everything I did the first
2 time around only stronger, harder and with more
3 hours put into it. And boy did it pay off with
4 the landslide win.

5 So, I really didn't know anybody
6 that worked at Suffolk Downs. But throughout
7 this, I have met them through either gatherings
8 or sign holdings. And it made even sweeter to
9 get on board for them. One thing that is
10 consistently on their minds is are they going
11 to have their jobs if the license is not
12 issued?

13 Well, it has been out there that if
14 we are not granted the license that indeed
15 their jobs are at stake. I can't even imagine
16 over 800 people filing for unemployment. It's
17 just mind-boggling to me.

18 So, this is only a bit of my
19 personal journey. There is much more, but I
20 only have four minutes. But I do want to say
21 if you take a look around this auditorium today
22 the support is incredible. And each and every
23 one of us have a personal journey to tell.

24 It may be similar to mine or may be

1 even different but regardless one thing is that
2 we all have in common that has kept us stick
3 together and that is the following. We want
4 this. We put in our time. We don't want to
5 vote again. And we need a unanimous yes from
6 the Mass. Gaming Commission on September 12.

7 I thank you for your time. And I
8 hope the next time we meet is at the
9 groundbreaking at Suffolk Downs. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right, Bob
11 Upton followed by Dan Doherty. Dan Doherty is
12 next. Mr. Upton.

13 MR. UPTON: Good evening
14 Commissioners. Thank you once again for giving
15 me this great opportunity to appear before you
16 and to speak on behalf of the Revere Chamber of
17 Commerce as well as myself, my family, the
18 community of Revere. And I really do
19 appreciate this opportunity.

20 I have spoken many times. And most
21 of that time I've talked about the business
22 development opportunities that we in Revere
23 will have and our surrounding businesses as
24 well.

1 But tonight, I do stand here and
2 realize that I'm standing in place of where my
3 father, his five brothers and three sisters
4 were raised and many of those in my family.
5 Those brothers were all World War II veterans
6 and Korea veterans. I was raised in this
7 city. And I'm realizing that I am here to
8 really support and promote this great city of
9 Revere.

10 It's great for me to be able to do
11 that not only as a member of the Chamber of
12 Commerce but a member of this community. And
13 I'm very proud to be from this community
14 because not only of all of the years and all of
15 the reasons of why I'm proud to be from here
16 and our rich history with the beach, but
17 recently we just suffered a tornado in this
18 community. And once again, I've seen the
19 community come together with the great
20 leadership of Mayor Rizzo and many others in
21 this community. It's really a very strong
22 passionate community as you've seen and you've
23 heard through all of these hearings.

24 I also again as I said, I'm here to

1 represent the members the Chamber of Commerce
2 particularly Suffolk Downs with the 79-year
3 history that they have in this community, but
4 also Mohegan Sun. Mohegan Sun has worked very
5 hard to work with us at the Chamber of Commerce
6 to let us know what is planned with the casino
7 and what the opportunities or benefits would be
8 if we did have a casino here.

9 I want to say for the record that I
10 have not heard one word from the Wynn Resorts
11 people at all, not one contact has been made
12 with us at the Chamber of Commerce from the
13 Wynn Resort folks. And I think that's rather
14 significant considering that Revere's
15 mitigation agreement calls for \$10 million in
16 local spending for our local businesses and \$50
17 million for the surrounding 15-mile
18 communities.

19 So, for me that really is important
20 that I myself have not heard anything. And
21 I've heard no record at all of anyone being
22 contacted at all from Wynn Resorts. I think
23 that really does have merit.

24 We in the Chamber of Commerce in

1 Revere do see the \$1.3 billion-dollar business
2 development effort being made in this area. We
3 see that as significant and that it will help
4 us, but it will also help many of the family
5 members in this area and other affiliated
6 businesses that do benefit from doing business
7 with us in this area.

8 The \$50 million in the 15-mile area,
9 I think that's going to help not only the
10 travel and tourism industries of the North
11 Shore but I think in a lot of other businesses
12 as well.

13 Travel and tourism, the Revere Beach
14 redevelopment effort, I think that's the key.
15 For me I see that is the wow factor. When
16 you're comparing the two plans from Wynn
17 Resorts and Mohegan Sun, Revere Beach
18 redevelopment will do amazing things for us in
19 the community of Revere. And it will give a
20 lot more jobs to many of those that are looking
21 for jobs in the area, not only the construction
22 industry but I think people that will be
23 working in the hotel industry, restaurants,
24 transportation and the like.

1 I think when Chairman Crosby spoke
2 at the very beginning of these hearings he was
3 looking to assess the wow factor between the
4 two plans. And I think Revere Beach
5 redevelopment is in fact that wow factor.

6 So, again, I want to thank you very
7 much for the opportunity to once again allowing
8 me to speak. And I do wish Mohegan Sun and
9 Suffolk Downs well in the pursuit of this.

10 And I know you hold the future of
11 what can happen here in Revere in your hands.
12 And I do wish you well in that decision-making
13 process. Thank you very much for that
14 consideration.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you Mr.
16 Upton. Mr. Doherty and David Ravalli is next.
17 Mr. Doherty.

18 MR. DOHERTY: I just want to thank
19 you for having me here tonight. First, about
20 myself, my name is Dan Doherty. I'm the
21 Director of Operations for world-famous Kelly's
22 Roast Beef on Revere Beach.

23 I started my job at Kelly's Roast
24 Beef in 1980 at the location on Revere Beach.

1 Kelly's is a family-run business that has been
2 in operation since 1951. That's 63 years in
3 business in Revere. We also have four other
4 locations out in Massachusetts itself.

5 I grew up in Revere just a regular
6 kid from Shirley Ave. moved out to the suburbs
7 years ago but I can say my heart is always in
8 Revere. I am here to support building a
9 Mohegan Sun Casino in the city I love. My
10 support comes as a citizen of the Commonwealth,
11 as well as a business operator in the city.

12 It is our belief at Kelly's that
13 building a Mohegan Sun Casino at Suffolk Downs
14 would be the start of an unbelievable
15 development of Revere Beach. We believe in our
16 city leaders who have been informing us the
17 city will benefit in many ways.

18 With that being said, I'd like to
19 acknowledge the mayor, the city council along
20 with our police and fire departments, along
21 with the school department for staying the
22 course on this long journey. Seeing all of
23 them in support of this development is
24 comforting.

1 I would also like to acknowledge the
2 city and its residents for the remarkable work
3 they did in helping each other during this
4 tornado. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
6 Doherty. Mr. Ravalli and Glenn Pujado is next.
7 Mr. Ravalli.

8 MR. RAVALLI: My name is Jay
9 Ravalli. I'm a 25-year resident of Revere
10 Beach. When I first moved here from Back Bay
11 Boston in 1989, the beach was in shambles.

12 Since then, I'm amazed at the
13 improvements but there's more to come.
14 Bringing casino gambling to this area will be
15 good for Revere, for the state of Massachusetts
16 for several reasons.

17 It will create much-needed jobs. It
18 will put Revere on the map as a world-class
19 city. The revenue to the city of Revere will
20 continue to build -- will contribute to maybe
21 building a new high school, which is much
22 needed. I hear that the high school that they
23 built in Newton cost \$200 million for a state-
24 of-the-art high school.

1 As far as the state is concerned, it
2 will keep the gambling revenue from going
3 across state lines. People in Suffolk County
4 and the state of Massachusetts have been
5 waiting a long time for casino gambling. It's
6 about time to give everybody what they've been
7 waiting for. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
9 Ravalli. Mr. Pujado and Ana Lanzilli is next.
10 Mr. Pujado.

11 MR. PUJADO: Hi. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman and Commissioners, for allowing me to
13 speak today on behalf of Mohegan Sun. My name
14 is Glenn Pujado. I'm with Kettle Cuisine and
15 Soups.

16 We're a 28-year-old company, a local
17 company that started in Revere, moved to
18 Somerville, Chelsea and now we're located in
19 Lynn. We've had a long awesome relationship
20 with Mohegan Sun. They're an honest company.
21 They treat you well as a -- They're our
22 customer and they treat us really well and they
23 know what they want and we give it to them.

24 They've allowed us to grow in both

1 locations in Pennsylvania and Connecticut. And
2 it's allowed us to continue making soups on a
3 regular basis. They're not our biggest
4 customer, but they're an important customer.
5 And I just wanted to say that it'd be great for
6 them to be allowed to have a casino here. And
7 it'd be great for the community and the North
8 Shore, which has been my home for 30 years
9 since I came from Chile.

10 So, again, thank you so much for
11 allowing me to speak today. And I knew I was
12 going to beat the clock. Thank you very much.
13 Have a good day.

14 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
15 much. Ana Lanzilli is next followed by Gayle
16 Piraino.

17 MS. LANZILLI: Good evening,
18 Massachusetts Gaming Commission. My name is
19 Ana Lanzilli. And I would like to thank you
20 for allowing me the platform to speak for the
21 third time on the best choice for the Region A
22 license, Mohegan Sun.

23 When I spoke prior, I addressed you
24 on behalf of the employees at Suffolk Downs.

1 As a wife of an employee for Suffolk, I know
2 how important this license is in continuing the
3 legacy of thoroughbred racing and wagering at
4 Suffolk. Revere citizens have had wagering and
5 gambling in the city for years. And they
6 welcome expanded gaming and the revenue and
7 benefits it will have in their community.

8 I've been to meeting after meeting
9 and have spoken multiple time. I had a very
10 difficult time on deciding what I would say
11 this time around, because I think everything
12 that could possibly said on why the license
13 should go to Mohegan has been reiterated
14 multiple times.

15 Most importantly I believe a boost
16 to the economy in Revere while keeping the
17 doors open to a historical venue is sitting
18 right at our doorstep. Mohegan's commitment to
19 job creation and preserving current jobs is
20 something needed not only in the city of Revere
21 but in the state of Massachusetts. I
22 personally know how many people -- I personally
23 know people who are still unemployed due to the
24 closing of Wonderland in 2010. How much can

1 one city take?

2 Our local businesses may be thriving
3 but the opportunity to have additional business
4 is something no owner will turn away. Mohegan
5 is offering a rewards program that will drive
6 old and new patrons to their business. I can't
7 say the same for Wynn.

8 Revere needs to seize the
9 opportunity now and has voted not once but
10 twice to bring a resort casino to their city.
11 The host community agreement that has been put
12 in place for Revere is one that is lucrative
13 and can be life-changing for all residents in
14 Revere. Mohegan has also come to agreements
15 with all surrounding host communities without
16 arbitration. Can't say the same with our
17 competitor.

18 I would like to take a moment to
19 mention three current committees that are
20 prospering from a resort casino built in their
21 city. I feel they are a direct representation
22 of what can happen in Revere. Bensalem,
23 Pennsylvania thought a casino would destroy
24 their town, instead it has flourished and was

1 named one of the best places to live in the US
2 by Money Magazine in 2012. This can happen in
3 Revere.

4 Cincinnati, Ohio was named by Forbes
5 Magazine as one of 15 US cities emerging
6 downtowns and attributed Horse Shoe Casino as
7 part of their success story. This can happen
8 in Revere.

9 And Saratoga Springs, New York was
10 named one of America's best main streets in
11 Travel and Leisure Magazine. And I can
12 confidently say in conjunction with having the
13 first historical beach in the US right here,
14 this can absolutely happen in Revere.

15 As I close, I want to thank the
16 amazing people I've met through this journey.
17 We all started for different reasons on why we
18 stood behind this resort casino. But we all
19 ended up coming together and have dedicated
20 countless hours to making this project a
21 reality for the city.

22 Thank you to the Mass. Gaming
23 Commission for coming to this community and
24 listening to our stories. On September 12, I

1 wholeheartedly know you will make the right
2 decision and award the license to Mohegan Sun,
3 the premier gaming brand in the Northeast.
4 Let's make the vision of all of those sitting
5 in this room a reality. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
7 Lanzilli. Gayle Piraino.

8 MS. PIRAINO: Good evening,
9 Commissioners. And thank you for having me
10 here today. My name is Gayle Piraino. I'm
11 president of Gap Promotions. We're a
12 promotional marketing and display agency
13 located in Gloucester, Mass.

14 And just about a year ago -- I'm
15 standing here today, I'm really proud to share
16 the experience and partnership that we formed
17 with Mohegan Sun, which started a year ago. We
18 originally met in August last year in
19 Sturbridge where they were looking to -- They
20 had an event titled Working In and Working with
21 Mohegan Sun.

22 The invite alone was of great
23 interest to us, because we had anxiously been
24 awaiting the casino referendum here in Mass.

1 And honestly, we were so excited that Mohegan
2 was a player and we wanted to learn more. It
3 was a beautiful summer night. We drove there.

4 And from the moment we walked into
5 the event we absolutely felt welcomed, sort of
6 like we were home. And we listened to
7 employees and suppliers alike share their
8 success stories with Mohegan. With each story,
9 we had more interest in learning more.

10 We were impressed with the
11 opportunities that Mohegan provided and the
12 passion that was displayed by all. They were
13 quite clear about their expectations and
14 licensing process.

15 Following the presentations, they
16 even took the time to visit each table, talking
17 with and answering any questions that arose.
18 We knew right away that the hard work, extra
19 effort and growth from within and love for what
20 we do that Mohegan Sun embodied Gap Promotions'
21 value and culture. They were to us the real
22 deal.

23 We absolutely knew we wanted to
24 pursue this project further and that the

1 opportunity was not just about Massachusetts,
2 Mohegan Sun was indeed a family. We followed
3 up to thank our contacts. And we were
4 immediately connected with one of their
5 purchasing agents to be placed on their vendor
6 list to determine if we were a fit with their
7 products and pricing.

8 They stated their expectations and
9 the bid started. And we were grateful to be a
10 part of this process. Shortly thereafter,
11 Suffolk Downs was in the news and we were
12 invited to attend local events. And what was
13 so impressive is the forum and personality of
14 these events was exactly the same. It was just
15 the location that had changed.

16 And having grown up in the North
17 Shore, this project was near and dear to me.
18 Imagine this undertaking right in our backyard,
19 it's amazing. And what it will do to
20 revitalize the area. It's truly huge.

21 I couldn't imagine anybody but
22 Mohegan Sun to take this on. I will add Wynn
23 who? Because honestly, I've never heard
24 anything or any invite from Wynn either.

1 I've had previous exposure to Las
2 Vegas casinos. And you're just a number to
3 them. At Mohegan they value your partnership
4 and they want a relationship for the long-term.
5 In October, we attended an event for the Center
6 for Women and Enterprise Leadership conference
7 where Mohegan had a prominent presence and an
8 interest in doing business with minority
9 vendors.

10 We participated in a matchmaking
11 event where we had such a warm greeting from
12 the people we had met in August. We discussed
13 our progress on our bidding process with hopes
14 our hard work would pay off. We felt we were
15 strengthening our relationship with Mohegan and
16 on our way to building a long-term partnership.

17 In November, we received our first
18 order. It was a big celebration at our
19 company. Our team was so excited. And later
20 that month, we ran into, again, Mohegan at a
21 diversity event at Fenway Park. And they named
22 us the stalkers because we were now following
23 each other everywhere.

24 In early December, we visited

1 Mohegan Sun and met the purchasing agents we've
2 been working with. They took the time to
3 explain their process and also to listen to us
4 share our capabilities and some new ideas we
5 prepared. They were so helpful and we truly
6 felt we were welcome all knowing that our
7 knowledge will only help us do a better job for
8 Mohegan.

9 In January, we were proud to receive
10 our Mohegan non-gaming license, which allows us
11 to work with the Mohegan Sun property and had
12 been receiving quotes and had the opportunity
13 to partner on additional orders. And actually,
14 a couple of weeks ago, we got our first
15 reorder, which we thought was a big victory.
16 So, we were pretty excited about that.

17 As things are so positively
18 progressing for Mohegan Sun in Revere, we
19 continue to attend all of the events. And each
20 time the purchasing agents and executives take
21 the time to come and talk. They talk to
22 everybody, but they never ever rush you at all.
23 And even us who are an established vendor at
24 this point. They take the time to see how

1 things are.

2 They speak with everybody and
3 they're committed to this project and the
4 people and the businesses of North Shore.

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
6 much, Ms. Piraino. We've been at this for two
7 hours. We're going to finish tonight, but
8 right now we're going to take a 10-minute
9 break. And it's a real 10-minute break. So,
10 we're going to resume promptly.

11

12 (A recess was taken)

13

14 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Ladies and
15 gentlemen, if you could take your seats, we will
16 get on with these comments, which are enormously
17 valuable to all of us. We will begin with Taso
18 Nikolakopoulos and he'll be followed by Marisa
19 Curiale. Mr. Nikolakopoulos. Is Mr.
20 Nikolakopoulos here? Maybe not everybody is not
21 back in from the hall. I'll call him again in a
22 second. Marisa Curiale.

23

24 MS. CURIALE: Hello, my name is
Marisa Curiale. And I am the office manager at

1 the Revere Rosetti-Cowan Senior Center.

2 I am speaking on behalf of Stephen
3 Fielding, our director who was not able to
4 attend tonight. As the director of the Revere
5 Rosetti-Cowan Senior Center, I am confident that
6 our senior population will benefit greatly from
7 a Mohegan Sun destination resort style casino.
8 The revenue generated for the city of Revere
9 will provide Mayor Rizzo the financial strength
10 and opportunity to allocate monies to repair and
11 meet the immediate needs of our current existing
12 building that is physically failing.

13 In the near future, it is our goal
14 to construct a new one-level senior center that
15 meets the needs of increasing numbers of
16 seniors, the fastest-growing segment of our
17 population. Provide monies to increase
18 additional senior center staff that will support
19 seniors enabling them to have a more direct
20 selection of services that consist of
21 informational, referral, medical and healthcare
22 opportunities.

23 Strengthen program services and
24 activities in the areas of health, nutrition,

1 exercise, education, life-style management and
2 entertainment, allow the hiring of additional
3 external instructors, specialized medical and
4 nursing professionals and other experienced
5 individuals in an ancillary number of fields
6 that are directly related to seniors. Allow the
7 senior center to purchase customized technology
8 driven software to monitor our senior
9 population's participatory involvement.

10 Increase our transportation
11 services, including funding for drivers to
12 accommodate the escalating demand for rides to
13 the senior center, medical appointments, local
14 pharmacies, banks, library and other pertinent
15 places of business, giving seniors the ability
16 to remain independent and entrenched in
17 community living rather than isolation,
18 loneliness and despair.

19 I ask you to comprehend fully what
20 this all means to the city and its most
21 treasured citizens. Our seniors have worked
22 their entire lives and deserve the utmost
23 respect and benefit the revenue from the Mohegan
24 Sun destination resort style casino will bring.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
3 much. All right, I'm going to call again Taso
4 Nikolakopoulos. All right then, Dick Venne
5 followed by Paul Umbrello. Mr. Umbrello, if
6 you'd come down into the ready chair. Mr.
7 Venne.

8 MR. VENNE: Good evening,
9 Commissioners. I'm here to address something a
10 little different tonight, one of your core
11 values. That's where you state we value a
12 diverse workforce and supplier base and an
13 inclusive culture internally and among our
14 partners in the Massachusetts Gaming industry.

15 I have had the unique honor to work
16 with Mohegan Sun for the past 18 years in
17 providing employees with disabilities to meet
18 their staffing needs at their property in
19 Connecticut.

20 When I look at their history of
21 diversity and inclusion, it began in 1633. I'm
22 not going to give you the entire history of the
23 Tribe. But in 1633 along the Thames River, the
24 Mohegan Chief Uncas settled with his clan. For

1 centuries, these Mohegan people have worked and
2 lived with the community to create a better life
3 for themselves and their non-Indian neighbors.

4 These same traditions have been used
5 to guide employees of Mohegan Sun to provide a
6 unique Mohegan Sun experience throughout the
7 spirit of welcoming, mutual respect, cooperation
8 and building relationships. This enduring
9 tradition is called spirit of the aquai.

10 As I've heard tonight, you're
11 looking at the future of casino gaming here in
12 the city of Revere. The future of people with
13 disabilities is equally important to me. For 40
14 years, I've run Community Enterprises. We're
15 headquartered in Northampton, Massachusetts.
16 And we have five branches in this part of the
17 state.

18 We stand ready to continue our
19 relationship that we started 18 years ago with
20 Mohegan Sun, and providing a quality employment
21 and training program for people with
22 disabilities at this casino. We've signed a
23 memorandum of agreement to work with the casino
24 already.

1 In the past three years alone,
2 Mohegan Sun has hired and trained with us 127
3 individuals with disabilities to work at their
4 property in Uncasville. They've already said
5 they will be glad to work with us here. We
6 train in 24 different jobs. If you're someone
7 with a disability and you want to work with
8 Mohegan Sun, they will work with us to find the
9 right training opportunity and the right job so
10 they can be successful along with the right
11 accommodations.

12 Here in Revere, the future is bright
13 for individuals with disabilities. We'd be
14 happy to expand our role with the Sun as we have
15 four offices within 20 miles. Our state funding
16 sources are excited about the prospect of good
17 high-paying jobs for individuals with
18 disabilities in this area.

19 We are prepared to replicate our
20 award-winning training program that we developed
21 in conjunction with Mohegan Sun. And I want to
22 just state that Mohegan Sun is a tremendous
23 community partner. I'm happy to endorse them as
24 they work to develop operations in Revere.

1 On behalf of Community Enterprises
2 and the individuals with disabilities we serve,
3 I want to thank you for the time to give
4 testimony today.

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
6 Venne. Paul Umbrello and Ann Marie Casey will
7 be next. Ms. Casey, Mr. Umbrello.

8 MR. UMBRELLO: Thank you members of
9 the board. My speech is brief. And before I
10 begin, I would just like to acknowledge with a
11 round of applause to Chip Tuttle and the Suffolk
12 Downs management. As Chip stated on his
13 commitment to Boston and the racing industry
14 when Mohegan Sun is awarded a gaming license.
15 Thank you, again.

16 I'm Paul Umbrello, owner and
17 managing partner of Charles River Racing
18 Stables. I offer race horse partnerships and
19 have hundreds of partners. As owners, we alone
20 have contributed hundreds of thousands of
21 dollars back into the racing industry and the
22 economy.

23 I have testified numerous times.
24 And again I'm here today to support a yes vote

1 for a gaming license to be awarded to Mohegan
2 Sun and the city of Revere. My comments today
3 are my own and not solicited by Mohegan Sun or
4 Suffolk Downs.

5 We've been stating the same facts
6 meeting after meeting. But the truth is Mohegan
7 is by far the right choice over Wynn. This is
8 because of the millions of dollars they're
9 offering to give back to the host and
10 surrounding communities, the Momentum Rewards
11 program which will contribute to area businesses
12 and the millions of dollars to road
13 improvements.

14 One of the most important points I'd
15 like to make is the preservation of the 800 plus
16 jobs, existing jobs in the racing industry. If
17 Wynn and Everett are awarded the gaming license,
18 these jobs and racing in New England are lost as
19 we've heard. My business will be out of
20 business. I won't contribute back to the racing
21 industry or the economy.

22 Some are opposed to gambling and the
23 racing industry. They are not seeing the big
24 picture here of jobs being saved and new jobs

1 being created. In closing, members of the board
2 I urge you to award Mohegan Sun the district A
3 gaming license.

4 I also urge all of those here
5 tonight in favor of casinos in Massachusetts to
6 start now, tell their families, friends, co-
7 workers, neighbors and everyone else they know
8 how important the November vote is and encourage
9 them to get out and vote in favor of casinos in
10 Massachusetts. I thank you for your time.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
12 Umbrello. Ann Marie Casey, Nick Moulaison
13 followed by Bill Lagorio. Mr. Lagorio if you
14 could come down, Mr. Moulaison.

15 MR. ABRAMS: Mr. Chairman, members
16 of the Commission. I'm not Anne Marie Casey. I
17 am substituting for here. She's unable to make
18 it. But I was bumped two or three other times.
19 So, I'm the designated hitter now.

20 My name is Hal Abrams. And my
21 family has been in Revere for a total of five
22 generations. In my younger days, I did work at
23 Suffolk Downs. I worked for people in the
24 thoroughbred industry that were trainers. I

1 worked for Jack Hamburg who had Kentucky Derby
2 winners, Carl Bosmark, who has quite a stable
3 and the legendary Bill Veeck who although he's
4 in the Baseball Hall of Fame did run Suffolk
5 Downs and I was glad to work underneath these
6 people.

7 I am in support of the Revere
8 location because I am in the building trade and
9 also the engineering trade. We support the
10 Revere location for the following reasons. It's
11 conveniently located near Logan Airport. And we
12 believe that approximately half of the patrons
13 that will come to Mohegan Sun will be coming by
14 Logan Airport and by air.

15 It's on the Blue Line and a lot of
16 people will be using the Blue Line. In fact,
17 Mohegan people mostly use the Blue Line I'm
18 seeing during all of these events. There will
19 be stops here at the Mohegan Sun, at Beachmont,
20 Suffolk Downs and possibly Wonderland on the
21 Blue Line.

22 There could probably be because it's
23 an open rail system maybe a monorail system.
24 It's something that could be built, envisioned.

1 It's something not like in the Jetsons or
2 something that could be real.

3 I have built also in East Boston
4 overlooking the racetrack. And most people that
5 want to improve their kitchens or dining rooms
6 or whatever on the side of the East Boston hill
7 that overlooks Suffolk Downs, it's a beautiful
8 view in the morning. It's picturesque. To wake
9 up in the morning, sit down at your porch or
10 breakfast table and watch the horses exercise at
11 Suffolk Downs is a gorgeous site. And that's
12 what a lot of people in East Boston are now
13 building. And that's how they like to start
14 their morning.

15 To talk about the Everett site is
16 something that you have to understand. We
17 develop mostly in Charlestown and East Boston,
18 but when you build in Charlestown, you see the
19 Everett site. You see the Mystic River.

20 It's an LNG site. And being an LNG
21 site, all of the abutting properties have LNG
22 problems. No one is allowed in the harbor when
23 the LNG ship comes in where Wynn's development
24 is going to be, everything comes to a stop.

1 Nothing is allowed in the harbor.

2 If you're on a rooftop, you're told
3 by a helicopter with a spotlight to please get
4 off the roof and close your windows and please
5 do not overlook the harbor because of the
6 security that is going on with the LNG. It's
7 right in the middle of the Wynn area. And when
8 they bring the LNG ship into this area into
9 Everett along with 22 billion gallons of
10 petroleum along with the LNG tanker into
11 Everett, it's a hazard if something ever goes
12 wrong.

13 To put a resort in the middle of
14 this does not compare to where the Mohegan Sun
15 is going to be here in Revere. In order to get
16 into the harbor, the following agencies have to
17 protect the LNG tanker. You have the Coast
18 Guard. You have Homeland Security. You have
19 the Boston Police, the Boston fire, Everett
20 Police. Let me just finish up

21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
22 much. Thank you very much.

23 MR. ABRAMS: Thank you for
24 listening.

1 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right,
2 Nick Moulaison. Bill Lagorio and Mr. Lagorio
3 will be followed by Nancy Burns.

4 MR. LAGORIO: Thank you,
5 Commissioners. Pardon my appearance. I did
6 work today at the track. So, we had to come as
7 we were done. It's good to see you all again.

8 I normally don't have something
9 prepared, but I do forget most of what I want to
10 say. So, I did make some notes. I live on 36
11 Witherbee Ave. I've been a member of the city
12 of Revere my whole life as was my dad and my
13 grandparents, etc., etc. We are third
14 generation Revere residents.

15 And as a lifelong resident of Revere
16 and a horse trainer at Suffolk Downs for the
17 past 30 years, it is very clear that in every
18 possible criteria, Mohegan and Suffolk Downs are
19 the all-around best choice for the Region A
20 resort casino license. And Revere is the ideal
21 location.

22 I want to thank the Gaming
23 Commission for the thorough job they've done.
24 And I hope the voters of Massachusetts again

1 show their support for the gaming bill in
2 November so that all of the groundwork can
3 become a reality for the good of the whole area.

4 Revere has already voted twice in
5 favor. And the city of Boston is now satisfied
6 with its participation. My fellow trainers and
7 other horsemen at Suffolk Downs are very excited
8 that live racing will remain a major part of the
9 overall project going forward and want to go
10 into 2015 in full stride for the benefit of
11 everyone concerned.

12 For that reason, especially now that
13 Boston is on board, we would like to see a firm
14 commitment to a specific blueprint for a barn
15 area to be included as part of the license
16 process so that it becomes something the
17 horsemen and count on for next year.

18 The Honorable Commission, I would
19 like to say that it's a key point for us because
20 it's a wonderful place for the casino, but what
21 people have to understand is we're displacing
22 not only the horses from a 79-year location,
23 we're displacing an industry that needs to be on
24 premise to continue.

1 In order for us to keep running and
2 thrive at Suffolk Downs, we need to be stabled
3 at Suffolk Downs somewhere on the property. And
4 we do need a firm commitment. And we need your
5 help in that respect.

6 We need the smoothest most
7 coordinated joint effort possible with the least
8 chance of possible delays. I believe everyone
9 involved in the Mohegan Suffolk resort casino,
10 including all of us involved in live racing
11 remain 100 percent committed to working together
12 in every way to see this through and make it the
13 huge success that we've all been waiting for.
14 And I thank you for your time.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right,
16 Sir, thank you very much. Nancy Burns, is Nancy
17 Burns here? Kim Luiso, Saber Abougalala, Saber
18 Abougalala, Kathi Wyatt, Ms. Wyatt and next will
19 be Louis Scapicchio.

20 Before you start, I was just handed
21 a note that said there are lights on in a Honda
22 Insight, license number S18WKS, S18WKS, lights
23 on in the parking lot. All right, Ms. Luiso.

24 MS. WYATT: Hi, my name is Kathi

1 Wyatt and I'm an abutter to Suffolk Downs.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: I'm sorry.

3 MS. WYATT: Thank you for allowing
4 me to voice my concerns one last time. I've
5 been to almost every meeting and hearing and had
6 the opportunity to have had my voice heard at a
7 few.

8 While patiently sitting through
9 hours of listening to other people's opinions,
10 I've heard some very disturbing and exaggerated
11 comments, some sincere and heartfelt testimonies
12 and some downright lies. Up until tonight,
13 nobody has brought up the alternative. What is
14 going to happen to Suffolk Downs if Mohegan Sun
15 is not granted the gaming license in
16 Massachusetts?

17 Having grown up in Franklin, I'm a
18 country girl at heart. I appreciate the message
19 of the Joni Mitchell song that I referred to the
20 last time I spoke to you. I feel like I have
21 the best of both worlds, living in the city yet
22 enjoying the country setting without leaving my
23 big backyard.

24 I would like you to close your eyes

1 and picture a beautiful blue sky, big fluffy
2 white clouds and green grass and green trees
3 that stretch for more than a mile. Hear the
4 soft (sounds) of the horses' hooves as they pass
5 by while conditioning in the early morning.
6 Smell the freshly grown grass on a balmy summer
7 day. And feel the warmth of the sun and the
8 cool breezes as they caress your face. No, this
9 isn't a dream. You're sitting on our back deck
10 on Waldemar Ave. in East Boston.

11 Now open your eyes and look out over
12 the immaculately manicured grounds of Suffolk
13 Downs. You can see almost all of the way to
14 Revere Beach. Would you believe that you're
15 actually sitting in the city?

16 Close your eyes again and picture
17 18-wheeler freight truck and tractor trailers
18 rumbling through our neighborhoods. Listen to
19 the grinding of their gears as they try to
20 maneuver the narrow and hilly streets of Orient
21 Heights. Smell the pungent diesel exhaust as
22 they sit idling in traffic on the highway. And
23 feel the heat of their roaring engines.

24 This is the alternative. This is

1 the reality if Suffolk Downs closes. This is
2 what I imagine will happen if my little piece of
3 paradise gets bulldozed over.

4 This is what will be like if low-
5 income housing units some off-site parking for
6 the airport, a strip mall or the freight
7 companies from across the street that will most
8 likely expand. I asked you last time to
9 remember my family and I and the song that Joni
10 Mitchell sang.

11 I'm asking you again to please
12 consider who and what are going to be affected
13 if Mohegan Sun is not granted the license in
14 Massachusetts and Suffolk Downs ultimately
15 closes.

16 When making your decision, I want
17 you to think about the employees at Suffolk
18 Downs who will be without jobs and health
19 insurance, the environmental impact of removing
20 the green space in order to develop the land.
21 The current horrendous traffic situation at the
22 intersection of Boardman Street and McClellan
23 Highway that will only get worse.

24 Most importantly, the people like me

1 living along Waldemar Ave. who abuts Suffolk
2 Downs. Please don't break my country girl
3 heart. Please don't force us to have to sell
4 our beautiful house with the big backyard.
5 Please don't make us leave the little bit of
6 tranquility that is left in the city. Again,
7 please don't pave paradise to put up a parking
8 lot.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
10 Wyatt. Mr. Scapicchio. And the next one will
11 be Wanda Rosario.

12 MR. SCAPICCHIO: Good evening,
13 members of the Commission. You're attention
14 span is commendable. I appreciate it. I think
15 you can see from the folks in this room that
16 this is an important decision. So, thank you
17 very much for paying attention to everyone who
18 testifies today.

19 I am an East Boston resident. I
20 grew up in Orient Heights on Orient Ave. I used
21 to as a child walk across the street to a
22 neighbor's house and we could see the horses run
23 in the morning. I've been doing it since I was
24 eight years old. So, I'd be very, very

1 disappointed if Suffolk Downs goes away.

2 I voted for the casino absentee
3 ballot from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While I
4 was away, I had a chance to really listen to
5 both sides of the argument, kind of from a
6 distance. And I was told that I was pretty
7 lucky to hear it from a distance. As I
8 listened to both sides, from the opponent's side
9 what I really heard was a lot of pessimism, I
10 heard a lot of negativity about the community
11 and what would happen if this project goes
12 forward. And I really disagree with it.

13 The people of this community can
14 handle something like this. I've been to plenty
15 of cities and I've been to plenty of places that
16 have casinos that don't have the quality of
17 people that we have in Revere that really have
18 thrived with having a casino. And I know that
19 we would be able to handle such an
20 establishment.

21 The folks in this room and the folks
22 in these communities, we're not going to let
23 what our opponents say happen. We're not going
24 to let it turn into a slum. We're not going to

1 let the crime increase. We're not going to let
2 poverty come in. That won't happen in this
3 area. So, you can rest assured if you voted to
4 put a casino here, it's going to be a success.

5 People in the surrounding
6 communities and again our opponents, very, very
7 negative views of what would happen. When I say
8 that this will be a success, and when I say that
9 I'm confident that it will be a success, it's
10 because of the people in this room, not just the
11 folks that live in these communities. I've seen
12 everything I would want to see from the leaders
13 of Suffolk Downs, Mohegan Sun and our political
14 leaders.

15 I don't make this decision lightly.
16 I wouldn't make this vote and I wouldn't have
17 casted that ballot from such a distance if I
18 thought there was even the slightest chance that
19 it would hurt these people or this community
20 that I love and when I got off active duty I
21 returned to.

22 I want this place to succeed. I
23 want these businesses to succeed. And I know
24 that these folks here in this room are going to

1 make it succeed. So, you can be confident when
2 you vote yes for this project. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
4 Wanda Rosario, and the next will be Stephanie
5 Scopa Ms. Rosario.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Good evening,
7 Commissioners, my name is Wanda Rosario. I live
8 in East Boston. And I'm a proud member of local
9 Unite Here Local 26. And I am opposite to
10 casino proposal in Revere and so is my union.

11 The agreement between Mohegan Sun
12 and Boston do not address the most important
13 issue the job quality. These casino will
14 subcontract many of the jobs. They want to
15 subcontract an entire hotel. And you need to
16 hear my story to understand why I opposite to
17 this proposal.

18 For 23 years I been working as a
19 housekeeper in Hyatt Hotel in Boston. And I was
20 making about \$15 per hour. I thought I going to
21 be there until I retire, but in 2009 Hyatt
22 subcontracted housekeeping in another companies.
23 And subcontracted Brown temporary housekeeping
24 to the hotel. They going to get only eight

1 dollars per hour. My co-workers and me we was
2 fired.

3 But before we get fired we training
4 the people who later going to take my place in
5 the hotel. I was one of the lucky ones because
6 right now I'm working in Park Plaza Hotel. Park
7 Plaza Hotel has union. And I make \$18 per hour
8 right now. And I have here job security. Some
9 of my co-worker they don't get same as lucky
10 like me because they don't find any job right
11 now after they were fired.

12 Commissioner, I urge to you to think
13 about my story when you make your decision.
14 Some companies will put the profit before the
15 workers. That is no good for the workers and
16 that is no good for Boston either. So, thank
17 you very much.

18 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
19 Rosario. Stephanie Scopa and Frank Parker will
20 be next. Ms. Scopa.

21 MS. SCOPA: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Stephanie Scopa and I am a resident of the
23 city of East Boston. I would first like to
24 thank you, Commission, for the opportunity to

1 speak today in support of the applicant Mohegan
2 Sun and your consideration of this project.

3 I come before you today representing
4 several interests of someone who supports
5 Mohegan Sun. But let's get right to the point.
6 I am supporting Mohegan Sun's application
7 because of their commitment to local small
8 businesses like the ones in the Revere Chamber
9 of Commerce in which I am lucky enough to work
10 with as I am the administrative director there.

11 When we discuss the many
12 opportunities with Mohegan Sun, we are not only
13 talking about jobs, but the opportunity for a
14 small businesses in the Revere community and
15 others to grow and prosper. Working with
16 Mohegan Sun means that small businesses will be
17 able to be affiliated with one of the most
18 prestigious gaming facilities in the region.

19 Mohegan Sun has agreed to spend
20 millions of dollars annually with Revere and
21 surrounding community businesses. They are also
22 implementing a Momentum Rewards program so that
23 patrons of Mohegan Sun Massachusetts will be
24 able to redeem their rewards points earned at

1 the gaming facility to make direct purchases
2 with local small businesses. It will allow
3 patrons to use their rewards points at their
4 favorite hair salon, their son or daughter's
5 daycare and their preferred local restaurant.
6 That is important for the small business.

7 For the administrative director of
8 the Revere Chamber of Commerce, having a resort
9 casino paired with our small businesses in the
10 area is an opportunity like no other.

11 I am a lifelong resident of East
12 Boston and a property owner there, a past small
13 business owner myself, a horse owner's daughter
14 and the administrative director. I would be
15 honored and filled with enthusiasm to welcome
16 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts to Revere. And I hope
17 that you will vote us in. Thank you for your
18 consideration.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
20 Scopa. Frank Parker will be followed by Richard
21 Dolan. Mr. Parker.

22 MR. PARKER: Good evening. Frank
23 Parker, I serve on the school committee in
24 Everett and serve as the vice-chairman. And as

1 you can probably understand me being from
2 Everett, I'm a little pro-Wynn.

3 The condition of the land in the
4 former Monsanto site has been well documented.
5 There has been some type of chemical production
6 facility there since prior to the Civil War.
7 But it's going to be remediated. And it's going
8 to be cleaned by a bona fide group with a track
9 record history including some of the properties
10 former the WR Grace Properties up in Woburn.
11 So, I am confident that that issue will get
12 resolved. We'll have a cleaner area down there
13 and the people my age will stop coming down with
14 deadly diseases. I feel like someone else is
15 dying every week.

16 With that, the Mohegan site in
17 Suffolk Downs is not without its own
18 environmental concerns. Granted it's not
19 arsenic and lead but still it's something to be
20 thought about. So, I want to express concerns
21 regarding Mohegan Sun's MEPA report.

22 While this report was filed with a
23 separate entity, I believe it warrants your
24 consideration. First, (INAUDIBLE) the entire

1 site for the Mohegan Sun proposed is located on
2 a 100-year floodplain. According to the US
3 geological survey, the 100-year flood plan
4 reference is an indication of probability which
5 is equal to one percent in any given year.

6 Specifically, the report indicates
7 that the first floor of the parking garage and
8 much of the site will flood four and a half feet
9 in a 100 storm event. However, further analysis
10 has revealed that the site would appear to flood
11 a full three feet in a 10-year event.

12 Moreover, the report doesn't address
13 what would happen with the higher probability
14 recurrences such as the two- to five-year event.
15 These 100-year events are actually -- They
16 happen quite often. We opened the Keverian
17 School on Nichols Street. It's a K to 8 school
18 about 10 years ago. And we had two 100-year
19 floods within the first year of operation.

20 Further, there's also concern
21 relative to the impact on wetlands. Because
22 this site is located adjacent to the Belle Isle
23 Marsh and not far from the Rumney Marsh, it will
24 likely have an impact on these fragile eco

1 system.

2 Mohegan Sun reports to identify how
3 their project will impact these wetlands and how
4 they will mitigate these impacts. And a lot of
5 these concerns is evident that these concerns
6 deserve more studies before any environmental
7 approvals are considered.

8 And while I've got a minute and a
9 half, I just want to correct one thing for the
10 record. The gentleman that said you can only
11 get a Snickers bar at a gas station, had he gone
12 across the street, he would have gotten a full
13 menu at GT's Lounge of the Caribbean.

14 Everett is not just sub shops and
15 funeral homes. So, if you guys come over the
16 border, and help spend your money sometime, when
17 I'm at Renzo's listening to DJ George or I'm at
18 Bill Ash's ordering a pizza through the window
19 ringing a bell hoping Dana and Verna West show
20 up, we can certainly approve and help as your
21 neighbors.

22 One last thing, like many of you
23 because I've seen you around, we've been to
24 hearings in Boston, Everett, Charlestown and

1 this is my first time in Revere, and a lot of
2 reasons that we say a casino will help the
3 region, you can interchange the words Everett
4 and Revere for all of those reasons. I think we
5 can all agree upon that.

6 So, just in closing, no matter what
7 your decision, I'm telling you that I'm going to
8 work with either group to make sure that we
9 repeal question three in November. I'd ask all
10 of you do the same. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Parker,
12 thank you. Richard Dolan. Mr. Dolan will be
13 followed by Michael Alexander.

14 MR. DOLAN: Hello, my name is
15 Richard R. Dolan. I've lived in Revere for all
16 of my 75 years. I've lived in Ward 1, Ward 2,
17 Ward 3 and Ward 4. And we only have six wards
18 in the city.

19 So, I spoke before the Commission in
20 the convention center and I talked about jobs.
21 I wrote two letters that were published in the
22 Revere Journal that talk about jobs and
23 everything else. So, I wasn't going to talk
24 about that but just one little thing.

1 A lot of people have been talking
2 about -- I just want to answer a question to a
3 lady. What will happen to Suffolk Downs if they
4 don't get the casino? Mr. Tuttle answered that,
5 by the way. He said it will close.

6 So, there's 800 jobs there. So, if
7 you have 800 jobs that may involve a family of a
8 husband, a wife and three children. That would
9 translate into 4000 people that would be
10 impacted by Suffolk Downs closure, not 800.
11 Because when you let a person go, you let a
12 family go.

13 So, now I'll just read what I was
14 going to read. I am sure you read the Sunday
15 Globe. I hope you did on June 22, 2014. That
16 long four-page damaging article should have put
17 to rest what city must be selected as the host
18 city for a Region A casino. It was a damning
19 article against Wynn.

20 I would ask you to decide upon
21 selecting Revere as the host community. Revere
22 is simply stated the most obvious choice for you
23 to make. We are now in the unenviable position
24 of having to go to the polls a third time. This

1 proves the commitment that Revere has towards
2 Mohegan Sun.

3 Revere will be vigilant and
4 aggressive in its resolve to make this a host
5 community. Mayor Rizzo would take nothing less.
6 This is not a political vote. This is a people
7 vote. And the people of Revere need your vote.
8 Thank you for listening.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Dolan,
10 thank you. Michael Alexander who will be
11 followed by Lara Moreno.

12 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you
13 Commissioners for your patience and
14 perseverance. I'm Michael Alexander. I'm the
15 president of Lasell College.

16 Lasell is a vibrant, thriving
17 private high-quality institution in Newton,
18 Massachusetts. We have a growing program in
19 hospitality and event management. I am joined
20 here today by several talented young faculty
21 members from that program.

22 We recently entered into a
23 memorandum of understanding with Mohegan Sun to
24 support the job development goals of the

1 Commonwealth of Massachusetts. That agreement
2 calls for Mohegan Sun to provide assistance to
3 our program in the form of input to further
4 program refinements, input to our curriculum.

5 They will provide field experiences
6 for sophomores and juniors in our program and
7 paid internships for seniors. Most importantly,
8 they will provide management level job
9 opportunities for our graduates who have been
10 trained for that industry.

11 We in turn will provide them with
12 custom workshops and courses for their
13 employees. And we will also provide discounts
14 for any of their employees who want to enter
15 into our hospitality and event management
16 programs.

17 Last fall, we started specifically a
18 major, one of the only major in resort and
19 casino management east of the Mississippi and to
20 our knowledge, one of only three in the country.
21 Their employees will be able to enter into that
22 program if they wanted a discount or in any of
23 our graduate programs at a discount, including
24 this fall a new professional MBA that includes a

1 concentration in hospitality and event
2 management planning.

3 So, we are proud to partner with
4 Mohegan Sun to support the job development goals
5 and aspirations of the Commonwealth. Thank you
6 very much.

7 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
8 Alexander. Lara Moreno and next will be
9 Christopher Welling. Mr. Welling, if you're
10 here could you come down to the ready seat,
11 please. Ms. Moreno.

12 MS. MORENO: Thank you. Good
13 afternoon, members of the Gaming Commission,
14 respected elected officials, community leaders,
15 education leaders and the respected residents of
16 Revere and eight surrounding areas. My name is
17 Lara Moreno. I'm originally from Spain and I
18 have been living in Waltham, Massachusetts since
19 I came to the United States almost 10 years ago.

20 I recently graduated and I acquired
21 an MBA in a CAT program in education from Boston
22 University. As a recent graduate, I value
23 education as one of the most important things in
24 life and respect every project, entity, group

1 and organization that is willing to finance and
2 support the creation of those goals.

3 I have been following the process of
4 the casino very closely, because I have very
5 dear friends collaborating on this project. And
6 it is obvious, even for someone who is not from
7 either Revere or Everett that this is the best
8 choice. The best choice is Mohegan Sun and the
9 benefits that it will bring to the community.

10 The fact that Mohegan Sun will be
11 giving money to schools and will actually create
12 a school shows that Mohegan Sun in Revere is the
13 right choice for this place and the surrounding
14 areas. Also, as a recent college graduate what
15 student that graduate would want to take on
16 another debt on top of college loans?

17 We all look for jobs after we
18 graduate that will be actually easily accessible
19 to public transportation to take, because having
20 to purchase a car to commute to work is the last
21 thing I want to do, because I don't want to get
22 another loan to purchase a car.

23 To my understanding, Mohegan Sun
24 project will be right accessible to the T and

1 basically public transportation, which will
2 actually offer great opportunities to many
3 graduates and even young adults looking for IT
4 positions, accounting, marketing, business
5 administration positions or internships, any
6 kind of job.

7 Aside from the money that Mohegan
8 Sun will give to education and the actual
9 location that we're talking about, Revere, I
10 believe that Mohegan Sun has done quite enough
11 already to reach out to the diverse communities
12 including the Spanish community, which means a
13 lot to me.

14 I feel they have done everything to
15 include me and my community on the information
16 about the project. And many of them I know such
17 as restaurant owners like the little Spanish
18 restaurant in Brookline in which I have worked
19 for a few months while finishing college which
20 is also a member of the points program.

21 Members of the Gaming Commission, I
22 am sure I'm not the only person from a
23 neighboring city who believes Mohegan Sun is the
24 right choice to this area. Thank you for your

1 time and consideration.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
3 Moreno. Mr. Welling, Gladys Oliveros will be
4 next. And Ms. Oliveros, if you're here if you
5 could come down. Mr. Welling.

6 MR. WELLING: Good evening, members
7 of the Gaming Commission. Thank you for this
8 opportunity to speak to you again. My name is
9 Christopher Welling. I am President of the
10 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage
11 Employees Local 11 in Boston. I represent three
12 camera operators at Suffolk Downs.

13 The IATSE members have worked at
14 Suffolk Downs for more than half a century.
15 Most of our 600 workers service other
16 entertainment venues in the Boston area though,
17 the Citi Center, the Convention Center, last
18 week Katie Perry at Boston Garden, yesterday we
19 set up Country Fest concert at Gillette Stadium,
20 next month Lion King at the Opera House, Tom
21 Petty at Fenway Park. We have serviced the
22 entertainment industry since 1893.

23 Chip Tuttle and Mohegan Sun have
24 made IATSE a part of this project from the very

1 beginning. Their labor harmony agreement
2 includes unions big and small. The agreement
3 assures good jobs during construction. And more
4 importantly to me are the careers that will span
5 the decades after the Mohegan Sun casino is
6 built.

7 IATSE workers provide technically
8 sophisticated, physically challenging services
9 that require a complicated skill set.

10 Commissioners look above your heads.
11 Less than 1000 pounds of lights and curtains are
12 hanging up there. On the average show, IATSE
13 helps hang 60- to 100,000 pounds over the
14 performers and audience. That is 10 to 20
15 trailer loads of lights, speakers, scenery and
16 video equipment. Who do you want hanging that
17 gear at a new casino?

18 I haven't heard from Mr. Wynn yet.
19 I guess he's still looking for the lowest
20 bidder. Mr. Wynn may have the most money. I
21 heard that here tonight. But is he going to
22 share and be fair with his workers or just with
23 his foreign investors?

24 I trust Chip Tuttle, Mohegan Sun and

1 their partner Joe Spaulding of the Citi Center
2 to provide good jobs with fair wages and
3 benefits because of our shared history. The
4 IATSE supports Mohegan Sun's project. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
7 Sir. All right. Gladys Oliveros and Guy Landry
8 will be next. Mr. Landry if you'd come down.
9 Ms. Oliveros.

10 MS. OLIVEROS: Thank you. Good
11 evening members of the Gaming Commission. I am
12 Gladys Oliveros. Most of my family live in East
13 Boston and Revere. I came from Columbia 25
14 years ago.

15 Always I'm working with the
16 community. I know my neighbors. I know my
17 people. I know that we need jobs as immigrants
18 here in this venue.

19 I come today to you to ask you to
20 consider give the Mohegan Sun the license to
21 open the casino in this area. And also please
22 don't ignore it the jobs that we really need. I
23 can go over few of the issues that I think that
24 you need to consider before you made a decision.

1 First, the location. The location
2 not only for customers or for visitors but also
3 for those workers including the students who
4 maybe want to have an IT or a marketing
5 internships. The facility will be close to the
6 T stations, which make it more accessible for
7 those who are commuting or who are walking to
8 the jobs.

9 Also, I remember a dog track was
10 closed years ago in Revere and lead to the big,
11 big unemployment problems. Many of those clerks
12 were able to fine job at Suffolk Downs. Many
13 others had to apply for unemployment benefits.
14 And many others ended just on the streets. We
15 cannot afford to go through the same situation
16 like Market Basket right now will be not only
17 negative to the city but also for the region.

18 Also, there is lots community of
19 Latinos in East Boston and Revere who have kids
20 in the local school. And only would make sense
21 to have them work close to their schools.

22 Also, the new \$5000 that trust fund
23 for the first time homeowners that is going to
24 be in East Boston and Revere. As part of the

1 agreement with Boston, create the opportunity to
2 become home owners in the same way for interest
3 neighborhood ownership, which I may apply, my
4 family and I.

5 The small businesses will be benefit
6 not only with the circulation of the salaries,
7 but also the part that the many minority
8 businesses have been taken into consideration
9 for those points programs means a lot for
10 diverse community, means community for this
11 area.

12 The Mohegan Sun has organized
13 meetings for vendors, businesses with
14 information in Spanish who incorporate our
15 community.

16 I have more points, but I think that
17 I have no more time. Thank you, thank you so
18 much for giving me this permit to be here in
19 front of you. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
21 Oliveros. Guy Landry. Is Mr. Landry here?
22 Randall Gibson. Mr. Gibson and then Juan Carlos
23 Montoya will be next. So, Mr. Montoya, if you'd
24 come down.

1 MR. GIBSON: Hi, I'm Randall Gibson.
2 I'm a Revere resident. And I have two points
3 here. I would be affected in two ways by the
4 casino. I live in Revere and work in Revere.
5 I'm a construction worker. I'm an electrician.
6 I'm IBE 103.

7 And I would really like to build a
8 casino. I think it's going to be good for the
9 community. All of the jobs that we've been
10 talking about are good wage jobs, union jobs.
11 My brothers and sisters that at work at the
12 track, we all count on this. And I think you
13 have a good opportunity to help the community.
14 And I really hope you do choose Revere. Thank
15 you very much.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
17 Thank you, Mr. Gibson. Mr. Montoya. And Mr.
18 Montoya will be followed by Luis Vasco. Mr.
19 Montoya.

20 MR. MONTOYA: Good evening, members
21 of the Commission. My name is Juan Carlos
22 Montoya. And I am a resident of Revere, a
23 business owner in East Boston.

24 I'm here to tell you that I have

1 been supportive of the casino proposal in
2 Revere, especially now with the agreement with
3 Boston and East Boston. The fact that many of
4 my customers will have the opportunity to work
5 close to their homes. We also increase the
6 chances to spend locally the money and come to
7 our business to share with us.

8 Also, if the casino comes to Revere
9 instead of Everett will be much better for
10 everyone, especially for many of the neighbors
11 and residents in East Boston. For example, if
12 Mohegan Sun gets the casino, the visitor who
13 comes to the airport they will go straight to
14 Revere.

15 If it goes to Everett, most of the
16 tourists and taxi drivers will not only go
17 through the tunnel, but also the main streets in
18 East Bostonk, Like Meridian Street, Brook
19 Street, Chelsea Street. So, that means that
20 they will bring our roads back. I understand
21 that the other proposal from Everett hasn't
22 offered any money to repair the roads in my
23 neighborhood, which means all of those repairs
24 will be coming from our business and residential

1 taxes.

2 In addition to that, Mohegan Sun is
3 willing to integrate small business with their
4 points program means a lot to me. About 4000
5 people will be working for the casino to their
6 employee discount program. Their employees will
7 come often to eat in our restaurants.

8 From a personal perspective not so
9 much a business owner, I have always believed
10 that more people working makes stronger and
11 healthier. Ladies and gentlemen, I do have my
12 kids sitting in the back in this room and
13 probably they think is a boring meeting, but
14 they don't know that we are talking about their
15 future about their dreams.

16 So, please member of the Commission
17 consider Mohegan Sun for the license in Revere.
18 Remember that we vote yes, yes, twice. Thank
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
21 Montoya. Mr. Vasco and Jacqueline Iannuzzi will
22 be next. Mr. Vasco.

23 MR. VASCO: Good evening. My name
24 is Luis Vasco. I'm a resident of East Boston as

1 well a business owner in East Boston.

2 I'm here to tell you that I was not
3 too supportive of the casino proposal last year
4 in East Boston. But today I support Mohegan Sun
5 proposal in Revere. I must admit at first I was
6 skeptical about the talk of casino in my
7 neighborhood. I was against based mainly on
8 what I heard from the opponents.

9 But as the time went on, my
10 understanding of this project has evolved. I
11 understand the potential for opportunities for
12 Revere and surrounding communities. My main
13 concern was traffic, but now I have more clear
14 understanding of the positive fact and impact.

15 The tens of millions of dollars of
16 private investment for road improvements and
17 specific fixes to major intersections and
18 roadways that will go above and beyond any added
19 traffic the casino will generate.

20 It's an opportunity for us.
21 Realistically some type of major development is
22 coming to Suffolk Downs. Any development of
23 that size will generate additional vehicle and
24 traffic. But at least this project will go

1 above and beyond to mitigate additional traffic
2 disruptions and fix many existing issues that we
3 see today.

4 We talk about crime in the
5 neighborhoods, I discussed that with some of the
6 leaders here. We stand to be in a better
7 position with Mohegan Sun as our neighbor. With
8 the additional funds Revere and Boston will get
9 because of this project, the cities are set to
10 hire more police and emergency services.

11 The business partnership that are
12 available between Mohegan Sun and local vendors
13 such as myself would boost business exposure and
14 generate added business opportunities, whether
15 it's the Mohegan points partnership program or a
16 piece of the \$5 million that will expand on
17 goods and services in East Boston. There are
18 opportunities and possibilities that are depend
19 on Mohegan Sun's success.

20 If Everett earns the license or get
21 the license, my neighborhood loses the
22 opportunities. If Suffolk Downs close and
23 another type of development is built here, we
24 all lose. People need these opportunities. As

1 I am and go out and push for the benefits
2 instead of letting them pass by. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
4 Vasco. Jacqueline Iannuzzi and next will be
5 William Jackson. Ms. Iannuzzi.

6 MS. IANNUZZI: Hi, my name is
7 Jacqueline Iannuzzi. And I'd like to share my
8 story.

9 Last summer, I was introduced to the
10 amazing sport of horse racing. My good friend
11 LJ McCannis is a horse trainer at Suffolk Downs.
12 And my Nana, Clara Matola is a huge fan of the
13 sport. She went each time he had a horse
14 racing. She absolutely loved it.

15 One day I decided to go with her and
16 see what horse racing was all about. It was
17 then when I experienced my first winner's circle
18 picture with my Nana. And I was hooked and I've
19 been hooked ever since.

20 Today, I am the proud owner of three
21 thoroughbred race horses that are currently
22 training under LJ at Suffolk Downs. They live
23 in barn eight. It's their home. It's been the
24 home to many horses and many generations of

1 horsemen.

2 I'm brand-new to this industry and
3 I'm still learning. But the time I spent there,
4 the bond I have with these horses and my new
5 track family has changed me. I'm truly part of
6 something extraordinary at Suffolk Downs. I
7 realize there are many more people here tonight
8 that are much more invested in this track than I
9 am and have remarkable stories to share. Many
10 of who will agree with me that horse racing is
11 not a dying sport. It just needs the tools to
12 market and compete with other choices for
13 entertainment.

14 And many of the folks here tonight
15 like me are committed to staying there and
16 racing there in the future. As you know,
17 without a casino in Revere, there is a risk that
18 this amazing track will go away.

19 It's a nearly 80-year legacy. It's
20 the last thoroughbred racetrack in all of New
21 England. All of that history and any potential
22 future memories will be lost. You could argue
23 I'm the luckiest owner there is to have a track
24 a few miles away from my home, from my work

1 where my friends and family can easily join Nana
2 to watch my horses race or give them carrots and
3 mints back at barn eight and enjoy these
4 wonderful creatures. And for me, I'm fortunate
5 enough be able to see them every day and love
6 them every day.

7 Or you could argue what a shame it
8 is to fall in love with the sport so late in the
9 game only to have it taken away so soon. Please
10 don't let that happen. Put the casino in Revere
11 so we can all enjoy the gift of both.

12 Today with social media, I sent one
13 note to family, friends and colleagues that my
14 horse Flex was racing and 50 people showed up.
15 They came to have some food and beer, make a
16 wager, enjoy sunshine and racing. They spent
17 the whole day at Suffolk Downs. They had a
18 wonderful experience and wanted to know what
19 else is around here. They didn't want to leave.
20 They have since been back with their families.
21 Many of them are here tonight.

22 Putting a casino in Revere will help
23 this great track stay alive and create new
24 experiences for many people just like it did for

1 my friends. Who knows, some day if I'm lucky
2 enough that one of my babies are able to compete
3 in the Kentucky Derby, I'll be honored and proud
4 to say they trained at Suffolk Downs. I may
5 even play a few slots that night to celebrate.

6 I know I am only one person and this
7 is my dream. But there is an opportunity for
8 you to help many people create these lasting
9 memories. Help see the vision I see for a
10 world-class casino and racetrack that will
11 combine to make one of the most extraordinary
12 places to visit.

13 Keep the track alive, help it thrive
14 to its fullest potential. Help me keep my
15 horses in their home at Suffolk Downs where I
16 can see their beautiful faces every day and
17 share them with my racing team, my family and
18 friends and their biggest fan of all, my Nana.
19 Thank you for listening to my story.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: William
21 Jackson and John Valentine will be next. Mr.
22 Jackson.

23 MR. JACKSON: Thank you for
24 permitting me to speak this evening. I want to

1 thank each and every one of you for the
2 professionalism and the patience that you have
3 shown during these hearings.

4 I've been asked to speak for a
5 gentleman who was unable to be here. His name
6 is Saber Abougalala. I consider him a friend.
7 He has three businesses in this city of Revere,
8 came from Egypt and has made a great success for
9 himself.

10 Now I'm not going to really say much
11 about Revere because I really don't think it's
12 fair how great Revere is. It's just not fair.
13 I'm not going to do it. Why, because if you
14 compare Revere to Everett, there is no
15 comparison. It's clearly evident there is no
16 comparison between these two cities, none
17 whatsoever.

18 The people of Everett are good
19 people. They need the casino, of course they
20 do. They have a great mayor. They have great
21 politicians. It's a fine city. Unfortunately,
22 Everett cannot be chosen because of what I just
23 said.

24 From reports in the Boston

1 newspapers, the Gaming Commission will not have
2 the final report that would detail how the
3 contaminated site in Everett would be cleaned
4 before you take the vote on September 12. You
5 are not going to have that information.

6 The reason, why is that, because the
7 Department of Environmental Protection granted a
8 request from the Denunzio Group to extend the
9 deadline for an environmental study for one
10 year.

11 This report will detail the
12 following. Number one, how the contaminated
13 dust will be monitored as it blows across the
14 neighborhoods. And not just in Everett, it will
15 be coming into Revere. Who knows what's in that
16 air, nobody knows for sure.

17 Two, that study will determine how
18 the contaminated dirty soil will be excavated.
19 Three, how and where the contaminated material
20 will be managed. And that means how and where
21 is it going to be dumped. This site contains
22 arsenic and lead and who knows what else is in
23 that soil, nobody does.

24 And Monsanto has been there or was

1 there for decades. So, there's just a lot of
2 poison over there. By the way, this is all
3 public knowledge because it was in mostly the
4 Boston Herald for the whole of last week. By
5 the way, there are rumors, very good strong
6 rumors that no excavation will start due to a
7 coalition of environmental protection groups who
8 will seek and probably get a court-ordered
9 injunction. This thing could go on for years.

10 Then there's a little fighting
11 between Boston and you, the Gaming Commission
12 because the city is no longer a surrounding
13 community. That's because Boston didn't respond
14 to the questions that you asked.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right, Mr.
16 Jackson. Thank you very much.

17 MR. JACKSON: Do I get another
18 minute because I spoke for the other gentleman?

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: No. I think
20 you've had your four minutes, Sir. Thank you
21 very much. We get your point. Mr. Valentine,
22 John Valentine. Mr. Valentine will be followed
23 by Carol Tye. Mr. Valentine.

24 MR. VALENTINE: Thank you,

1 Commissioners. I'm here today as a citizen and
2 a homeowner in Revere. I don't represent any
3 businesses. I have no vested interest other
4 than the goodwill of the city of Revere.

5 I wish everyone to be successful,
6 but I really am sitting here tonight really just
7 in amazement. They don't build casinos with
8 winners. The community is going to take a great
9 hit taking the wealth, taking the money right
10 out of the system.

11 We talk about crime, crime is
12 already here. It's only going to get worse.
13 So, that's a concern. Traffic, we live in a
14 densely populated community, both Revere and
15 Everett. I don't think we should have a casino
16 in either community. It should be on the highway
17 up 93 out of the way.

18 Just think about the airport, real
19 commerce. The airport we're going to jeopardize
20 that. Traffic is not bad enough now. Local
21 businesses are going to get these reward
22 programs. Gamblers come to a casino for one
23 purpose only to gamble and leave.

24 They're not going to get their hair

1 done. They're not going to go elsewhere within
2 the community. They go, gamble, lose their
3 money and leave. The professionals will win.
4 The rest of us will lose.

5 Mohegan Sun will give money to the
6 city in all sorts of ways. Mr. Mayor they're
7 going to need it because we're going to have a
8 declined tax base and crime going through the
9 roof.

10 Again, I want everyone to be
11 successful, but apparently I'm the only one here
12 not wanting a casino at all. So, it's really
13 all about the zoning. Zoning, we shouldn't have
14 a casino in Revere, in Everett. Revere has over
15 53,000 people in the last census 2012, Everett
16 43,000.

17 It's just too congested. No matter
18 what you do on these roads and highways, it's
19 not going to fix the traffic patterns that's
20 going to happen.

21 Thank you very much for your time.
22 And again, no vested interest here. One last
23 thing, I appreciate all of the Suffolk Downs
24 folks. I want them to be successful and I wish

1 them well, but your decision shouldn't be based
2 on a dying industry which it is.

3 Young people -- and no one is going.
4 That's why it's not successful. If it were
5 successful, it would be thriving. Maybe they
6 need some help, I don't know. But your decision
7 shouldn't be based on that. I say your decision
8 should be based not Everett, not Revere.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.

10 Ms. Tye, Carol Tye.

11 MS. TYE: Thank you, Commissioners.
12 I've spoken before you and so many other people
13 have. And you've heard the same arguments over
14 and over again.

15 But I'm here today because as an
16 elected member of the school committee, I think
17 it's really important that you understand that
18 we believe that the Mohegan Sun project is
19 really crucial to the future of education in
20 Revere. The Superintendent supports it. The
21 school committee supports it. The mass supports
22 it because we know this is the only way we can
23 make improvements in our school department.

24 I was born a neighbor of Suffolk

1 Downs just after it was actually established and
2 have lived in the same house all of my life and
3 have always considered Suffolk Downs a good
4 neighbor.

5 I could give you three points as to
6 why I think that Revere should get the Mohegan
7 Sun proposal. First, we need the economic
8 development. I realize that just because we
9 need it, it isn't necessary that you give it,
10 but I know that's part of the law that the needs
11 of the community should be considered.

12 People have talked about the jobs
13 that are now in existence. We know that's
14 really important not only for the jobs at
15 Suffolk Downs but for the family farms. Our
16 low-income families, we see the suffering every
17 day in our school system as we feed children
18 breakfast, lunch and oftentimes dinner as well.

19 Our businesses need the support of
20 the partnership that it can bring. And that
21 will bring success not only to the employers and
22 the businesses but to the employees.

23 I've been in the school department
24 for half a century, actually more than that.

1 So, my first priority is the kids. Our kids
2 need the benefit of being in a place where they
3 can go to a youth center. I also belong to
4 Revere Cares, the MGH coalition in support of
5 children in Revere. And when we take a vote,
6 the number one things the kids want -- Of
7 course, they don't vote for a new high school.
8 -- but the number one thing they want is a youth
9 center. They feel that they have no place to go
10 after school. And as much as we try to put in
11 after-school program, we cannot support them
12 all.

13 And I certainly know that we need
14 the infusion of \$1 million a year. That'll buy
15 an awful lot of iPads in the school system. And
16 most of all, I hope that after we get this
17 proposal, someone invited you to the shovel in
18 the ground ceremony for the Mohegan Sun. You
19 probably can't do that. But I hope to invite
20 you to the shovel in the ground ceremony of the
21 opening of a brand-new Revere High School.

22 I read the newspapers. I don't know
23 much about the Everett project. All I know is
24 what I read in the newspapers. The entire

1 project over there seems to be replete with
2 intrigue, deception. The project developer
3 seems to be someone who's idea is to bully
4 people by almost antagonistic and arrogant
5 bombast.

6 The Mohegan Sun has negotiated with
7 people, has reached out considerably. And
8 consider the negotiations with both Revere and
9 surrounding communities with respect, with a
10 back and forth. I don't see that coming from
11 there.

12 When the Beachmont Improvement
13 Committee said we don't like the fencing that
14 you have prepared for Winthrop Avenue. They
15 said okay, we'll look at it. When we made
16 suggestions for traffic changes, they tweaked
17 the plan. They have been responsive to just
18 about every suggestion. You could say well,
19 that's good business, but that is good business.
20 It's good for us. It's good for their business.
21 It's good for all of us.

22 So, I hope that I will be able to
23 see you at the shovel in the ground ceremony for
24 the new high school. And I hope that the

1 proposal will go to Revere, Mohegan Sun and
2 Suffolk Downs. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
4 Thank you, Ms. Tye. Now we're finished with the
5 people who signed up before the meeting began.
6 And their names were all typed. So, pardon me
7 if I stumble over some of these names that the
8 handwriting I can't read. Paul C. Brooker, Mr.
9 Brooker and Dolores Escuelo would be the next
10 one. So, Mr. Brooker.

11 MR. BROOKER: Commissioner, I
12 congratulate you on your patience, time and
13 empathy on this Draconian issue. I'm here in
14 support of Mohegan Sun and a multi-poled
15 position.

16 I am a resident and property owner
17 of rental property in East Boston. I'm also the
18 national director of the International Union of
19 Journeymen (INAUDIBLE) employees at Suffolk
20 Downs. And I've been an employee at Suffolk
21 Downs for over 40 years. I have formed many
22 great friendships with the workers, the jockeys,
23 owners, trainers and management. And most
24 importantly, I have formed great friendship with

1 the fans of racing which contributes to it.

2 There's concern about traffic
3 mitigation. Yes, there will be. But there are
4 plans to alleviate it. Secondly and
5 importantly, the MBTA is deep in debt. The
6 increase in ridership will alleviate much of
7 this.

8 At a meeting a few years ago, I
9 mentioned that yes after a period of time, many
10 riders will take public transportation and
11 buses. A gentleman jumped up and told me that
12 was ludicrous to think people would ride buses
13 to a casino. He is like many negative attitude
14 towards gambling or racing.

15 I don't gamble. I went to Las Vegas
16 for a week at a convention, spent a whole \$10
17 trying to win a motorcycle. In Atlantic City I
18 spent \$.25. So, I'm not a gambler. But I've
19 worked at Suffolk Downs for 42 years and I enjoy
20 it. They're great people.

21 Like Billy Lagorio, I have concerns
22 also about concrete plans of stabling facilities
23 for my blacksmiths, veterinarians, vendors and
24 very importantly the Eighth Pole, which is a

1 great organization that helps many people who
2 have problems at a time.

3 The money being infused into racing
4 from Mohegan Sun will alleviate a lot of
5 problems that we have now. I have lost two-
6 thirds of my blacksmith force because the days
7 are not here, the people are not coming back
8 racing. I've gone from 21 blacksmiths to seven.
9 Income has gone down because of the amount of
10 days of racing.

11 I was first introduced to Suffolk
12 Downs in 1948 by my grandmother. And other than
13 eight and a half years in the Marine Corps, I've
14 been in racing all over the country. Racing is
15 a great thing. Mohegan Sun will help us and not
16 only in sporting entertainment, musical
17 entertainment, but in cultural as they do with
18 the great Indian pow wows. This is things that
19 people need not just the gambling. And they
20 will bring it. And I thank you for your time
21 and again your patience. Thank you again.

22 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you Mr.
23 Brooker. Next, and I cannot read the last name
24 Dolores. Is there a Dolores who signed up at

1 the front desk? All right. Lorna Dove,
2 Patricia Reardon.

3 MS. REARDON: Hi. My name is Patti
4 Reardon. My daughter is a trainer at the track.
5 I've been to many of these meetings including
6 the ones at Ashbury Place in Boston.

7 I would like to tell the committee
8 that this is the last thoroughbred racetrack in
9 New England. Many other places are building
10 tracks such as outside of Austin, Texas because
11 they have the support of gambling and other
12 things from their state. We need the support
13 that has been taken away from the thoroughbred
14 racing because of lotteries and other things
15 that go on.

16 The track that's in Plainridge,
17 they're already going forward with their plans.
18 Mostly Plainridge are trotters that have a
19 circuit throughout New England. They at the end
20 of their meet, they go home to Maine. Here in
21 Massachusetts, we want to bring our
22 thoroughbreds home to stay and live. And in
23 order to do that, we need the funds that come
24 from racing.

1 I've heard of plans and I agree with
2 Billy. We need concrete plans of a barn area
3 that will be located at the track, not a
4 hypothetical two-story thing that I've heard
5 rumored around. Anybody that's ever taken a
6 horse off a trailer knows it is not going to
7 come down a second story ramp.

8 I'd like to thank the Commission for
9 all they've done in allowing everybody to speak
10 their mind. Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Ms.
12 Reardon. Marguerite Flury, Hal Abrams, Vincent
13 Camarada, David Lamotha, David Vigalia. Here
14 comes somebody. All right, Sir. Good evening.

15 MR. LAMOTHA: How are you doing,
16 Commissioner. I am David Lamotha. I'm a Revere
17 resident for 52 years, all of my life. I'm a
18 Local 103 electrician.

19 I have been out of work for almost
20 11 months. I just got back. This was a jobs
21 bill. Since 2007, me and a bunch of other
22 locals have been looking for this situation to
23 get back to work. We have been waiting since
24 2007. This has been tough. Guys have lost

1 jobs. Guys have lost houses and everything
2 else.

3 We voted twice in Revere. We won
4 both times. I remember the Mayor, thanking him
5 -- Wow, tough.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Take your
7 time.

8 MR. LAMOTHA: I am. When we won the
9 vote in November -- February 25, I congratulated
10 the Mayor for the vote. I said I'm a Local 103
11 electrician in the construction business. He
12 says to me, and I thank him for this, we get
13 this license you will not only work there, but
14 you will head further. We will see the road on
15 the beach and keep going. I trust this Mayor.
16 I trust Mohegan Sun. I trust Suffolk Downs.
17 Build then the casino, give them the license so
18 every union construction worker can get back to
19 work and support their families. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Cynthia Tolin.
21 Ms. Tolin.

22 MS. TOLIN: It's late, so I'm
23 cutting my remarks in half because you've been
24 very patient. I heard the saying that what

1 happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. I hope you
2 keep that. I hope you keep what happens in
3 Vegas in Vegas.

4 I have no connection with the track.
5 I'm not a gambler. I'm either not smart enough
6 or dumb enough. I'm certainly not rich enough
7 or poor enough to make any money from the track.
8 I just love the horses. I love watching those
9 magnificent creatures run. And I'm not talking
10 about the trainers or the jockeys. I'm
11 referring to the horses.

12 There is one bet that I believe in
13 100 percent though. If you vote for Suffolk
14 Downs and keep the story track alive you will
15 have a winner and you will never regret this
16 decision.

17 We are a country that was built on
18 agriculture. And as I was listening to people
19 here today, I was thinking how appropriate it is
20 that Revere, which is asking for the casino
21 license, was named for a man who was a patriot
22 and a silversmith. But he wasn't known for
23 being a silversmith. He was known because he
24 rode a horse. And I think Paul Revere would be

1 very pleased if the track were kept alive in the
2 city that bears his name.

3 There are legendary names associated
4 with the track. And I am not going to repeat
5 all of them but many, many famous horses and
6 jockeys have been here. None of course which is
7 more famous than around Tammi Piermarini who is
8 in a rarified stratosphere of being one of the
9 few jockeys who has won over 2000 races. I
10 think she is now the number three female jockey
11 in the country for the number of races that she
12 has won.

13 But it's not about the famous names.
14 It's about the everyday people who come to the
15 track and care for these equines. It's also
16 about leadership. Suffolk Downs was the first
17 track in the country to ban any owner whose
18 horse had been sold to a slaughterhouse. And if
19 a horse is found to end up in one of these
20 facilities, the owner is banned for life from
21 racing at Suffolk Downs. That's leadership. No
22 medications other than Lasik may be administered
23 to a horse within 24 hours of racing.

24 It's clearly a remarkable part of

1 Boston's sports history. So, I want to ask you
2 if the Boston Garden were in financial trouble
3 would you say no to the Celtics and the Bruins?
4 If Gillette Stadium faced closure for economic
5 reasons, would you say no to the New England
6 Revolution and the Patriots? And heaven forbid,
7 if Fenway Park didn't have the backing to
8 continue, would you say no to the Boston Red
9 Sox? So, I'm asking you, will you say yes to
10 Suffolk Downs? Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
12 All right. That concludes the list of speakers
13 that have signed up. I want to thank each and
14 every one of you who still remain and those of
15 you who have left.

16 As I said at the beginning, those
17 comments that you allure made and took the time
18 to make are enormously important to all of us
19 and we'll take them into careful account as we
20 proceed.

21 I'm sorry did you sign up, Ma'am?
22 Oh, we're not finished. We're not about to go
23 home. That was simply bringing the comments
24 from all of you to a close. Now Mayor Rizzo and

1 the team from Mohegan Sun. Chairman Brown.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Sir. We're
3 entering turn four, we're not in the homestretch
4 yet. Good evening Judge McHugh, Commissioners
5 Cameron, Zuniga and Stebbins. We are pleased to
6 be with you again this evening for our final
7 chance to close as you enter the phase of your
8 review, deliberation and decision.

9 We've been very grateful as a team
10 for the opportunity over the past few years on a
11 number of folks' part, particularly the guy with
12 the eyeglasses, to share our ideas, our history
13 and our qualifications as a collective team.
14 But certainly here in the more recent phase of
15 this, our vision and proposal to design and
16 develop what we think is the Commonwealth's
17 flagship gaming and entertainment complex right
18 here in the historic tourist destination in the
19 city of Revere.

20 A quick aside and it was sparked as
21 fate might have it, I don't know if he is still
22 in the audience or not, but there was a young
23 paratrooper from Fort Bragg, North Carolina
24 here. And it took me back to my days in the

1 Army. And what the recurring theme of his
2 comments was is that this is about the people.

3 We can all show you a design plan
4 and a marketing plan and a jobs program, but
5 really it's about the people. It's not just the
6 historic destination city of Revere that counts
7 in this thing, it's those people of Revere. We
8 have been humbled by the reception that we've
9 received as the Mohegan Sun team here in the
10 city of Revere.

11 And I would be remiss if I didn't
12 take this opportunity for those that are still
13 present and hanging in there and those who have
14 made their comments and departed if I didn't
15 take this to say thank you to all of you for
16 what you've done.

17 Another recurring theme throughout
18 those comments tonight was from those who had
19 experienced our casino in Uncasville,
20 Connecticut. And to a speaker they all
21 mentioned the quality of our employees. And we
22 like to think that our employees, our team
23 members are really our most precious resource.

24 And if you take the fact that that's

1 how we operate that our employees, our team
2 members are our most precious resource and you
3 overlay that on what our host and surrounding
4 community agreements that call on us to employ
5 these local people, these very wonderful people
6 that I've just been talking about, then we're
7 sitting on a veritable goldmine for what we can
8 do here when we put our work in their hands here
9 in the city of Revere. And we're looking very
10 much forward to that.

11 You might recall the last time we
12 appeared before you, I suggested that you
13 consider this decision not in this moment, but
14 as part of the legacy of the decision that you
15 will make for some time to come.

16 And shortly after that hearing just
17 a few weeks ago, I had the great fortune to be
18 at an event on Revere Beach. It occurred to me
19 tonight that I should transport you forward in
20 time and make you think about that legacy. Look
21 forward and reason back to this decision. It's
22 truly breathtaking when you think about what
23 could come from a decision to license Mohegan
24 Sun especially when you consider what it can do

1 in terms of rejuvenating that historic beach,
2 that tremendous stretch of ocean and sand.

3 Imagine if you will that you're
4 standing on a jetty coming out of the south side
5 of Revere Beach. It's the reconstructed great
6 ocean pier. And you're looking back at the
7 beach where you see Mayor Rizzo about to cut the
8 ribbon. And just a quarter-mile away is the
9 front door of our resort.

10 Music from the newly formed Revere
11 High School band fills the air. The band looks
12 and sounds great. They're in their new
13 uniforms. It matches their new school, all
14 thanks to revenue generated by the Mohegan Sun
15 Resort. As you look down the beach, the beach
16 is alive with activity. Umbrellas are along the
17 water line. Umbrellas that are in the shades
18 and the colors of the Mohegan Sun.

19 Out on the water, there are
20 sailboats filled with children. Children that
21 are learning STEM, science, technology,
22 engineering and math along with sailing in a
23 program that we anticipate bringing this fall to
24 the community of Revere, modeled after a program

1 that we already partner and conduct down in
2 Stonington, down off the Narragansett Bay. And
3 importantly, those children include children of
4 our future employees.

5 Imagine that there are new hotels
6 and restaurants now our business partners in the
7 Momentum program. And they're bustling with
8 activity and visible all along the boulevard.
9 And imagine that there are couples enjoying an
10 afternoon at the Mohegan Sun Beach Club, a club
11 connected by a shuttle service from our boutique
12 hotel out to the beach that shuttles folks back
13 and forth.

14 Imagine that there are seniors
15 setting up for one of a series of community
16 concert events at the Reinstein Bandstand. And
17 finally imagine that just a short distance away
18 those parasols, those umbrellas that we keep
19 talking to you about, there they are like a
20 reflection of the umbrellas that are back on
21 that very beach.

22 This captures the essence of our
23 unique design. And this captures the essence of
24 what our resort casino can do for Revere Beach.

1 So, as you imagine all of this,
2 imagine that what we've done is we've
3 accomplished the goal. Imagine that we've made
4 Revere and Revere Beach into a superior tourist
5 destination once again.

6 And imagine that you have left an
7 enduring legacy and one that makes not only a
8 first order economic impact on Revere, but a
9 second order and larger impact all along the
10 North Shore. That's the spirit and intent of
11 this legislation.

12 We can imagine all of this because
13 it is in fact our vision. And to bring that
14 vision into clearer focus, I would like to
15 introduce our friend and the Mayor of Revere,
16 Mayor Dan Rizzo.

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Mayor.

18 THE HON. DANIEL RIZZO: Good
19 evening, Judge McHugh, members of the
20 Commission. With one action, you can provide a
21 powerful catalyst to make Chairman Brown's look
22 into the future a reality.

23 As you know, Revere has a long proud
24 history as a tourist destination. The nearly

1 three-mile long crescent Revere Beach was once
2 the anchor tenant to a mall of recreation and
3 entertainment venues from ballrooms to races,
4 rollercoasters to carousels, movie theaters to
5 restaurants. Revere has long been a source of
6 recreation and as a regional vacation and
7 tourist destination for people across New
8 England and beyond.

9 In fact, just last month Revere
10 played host to our 11th annual International
11 Sand Sculpting Festival, the largest of its kind
12 to be found anywhere. This year's figures show
13 that somewhere between 600- and 800,000 people
14 visited Revere over a three-day period. That
15 number includes sculptors and families from
16 across the world.

17 Over the years, we've hosted hotels
18 and restaurant of all price points from the
19 Point of Pines to Rogan's Point, from the time a
20 little known landscape designer named Charles
21 Elliott was chosen by the Parks Commission to
22 design Revere Beach Reservation back in 1896 to
23 the parkway's reconstruction of the 1990s,
24 local, state and federal decision-makers have

1 always recognized Revere's enormous potential.
2 Revere Beach attracts greatness all around it.
3 It always has.

4 But it's not only the beauty of the
5 nation's first public beach that is made and
6 will make Revere a grand destination once again.
7 It is much more than that. It's the warm
8 hospitality of its people, the historical
9 collaboration and partnerships with surrounding
10 communities, the multitude of entertainment
11 offerings not just in Revere but across this
12 great region, the majesty of thoroughbred
13 racing, and yes, soon the newly reconstructed
14 great ocean pier.

15 Given this enormous potential and
16 strong regional collaboration, the likely
17 results will be incredibly impressive. Regional
18 unemployment rates will be at an all-time lows.
19 More residents will secure not just jobs, but
20 careers that will provide security for their
21 families and real opportunity for advancement.

22 For many, home ownership will become
23 a reality. And thanks to new local gaming tax
24 revenues, local municipalities are now able to

1 invest in public safety, schools and parks and
2 making our communities better places to live
3 learn, work and play.

4 Road improvements long thought
5 unfixable will get better thanks to improvement
6 design for peak casino travel. The American
7 dream will be alive and well.

8 Consider this project by the
9 numbers. \$52 Million, this is the minimum
10 amount that Mohegan Sun will spend in annual
11 payments to its host and 12 surrounding
12 communities.

13 \$50 Million this is the estimate of
14 the amount available each year for resort
15 patrons to spend with local businesses with
16 Mohegan's industry changing Momentum Club
17 players card program.

18 \$50 Million, this is Mohegan's
19 annual commitment to vendor spending within a
20 15-mile radius of the city of Revere.

21 \$45 Million, this is the total
22 private investment Mohegan Sun will spend in
23 transportation and infrastructure improvements.

24 4000, this is the number of

1 permanent jobs being created. 2500, this is the
2 number of construction jobs being created. 850,
3 this is number of jobs being preserved in the
4 historic thoroughbred racing industry at Suffolk
5 Downs. 5600, this is a number of statewide jobs
6 including direct, indirect and induced jobs in
7 the first year of operation.

8 And finally the number one, this is
9 the number of gaming licenses needed to bring
10 all of these numbers to fruition.

11 When you vote on September 12
12 Governor Patrick and the Legislature's
13 collective vision to create jobs and generate
14 revenues by expanded gaming and preserving
15 thoroughbred racing will take another step
16 closer to reality, but it will not stop there.

17 Yes, the voters will have their say
18 when they vote in November, but it will not stop
19 there either. Know the real work of creating
20 jobs will be accomplished by working with my
21 colleagues in government not just in Revere but
22 with mayors, managers, administrators, city
23 councils, boards of aldermen, boards of
24 selectmen from across the region.

1 We will work hard doing the project
2 by project work that capitalizes on this great
3 opportunity. And we will do in a way that
4 connects our varied venues and attributes and
5 becomes a must see part of New England and
6 beyond.

7 You may know that many of my
8 colleagues and I have already begun discussions
9 centered around these opportunities so that we
10 waste no time in maximizing the regional
11 economic benefit that will come from this
12 resort. We will continue to meet and partner
13 together because we all see such great
14 potential.

15 You see for us, this is not merely a
16 vote for one isolated project, but a never-
17 ending series of projects hotels, restaurants
18 and businesses that will span from the Boston
19 waterfront to the shores of Pickering Wharf in
20 Salem and beyond.

21 I invite any one of you to sit with
22 my economic development director John Festa for
23 just one day. You would hear firsthand the
24 numerous proposals being considered by investors

1 and developers almost all predicated upon your
2 decision.

3 To be clear, this resort is not an
4 end for us. It is just the beginning. It is
5 the spark to a resurgence in economic activity
6 to a corridor of the state and demographic of
7 people hit hardest by our changing economy.

8 This is also about helping the less
9 fortunate, the unemployed and the under employed
10 and those who have sacrificed in our
11 communities. I am on the board of CAPAC. And
12 I'm so excited that Mohegan Sun has partnered
13 with that organization to set up a job training
14 and placement program for those who need it
15 most.

16 Mohegan Sun will also look to train
17 and employ disabled workers through their
18 partnership with Community Enterprises. And I
19 know that due to the great interest that
20 Chairman Brown has in these issues, Mohegan Sun
21 is the only applicant to have a specific program
22 for employing our nation's heroes, our veterans
23 through a partnership agreement with the
24 Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Fund.

1 With one action, you can provide a
2 powerful catalyst to spark a renaissance in this
3 region's future. On behalf of my colleagues in
4 local and state government along with the
5 unemployed and under employed throughout this
6 region, I ask each of you to vote for this
7 project to give us the tools that fulfill the
8 promise of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011, the
9 best legislation of its kind, the Massachusetts
10 Gaming Act.

11 I want to thank you for your time
12 and consideration. And I'd now like to call on
13 Mitch Etes.

14 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
15 Mayor. Mr. Etes.

16 MR. ETESS: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
17 It's great to be back here. And it's kind of
18 amazing that this journey of ours is coming to a
19 close. And there's a bunch of things that I
20 want to tell you since this is my last chance to
21 speak to you before you make this decision that
22 is so important to the people here in Revere, to
23 the whole Commonwealth.

24 I just hope that you realize how

1 extremely important this has been to us. We put
2 our heart and soul into this. It's critical to
3 us. It's why we spent tens of millions of
4 dollars and thousands of hours from Kevin and I
5 all of the way down, because it's really
6 important to us.

7 It's why we forged best in class
8 partnerships with vendors and entrepreneurs and
9 tourism and hospitality and entertainment
10 venues, municipalities, unions and
11 neighborhoods. So, I've put together an
12 extremely talented team of architects, engineers
13 and experts in many fields, some local, some
14 world-renowned and in many cases both.

15 As you know we've been focused in
16 providing you with all of the information that
17 you need to help in this important decision.
18 We've offered and we've tried to be completely
19 transparent and to strictly conform to the
20 policies and procedures set by the Governor, the
21 Legislature and yourselves.

22 I don't have to tell you, this has
23 been a very rigorous process, but it has without
24 question made our project and our proposal

1 better.

2 We stand before you tonight with a
3 location, project, proposal and team that will
4 make the Commonwealth proud each and every day.
5 Mohegan Sun offers you the unique combination of
6 being a nationally recognized gaming company,
7 widely respected in our industry. We operate a
8 gaming facility that does more gaming revenue
9 than any casino in the Western Hemisphere.

10 We have a track record of success in
11 multiple venues and multiple jurisdictions. And
12 we are also a group that's been part of the New
13 England landscape for nearly 400 years. We've
14 evolved the Mohegan Tribe's way of cooperation,
15 transparency and truthfulness into the Mohegan
16 Sun way, a corporate philosophy with the same
17 values of openness, transparency and trust.

18 Our location is far superior. And
19 it's not just in terms of access, environmental
20 safety and preparedness but that it sits in the
21 city of Revere with its rich tradition of both
22 gaming and hospitality. A city that's poised
23 for the type of economic development that comes
24 from gaming and tourism is why this Act was

1 started.

2 Our project is a uniquely designed
3 resort that has been conceptualized and created
4 exclusively for Revere. One that fits into the
5 character and the fabric of its community, and
6 it integrates with the region. Mohegan Sun
7 Massachusetts will live and breathe
8 Massachusetts and succeed not as a regional
9 casino as some suggest, but as a national,
10 international destination befitting the
11 Commonwealth. It will complement the city and
12 its surroundings. It will not to attempt to
13 redefine it.

14 As you know, just this week as you
15 heard today, an independent panel of architects
16 unanimously embraced our design over that of the
17 competitor. And of course, this will be a very
18 sustainable project, the greenest casino in the
19 country, truly shovel ready and environmentally
20 safe.

21 Our proposal revolves around the
22 industry changing economic model, the
23 centerpiece of the Massachusetts Gaming Act, an
24 outwardly facing model that integrates our

1 Mohegan Sun Momentum Points program and
2 therefore the resort itself into the
3 entertainment, tourism, convention, hospitality
4 businesses around it.

5 Putting tens of millions of dollars
6 for patrons out into the community to spend, out
7 in the community, not inside the casino. In
8 fact, our patrons will actually be able to comp.
9 themselves at area attractions and restaurants
10 and stores. This is unprecedented. It's the
11 first in the nation. And so far we've enrolled
12 close to 390 participants in over 40
13 communities. And the list is growing as it has
14 since I first addressed you.

15 We have five million established
16 Momentum Club members. And we have told you
17 many times, one out of six persons in the
18 greater Boston area are already members, but
19 there are four million members from outside the
20 Commonwealth. That means that Mohegan Sun
21 Massachusetts comes with loyal customers, lots
22 of loyal customers from the Commonwealth, from
23 New England, from the nation, from the world.
24 So, our database will drive revenue into

1 Massachusetts from near and far.

2 We are excited about the tremendous
3 diverse workforce we'll have in Revere. Through
4 our numerous partnerships with the community
5 colleges, higher education institutions and
6 nonprofit groups, we'll have a highly trained
7 workforce. Mohegan is a minority-owned company,
8 has a track record as an organization that
9 embraces diversity.

10 In addition, through the terms of
11 our host and surrounding community agreements
12 and the planning we've already shared with you,
13 you know that we will create a diverse
14 workforce. And because our agreements with
15 organized labor and because among our core
16 values we'll have a workforce that is well
17 compensated and who can live comfortably in
18 Revere and the surrounding communities.

19 Our team is led by a 400-year-old
20 tribe that accepts and shares the Commonwealth's
21 policies and priorities. We bring a sense of
22 teamwork and commitment that's unprecedented and
23 unwavering.

24 Our team extends far beyond Mohegan,

1 Brigade our amazing financial assets behind us
2 and with us as our partners, KPF, New England
3 Development and Finard. Our team includes
4 hundreds of local businesses, dozens of unions,
5 the Wang, Shubert and Colonial theatres, area
6 municipal and nonprofit entertainment venues,
7 Mayor Rizzo and the citizens of Revere that are
8 here, and all of our 12 surrounding communities.
9 Community colleges, Lasell College and area
10 nonprofit organizations such as CAPAC, the
11 Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Funds, Community
12 Enterprises, the North of Boston Convention and
13 Visitors Bureau and the Greater Boston
14 Convention and Visitors Bureau.

15 Now I can't say this as eloquently
16 as Louis did, but you know that awarding Mohegan
17 Sun Massachusetts will preserve thoroughbred
18 racing in the Commonwealth and 850 jobs at
19 Suffolk Downs and thousands more in ancillary
20 farms and businesses.

21 And lastly, you know exactly what
22 we'll be like to work with by the things we've
23 done during this process, not the things that
24 we'll we say we'll do or that you hope we'll do.

1 So, for all of those reasons and
2 more, we know that Mohegan Sun is the clear
3 choice for the Commonwealth as its flagship
4 gaming resort. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you, Mr.
6 Etes. All right. Thank you all for your
7 participation, for your energy, for your
8 insights, for your comments. And I will now
9 entertain a motion to close the statutory
10 hearing with respect to the Mohegan Sun
11 application.

12 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Any
14 discussion? All in favor, aye.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: The hearing is
19 concluded. Thank you all very much.

20
21 (Hearing concluded at 8:06 p.m.)
22
23
24

1 ATTACHMENTS:

- 2 1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission August 11,
3 2014 Notice of Meeting and Agenda

4 MOHEGAN SUN:

- 5 Kevin Brown, Chairman MGTA
6 Mitchell Etes, CEO, Mohegan Sun

7
8 GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 9 The Honorable Daniel Rizzo, Mayor of Revere
10 Ira Novoselsky, Revere City Council
11 Arthur Guinasso, Revere City Council
12 Steve Reardon, Revere City Council
13 RoseLee Vincent, State Representative
14 Anthony Zambuto, Revere City Council
15 John Powers, Revere City Council
16 Frank Stringi, Revere Planning Director
17 John Festa, Dir. Economic Development, Revere
18 Robert Haas, Revere City Council
19 The Honorable Judith Kennedy, Mayor of Lynn
20 Jay Ash, City Manager of Chelsea
21 Kate Fox, Salem
22 Patricia Gentilli, North Shore Community College
23 Vincent Ragucci
24 Jay Campbell

1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
2 John Vitagliano
3 Morris Morris
4 David Coombs
5 Lorene Schettino
6 John Nazzaro
7 Chip Tuttle
8 Wanda Geer
9 Mary Reed
10 Richard Feinberg
11 Louis Ciarlone
12 Sue Sullivan
13 Kathleen Orlando
14 Joe Todesca
15 Bobby McKenna
16 Matilda Bonfardeci
17 Bob Upton
18 Dan Doherty
19 David Ravalli
20 Glenn Pujado
21 Ana Lanzilli
22 Gayle Piraino
23 Marisa Curiale
24 Dick Venne

- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Paul Umbrello
- 3 Bill Lagorio
- 4 Kathi Wyatt
- 5 Louis Scapicchio
- 6 Wanda Rosario
- 7 Stephanie Scopa
- 8 Frank Parker
- 9 Richard Dolan
- 10 Michael Alexander
- 11 Lara Moreno
- 12 Christopher Welling
- 13 Gladys Oliveros
- 14 Luis Vasco
- 15 Jacqueline Iannuzzi
- 16 William Jackson
- 17 John Valentine
- 18 Carol Tye
- 19 Paul Brooker
- 20 Patricia Reardon
- 21 David Lamotha
- 22 Cynthia Tolin
- 23
- 24

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

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

WITNESS MY HAND this 13th day of August, 2014.



LAURIE J. JORDAN
Notary Public

My Commission expires:
May 11, 2018