

Matthew E Orvosh
175 WOODLAND DR
Saltsburg, PA 15681
sorvosh@comcast.net
724-639-8696

WRITING in SUPPORT of licensing

Matthew writes: *My wife and I are looking forward to having a casino in Westmoreland Co. so we don't have to travel to Allegheny or Washington County (or out of state) for a day of senior citizen recreation. The location at the mall is an added perk as she can shop while I'm at the casino. Please open it as soon as possible. Thank you!!!*

Beth Cowles
14080 Lexington Pl
N Huntingdon, PA 15642
beth_cowles@hotmail.com
412-996-9225

WRITING in SUPPORT of licensing : *I am requesting that the Casino be smoke free, for the health of the patrons and the employees. I am allergic to smoke and cannot visit any Pennsylvania casino without adverse consequences. Thank you for your consideration.*

Chad Amond
241 Tollgate Hill Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
chad@westmorelandchamber.com
724-834-2900

SPEAKING and WRITING for the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce in SUPPORT of licensing
He writes: *The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce represents over 1,000 businesses across Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Our members include both large and small firms from retailers and manufacturers to government agencies to professional service providers. Tracing its roots back to the early 1940s, the Westmoreland County Chamber has been instrumental in building strong partnerships among regional business leaders, community leaders, elected officials and key stakeholders on a variety of important issues facing our community. The Chamber enjoys a heralded reputation as the largest, most active, and influential chamber of commerce in Westmoreland County and as one of the most vital chambers in all of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The organization maintains a robust business-friendly advocacy platform and provides members with a variety of networking events, group purchasing opportunities, and professional development seminars throughout the year.*

The Chamber supports pro-business regulations and legislation that we believe will make for a better business climate without compromising the health, safety, and well-being of the communities we serve. We take a commonsense approach to identifying policy reforms and legislation that underscore our continued commitment to advance economic growth across Westmoreland County. We are a non-partisan organization that believes no matter your political affiliation, responsible citizens from all walks of life want better paying jobs, stronger schools, sound infrastructure, safe neighborhoods, preservation of natural resources, accountable leadership, and efficient government.

As part of the Chamber's "Where We Stand" document that outlines key focus points that the Chamber advocates for, one of the ten key issues was focused on creating a 'mini-casino' in Westmoreland County. Written below is the proclamation passed by the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce believes casino gaming has benefitted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in terms of job creation, tax generation, travel and tourism, enjoyable activity for local residents, and has spurred economic development in and around casino locations. The Chamber strongly supports amending current legislation, or introducing new legislation, which collects and distributes gaming revenue on a more fair and equitable basis. Developing a casino in Westmoreland County would positively impact that effective change and would create a more level playing field among the counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. From the Westmoreland County Chamber's perspective, the proposed casino in Hempfield Township will move all of Westmoreland County and Pennsylvania forward.

Kevin Polechko
553 Austin street
Greensburg, PA 15601
Kevin_180@yahoo.com
724-832-1118

I look forward to seeing this project getting started.

From: Heidi and Chris <h2cbaldy@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 7:10 AM

To: GB, PGCB <RA-PGCB@pa.gov>

Subject: [External] Please do NOT bring a casino to the Greensburg Westmoreland Mall

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Gaming Commision,

Please do NOT bring a casino to the Westmoreland Mall. This creates a culture that too many people get addicted and provides little benefit to the community. There is too much competition for the people who can afford to gamble – and the closer location only tends to pull in individuals who cannot afford to take risky chances to “win it big”. For those who can afford this as a form of entertainment, they are likely satisfied with going to Pittsburgh, to Ocean City, or to Las Vegas.

Chris and Heidi Baldy
4116 Windsor Ct
Murrysville, PA, 15668

Molly Mickinak Loggins
605 TREE DUCK CT
Greensburg, PA 15601
mickinakm@gmail.com
931-302-5663

Submitted a written comment in OPPOSITION to Licensing as follows:

I oppose the Stadium LLC West- CAT 4 slots facility or any casino in Hempfield Township or Greensburg.

Westmoreland Mall is a safe, family friendly environment. I would like to keep it that way. I would not take my young son anywhere near a casino. A casino has no place in Greensburg.

A casino in Greensburg goes against what this WONDERFUL town is all about--family values and sense of community. A casino is all about greed and addiction. We need more positive activities, businesses, and programs that can help the health and well-being of residents as well as attract newcomers, not tear it down. I am so very proud to live in Greensburg. It is a FANTASTIC place to raise a family WITHOUT a `big city tourist attraction` like a casino, which is an invitation for criminals.

Please consider another location for a casino.

Keep Greensburg a HEALTHY and SAFE place to raise a family! Say NO to a casino.

TESTIMONY
PA Gaming Control Board
Category 4 Casino License Hearing
Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County

R. Doug Weimer
Hempfield Township Supervisor
1132 Woodward Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

December 5, 2018

Good Morning, my name is Doug Weimer, and I am an elected member of the Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors.

Welcome to my life long home. Welcome to the community where I am raising my family which includes three young daughters, and welcome to the largest municipality in Westmoreland County.

I am here to ask and confirm that the PA Gaming Control Board has seriously considered a few factors on how a category 4 casino license would affect the nature of a municipality such as Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County.

I am here to ask and confirm that this board has conducted research to ensure that this State legislatively legalized unique commercial and social activity is a practical fit for this community?

Did the PA Gaming Control Board consider preparing a list of how a community such as Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County can expect to be impacted with the release of a category 4 casino license?

Did the PA Gaming Control Board members put in place a process which considers how to best protect the vested interests of current residents and business owners when making a final decision to release a category 4 casino license in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County?

Did the PA Gaming Control Board determine the public safety requirements necessary to support a category 4 casino license in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County and will it take steps to satisfy them before this license is released?

Will the PA Gaming Control Board release all information and data collected from their decision-making process on the award and release of a category 4 casino license in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County?

Will the PA Gaming Control Board consider making itself available for public question and answer discussion with elected officials, residents, and business owners before releasing a category 4 casino license in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County?

I thank you for allowing me to ask these questions and I sincerely hope you will consider them when making your final decision on the release of a category 4 casino license in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Douglas Weimer
Hempfield Township Supervisor
dweimer@hempfieldtp.org
724-834-7232 x118

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
FOR
PUBLIC HEARING
ON
CATEGORY 4 CASINO LICENSE – WESTMORELAND COUNTY

December 5, 2018
10:00 a.m.
Hempfield Township Municipal Building
1132 Woodward Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601

To: Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
David M. Barash, Chairman
Kevin F. O'Toole, Executive Director

From: Westmoreland County
Jason W. Rigone 
Director - Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development
Executive Director – Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

Re: Category 4 Casino License – Westmoreland County

Chairman Barash and Executive Director O'Toole and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony before the Gaming Control Board regarding the Category 4 casino license secured by Stadium Casino LLC.

I, Jason W. Rigone, Executive Director of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation and Director of the Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development am here today to provide a brief summary of the impact and benefits of the proposed mini casino planned by Stadium Casino at the Westmoreland Mall site located in Hempfield Township. Because I serve as both Executive Director of the county based economic development organization and as Director of the Department of Planning and Development, I have the unique position to consider the economic development benefits but also understand the implications associated with such a proposed development. Created by

the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners in 1983, the IDC provides economic development services with a focus on industrial park development and redevelopment of blighted and environmentally impacted brownfield sites, marketing of county assets, being publicly or privately owned and operated, to prospective business ventures and lastly a business calling program to support the potential growth of the existing business community throughout Westmoreland. In addition, the IDC is co-located in Greensburg with 3 other economic and community development agencies – the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland, the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland and the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development which as stated earlier, I serve as the Director.

Westmoreland County is uniquely positioned to support and benefit by the investment proposed by Stadium Casino. In order to efficiently summarize the impacts, my testimony will not include detailed data but rather categorize or compartmentalize the impacts into three (3) separate and distinct areas:

- 1 – Economic development
- 2 – Land use and transportation infrastructure
- 3 – Local Share Account funds

The economic development impact can be measured in terms of job creation, tax generation, support and growth of commercial/retail/service industry and the tourism industry. The application submitted by Stadium Casino with their initial investment states nearly 600 new jobs will be created by the new facility and will likely be in the form of administrative and management staff, gaming support, maintenance, food and beverage service and others. Not only will these jobs support the individual worker but also generate significant wages that

will be spent locally and therefore support and grow the local economy. With any new job creation opportunity there are numerous jobs created and/or supported both indirectly and induced and typically a multiplier could be used to calculate an estimated number and in this case likely to be 2 to 3 times that of the original 600 creating a ripple effect.

The economic development impact can also be measured in terms of tax generation. With Stadium Casino's proposed development being located within an existing building, (former Bon Ton department store - Westmoreland Mall,) additional property tax generation will be modest. However, the benefits of tax generation will be attributed to new development likely occur because of Stadium Casino's investment. This could be in the form of new restaurants and commercial uses providing services for those customers visiting the new entertainment venue. Additionally, new wage taxes generated by the investment will support local, school and state services.

The final aspect of economic development impact would be the benefits on the tourism industry. Westmoreland County already has a healthy tourist ecosystem with numerous historic places, entertainment venues, as well as hotels, restaurants and retail that support thousands that visit the county annually. These assets will have a symbiotic relationship with the new casino facility by providing the necessary support require of a large tourist destination but at the same time the casino will increase their market through the attraction of additional customers daily.

Impact to land use and transportation infrastructure should be considered. The proposed facility location being the former Bon Ton department store within the Westmoreland Mall complex will utilize the existing road, utility and storm water infrastructure that was designed to support and provide capacity to hundreds if not thousands of visitors

daily. The newly drafted county comprehensive plan – Reimagining Our Westmoreland identifies and prioritizes the need to focus development within existing and established corridors or where development and infrastructure exists. This concept's intent is to preserve the rural and natural landscape's integrity revered by our county residents by reducing land absorption, and minimizes the need to extend and expand infrastructure as well as add pressure to local and county services already spread thin. The ability and willingness by Stadium Casino to consider land and building recycling is consistent and supported by the county's new land use strategy.

Over the past decade the method of shopping and retail trade has changed dramatically. With the advent and growth of online shopping, whether that is with Amazon, Walmart, Macys or Cabelas, the sustainability of traditional bricks and mortar stores is evaporating daily. Market shares continue to shift away from facilities like malls and this shift is already evident with the closure of Bon Ton. On a larger scale this impact is apparent by the failure of Century 3 Mall in the South Hills and the current financial troubles experienced at the Mills Mall near Harmarville. Although Westmoreland Mall is strong financially, management's willingness to "reimagine" and repurpose this county asset by incorporating a new use will energize and create sustainability long term.

The remaining category of impact and benefit identified is the Local Share Account (LSA). Like all of the other casinos located across the Commonwealth, the required LSA provides vital funding to support services and development opportunities in the host municipality and county for which a casino is located. I don't believe it is necessary to discuss the specific opportunities this fund would support as the impact is obvious. However, the unique aspect that should be noted is the current competitive disadvantage

Westmoreland County currently manages. Currently Westmoreland has three (3) neighboring counties that have operating casino facilities: Meadows Casino in Washington County, Rivers Casino in Allegheny County and Lady Luck in Fayette County. In each of these counties, LSA funds provide these communities with a vital source of revenue to support economic and community development projects and investment. This competitive disadvantage experienced locally is exasperated by those county's unique ability to utilize LSA funds to leverage other state and federal funding programs by providing a higher degree of local match resulting in a higher investment concentration in those areas.

Although we compete as a region and state in terms of business attraction and developing our communities, the recognition that local completion doesn't exist would be naïve. Although Stadium Casino's would provide a much needed infusion of funds to level the playing field, based on the size of the new Westmoreland casino, the LSA would still be significantly smaller and less impactful compared with the neighboring Meadows and Rivers casinos. That being said, we would hope to develop a system for prioritization of the LSA funds to maximize the impact and effectiveness and thus improve Westmoreland for all of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and your consideration of this opportunity in Westmoreland County.