

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Council meeting on May28th - NO to casino

From: Raymond Chan
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 8:20 AM
To: Mayor & Councillors; Huycke, Stephen
Subject: Council meeting on May28th - NO to casino

Cannot go to the council meeting on May28th, so I would like to voice my opinion here:

- 1) **STRONGLY** against the idea of having casino (&/ entertainment facility)
- 2) Rush hour traffic in Markham (& close to 404, Richmond Hill) is a nightmare, hope City can finish the constructions asap..

Thanks for your attention.
Raymond Chan Email

Hau, Lucy

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Subject: FW: Do you want an Entertainment (including CASINO) venue in Markham???

From: Eardley Adams

Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 11:12 AM

To: mayor&councillors@markham.com; Huycke, Stephen;

Subject: Fw: Do you want an Entertainment (including CASINO) venue in Markham???

The reason most educated people don't want a Casino in their community is for the many negative influences it has on the most vulnerable or those who cannot control their addiction to gambling. Speaking to the health costs there is a very large hidden health cost to deal with people after they have succumbed to the addiction. We collectively pay that cost not the Casino. There is no good reason to have a casino.

Lets make an intelligent choice and "kill the Casino".

Eardley Adams

Mayor Scarpitti & Councillors at: mayor&councillors@markham.ca

- Acting Clerk: shuycke@markham.ca

- The Economist & Sun Newspaper: boneill@yrmq.com

Hau, Lucy

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Subject: FW: Motion for an Entertainment Venue including a Casino in Markham

From: Carlos E Diaz
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 11:49 AM
To: Mayor & Councillors
Cc: Huycke, Stephen
Subject: Motion for an Entertainment Venue Including a Casino in Markham

Mr. Mayor and Councillors:

I am writing to you to express my profound dissatisfaction and opposition (and that of my family, all voters) to you even considering a motion for an entertainment venue, including a casino, in our city. This idea was rejected by a large majority in the city of Toronto. Is it not crazy enough to push to build an NHL size Arena with taxpayers money and made worse by the fact that only one builder has been considered? We did not elect you to do this. Please go back to the real priorities of this city including the serious traffic crisis. What is being done for public transit will not make a dent on this problem, considering the continued development of new residences including many high density ones.

Truly yours,

Carlos Diaz
Unionville

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Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Markham Entertainment Venue

From: Diana Chan
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 11:59 AM
To: Mayor & Councillors
Cc: Huycke, Stephen
Subject: Markham Entertainment Venue

I am against Markham Casino for the following reasons:

- 1) it will generate lots of traffic into the area
- 2) As statistics shown, crime rate will be increase around Casino area.

Thank you for your attention

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Casino in Markham

From: EILEEN CARTER

Sent: May 27, 2013 3:19 PM

To: Scarpitti, Frank; Heath, Jack; Shore, Howard; Burke, Valerie; Li, Joe; Chiu, Alex; Ho, Alan; Jones, Jim; Landon, Gord; Hamilton, Don; Moretti, Carolina; Campbell, Colin; Kanapathi, Logan; Clerks Public

Subject: Casino in Markham

Dear Honourable Mayor and Councillors,

I am strongly opposed to a casino in Markham for the sake of Markham citizens and Orillia area citizens. I have known Orillia well for 40 years. Based on that knowledge, my reasons for opposing a casino in Markham are:

For Markham Citizens:

- exponential increase in traffic on all roads leading to and from the casino.
- detrimental financial impact on families when people who have never gambled more than buying lottery tickets, find the close proximity of a casino too tempting.

For Orillia:

- It would be the death of Casino Rama and would severely affect that city economically with unemployment and their ability to attract visitors. They have already had several layoffs at Casino Rama. Orillia has always had trouble attracting employers and visitors with money, so the benefits of having a casino outweighed the drawbacks for them. Markham doesn't have those issues. For Markham, a casino would be a blight in its reputation.

Let the idea of a casino die before the debate starts. Don't let Markham spend the time and money Toronto has on debating one.

Regards,

Eileen Smith-Carter

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Hau, Lucy

From: Clerks Public
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 8:16 AM
To: Hau, Lucy; Bavington, Kitty; Tari, Alida; Weatherill, Tannis; Aguila-Wong, Christine
Subject: FW: Letter from Cardinal Collins re Gambling/Casinos
Attachments: cardinalcollinsgamingfinalapril2013(1).pdf

FYI!

From: Donna Markham [mailto:donnamariebush@gmail.com]
Sent: May 27, 2013 5:12 PM
To: Mayor & Councillors; Clerks Public
Cc: Taylor, Andy; Cane, Trinela
Subject: Letter from Cardinal Collins re Gambling/Casinos

Mayor and Councillors,

Following is a letter from Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto (Roman Catholic). I have also attached a pdf version to ensure that you will have no problem in accessing this letter.

As you are all aware, Toronto has rejected the "offer" to host a new casino in their City. So, the 'heat' now falls on a couple other GTA locations -- namely Markham.

This letter is extremely well-written and worth your time reading it -- most especially if you are of the Roman Catholic faith... I am sure that other religious leaders, within Toronto, also released similar communications to their faithful.

I would like to draw your attention to the bottom of this letter, under the heading, "**In dialogue with our elected officials**" and I would greatly appreciate a response from all of Council, on each of the questions.

I especially welcome a response from Mayor Scarpitti, as I know that he is a member of the Roman Catholic faith.

Pastoral Letter on Gambling, Gaming and Casinos

April 2013

To the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto:

In my years of pastoral ministry as priest and bishop, I have become sadly aware of the grievous suffering experienced by individuals and families because of gambling dependence. We are now engaged in debating a plan for a major new casino in our area. Although at the moment this debate concerns Toronto, many of the other proposed sites are also within our archdiocese, and

so I am writing to offer pastoral guidance to our Catholic community.

This current discussion is an appropriate occasion for each of us to reflect more deeply upon the effects of gambling in our community.

In recent years governments have more and more used gambling to increase tax revenue, proposing as well that gambling benefits the economy. It is understandable that governments are tempted by the prospect of what seems to be an easy way to do that. Even if there were significant long-term economic benefits, however, and that is far from clear, the establishment of a new casino will have a negative social impact that outweighs such benefits, and will have an adverse effect on the vitality and social health of our community.

It is sometimes argued that yet another casino could be a source of employment and would attract visitors and tourists. That approach is short-sighted. We need to consider the overall effects of the expansion of gambling. I recommend that you read the January 28, 2013, report of the Medical Officer of Health, *Community Health Impacts of a Casino in Toronto*, which concludes that “with respect to all other potential impacts, the available evidence indicates that the introduction of a new casino is likely to have greater adverse health-related impacts than beneficial impacts.”

I am particularly concerned that marriages and families will be hurt or even destroyed through greater ease of access to gambling through the construction of yet another large casino. The health of families is a constant concern of our Catholic Family Services and of Catholic Charities member agencies throughout the archdiocese. In our parishes as well we seek to strengthen families, and we directly deal with the suffering which gambling addiction causes to individuals and families. We seek to heal, and are concerned by the expansion of the capacity to harm.

Licensed gambling is undeniably legal, and in fact is being heavily promoted by the government. In view of the suffering that gambling can cause, however, it is important to consider what light both our Christian faith and reason shed on the moral issues related to it.

Occasional and small-scale gambling can be a legitimate form of entertainment, and is not inherently evil. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in the section relating to respect for persons and their goods, states that games of chance or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice, but become morally unacceptable when these activities deprive people of what is necessary to provide for their needs and those of others.ⁱ That, unfortunately, is what happens far too often. The Catechism also notes the power of gambling to enslave.

Individuals, and the government, and charitable organizations as well can become enslaved by the lure of easy gambling revenue, and that is clearly not healthy.

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario has consistently raised concerns about the proliferation of gambling, advising governments to take a more cautious approach towards promoting this source of income. These concerns have heightened as gambling has grown over the past 30 years to become a basic source of government revenue.ⁱⁱ

Gambling is inherently based on illusion – on promoting the fantasy, particularly attractive to the

most vulnerable and the most desperate, that it is an easy way to provide a quick solution to the financial problems that they face. That is a cruel illusion, and it is not wholesome for governments to promote it, especially through extensive advertising.

It is sometimes said that should anyone become addicted, gambling's proceeds can be used to treat their addiction. Apart from the fact that this is rather dubious logic, as it makes more sense not to cause the problem in the first place, problem gambling is a serious public health concern.ⁱⁱⁱ There is evidence that a significant amount of revenue is derived from people who are most vulnerable to gambling.^{iv}

When gambling is so extensively available, and is so aggressively promoted, it is also very difficult to protect our young people from viewing gambling as a worthwhile activity, whose negative effects are masked. ^v

As we consider this important issue in the civil society in which we all live and participate as citizens, we should also look carefully at whether we as a Church are also caught up in an unhealthy dependence on gambling that can harm others. I ask all Catholic organizations to examine any connection which they might have with gambling as a source of revenue. If we are engaged in any form of gambling that is likely to cause harm, we should find alternatives as soon as possible. We must not fund our good works in ways that cause suffering to others.

As a Catholic community, we should ponder carefully the proposals before our elected officials and add informed commentary to the discussion. Is yet another major casino a truly wholesome development that enhances the quality of life in our community? Does even more gambling make for a better society for individuals and for families? Can we support the further extension of a reality which already causes significant harm to the most vulnerable among us?

If you or someone you know is struggling with such an addiction, I urge you to address the problem. The Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline (1.888.230.3505) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They provide a free, confidential and anonymous service to people throughout Ontario in more than 140 languages. We have also established a web page: www.archtoronto.org/gaming to provide background resources concerning this issue, to help educate and support our Catholic community.

May we join together in caring for the most vulnerable among us and, guided by a concern for the common good, in creating a community that is a truly wholesome place where individuals and families may flourish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

i "2413 – Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for

his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant," Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Respect for Persons and their Goods."

ii "Gambling as an activity, in and of itself, is not a major concern. However, there are a number of serious concerns about the ramifications of gambling in our current culture. They are as follows: 1. Gambling is becoming a basic source of government revenue in our society. It is, therefore, becoming institutionalized and as a society we will become increasingly dependent upon it. We will lose our freedom of choice about controlling it or eliminating it; 2. There is clear evidence that a disproportionate amount of the revenue from gambling comes from the poorer sections of society; 3. As our society reaches saturation point for gambling forms and outlets, the marketing is becoming very aggressive and the pressure on people to gamble increases; 4. Some of the forms of gambling being introduced have been shown to be addictive. This is particularly the case with VLT's; 5. From experience in other societies, an increase in social problems and the presence of organized crime can be anticipated; 6. The introduction of establishments, such as casinos, in a community brings employment and attracts visitors. When additional costs are considered, it is not clear if the cost benefit ratio is entirely favorable; 7. It is not possible in this atmosphere to insulate young people from opportunities to gamble," Social Affairs Commission, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, On Gambling, July 1998.

iii Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Board of Health, Community Health Impacts of a Casino in Toronto, "Summary," January 28, 2013.

iv "36% of Ontario gambling revenue is derived from people with moderate and severe gambling problems." Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario, The Impact of Gambling Expansion in Ontario, Q & A, November 2012.

v The average amount each Ontarian spent in 2009 was \$455, compared to \$105 in 1992. It is estimated that 1.2%-3.4% of Ontarians are affected by moderate and severe problem gambling. The highest rate of moderate and severe gambling problems (6.9%) is among young adults, aged 18 to 24 : Problem Gambling Project, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Problem Gambling: The Issues, the Options, 2012.

Questions for Reflection –

Proposed Casino Development in the Greater Toronto Area

For full citations, support documents and other helpful resources, visit

www.archtoronto.org/gaming

With debate and dialogue currently underway throughout the Greater Toronto Area regarding casino development, the following questions are provided to help assist Catholics and our elected officials in discerning the path forward.

For Catholics, an opportunity to discern our own views and habits towards gambling:

1. Does our parish, school or Catholic organization rely heavily on profits from "high stakes" gambling to support our activities? What percentage of operating funds relies on these activities? (note "high stakes" gambling refers to casino nights and bingos offering prizes of several thousand dollars)
2. Are there alternative methods to raise funds that do not require gaming to be part of any financial plan?

3. Have I utilized income or savings to support gaming while letting bills go unpaid?
4. Have I or a loved one felt depressed or suicidal due to losses related to gaming?
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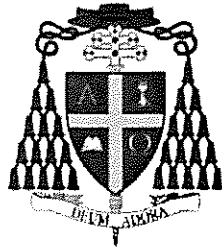
In dialogue with our elected officials:

- 1. Have we fully considered the negative effects of problem gambling on our citizens and do we judge it acceptable to inflict more of these costs?**
- 2. Who is ultimately responsible for the social costs of such a development: gambling addiction, prostitution, crime, etc. Are we underestimating the overall “costs” to strengthening our communities and families?**
- 3. Is a casino the most appropriate way to address fiscal stress in our community? To what degree should we/will we become reliant on this revenue stream?**

Visit www.archtoronto.org/gaming for additional resources on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Donna Bush



Pastoral Letter on Gambling, Gaming and Casinos

April 2013

To the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto:

In my years of pastoral ministry as priest and bishop, I have become sadly aware of the grievous suffering experienced by individuals and families because of gambling dependence.

We are now engaged in debating a plan for a major new casino in our area. Although at the moment this debate concerns Toronto, many of the other proposed sites are also within our archdiocese, and so I am writing to offer pastoral guidance to our Catholic community.

This current discussion is an appropriate occasion for each of us to reflect more deeply upon the effects of gambling in our community.

In recent years governments have more and more used gambling to increase tax revenue, proposing as well that gambling benefits the economy. It is understandable that governments are tempted by the prospect of what seems to be an easy way to do that. Even if there were significant long-term economic benefits, however, and that is far from clear, the establishment of a new casino will have a negative social impact that outweighs such benefits, and will have an adverse effect on the vitality and social health of our community.

It is sometimes argued that yet another casino could be a source of employment and would attract visitors and tourists. That approach is short-sighted. We need to consider the overall effects of the expansion of gambling. I recommend that you read the January 28, 2013, report of the Medical Officer of Health, *Community Health Impacts of a Casino in Toronto*, which concludes that “with respect to all other potential impacts, the available evidence indicates that the introduction of a new casino is likely to have greater adverse health-related impacts than beneficial impacts.”

I am particularly concerned that marriages and families will be hurt or even destroyed through greater ease of access to gambling through the construction of yet another large casino. The health of families is a constant concern of our Catholic Family Services and of Catholic Charities member agencies throughout the archdiocese. In our parishes as well we seek to strengthen families, and we directly deal with the suffering which gambling addiction causes to individuals and families. We seek to heal, and are concerned by the expansion of the capacity to harm.

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When gambling is so extensively available, and is so aggressively promoted, it is also very difficult to protect our young people from viewing gambling as a worthwhile activity, whose negative effects are masked.^v

As we consider this important issue in the civil society in which we all live and participate as citizens, we should also look carefully at whether we as a Church are also caught up in an unhealthy dependence on gambling that can harm others. I ask all Catholic organizations to examine any connection which they might have with gambling as a source of revenue. If we are engaged in any form of gambling that is likely to cause harm, we should find alternatives as soon as possible. We must not fund our good works in ways that cause suffering to others.

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May we join together in caring for the most vulnerable among us and, guided by a concern for the common good, in creating a community that is a truly wholesome place where individuals and families may flourish.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Thomas Card. Collins
Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

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ⁱⁱⁱ Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Board of Health, *Community Health Impacts of a Casino in Toronto*, "Summary," January 28, 2013.

^{iv} "36% of Ontario gambling revenue is derived from people with moderate and severe gambling problems." Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario, *The Impact of Gambling Expansion in Ontario*, Q & A, November 2012.

^v The average amount each Ontarian spent in 2009 was \$455, compared to \$105 in 1992. It is estimated that 1.2%-3.4% of Ontarians are affected by moderate and severe problem gambling. The highest rate of moderate and severe gambling problems (6.9%) is among young adults, aged 18 to 24 : Problem Gambling Project, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), *Problem Gambling: The Issues, the Options*, 2012.

Questions for Reflection – Proposed Casino Development in the Greater Toronto Area

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In dialogue with our elected officials:

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3. Is a casino the most appropriate way to address fiscal stress in our community? To what degree should we/will we become reliant on this revenue stream?

Visit www.archtoronto.org/gaming for additional resources on this important issue.

7

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Re Casino Interest by Council

From: Janis Corrigall
Sent: May 28, 2013 9:08 AM
To: Mayor & Councillors; Clerks Public
Cc: admin@mccrg.ca
Subject: Re Casino Interest by Council

Please be advised that as a resident and tax payer in Markham, I am not in favour of the Markham Council showing interest or asking for consideration as a host and DO NOT support bringing a casino to Markham.

Janis Corrigall

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Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Agenda Item #7 May 28th Re World Class Convention, Trade and Entertainment Centre

From: Hau, Lucy

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 12:17 PM

To:

Subject: FW: Agenda Item #7 May 28th Re World Class Convention, Trade and Entertainment Centre

From: Eira

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:40 AM

To: Scarpitti, Frank; Heath, Jack; Jones, Jim; Landon, Gord; Li, Joe; Shore, Howard; Burke, Valerie; Moretti, Carolina; Campbell, Colin; Ho, Alan; Kanapathi, Logan; Chiu, Alex; Hamilton, Don; Huycke, Stephen; Cane, Trinela; Bavington, Kitty

Subject: Agenda Item #7 May 28th Re World Class Convention, Trade and Entertainment Centre

Good Day Everybody

My comments on Agenda item # 7 are:

1. I would support having a World Class Convention, Trade and Entertainment centre dependent on the location.
2. I would not support a stand alone building that would house just a Casino.
3. I would not support any increase in Markham taxes to provide the world class centre. It has to be an income driven project for the City.
4. I expect ALL of the information on this proposal to be transparent and the Markham taxpayer be consulted properly.
5. If this proposal is dealt with in the same manner that the "proposed GTA centre "was and is currently being dealt with I will not support any of it.
6. If you are going to be asking the residents if they support a Worl Class centre which would house a casino it should be done properly by telling them what the magnitude of it is and where the possible locations would be.

Please do not do an open ended question like asking people like you have done in the past " do you want an NHL area ?' as that is slated for the answer - yes please. Make the survey a decent one that covers all aspects of the agenda item.

Thank you.

Please place this on record.

Eira Keay

my iPad Mini

Hau, Lucy

9

Subject: FW: Casino

From: William Corrigall

Sent: May 28, 2013 11:45 AM

To: Mayor & Councillors; Clerks Public

Subject:

I am writing to advise that as a resident and taxpayer in Markham, I am not in favour of the Markham Council showing interest or asking for consideration as a host and DO NOT support bringing a casino to Markham.

William A. Corrigall

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Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: No Casino In Markham

From: Cristina Lo
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 1:26 PM
To: Mayor & Councillors; Huycke, Stephen; boneill@yrmg.com;
Subject: No Casino In Markham

Good day

As a resident of Markham, I am totally against the idea of having a casino built here. I think it's a way to torn apart family spending times and that's the beauty of Markham, it's a family friendly neighborhood.

Please don't allow this to happen.

Thank you and Best Regards
Sup Lan Yi

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Input for vote

From: Shore, Howard
Sent: May-28-13 3:14 PM
To: Kitteringham, Kimberley
Subject: FW: Input for vote

Hi Kimberley,

Would you kindly include the email below as part of the correspondence on the OLGC item tonight.

Many thx,

Howard

From: Diner, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 1:35 PM
To: Shore, Howard
Subject: Input for vote

Whether you live in Markham, RH or Vaughan, the social services impacted (police, health, etc) impact all the areas. For that very reason, if the others are in contention, so should be Markham. We should not be negatively constrained as community (in tax dollars and our share of social services) because a community one half a street over from Markham votes yes. What happens if the Casino is on the west side of Leslie at Highway 7, for instance? How is that materially different than having a casino in Markham? We are part of a regional government, so let's act like we're part of it when situations warrant that. This is one of those situations.

Best regards,
Alan

Alan Diner

(12)

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: A casino for Markham

From: Shore, Howard
Sent: May-28-13 3:14 PM
To: Kitteringham, Kimberley
Subject: FW: A casino for Markham

Hi Kimberley,

Would you kindly include the email below as part of the correspondence on the OLGC item tonight.

Many thx,

Howard

From: Cory Weiss
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:39 AM
To: Shore, Howard
Cc: Plotkin; Rabbi Berman Martin
Subject: Re: A casino for Markham

Howard,

This is the statement that the Faith Communities made. The TBR endorsed it, with my vote included:

We, the undersigned faith leaders and representatives in the Greater Toronto Area, stand united in opposing the expansion of casinos proposed by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and support the anti-casino campaign led by www.NoCasinoToronto.com. We represent diverse faith communities with unique perspectives, principles, sacred texts, traditions and teachings that form the basis of our opposition to expanded gambling. We are unified in our position that gambling is contrary to the ethical norms of our traditions because it negatively impacts our faith communities and the wider public. We are convinced that casinos contribute to family breakdown, depression, addiction, bankruptcies and crime, and thus are antithetical to our mission as faith traditions to strengthen individuals, families and communities. Our faith traditions teach us that our governments should maintain order, preserve justice and promote the common good. We believe that our governments must take a stand to promote the values of education, hard work, social justice and the dignity of labour, and reject the illusion of easy money, for both individuals and public coffers. Our governments should protect the most vulnerable in our society from casinos that exploit human weaknesses and addictions. We therefore call upon our governments to reject gambling expansion and reject this predatory industry as a solution to economic and fiscal problems. We strongly urge our Municipal City Councils to vote against any new casinos in the Greater Toronto Area. We further urge our brothers and sisters in our faith communities to become informed about this issue and voice their opposition to expanded gambling to our elected officials.

Having been one of the closest rabbis to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, I can tell you that the state made a lot of money each year, and busses full of lower income people coming from all over hoping to make their lives better filled those casinos. I think most of them ended up poorer. It would be a shame, in my opinion, for Markham to fill its coffers by taking advantage of the weaknesses of others. Gambling addiction is a serious problem, and even children are being affected by the widespread availability of online gambling. Just my humble opinion, and my understanding of Jewish tradition, which is very concerned with problem gamblers.

Cory Weiss

This e-mail contains information that may be privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, distribution, copying or other use of this e-mail or the information contained herein or attached hereto is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify this sender immediately and delete this e-mail without reading, printing, copying or forwarding it to anyone. Thank you for your co-operation.

Hau, Lucy

13

Subject: FW: A casino for Markham

From: Shore, Howard
Sent: May-28-13 3:17 PM
To: Kitteringham, Kimberley
Subject: FW: A casino for Markham

Hi Kimberley,

Would you kindly include the email below as part of the correspondence on the OLGC item tonight.

Many thx,

Howard

From: Plotkin
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 7:46 PM
To: Shore, Howard
Subject: Re: A casino for Markham

Is markham any less moral than toronto?
We reject sports stadiums but embrace casinos?
Who are we attracting to our city?
What about the good name of markham?
What message are we sending to our children?
Just some thoughts..

Rabbi Avrohom Plotkin
Chabad Lubavitch of Markham

Sent from my iPhone

On 2013-05-27, at 7:26 PM, "Shore, Howard" <HShore@markham.ca> wrote:

Dear Rabbis,

As you may know last week the City of Toronto voted 40 - 4 rejecting the idea of locating a new casino there.

While an initial vote was taken last June which rejected the idea of indicating to Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation (the provincial government agency mandated to license casinos) that Markham was interested in being considered. I voted against the idea of a casino for Markham.

A new Motion has been tabled which will be debated tomorrow evening which proposes a casino as part of a larger, comprehensive entertainment, office and gaming complex.

We have received a copy of a letter from Cardinal Collins with the Toronto Diocese position on casinos. As well, I recall that a number of Rabbis weighed in on the debate in Toronto.

Any thoughts you may have would be most appreciated.

Regards,

Howard

Howard Shore

Councillor, Thornhill Ward 2

City of Markham

101 Town Centre Boulevard

Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

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May 28, 2013

His Worship Frank Scarpitti
Mayor
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, ON
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Members of Markham Town Council:

We are writing today on behalf of Caesars Entertainment and Rock Gaming LLC to encourage the Town of Markham to declare itself a willing host for a potential new casino and integrated entertainment complex in your municipality. The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's Modernization strategy offers the Town of Markham and the entire York Region a tremendous opportunity to welcome a first-class entertainment development into your community.

Caesars and Rock Gaming understand that the vision for an entertainment centre in Markham goes beyond a casino. We know that a casino would be just one part of a larger plan and we welcome the opportunity to work with you and other property developers to achieve these goals. We have had an opportunity to tour a variety of potential locations in Markham, and have completed a preliminary due diligence of the project and the market. Based on this assessment, we are encouraged by the opportunity that exists in Markham.

The debate before Council today is an important one. Eight to ten thousand jobs, potential host fees and property taxes of tens of millions of dollars, capital investment of more than \$1 billion and an anchor for the York Region's tourism sector are just a snap-shot and summary of the potential benefits a full-service gaming and entertainment facility could bring to your community.

Caesars Entertainment Corporation is the world's most diversified casino entertainment company. Since its beginning in Reno, Nevada, more than 70 years ago, Caesars has grown through development of new resorts, expansions and acquisitions, and now operates casinos on four continents and employs more than 70,000 people. We have been a proud partner of the OLG in Ontario, as the operator of Caesars Windsor, for more than 10 years and enjoy a productive and positive relationship with our host community in Windsor.

Rock Gaming LLC is a Midwest U.S.-based gaming partnership formed with an initial focus to develop full-service casinos in two of Ohio's largest cities. Through a partnership with Caesars Entertainment, the group has developed unique urban casinos under the Horseshoe brand in Cleveland, which opened in May 2012, and Cincinnati, which opened in March 2013. The companies are also developing an urban casino in downtown Baltimore, which is expected to open in 2014. The developments have been designed to engage, promote and encourage gaming patrons to visit and support existing cultural, nightlife and sports attractions in the downtown areas where they are located.

Additionally, a Rock Gaming affiliate company recently acquired a majority interest in Greektown Casino-Hotel located in the urban core of downtown Detroit. This purchase was made with the vision to better connect and activate the historic Greektown neighbourhood to the City's thriving Woodward corridor where many of Gilbert's \$1 billion in real estate investments made over the last three years are located. These purchases and investments are all part of his commitment to revitalizing Detroit's urban core. Including the Greektown Casino-Hotel properties, Rock Ventures, the umbrella entity for Gilbert's portfolio of companies, real estate and investments, now owns and manages nearly seven million square feet of commercial space.

Rock Gaming and Caesars Entertainment also co-own Cleveland-area thoroughbred racetrack Thistledown, which opened as a racino in April 2013, as well as Turfway Park, a thoroughbred horseracing track located in northern Kentucky.

Dan Gilbert, chairman of Rock Gaming, is also chairman and founder of Rock Ventures and Quicken Loans, Inc., the largest online mortgage lender in the U.S. and third largest retail mortgage lender. He is also the majority owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and the American Hockey League's Lake Erie Monsters; both teams play at the Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland.

Together, Rock Gaming and Caesars form a partnership of unmatched operational experience, financial strength and development creativity. Both partners are community

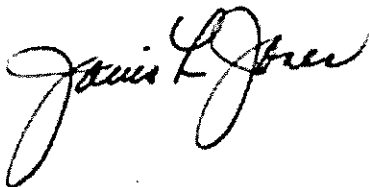
minded, with a focus on urban development. We are both known for our focus on diversity, inclusion, environmental stewardship and as great places to work.

Caesars is also known in the gaming industry as leaders in the promotion of responsible gambling. In July 2012, Caesars Windsor was among the first casinos in the world to receive a responsible gambling accreditation through RG Check, a new voluntary program created by the Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) that offers gaming companies the opportunity to gain an independent assessment of the quality of their responsible gambling program.

Caesars and Rock Gaming have been actively following developments in the Greater Toronto Area – and across all of Ontario – for more than a year. We have closely studied the GTA market and believe strongly that an investment in a new gaming and entertainment complex can be very successful.

Our representatives are in the audience watching tonight's debate and decision closely. We respect the democratic process and the responsibility of Council to thoroughly examine the issues and to make an informed decision. We hope that at the end of the debate, Markham will choose to be a willing host and should it do so, we look forward to working with you and Town staff on the next steps in our due diligence and as we get to know your community better.

Yours Sincerely,



Jan Jones
Executive Vice President
Government & Public Relations
Caesars Entertainment Corporation



Steve Rosenthal
Principal
Rock Gaming LLC

cc. Members of Markham Town Council
Mr. Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer