

PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

VACATION CHARTERS/SPLIT ROCK RESORT

MAY 1, 2008, 9:07 A.M.

KIDDER TOWNSHIP BUILDING

STATE ROUTE 1003

LAKE HARMONY, PENNSYLVANIA

BEFORE:

LINDA LLOYD, PRESIDING OFFICER

MARY DiGIACOMO COLINS, CHAIRMAN

RAYMOND ANGELI

JEFFREY COY

JAMES B. GINTY

KENNETH McCABE

HILLARY M. HAZLETT, REPORTER

NOTARY PUBLIC

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1 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Good morning, everyone.
2 My name is Linda Lloyd. I'm Presiding Officer for this
3 Public Input Hearing today conducted by the Gaming
4 Control Board.

5 Before we begin, if everybody could turn off
6 their pagers, cell phones, beepers, anything that makes
7 a noise.

8 If you would all rise for the Pledge of
9 Allegiance.

10 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

11 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: As the Presiding
12 Officer, I call to order this Public Input Hearing for
13 the Category 3 Applicant, Vacation Charters Split Rock
14 Resort.

15 Today's date is May 1st, 2008. The time is
16 9:08 a.m. The location is the Kidder Township Building.

17 This Public Input Hearing is convened by the
18 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board pursuant to the
19 authority found in Section 1205(b) of the Gaming Act and
20 the Board's regulations at 58 PA Code 441a.6.

21 The Board members present today for this
22 hearing are to my left Chairman Colins, Commissioner
23 Coy, and Commissioner Angeli and to my right
24 Commissioner McCabe and Commissioner Ginty.

25 Our court stenographer today is Hillary

1 Hazlett. The Clerk to the Board is Mickey Kane.

2 The Board and its staff would like to thank the
3 Kidder Township staff for making its building available
4 to the Board and for all of their hard work,
5 specifically Silva Davis' cooperation and hard work.
6 That's been essential to us in organizing and holding
7 this Public Input Hearing today.

8 This is the second Public Input Hearing in a
9 series of four hearings being held by the Board designed
10 to hear all the Applicants for the remaining Category 1
11 and the two available Category 3 Slot Machine Licenses
12 to present their plans before the Board and the public.

13 Hearings will allow individual members of the
14 public, community groups, elected officials, and local
15 government representatives to express their thoughts and
16 share their concerns about the proposed projects with
17 the Board.

18 The hearing will continue until the last
19 scheduled speaker registered has had the opportunity to
20 speak.

21 The order of speakers today is as follows:
22 Applicant for Category 3 Slot Machine License,
23 Vacation Charters will make their presentation first.

24 Then we will hear from any Legislators, local
25 Government representatives, community representatives,

1 and individual members of the public who have registered
2 to speak, in that order.

3 Vacation Charters will have 40 minutes to make
4 their presentation. Each legislative official will have
5 five minutes to speak.

6 Representatives from the local municipality
7 will be given 30 minutes to speak. Community
8 representatives may have up to ten minutes, and
9 individual members of the public will each have three
10 minutes.

11 If each speaker could begin their remarks by
12 stating his or her name, where they reside, and if
13 speaking on behalf of the entity and the name of the
14 entity. In a few minutes, the whole group will be sworn
15 in.

16 To assist all speakers in adhering to the time
17 limit permitted, we have an electronic stoplight timer
18 in front of me and a little box next to the microphone
19 to help you keep within your time.

20 When the light turns yellow for Vacation
21 Charters, they will have five minutes remaining. For
22 all other speakers, 30 seconds will remain in your
23 allotted time.

24 When the light turns red, you'll hear a beeping
25 sound, and we will expect you to stop speaking and leave

1 the microphone.

2 If you do run up against the end of your time,
3 please feel free to submit the rest of your comments in
4 written form to the Board after the hearing for
5 inclusion in the record.

6 As a reminder to everyone, you have the
7 opportunity to submit any written comments that you
8 would like to submit as part of the record. You may do
9 so by either mailing them to the Clerk of the Board,
10 giving them to us after this hearing or any other
11 hearing, or going to our website at
12 www.pgcb.state.pa.us.

13 We will accept written comments for 60 days
14 after the close of this hearing today or until June 30th
15 when the evidentiary record for this input hearing will
16 be closed.

17 In you are a speaker today and you have written
18 notes of testimony from which you will read, when you
19 are finished, if you could please give a copy to
20 Hillary, our court stenographer, that would help her out
21 greatly.

22 On your way in, there were copies of the Code
23 of Conduct for this public hearing. Please follow these
24 rules because we're all interested in hearing what
25 everyone has to say today.

1 If more than one person speaks at a time,
2 Hillary has a difficult time taking that down on the
3 record.

4 So let's begin by having each of you that is
5 registered to speak today rise and take the oath,
6 please, to be sworn.

7 (Witnesses sworn en masse.)

8 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Vacation Charters, if
9 you are ready, let's begin with your presentation.

10 MR. KENNARD: Thank you, Linda.

11 Greetings to the Board. Thank you for coming
12 to Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania. My name is Norman
13 Kennard. I'm an attorney in Harrisburg representing
14 Vacation Charters, the Applicant.

15 We are here to hear the public's input. We do
16 not intend to expend anywhere near the 40 minutes you
17 have generously allotted us. We are here to hear what
18 the public has to say.

19 I want to briefly introduce Jack Kalins, who
20 has been President of Vacation Charters, owner of Split
21 Rock, and Mr. Charles Dickinson is going to make the
22 presentation, the short presentation today on behalf of
23 Split Rock. So, thank you again for coming up.

24 Mr. Dickinson.

25 MR. DICKINSON: Thank you. Good morning, Chair

1 Colins, members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control
2 Board, Kidder Township representatives, and other
3 members of the local community and businesses in our
4 area.

5 My name is Charles Dickinson. I represent
6 Vacation Charters Limited. I will be the only speaker
7 from our company who you will hear from today. I am a
8 resident of nearby Tobyhanna Township in Monroe County.

9 The purpose of this morning's hearing is to
10 allow Split Rock to make a presentation and for the
11 local public to voice their input, be it positive or
12 negative. We're hoping for the former rather than the
13 latter.

14 The graphics and statistics, which I intend to
15 share with you today, may be familiar to you and seem
16 redundant. Yet, to others, it may enlighten their
17 knowledge of Split Rock.

18 What I first have chosen to share with you is
19 identical to what I shared with the Gaming Board last
20 October at our eligibility hearings.

21 Our intent at the time was to paint a picture,
22 a colorful picture of a well-established resort, which
23 was also the intent of the Legislature in the selection
24 of the Category 3 Applicant.

25 We believe that our presentation in showing --

1 our presentation succeeded in showing just how eligible
2 Split Rock really is.

3 The presentation does not contain enhanced
4 graphics, animated video of the brand-new casino but
5 rather a representation of what Split Rock is today and
6 how it is continuing to grow.

7 At the same time, we recognize that we are a
8 small community. So with that growth, we keep the
9 effect of the surrounding community in mind.

10 I'm sure you have already noticed the
11 difference here compared to our competitor on the
12 eastern side of the Poconos, which is a little smaller.

13 Split Rock Resort, as you will see by our first
14 slide, shows the lodge on an early summer morning along
15 with photos of both our new golf club house and our
16 newly progressing Willow Brook Development, where we
17 will add an additional 24, two-bedroom suites into our
18 inventory this August.

19 The history of Split Rock goes back pretty far.
20 What is interesting to note in this historical area;
21 particularly the resort from the time the rock split to
22 up until and including today, there has been quite a
23 progression from what it used to be in a very, very
24 natural state to what it is today, certainly still a
25 natural state but with some residents and a beautiful

1 resort surrounding it.

2 We have a multitude of accommodations from
3 standard hotel rooms, to two-bedroom suites. We have
4 two-bedroom villas.

5 Our location; very, very convenient. We're
6 only about 95 minutes from Center City, Philadelphia
7 conveniently about two hours from New York City, easily
8 about 3 hours from Baltimore and slightly over that from
9 Washington D.C. and only ten minutes from two major
10 interstates.

11 Depending on the season, we offer three full
12 service restaurants and three limited food service
13 outlets giving guests and residents a variety of
14 options.

15 We offer a very well-established, quality 27
16 hole golf course and another 9 holes is currently under
17 construction. We are open to the public.

18 There are many pictures that you can find on
19 our website, everything from rooms to suites, to golf,
20 to meeting accommodations.

21 In terms of our entertainment, we have a
22 variety on a weekly basis both indoors and also outdoors
23 in the summertime.

24 We conduct special events. We have three of
25 them during the course of the year. One of them being

1 the Pennsylvania Wine and Food Festival in June, very
2 popular festival. We also hold two beer festivals, one
3 in the spring and one in the fall.

4 We have activities scheduled 365 days a year.
5 We have a social staff with a social director, also a
6 recreation director. So we have a variety of different
7 activities both indoors and outside for children and for
8 adults.

9 This August, we're going to be opening up an
10 indoor water park, the second one to this region. It
11 will open in the early part of August. It will feature
12 48,000 square feet of indoor aquatic space. It will be
13 the third such facility in the Commonwealth.

14 Our listed amenities are really numerous. I
15 spoke about this in October and went through the entire
16 list. You will see there are very, very many. We are
17 able to accommodate people in the coldest of weather and
18 in the warmest of weather.

19 Our rates are very, very competitive in
20 comparison of going into the city, whether it be New
21 York or Philadelphia, you can generally come here and
22 get meals on top of your accommodations and probably be
23 paying a little bit less.

24 The resort property covers approximately 1200
25 acres of land and with nearly 25 miles of road and

1 approximately 400 private home sites as well within the
2 community.

3 Taking the option of including two drawings in
4 our presentation, the first drawing represents a
5 close-up of a conceptual plan by one of our architects,
6 Cope Linder of Philadelphia, who has represented a
7 number of the Atlantic City casino operations.

8 In it, you will note the intended location is
9 within the Galleria's Keystone Ballroom, which is on the
10 first floor just off of the main lobby, a very
11 convenient location for a casino.

12 The second drawing, a fuller map of the
13 original Galleria with the casino space highlighted.
14 There will be only one main entrance for the public just
15 off the main lobby area.

16 There was a local impact report and it is
17 viewable on the PGCB website, although not all of the
18 background data that we included in the application is
19 actually on the web.

20 There were six main categories. They included
21 engineering, traffic, housing, utilities, local
22 authorities, and tourism.

23 In terms of engineering, we had a Phase I
24 Environmental Assessment Study conducted in preparation
25 for the opening of our water park. No adverse

1 conditions were found as a result of that investigation.

2 In terms of PennDOT traffic data, this data is
3 available incidentally on their website. You'll note
4 that there is a considerable amount of traffic feeding
5 off of the interstates; but when you look at 940, the
6 western feeder and Route 903 just outside our door here,
7 the eastern feeder, the counts are not nearly as
8 significant as coming directly off the interstate.

9 You'll notice also the Pennsylvania Turnpike
10 had 24,000 cars average per day, Interstate 80 at about
11 15,000, and yet, Moseywood Road had only approximately
12 1,660 cars per day.

13 Correspondingly, we have a traffic study that
14 we have been conducting for the last 20 years. I have
15 taken the liberty of just including 2000 through 2007
16 and you'll note over the period of those seven years,
17 our highest was only 1,557 cars per day, which
18 corresponds very closely to the PennDOT traffic study in
19 the prior slide indicating 1,660 cars. It's a good
20 balance between their statistics and ours.

21 In terms of housing, there is not going to be
22 any effect expected on housing in the immediate area.
23 Jobs are expected to be filled by Carbon and Monroe
24 County residents and probably Luzerne County as well,
25 which is convenient to our facility.

1 In terms of utilities, Vacation Charters owns
2 its own water system through a subsidiary company and
3 expanded its capacity recently by adding a new
4 450,000-gallon water tower.

5 Vacation Charters is also on the local central
6 sewer system and neither are expected to have any
7 residual effect.

8 In terms of local authorities, Kidder Township
9 Police reported no adverse condition on submittal of our
10 application for a Gaming 3 License.

11 Kidder Township in Carbon County were provided
12 copies of the impact report as mentioned for their
13 analysis.

14 The last data reviewed for fire and EMS calls
15 did not show a significant number of calls related
16 directly to the resort.

17 In terms of the increase in overnight guests,
18 there's an expected incremental increase in overnight
19 guests forecasted to generate an additional 15,500 room
20 nights, which is roughly a 7 percent change in occupancy
21 improvement in the first year of operation and
22 approximately half that amount, about 3.5 percent in the
23 second year based on local industry trends and
24 statistics.

25 Day guest traffic is not expected to increase

1 beyond typical current trends with occupancy
2 improvements.

3 Daily patronage is limited. As you all know on
4 the Board, Category 3 facilities with a maximum of 500
5 machines by law must limit casino attendances to resort
6 guests and patrons pending a minimum of \$10 as a patron
7 of a resort amenity to legally gain access to the slots
8 parlor.

9 The design of the Gaming Act is to encourage
10 overnight guest stays while providing a limitation on
11 day guest patronage. Vacation Charters is bound to and
12 will follow that intent.

13 New jobs and added taxes. Our water park that
14 will open this summer will be adding approximately 100
15 more jobs.

16 The casino is estimated to add additionally 80
17 to 90 more jobs. We estimate approximately \$456,000 in
18 taxes generated locally in the first year. Additional
19 revenues, of course, will be experienced by local
20 businesses.

21 No burden on the township beyond the typical
22 occupancy increases is expected. Everyone we believe
23 benefits, not just our business but the community and
24 residents.

25 In terms of impact, the spirit of the language

1 in the slots legislation is for two well-established
2 resort hotels to be licensed with the intent to generate
3 additional overnight guest visits, not day guest visits.

4 Vacation Charters intends to follow that intent
5 and concluded that there will be little or no impact to
6 the average daily visitation to the resort.

7 In terms of community involvement, we have been
8 very involved with the United Way of Carbon County with
9 an annual fund-raiser having a roast in the fall.

10 Lake Harmony Volunteer Fire Company has its
11 largest fund-raiser with our annual Labor Day breakfast
12 that they serve and we prepare.

13 Lake Harmony Volunteer Ambulance Company also
14 does the same thing this coming Memorial Day with their
15 breakfast fund-raiser, which we are very happy to
16 participate in.

17 We also remain concerned about our lake and
18 hence are involved with the Lake Harmony Concerned
19 Citizens and supporting their efforts.

20 In terms of education, we sit on two
21 occupational advisory boards for technical schools both
22 in Monroe and Carbon County.

23 This, of course, is trying to gain interest at
24 the high school level in terms of our available jobs in
25 the resort community.

1 We have assisted in adoption of the lodge
2 management class in both counties. We have worked for
3 the last 15 years with a local intermediate unit
4 teaching challenged students soft skills. They are with
5 us on a weekly basis.

6 In terms of tourism promotion and local
7 activity. Jack Kalins, our CEO and Past President of
8 the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau and is a current
9 executive board member.

10 In terms of myself, I'm a member of the
11 Pennsylvania Tourism and Lodging Association Board. I
12 am actually on those technical advisory school boards
13 with the two counties and also involved in Leadership
14 Carbon, which is basically trying to grow leaders within
15 our county area.

16 Other involvement includes local environmental
17 board, local chambers of commerce, and a variety of
18 local charities in the tri-county area.

19 I know this may be a little difficult to read
20 on the screen. However, it's a compilation of total
21 taxes that are currently paid by Vacation Charters over
22 a four-year period from 2004 to 2007.

23 I note that we actually are the largest
24 taxpayer in Carbon County. We're one of the top three
25 largest private employers in the county currently

1 employing as of this week 543 employees. In the
2 summertime, we expect to peak out at 630 employees prior
3 to the water park opening. We expect that to escalate
4 probably hovering just over the 700 mark.

5 That's really the end of my presentation today.
6 The information I showed first was, as I indicated, a
7 little bit redundant; but it was a matter of reinforcing
8 who we are and allowing the public here today, the
9 purpose of this hearing, to be allowed to see who Split
10 Rock really is.

11 We appreciate the time today, and we certainly
12 appreciate the opportunity to have you here in Kidder
13 Township. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you.

15 We will begin comments with the local
16 government representative from Kidder Township, Larry
17 Polansky.

18 MR. POLANSKY: Thank you. Mind if I sit? Good
19 morning and welcome to Kidder Township, the centerpiece
20 of the western Poconos and also, as a matter of fact,
21 the western gateway to the entire Pocono area.

22 Chuck has given you a long list of Split Rock
23 amenities but -- and there are very many; but in
24 addition to that, I want you to know that we have two
25 other golf courses in the area, not in the area, in the

1 township, two ski areas in the township.

2 If you like white water-rafting, this is the
3 area to come to. I don't know if any of you are into
4 paint ball but that is available here as well.

5 There's boating. There's fishing. You name
6 it, this is the Poconos right here. We love our area.

7 My name is Larry Polansky. I live year round
8 at 6 Azaleas Lane within the gated Split Rock community,
9 which is Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania in Kidder Township.

10 I'm Chairman of the Kidder Township Board of
11 Supervisors, and I'm speaking on behalf of that Board.

12 We have raised the prospect of gaming at our
13 monthly meetings and the reaction has been positive.
14 Thus far, we have heard no opposition at any of those
15 Board meetings.

16 I have talked to a lot of friends and
17 neighbors, none have had any opposition. They have all
18 been positive about the prospect of gaming in the area.

19 There is some apprehension regarding adequate
20 security at a gaming facility and most people are
21 worried about traffic.

22 I am originally from Philadelphia, and I lived
23 in Washington D.C. for years, so I enjoy the lack of
24 traffic in this area; but there is some apprehension
25 about some increases along Moseywood Road, the main

1 entrance into Split Rock.

2 We notice, however, that Split Rock Group is
3 already working on additions and enhancements to the
4 Moseywood Road.

5 In fairness, we have contacted all of the local
6 churches, and let them know that you are going to be
7 here.

8 Some of them have indicated that they might be
9 wanting to speak. We have also contacted all of the
10 local property owner associations of which there are
11 very many in the township. I would hope that some are
12 here to speak.

13 Again, everything we have heard so far has been
14 positive with one exception, one member of the clergy
15 indicated that his particular religion did not like
16 gaming. I assumed that he might be here to speak.

17 The township and the board, of course, would
18 welcome the additional township revenue. We're not
19 crazy. Hopefully, that will be here.

20 However, we also want to be assured that there
21 will be adequate security provided by the Applicant and
22 that township gaming revenues -- township revenues from
23 gaming will exceed township costs and hopefully exceed
24 our township costs for police, fire, ambulance, road
25 improvements, repair, etc.

1 That's about all I have to say. I thank you
2 for the opportunity. We would welcome any questions you
3 might have for the township or for myself. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Carl Wilgus from the Pocono
6 Mountain Visitors Bureau.

7 MR. WILGUS: Thank you. Good morning. I
8 guarantee this will be the last time you will see me. I
9 believe we spoke yesterday. So if some of it sounds
10 familiar, it bears repeating, I guess, would be the way
11 to put it.

12 Good morning. My name is Carl Wilgus, and I am
13 the new executive director at the Pocono Mountains
14 Convention and Visitors Bureau.

15 I would like to welcome the Pennsylvania Gaming
16 Control Board and staff to the Pocono Mountains of
17 Northeastern Pennsylvania.

18 We are the official tourist promotion agency
19 for the counties of Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne.

20 We represent the tourism, visitor, and
21 hospitality industry in the region. As you may know but
22 it bears repeating, tourism is the state's second
23 largest industry; and in the Pocono Mountains, it is the
24 No. 1 industry.

25 The economic impact of tourism based on 2007

1 estimates tell us that \$1.2 billion in visitor spending
2 took place, resulting in \$302 million in federal, state,
3 and local taxes, creating more than 27,000 jobs in the
4 four-county area and generating an \$811 million payroll.

5 While these are impressive numbers, we know
6 that the travel and tourism industry is a very
7 competitive business.

8 Just because our past has been successful, it
9 does not automatically mean our future will be. We must
10 always be striving to pay attention to our customers'
11 needs and expectations, sometimes even before they know
12 what they are.

13 The Pocono Mountains are going through a
14 renaissance of some significance these days.
15 Historically well known as a destination of choice for
16 honeymooners, our survival as a destination requires
17 that we be highly regarded in other areas as well.

18 Sizable investments by private industry in the
19 millions of dollars over the past few years, new
20 launching facilities and attractions are laying the
21 foundation for a new and improved tourism experience for
22 visitors to the Pocono Mountains.

23 But even with all of this, visitor experiences
24 are not complete without an equally robust supply of
25 amenities; such as, shopping, dining, and various

1 entertainment options.

2 With more than eight million person trips by
3 non-residents to the Pocono Mountains on an annual
4 basis, we desperately need to make available a plethora
5 of opportunities for these million of visitors to
6 gleefully part with their hard earned cash.

7 In a 2006 report done by the Travel Association
8 of America on Domestic Travel clearly indicated that 6
9 percent of the nation's 234 million leisure trips take
10 part in some form of gaming. That is a market
11 opportunity of more than 62 million household trips.

12 For this group of travelers, gaming can be seen
13 as a recreation and our entertainment expense that is
14 integral to their overall travel experiences.

15 Let me be very clear, it is not our intent for
16 the Pocono Mountains to be known as a gaming destination
17 but rather as a diverse year round destination that
18 offers gaming as one of many amenities.

19 I know that the good folks here at the Vacation
20 Charters Split Rock Resort feel that same way. With the
21 Class 3 License that they are requesting, the Pocono
22 Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau
23 enthusiastically supports this request. Thank you very
24 much.

25 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker will be Mark Harry from Carbon
2 County Chamber of Commerce.

3 Did Mr. Harry appear today?

4 No, then we will move on.

5 Individual speakers, first speaker, Joseph
6 McAleer. I apologize in advance if I mispronounce
7 somebody's name.

8 MR. McALEER: Good morning, Your Honor, Board
9 members. Thank you for the opportunity to offer some
10 comments about the Vacation Charters Limited's
11 application for a Category 3 Gaming License.

12 My name is Joseph McAleer. My wife and I are
13 residents of Village Greens, the golf course depicted in
14 the slide show you saw in Split Rock.

15 Interestingly, our home is approximately a
16 quarter to a half mile from the proposed location of the
17 Category 3 gaming facility.

18 I am an attorney with a civil litigation
19 practice, 90 percent of my practice is insurance defense
20 work representing commercial insureds throughout the
21 state as Defendants in liability actions.

22 I'm a transplant. I was born and raised in
23 Philadelphia. Before practicing law, I served in the
24 Philadelphia Fire Department for 20 years as a fire
25 officer. I retired in 1992 and started practicing the

1 following Monday.

2 We have owned property in the Pocono area since
3 1992. We were weekenders initially and loved the area
4 and what it had to offer and we came to seriously
5 consider retiring here.

6 Around 2002, we decided to sell our weekend
7 house in Bear Creek Lakes up the road on 903 and look
8 for an area to establish a permanent residence.

9 We are both active adults with grown children,
10 who wanted to move to a stable community where we could
11 enjoy our eventual retirement and not worry about our
12 investments.

13 We quickly learned that the Split Rock, Lake
14 Harmony area is a four-season resort, often referred to
15 as the jewel of the Poconos.

16 Obviously, before picking up stakes and moving
17 here permanently, we certainly wanted to know what and
18 if any way living in a resort community would impact our
19 lives.

20 Surely, we didn't want to risk our retirement
21 savings and piece of mind by choosing the wrong type of
22 community to live in.

23 We realized and friends advised that living in
24 a resort community could present potential problems to
25 local residents particularly if the resort business had

1 no interest in promoting the health and welfare of the
2 community in which it is situated.

3 That is why we, my wife and I, exhausted every
4 effort in determining how, if any way, resort activities
5 would impact on the local community; particularly, if
6 the resort business had no interest in promoting the
7 health and welfare of the community.

8 Of course, we quickly realized that any impact
9 would be directly related to how Vacation Charters felt
10 about that community.

11 Jack Kalins is the CEO of Vacation Charters
12 Limited. He is the voice of the business, and he cares
13 deeply about this community.

14 His care is evidenced by his commitment to the
15 measure and growth of the community. He has never
16 proposed anything that the community did not welcome or
17 accept.

18 His care for the community is evidenced by his
19 support of the emergency services of which I sit on the
20 local boards of the fire department and ambulance.

21 I am encouraged by his application and I -- 20
22 seconds, please. I am encouraged that the tax revenue
23 will be generated by an increase in overnight stays and
24 the anticipated job growth of \$4.5 million in annual
25 payroll. I wholeheartedly recommend the acceptance of

1 his application for a Category 3 facility license.

2 Thank you very much.

3 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker is Matt Dembinski. Is Mr. Dembinski here?

5 MR. DEMBINSKI: Yes. Good morning. My name is
6 Matt Dembinski. I reside at Split Rock Resort in Lake
7 Harmony, Pennsylvania.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. I
9 come to you today as a resident of Split Rock Resort and
10 also an owner of a local building company, which has
11 been fortunate enough to have had continued growth
12 partially due to the visions of the principal of the
13 resort.

14 With this said, I would like to go on record in
15 support of the Class 3 License being applied for by
16 Split Rock and would like to offer the following reasons
17 why.

18 I will comment both as a resident and as a
19 local businessman. First, my family has lived in the
20 resort for five years now.

21 I have noticed the many improvements every year
22 to all of the amenities including a well-maintained
23 infrastructure. We believe that this has -- this has
24 protected our personal asset.

25 Some of these investments are, as Chuck was

1 saying, new golf course, country club buildings, indoor
2 water park, and I believe a well-balanced concept of
3 improving the resort's appeal while maintaining the feel
4 of the outdoors, which makes Pocono living so
5 attractive, has been obvious.

6 In keeping with the resort's history of
7 investing back into the property, I'm sure that the
8 acquisition of a license will only mean this investment
9 will continue into the future.

10 In addition, while this license only applies to
11 the guests at the resort and the potential for these
12 guests to spend more time with us, I believe it creates
13 more of a destination resort, which in return allows
14 these guests to spend or invest in our local economy.

15 I also feel that the license will offer just
16 another reason to choose Split Rock for their vacation.
17 Along with it being only an hour and a half from New
18 York or Philadelphia with easy access to the state roads
19 only eight miles way, furthermore, it has a long
20 reputation for quality service.

21 In closing, the continued dynamic business
22 philosophy of the resort in applying for this Class 3
23 permission will enable more people the opportunity to
24 see our community and are more likely to invest in
25 either vacations or the housing market. Whichever it

1 may be, it will have a direct positive impact on our
2 local economics. Thank you for your time.

3 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you.

4 Next, John McElroy.

5 MR. McELROY: Hello. How are you-all doing?
6 Welcome to Kidder Township, Lake Harmony. Is this a
7 beautiful place? This is a great place to live.

8 I came from South Philadelphia 33 years ago.
9 What a great place to live. When I was told -- when I
10 told some friends that I was going to speak on behalf of
11 Split Rock Resort obtaining a gaming license and that I
12 had to talk about the positive things that Split Rock
13 brings to our community, they all asked me, how long do
14 you have to speak? The whole day? I said, no. I've
15 only got three minutes.

16 With its ideal location and its abundance,
17 abundance of amenities, the resort at Split Rock has
18 established itself as a principal vacation location in
19 the western part of the Poconos.

20 At the junction of Interstate 80 and the
21 Pennsylvania Turnpike within a couple of miles of the
22 two big ski resorts, right here right across the street,
23 and did anybody notice that the Pocono Mountain Raceway
24 is only two miles away?

25 Two weeks a year, it's the third largest city

1 in the State of Pennsylvania. Did anyone notice that?

2 The Split Rock Resort offers the quintessential
3 vacation destination for people from not only the New
4 York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington Metro area,
5 that as I personally know, as a local business owner,
6 from some countries around the world. I met a couple
7 from California yesterday on their honeymoon right here
8 at Split Rock.

9 Bottom line, we have many amenities. I could
10 talk all day about that. I still have a minute and 20
11 seconds.

12 Great location, easy to get to, and most
13 important, most important, Jack Kalins and the Kalins'
14 family, hard working, community-minded, will be great
15 custodians for your casino license. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Thank you.

17 Mr. McElroy was the last on my list. Have we
18 missed anyone, or has Mr. Harry appeared today?

19 Okay. Then Vacation Charters, if you have any
20 closing remarks.

21 MR. DICKINSON: Thank you. No, we really
22 don't. We just really appreciate everyone coming to see
23 us today and allowing the public also to hear what we
24 have to say.

25 CHAIRMAN DiGIACOMO COLINS: When is the water

1 park opening, what is that scheduled date?

2 MR. DICKINSON: August 8th.

3 HEARING OFFICER LLOYD: Well, then thank you
4 for all coming today and the Public Input Hearing is now
5 adjourned.

6 (The hearing concluded at 9:45 a.m.)

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1 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
2 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes
3 taken by me on the within proceedings and that this is a
4 correct transcript of the same.

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Hillary M. Hazlett, Reporter
Notary Public

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