

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: PARX CASINO

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PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

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BEFORE: Linda S. Lloyd, Presiding Officer

David M. Barasch, Chairman

T. Mark Mustio, Commissioner

Merritt C. Reitzel, Commissioner

Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner

Kathy M. Manderino, Commissioner

HEARING: Monday, March 25, 2019

4:02 p.m.

LOCATION: Conference Center at

Shippensburg University

500 Newburg Road

Shippensburg, PA 17257

Reporter: Alicia R. Gascoigne

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1 WITNESSES: Robert W. Green, Anthony D. Ricci, Steven
2 D. Brenize, Bruce W. Hockersmith, Steve
3 Oldt, Chief Meredith A. Dominick, Kathy
4 Coy, Linda S. Asper, Marc J. Rideout, Scott
5 J. Mack, J. Daniel Byers, Janet H. Rose,
6 Ronald Madison, Paul White, Laura Masgalas,
7 Heather A. Franzoni, Barbara A. Hutchinson,
8 Mike Ross, Theresa Myers, W. Mickey Nye
9 James K. Rogers, John Dyson, Tom Horvat,
10 Rachel McKinney, Zoe B. Williard, Sally
11 Hershey, Kirk R. Wilson, Jody L. Corbett,
12 William Keefer, Alan Godhart, Debbie
13 Murphy, Paul Graybill

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDING OFFICER: Good afternoon,
everyone. We are going to begin.

My name is Linda Lloyd, and I'm the
Presiding Officer conducting the Public Input Hearing
addressing the Category 4 Casino proposed by Greenwood
Gaming and Entertainment, Inc., doing business as Parx
Casino, to be located in Shippensburg Township.

Before we begin, if you could turn off
or to vibrate all your cell phones and other
electronic devices. I would like to remind everyone
that the proceeding is being recorded today by a court
reporter, and is also being recorded on video and
simultaneously streamed to the Board's website.

As the Presiding Officer, I call this
hearing to order. The date is Monday, March 25th,
2019. And the time is 4:03 p.m. and the location is
the Shippensburg University Conference Center, located
at 500 Newburg Road in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Race Horse
Development and Gaming Act, as amended at Section
1305.1, created a new category of Slot Machine
Licenses referred to as Category 4 Licenses.

On February 22nd, 2018, Greenwood

1 Gaming and Entertainment, Inc. won the Category 4
2 License auction, with the winning bid of \$8,111,000,
3 giving it the opportunity to propose and build a
4 facility within a 15-mile radius of the longitude and
5 latitude coordinates provided with the winning bid.
6 Shippensburg Township falls within that proposed
7 radius.

8 This Public Input Hearing is being
9 held by the Board pursuant to the mandate found in
10 Section 1205(b) of the Gaming Act that requires a
11 Public Input Hearing being held in the municipality
12 where the licensed facility is proposed to be located
13 prior to the Board's consideration of a Slot Machine
14 License application.

15 The purpose of the hearing is to
16 provide the Applicant the opportunity to present its
17 plan for a Category 4 Casino to the Board and to the
18 public, and to provide the public with the opportunity
19 to express their thoughts and share their concerns
20 about the proposed project with the Board.

21 This Public Input Hearing was
22 advertised on the Board's website, announced by the
23 Board at Public Board Meetings and advertised in local
24 newspapers.

25 Board Members present today for the

1 hearing - we'll start down to my far right, is
2 Commissioner Mustio, Commissioner Reitzel,
3 Commissioner Santoni.

4 And to my left is Chairman Barasch.
5 And we are waiting the arrival of Commissioner
6 Manderino. She is on her way.

7 The order of speakers today are as
8 follows: Parx will have approximately 45 minutes to
9 make its presentation of the proposed project. We
10 will then hear from those who have registered to speak
11 today.

12 All registered speakers will be
13 permitted five minutes to speak, each. And each
14 speaker should begin their remarks by stating and
15 spelling their name.

16 This is an official Administrative
17 Hearing, so please treat this as if you were attending
18 a court proceeding. All witnesses, when it is your
19 turn to speak, please speak loudly and clearly and
20 into the microphone provided, so that we can hear you
21 and that the court reporter can hear you.

22 So let's begin by having all witnesses
23 from Parx Casino who will testify today, if you could
24 please stand and raise your right hand to be sworn -
25 by the court reporter.

1 ---

2 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

3 ---

4 ATTORNEY STEWART: Thank you very
5 much. Good afternoon.

6 Chairman Barasch, Commissioners,
7 Director Lloyd, my name is Mark Stewart, with the Law
8 Firm of Eckert Seamans. Appearing before you today on
9 behalf of Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment on this
10 beautiful spring Monday afternoon.

11 We are pleased to be before you and to
12 have the opportunity to come before you in order to
13 discuss our plans for our Category 4 Casino in
14 Shippensburg Township.

15 We're excited about the proposal and
16 we're excited about the community. And with that, I
17 will turn the microphone over to the Chairman of the
18 Board of Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment, Robert
19 Green.

20 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

21 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, thank you
22 for the opportunity to have this meeting. I will be
23 very brief.

24 Just a small piece of background
25 information about the Applicant, who is Greenwood

1 Racing.

2 This is a firm that I started up 30
3 years ago in 1989, and I have lived in Pennsylvania
4 since that time. I have a house in Philadelphia and
5 my children are educated here.

6 As you can imagine, in the 30 years
7 that we have been here, we have had many interactions
8 with local townships and community groups. And what I
9 would like to put on record for the people here and
10 the Board is that through that interaction, we have
11 had to make, obviously, commitments about investment
12 and employment. And all I can say is that our record
13 is at 100 percent.

14 We have met and overfulfilled any
15 commitments or promises that we have made to local
16 communities. We know that in certain places there are
17 views about the morality or otherwise of gaming.
18 Obviously, that is a matter for the legislature. And
19 we have to follow those racing license and laws that
20 exist.

21 We stand, very much, on our record of
22 investment, integrity and employment. And we, as I
23 say, have fulfilled every benchmark that we have made
24 over the last 30 years.

25 Most of the people in our executive

1 team, all of whom have been with us for - for the most
2 part, 20 years, so we believe we have the most
3 experienced and highly-seasoned team in the Gaming
4 industry, and have had outstanding relationships in
5 the areas where we operate.

6 I will hand over, now, to our Chief
7 Executive Officer, who has worked with me for over 20
8 years, and ask him to present our application to the
9 Board and to the community.

10 Thank you so much.

11 MR. RICCI: Thank you, Bob. Good
12 afternoon. This is - I thank you for the opportunity
13 to not only tell the tremendous success story that is
14 Parx, and in many respects the entire gaming industry
15 here in Pennsylvania -.

16 But we can speak to now, what it -
17 we're on the cusp of something new and exciting in our
18 state with the Category 4 Casinos, that we can bring,
19 maybe on a smaller scale, but the same type of success
20 story to Shippensburg Township.

21 And I'll start by walking you through
22 some of the highlights of what we've been able to
23 achieve at Parx since we opened in December 2006. We
24 were the second casino open; Pocono Downs and Mohegan
25 opened first. We followed a month later in December

1 2006.

2 Since that time, we've held the
3 distinction of the number one casino in the state ever
4 since and never gave it up, and there's not a close
5 second right now.

6 We've invested more than \$700 million
7 in our casino since 2006. We made a commitment that
8 we would do that back when the legislation was passed
9 and we've delivered on that promise.

10 In the process, we've created a
11 beautiful destination. I have some pictures I can
12 show you later to support this claim. But for those
13 who haven't been there, it is a beautiful facility
14 rivaling anything in Las Vegas. And when you combine
15 that with the first-class service that our team
16 delivers, we - we deliver a great experience that
17 produces long-term customer satisfaction and loyalty.

18 In the process we developed the best
19 team in the business, as Bob alluded to earlier. We
20 have an interesting combination of veterans from the
21 racing industry. We also operate the largest
22 thoroughbred racetrack in the state. We represent
23 almost half the handle in the state.

24 And this management team, as Bob
25 mentioned earlier, has been running that operation -

1 this is now our 30th season. So, when you take the
2 combination of the racing expertise, along with many
3 casino veterans we've added, we've put together what
4 is, without a doubt, the best team in the business.

5 And they create the exciting
6 atmosphere for our guests who come on a daily basis
7 and maintain that signature position of number one in
8 the state.

9 We're also very proud of our record of
10 commitment to diversity, community outreach and social
11 responsibility. Our wonderful community in Bensalem
12 has shared the benefits from our tremendous success
13 story.

14 We prioritize local residents for
15 hiring and also local businesses for vendor selection,
16 to ensure that not only we, but our community, grows
17 together with us. As part of that, we maintain a
18 strong relationship with the community, to ensure that
19 there are no adverse impacts for crime and traffic,
20 two of the major issues that Bob alluded to earlier in
21 a community, that are concerns with respect to
22 casinos.

23 We know that it's an important
24 business issue for us, that our customers feel safe
25 and don't feel that it's difficult to both enter or

1 leave the property. And that's something we can - we
2 know how to do and we'll make sure we deliver in
3 Shippensburg.

4 We have a strong commitment to
5 responsible gaming. And that's evidenced by our
6 outstanding record in these areas, which I know you're
7 familiar with.

8 For those who have not been to our
9 casino, here are some shots of the casino floor. We
10 continually invest in our business and continue to
11 bring on the latest and greatest slots. And you can
12 see, as I alluded to earlier, the design features in
13 the building are first class and rival anything in
14 Vegas.

15 Recent addition to our casino in early
16 2018 was a 1,500 seat entertainment venue named the
17 Xcite Center. We have top acts that rival all the
18 same acts that go to Atlantic City, Sands and
19 Bethlehem. It's - we continue to sell out shows, it's
20 been an overwhelming success.

21 And as you can see, it is beautiful.
22 It's a beautiful venue to see a show.

23 This is our Xlounge that is just
24 outside of our Xcite Center showroom. And it's a
25 place for people to hangout pre, post show and watch

1 games now that we have sports betting as an amenity to
2 offer. That's become a very popular location to both
3 bet and watch sports.

4 We've added a new Gastropub, also last
5 year, in conjunction with the opening of the showroom,
6 to support the many more visitors we have to the
7 property who do want to dine. As you can see,
8 beautiful, beautiful venue.

9 We added an Italian restaurant named
10 Oliveto, also last year to support the showroom. It's
11 been an overwhelming success, and again, beautiful. A
12 common theme with what we build. We build it right
13 the first time.

14 And most recently, in January of 2019,
15 we added about a 7,000 square foot beer garden, which
16 you can retract the roof and the sides, so it can be
17 open air when the weather finally does improve, if it
18 ever improves.

19 Our presence has not only been a
20 benefit to Bensalem, but to the Commonwealth also. As
21 our leader - as the number one casino in the state, we
22 generate the highest level of gaming taxes since our
23 opening in 2006.

24 We've paid \$2.6 billion in Gaming
25 taxes to the state. That's dominated by taxes from

1 validates what we're saying.

2 I'd also like to add, we have a few
3 written testimonials, one from Reverend Phillip
4 Menditto, at the Philadelphia Christian Center, which
5 is directly across the street from us, outlining his
6 support and his appreciation for the role we play in
7 the community. And also, the Bensalem AME Church and
8 the Linconia Community Center.

9 These are examples of how we outreach
10 and how we are effective with our Community
11 Development Programs. We're very proud of our record
12 in this area. And we know the formula for success.
13 We will apply the same formula, while it's not exact,
14 because there are unique characteristics in every
15 municipality, we will work together with the people
16 here in Shippensburg to optimize our presence and be a
17 very good neighbor in the community.

18 So I'd like to now move to the
19 specifics of the Shippensburg Category 4 location. We
20 proposed the casino to be at - I love the address we
21 were given, 777 Cramer Road, in Shippensburg - I think
22 it's appropriate.

23 It's approximately ten acres and it's
24 directly off Exit 29 at I-81, adjacent to the
25 warehouse that's now being built, a million square

1 foot warehouse that Equus Development is undertaking.

2 Our building will be approximately
3 65,000 square feet, with approximately 500 parking
4 spaces. We will include, in the beginning, about 475
5 slot machines, that might take up to 500, we're still
6 working through that. And we'll go with 40 electronic
7 table positions, and we will have a first-class sports
8 bar and restaurant.

9 For those who have been to our
10 property, we've got a Chickie's & Pete's at Parx
11 Casino now, which is the number one sports bar brand
12 in our region. And ESPN named it the number one
13 sports bar in North America.

14 We want to bring something with that
15 sizzle to the property. And we also plan to offer a
16 sports book for wagering on professional and college
17 sporting events. So, it makes sense to have a sports
18 bar option there.

19 Here's some renderings from different
20 perspectives. It has many similarities, if you've
21 seen Parx's exterior, to what we've done there. We
22 think it works. With the Mondrian exterior and the
23 LED signs and the porte cochere.

24 This is how we intend to situate the
25 building with the parking. We thought it made sense

1 that the parking was evenly located, so that no one
2 had to walk a mile to get into the front door. So, we
3 centered the property and we're happy with how this is
4 working out.

5 MS. MANDERINO: Quick question on -.

6 MR. RICCI: Sure.

7 MR. SANTONI: On the map.

8 MR. RICCI: Do you want me to go back
9 to it?

10 MS. MANDERINO: Yeah.

11 MR. RICCI: Okay.

12 MS. MANDERINO: I just want to be
13 clear what this road here -.

14 MR. RICCI: There's a new road being
15 created.

16 MS. MANDERINO: Okay.

17 MR. RICCI: I don't know if you
18 noticed coming off the highway, it's now commencing,
19 that's going to lead into that area. That road
20 doesn't exist yet.

21 MS. MANDERINO: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. RICCI: One last point on our
23 location and one of the things that drew us to it, is
24 that we see no adverse impact on traffic and on the
25 community, because it is right off the highway, which

1 is good for visitors, too.

2 You can come right in and get to the
3 casino very easily without creating any traffic
4 disruption within the community.

5 Next I'd like to speak to the economic
6 benefits, which will be substantial. For the
7 Commonwealth using Econsult, our economic advisor, we
8 project approximately 630 construction jobs and \$81
9 million of economic benefit during the construction
10 phase.

11 There will also be approximately \$1.7
12 million in tax revenues generated for the
13 Commonwealth.

14 Once it's completed, we project that
15 approximately 320 new permanent jobs will be created.
16 That includes indirect jobs supporting our program
17 also. We think we'll create about 200 jobs.

18 We also project \$74 million in annual
19 economic benefit to the Commonwealth. And in
20 addition, there will be \$25 million of new gaming
21 income and business taxes for the Commonwealth.

22 You should know that we offer our team
23 members - and we intend to apply the same approach
24 here in Shippensburg - the best benefit package in the
25 regional gaming industry.

1 Our average annual salary today is in
2 the low 40s, and our employees are happy, well-paid.
3 And that's all part of the first-class service that we
4 provide. You can't get that without happy and
5 motivated employees.

6 We also project a total of \$1.8
7 million per annum of local share funds to be generated
8 for Shippensburg Township and Cumberland County.
9 There will be additional property taxes of
10 approximately \$500,000 per annum to the Township that
11 will be generated by the new casino.

12 And our casino, as you saw in the
13 testimonials, will present real opportunities with
14 synergies with other regional assets.

15 One of the things I didn't speak to
16 was the program we have with the community colleges in
17 our region, Philadelphia Community College, Bucks
18 County Community College. And we fully intend to have
19 a similar type of a relationship with Shippensburg
20 University.

21 The casino operations, as you know,
22 operate under the strictest regulatory standards in
23 the country. And are run by well-established,
24 highly-regarded corporations. We will bring integrity
25 to Shippensburg.

1 We feature onsite security
2 departments, 24/7 surveillance. And we ensure a safe
3 environment, both inside and outside the facility,
4 which is essential for the customers. They want to
5 feel safe. They want to come to a clean, pleasant
6 environment and have good service. These are all part
7 and parcel to that approach.

8 Onsite PGCB Casino Compliance Officers
9 monitor all of our operations and activities within
10 the casino.

11 And as you know, Parx takes compulsive
12 and problem gaming very seriously. We dedicate
13 significant personnel and financial resources to
14 prevention and treatment.

15 We have a partnership with Livengrin
16 in our community that works very closely with all
17 types of addiction, but in particular with gaming
18 addiction.

19 We also, as a matter of practice, are
20 very stringent on the amount of credit we give.
21 Because we do feel that is really the pathway to
22 bankruptcy and getting overextended. So, we're -
23 we're very, very tight on credit.

24 We have a Comprehensive Compulsive
25 Gambling Plan that is subject to the monitoring and

1 enforcement by this Board. And as part of our plan we
2 work with local service providers to ensure best
3 service and results.

4 So, in summary, I feel that the
5 combination of Parx, the number one casino in
6 Pennsylvania, and Shippensburg Township create a
7 tremendous opportunity for a Category 4 Casino.

8 There are about 500,000 people within
9 40 miles of this location for which this would be the
10 closest casino to attend. We feel that creates a
11 critical mass for success, and we can build on that.

12 And we will conduct it in the way we
13 conduct it, with integrity and first-class service.

14 Our proposed site is blessed with
15 excellent access egress and parking. And as I
16 mentioned earlier, will not adversely impact the
17 neighborhoods. And it will offer a powerful economic
18 boost to this area.

19 Our team is the number one team in the
20 state. Our proven record of success provides
21 confidence that this casino will not only deliver the
22 anticipated economic benefits, but we will conduct it
23 in a manner that respects and complements the heritage
24 and beauty of this lovely community.

25 So I thank you for your time. And

1 we're available for any questions you may have.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

3 MS. MANDERINO: Thank you for being
4 here. Shippensburg's a college town. Gaming under 21
5 is prohibited in Pennsylvania.

6 Would you elaborate on what your
7 measures are at your current casino and what you
8 anticipate your measures to be at the Shippensburg
9 mini casino, with regard to ensuring that underage
10 gamblers are not allowed on the floor?

11 MR. RICCI: Correct. Correct.

12 Obviously that's an issue for us in
13 Bensalem. We don't allow anyone under 21 in the
14 building, period. We have security checkpoints where
15 we ID anyone who appears to be 30 and under. And we
16 have the latest technology to, hopefully, detect
17 counterfeit IDs.

18 And they've been very successful, I
19 must say. And you've seen our record. We have a
20 very, very solid record. When you look at the number
21 of people that come through our property, 20,000 a
22 day, we turn away quite a few, but they don't get in.

23 We will apply that same methodology
24 here. No one under 21 will get in the building. And
25 we will use the same techniques that work so well in

1 Bensalem.

2 MS. MANDERINO: Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: I have a quick
4 announcement before we go to the next question. I've
5 just been told that there is an overflow room that
6 we're now streaming this presentation live.

7 So, if anyone that is standing wants
8 to sit, if you go out that door, somebody can direct
9 you to the overflow room next door, if you're
10 interested in that.

11 And if you're registered to speak,
12 don't worry, we won't miss you, if you go over there,
13 so -.

14 Any questions? Any questions?

15 Okay.

16 No questions from the remaining Board
17 members. So, we will move on to our public comment
18 portion of the hearing today.

19 First of all, we'll ask if you'd like
20 to move your PowerPoint into the record?

21 ATTORNEY STEWART: Yes. Yes.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right.

23 We'll mark that as Exhibit Number 1
24 for today and enter that into the record.

25 ---

1 (Whereupon, Exhibit 1, PowerPoint Presentation,
2 was marked for identification and admitted.)

3 ---

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

5 So, beginning with our public comment
6 portion, I will remind each speaker that they have
7 five minutes to make their comments.

8 And to assist all speakers with
9 gauging your time limit permitted, we have brought our
10 electronic stopwatch, time stoplight timer with us
11 today.

12 The light will show green, yellow and
13 red. When the light turns green your five minutes has
14 started. When it turns yellow, you have 45 seconds
15 remaining to wrap up your comments. And when the
16 light turns red, there will be a beeping sound and we
17 would ask that you stop speaking and leave the
18 microphone.

19 If for some reason you are not
20 finished with your comments, you do have the ability
21 to submit the rest of your statement in written form.
22 And I will give that e-mail address at the end of the
23 hearing.

24 If you can each please begin your
25 remarks by stating your name and the Township or

1 speaker is Steven Brenize. And on deck will be Bruce
2 Hockersmith.

3 MR. BRENIZE: So I'm Steven Brenize.
4 I'm a resident of Shippensburg Borough. And I've
5 privileged over the last couple years to be the vice
6 chair of the Shippensburg Borough Authority.

7 And I'm here partially because of
8 that, but also as partially as somebody that likes to
9 advocate for our community. So, I find it great that
10 there's a lot of people that have come here and
11 flooded this room to have their voices be heard.

12 Personally, I don't really think we
13 should be having this hearing. I think one of the
14 things we try to do with government sometimes is we
15 try to dictate what people can and can't do. And if
16 you want to gamble, gamble. If you don't want to
17 gamble, don't gamble.

18 If you think gambling's a problem,
19 advocate and try to help people that have gambling
20 problems. But we don't need to find a way to be able
21 to solve problems by getting the government involved
22 in things like this.

23 I would much sooner be here just
24 having a hearing between the perspective developers
25 about their developmental issues than even having to

1 talk about the whole gambling aspect of it and the
2 kickback.

3 So that's what I'm going to talk
4 about, more about the needs of the community when it
5 comes to development.

6 The area that you're located in
7 currently does not have public water and sewer. And
8 so I hope that Parx is prepared to make sure that they
9 make that area have public water and sewer and to come
10 with the table.

11 I can say, as the vice chair of the
12 Authority right now, that you do have an open account
13 with us. You did set up a project, your engineers
14 did. And we look forward to working with you to make
15 that happen.

16 One of the reasons that I would like
17 to - on the public record, make it clear that that is
18 in your best interest, is that while you legally do
19 not have to tap onto the water, in this community, in
20 the Township you're located in, where you are, the
21 aquifer is not as powerful as a lot of other areas.

22 And so what I want to caution you
23 against is that while there is a higher upfront cost
24 of running pipes a quarter mile to your building and
25 paying the tapping fees, there is a longer negative

1 issue when 10 or 15 years from now all the surrounding
2 properties are developed and all of a sudden all your
3 wells go to crap.

4 And I mean, that's really - so it's a
5 roll-the-dice situation, to use you guys' phrase. You
6 can either basically put your bet down on a sure
7 thing, which is the Shippensburg Borough Authority is
8 going to make sure you have water. And partner with
9 us as other - as other corporate partners have in the
10 last couple of decades to make sure that they have
11 water in that area, so that as you get surrounded, you
12 don't have somebody else come in, tap another well.
13 And all of a sudden your well needs to be drilled
14 deeper or you don't have any water at all.

15 So, that being said, I'd also like to
16 encourage that with water and sewer. One of the
17 things I would also like to point out, as a resident,
18 is that you have no primary police jurisdiction in
19 that township right now. And so I think that's
20 something you need to try to find a way to work with
21 the Township and the surrounding municipalities.

22 While you do have your private
23 detective agencies that's there, I think you should
24 have some type of police force that is primarily
25 responsible for the Township that you're located in

1 and not the State Police, which are - can sometimes be
2 30 (sic) to an hour away.

3 If you have something that your
4 security forces cannot handle, I think it's definitely
5 beneficial to - as part of this process, to work with
6 the municipality to make sure that you have police
7 protection in Shippensburg Township.

8 So, with that, I'm done. Thank you
9 very much.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

11 Bruce Hockersmith with Steve Oldt on
12 deck.

13 MR. HOCKERSMITH: Thank you.

14 Board Members, welcome to the
15 Shippensburg area. It's good to have you here.

16 I'm responding under Registration
17 Number 5389. And I speak as a locally-elected
18 official and an individual citizen.

19 Gaming has been with us for - probably
20 since the beginning of time. It will continue to be
21 with us, in some form or another for eternity,
22 believe it or not.

23 The point I wish to make regarding
24 providing a venue for gaming is the belief that using
25 gaming revenue to support governmental programs is an

1 improper application of the ability to tax.

2 The Constitution of the Commonwealth
3 of Pennsylvania authorizes taxes, but I'm not sure
4 that it establishes gaming as a form of taxation.

5 Because gaming supports government
6 programs that otherwise would not be existent, it
7 appears to be an unequal application of intent to levy
8 costs over the entire tax-paying public.

9 The Commonwealth should remove itself
10 from gaming - sorry, Doug - on the benefits of the
11 same through a legal - should remove itself from
12 gaming. Excuse me. And rely on the benefits of the
13 same through a legal levy equally applied and
14 distributed.

15 Pennsylvanians should benefit from
16 programs levied on individuals, benefits, businesses
17 and other income-producing methods through taxation
18 not related specifically to gaming.

19 I am a true believer in free
20 enterprise. And I think that that is more important
21 than anything else that we can consider here today.
22 Let free enterprise reign.

23 Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Steve Oldt is up
25 next and Chief Meredith Dominick is on deck.

1 MR. OLDT: Steve Oldt, Shippensburg
2 Township.

3 Over a year ago, Pennsylvania passed
4 legislation on the new Category 4 Mini Casino Bill to
5 raise additional tax income to help fund education and
6 to work to lower school taxes in Pennsylvania.

7 Because of that, Shippensburg Township
8 Supervisors discussed our options and decided not to
9 opt out of hosting a casino. It was a unanimous
10 decision.

11 We felt that we had land zoned
12 industrial at Exit 29, Interstate 81 and that could be
13 a possible location for a mini casino.

14 The location seemed ideal, because it
15 was right at the interstate, it was zoned industrial
16 and had no residential development.

17 Additionally, it would bring in three
18 and a half million in road work, with a relocation to
19 Cramer Road, three new red lights, one on each ramp,
20 north and southbound, and another light at the new
21 Cramer Road location.

22 We did take time to visit the Parx
23 Casino in Philadelphia to observe their facility and
24 came away impressed. They have a very professional
25 operation and a strong community reputation.

1 From what we saw, we believe this new
2 mini casino, with its internal security, from a crime
3 perspective, would be one of the safest places in
4 Shippensburg.

5 Also, the Borough Mayor in the
6 Township have already discussed a possible new
7 intermunicipal police force after the casino is up and
8 running, that would be beneficial to the Shippensburg
9 area.

10 We at the Township believe that the
11 development of the mini casino at this location would
12 be a positive financial benefit to our township
13 residents, by allowing the Township to lower their
14 real estate taxes.

15 We also believe the additional
16 financial benefit will help us better fund our
17 volunteer first responders, both fire and EMS.

18 The casino, when complete, would add
19 another 150 jobs to help support the local
20 Shippensburg economy.

21 Additionally, we believe it will help
22 attract other shops and businesses to downtown
23 Shippensburg, like the recent new Starbucks drive-up
24 being proposed on Walnut Bottom Road.

25 Overall, we believe the potential

1 gains of the casino project far outweigh any marginal
2 risk, and will provide a long-term economic benefit
3 for the greater Shippensburg area.

4 Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER: Chief Meredith
6 Dominick with Kathy Coy on deck.

7 CHIEF DOMINICK: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Meredith Dominick. I am
9 the Chief of the Shippensburg Borough Police
10 Department. I believe the Parx Casino coming to
11 Shippensburg could be a wonderful thing; however, I
12 need to outline a few things that are occurring in our
13 borough.

14 Although the casino itself is in the
15 Township, the added weight on the Borough could be
16 significant. We are all hoping new businesses that
17 come to the area in support of the casino will help
18 revitalize all the areas surrounding, including the
19 Borough of Shippensburg.

20 Unfortunately, there will be a
21 welcomed but added burden that will come as a result
22 that I hope this could be in a good way.

23 Currently, the Shippensburg Borough
24 Police Department has a deficit of five police
25 officers. There's a substantial gap between the man

1 hours required to minimally staff the department.

2 A full-time officer for 2019 costs the
3 Borough a significant amount of money. Our manpower
4 issues are significant. Our vehicles are old and
5 dated. We currently have six vehicles but our fleet
6 is old and needs to be replaced and grow.

7 Our mileage on most of our vehicles
8 exceed 70,000. We're in dire need of new equipment
9 that totals approximately \$75,000.

10 We provide assistance to other
11 jurisdictions, to include Shippensburg University, PSP
12 Carlisle and Chambersburg and other municipalities in
13 bordering townships. But because we are stretched
14 with resources and manpower, I'm afraid as the call
15 demand increases, we will not be able to provide the
16 police service that we should.

17 We are barely able to support the
18 Borough. During Homecoming at Shippensburg
19 University, we turn our police station into a
20 processing center and work jointly with PSP Carlisle
21 and the Sheriff's Department to handle offenses that
22 occur during that time.

23 We are the closest full-time police
24 station to the university that includes a holding cell
25 and fingerprint capabilities.

1 Knowing we will be called to assist
2 allied agencies, we want to be in a position to be
3 able to assist all citizens, both inside and outside
4 the Borough, and without any reservation.

5 More demands will be placed on PSP
6 Carlisle and Chambersburg. They come to the Borough
7 to assist us. I am concerned the Borough needs will
8 not be met between the new demand placed on
9 surrounding jurisdiction and our manpower limitations.

10 We are very excited about the casino
11 coming to the area, yet from a police standpoint, we
12 need to be able to support that excitement through the
13 necessary and needed manpower resources and equipment.

14 I thank you for your time and for any
15 consideration into the matter. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER: Next is Kathy Coy
17 and Linda Asper is on deck.

18 MAYOR COY: Welcome to Shippensburg.
19 And I'm speak to you today as the Mayor here in
20 Shippensburg.

21 We are a small community of
22 approximately 55 - or 5,500 residents and
23 approximately 6,400 university students.

24 Shippensburg is unique, by setting in
25 both Cumberland and Franklin Counties and is a

1 combination of multiple municipalities. Shippensburg
2 Borough, Southampton Cumberland, Southampton Franklin
3 and Shippensburg Township.

4 Besides our residents, we are the home
5 of many large businesses. Shippensburg University,
6 Volvo, JLG, Schreiber Foods, Beistle Company, just to
7 name a few.

8 We also have many churches nestled
9 among our beautiful community. My point of speaking
10 today is not to state for or against, but to address
11 the needs of Shippensburg as a whole. Decisions made
12 in one area of Shippensburg will truly have a major
13 effect on the community as a whole.

14 The downtown historic section of
15 Shippensburg is becoming abandoned and in dismay.
16 Years of student rentals are left empty as new and
17 more updated facilities are built on campus.

18 Front-street buildings are too costly
19 for small business to rent. There's no room for
20 expansion, and buildings are older and too expensive
21 to update. Like many new - many small town
22 businesses, opportunities have been declining and
23 businesses that make a healthy tax base.

24 Surrounding municipalities appear to
25 be thriving, as it's much easier to buy land and to

1 build than to buy an older building and do
2 renovations.

3 The Franklin County side of
4 Shippensburg is almost at the maximum general millage
5 of 30. Currently the millage is 26.2. The additional
6 tax available to collect is \$51,000, from an
7 additional tax, Cumberland County side has - a
8 comparable increase would bring an additional
9 \$122,120.

10 That's maximizing our taxing for our
11 residents. Plus the general Borough budget is
12 stretched as far as it can go. There's no ways to
13 offset additional funding for services offered by our
14 police department.

15 In 2018 real estate taxes, which
16 actually support our police department - the 2018
17 taxes was \$1,128,278. The police expense was
18 \$1,519,243.

19 That was a negative of \$390,965. This
20 year we anticipate a deficit of approximately
21 \$311,160.

22 As you've heard from our Chief of
23 Police, funds will be - or funds to support the safety
24 of our citizens is in a crucial state. We need an
25 increase of funding annually to increase the number of

1 officers that are currently overworked.

2 There has been thought of opening
3 discussions and entering into an intermunicipal
4 agreement for police services, which we have already
5 started to talk to several.

6 Volunteers are declining as our fire
7 and EMS responders struggle to provide services for
8 our residents without paid employees; paid services
9 that would devastate financial burden on our
10 residents.

11 If we are to be included - or if we
12 are to be excluded from future planning as a whole
13 community, it could have a heavier burden on our
14 community residents.

15 I ask you to remember that - all of
16 Shippensburg when making decisions going forward. All
17 of the municipalities make up the Town of
18 Shippensburg. If something happens to one of the
19 municipalities, it becomes a regional issue.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MS. MANDERINO: May I ask you just one
22 question?

23 MAYOR COY: Sure.

24 MS. MANDERINO: If this is the
25 Borough, -

1 MAYOR COY: Yes.

2 MS. MANDERINO: - is the Township like
3 this (indicating) or is the Township on one side?

4 MAYOR COY: It's all around.

5 MS. MANDERINO: So it's around?

6 MAYOR COY: Yeah. The Borough is
7 right in the middle of it all.

8 MS. MANDERINO: So when I put the
9 picture together, I want to understand.

10 MAYOR COY: Sure. Absolutely. Uh-huh
11 (yes).

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: Linda Asper is the
13 next speaker with Marc Rideout on deck.

14 MS. ASPER: Good evening, folks, and
15 welcome to Shippensburg.

16 I am Linda Asper, and I am one of the
17 three Supervisors of Shippensburg Township, where Parx
18 Casino is considering.

19 I, myself, am very much so in support
20 of the casino being built. Over a year ago, where you
21 were given the option to opt in or out for the
22 location of the mini casino, and we chose to opt in,
23 never - never realizing that we would be the
24 municipality that it was going to be located in.

25 With the project being built right off

1 Exit 29 of Interstate 81 and three new traffic lights
2 are going in that area, traffic should not be a
3 problem. And it - as representatives of Parx had
4 stated, it will make it very convenient for visitors
5 to the casino coming on and off 81.

6 This project will relieve some of the
7 financial burden Shippensburg faces with over
8 one-third of our municipality land mass being exempt
9 for real estate taxes.

10 And as Mr. Oldt had stated, we do hope
11 to alleviate real estate taxes for our residents with
12 the money that this will generate for the Township.

13 This project also will provide much
14 needed funding for our emergency services. I don't
15 know if people of Shippensburg realize how blessed we
16 are to have a volunteer emergency services, and what
17 we would be facing if we would have to pay for paid
18 services.

19 So as we move forward, my hopes are
20 that the downtown Shippensburg area will also benefit
21 with amazing shops filling the vacant store fronts,
22 which are very much so an eyesore as you drive through
23 our community.

24 But again, thank you for your time and
25 good luck.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER: Marc Rideout with
2 Scott Mack on deck.

3 MR. RIDEOUT: I'm Marc Rideout. I am
4 with Shippensburg Township. And I look at the casino
5 coming as an opportunity. And in life, opportunities
6 sometimes are missed. They're overlooked or they're
7 pushed away. And I think this opportunity should be
8 seized for the community.

9 It's going to be beneficial for the
10 whole community and the surrounding areas. It's in a
11 very good location, at the I-81 corridor. It's on and
12 off. It's going to be - it's not going to be a big
13 traffic problem for Shippensburg itself.

14 And also, it's going to bring in
15 plenty of jobs, high-paying jobs, with very good
16 benefits. And we got to look at that for our
17 children, for our grandchildren, because they're going
18 to need that in this area.

19 And it'll also bring in new
20 businesses. And the new businesses are going to be
21 good for jobs and businesses that are going to be
22 contracting for these jobs. So, all in all the casino
23 is going to be a good thing for this area and I hope
24 it comes through.

25 Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER: Scott Mack.

2 MR. MACK: Thank you for having me
3 today.

4 My name is Scott Mack. I reside in
5 Southampton Township, Cumberland County. The Board of
6 Supervisors - I'm a Supervisor with Southampton
7 Township. And we met in public forum about two weeks
8 ago, and thought it appropriate to discuss the casino
9 as seen from Southampton Township and appoint me to
10 speak on their behalf.

11 Firstly, Southampton Township borders
12 Shippensburg Township. Moreover, the border is only a
13 few hundred feet from the proposed casino site. Many
14 of our residents residing in Southampton Township are
15 within a third of a mile, maybe even less, of the
16 proposed casino site.

17 So, in the future, any planning that
18 may be done - half of Cramer Road is in Southampton
19 Township, half of it is in Shippensburg Township, half
20 of Walnut Bottom Road is in Shippensburg Township,
21 half of it is in Southampton Township. So, it's right
22 at an epicenter for all of us.

23 So, the following are a list of pros
24 and cons as seen by Southampton Township. I would
25 note that the following list was unanimously voted on,

1 or had concession throughout the Supervisors.

2 So firstly, pros. Employment with the
3 casino, of course, comes jobs. And we see this one
4 had multiple salary levels. I think that that would
5 be good for residents in our township and other
6 industries, such as tradesmen, gas station owners and
7 the like.

8 Fire and EMS - of course, the Board
9 understands the portion of revenues will go to our
10 local fire and emergency nonprofit organizations.

11 These organizations, it's our hope,
12 would then be able to lessen the amount of resources
13 and time for fundraising, so that they can better
14 retain their current staff and hopefully attract new
15 members, if they don't have to work so hard to create
16 revenue streams.

17 On the cons, Chairman, you were
18 discussing Walnut Bottom Road. There's an on ramp,
19 off ramp for Walnut Bottom Road for 81. And there's
20 another one, Cramer, and there's another road Hershey.
21 Hershey is solely in our township, and it is to say
22 the intersection along there is difficult.

23 I know there's three red lights that
24 are proposed to go in there, but I know that the
25 Highway Commission has done a study, and it's not a

1 good intersection. That whole - all those runways do
2 not meet current Interstate Regulatory Statutes, and
3 we'd just like you to consider those.

4 Illegal activity, the Board is
5 concerned that the proposed gaming facility could
6 bring specific activities, such as drug traffic, drug
7 use, robbery, human trafficking and prostitution.

8 Property values, while in Shippensburg
9 Township could bring a huge revenue stream to the
10 casino -. And we realize that convenience stores
11 maybe even in Southampton Township could realize some
12 of this.

13 The residents - because of the
14 aforementioned illegal activity, could decrease our
15 property values around our community, and specifically
16 home values.

17 We have a concern with light
18 pollution. The Board is concerned that the casino
19 will bring flashing or scrolling electronic signs.
20 It's an opinion that these board signs can cause
21 distraction to motorists, in turn cause traffic
22 collisions. With collisions come more compounded
23 resources from our local volunteer firefighters,
24 EMS and police responders.

25 With that comes noise pollution.

1 Because of the increased traffic collisions, then
2 you've got more fire and EMS, police, can - I'm sorry,
3 aiding in more noise to our residents.

4 In conclusion, the Board of
5 Supervisors of Southampton Township wish, above all,
6 the Board have fiduciary responsibility to our
7 township and we ask that you be cognitive of that.
8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER: That is the end of
10 my list of local government representatives. So, we
11 will now move on to the community groups that have
12 registered.

13 If I call your name, if you could
14 stand to be sworn by the court reporter. J. Daniel
15 Byers, Janet Rose, Ronald Madison, Paul White, Laura
16 Masgalas, Heather Franzoni, Barbara Hutchinson and
17 Mike Ross.

18 ---

19 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

20 ---

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: We will begin with
22 J. Daniel Byers, with Janet Rose on deck.

23 MR. BYERS: Good afternoon. I am J.
24 Daniel Byers, President Emeritus of the Vigilant Hose
25 Company of Shippensburg. We provide first due

1 services to the area of consideration here in
2 Shippensburg Township.

3 I am speaking on behalf of the
4 department and thank you for allowing me to do so.
5 The Vigilant Hose Company in Shippensburg is
6 Shippensburg's oldest fire department organized in
7 1843. Last year we celebrated our 175th anniversary
8 of active service to the community.

9 We are an all-volunteer department and
10 one-third of the Shippensburg Fire Department. We
11 presently have 35 active members that aid in one form
12 or another to support our activities.

13 During my 47 years of active
14 membership, I have seen memberships throughout the
15 volunteer fire department steadily decrease. This
16 includes the Shippensburg community. This is a
17 well-known and highly-publicized issue throughout
18 Pennsylvania and the United States.

19 I contribute the decline in
20 memberships due to increased firefighter training and
21 fundraising requirements.

22 Vigilant members responded to 528
23 emergency calls in the last year. Our average call
24 responders was 7.1 and we expended 1,131 man hours
25 handling these calls.

1 Our members attended 56 training
2 sessions last year, which resulted in 1,357 hours of
3 training. Our members worked 107 fundraising
4 projects, including 103 bingos, four drawing raffles.
5 Our man hours for fundraising was 6,338 hours. Our
6 fundraising man hours consistently are tripled in
7 comparison to our call and training hours.
8 Fundraising is overtaxing our volunteers.

9 The Vigilant Hose Company's annual
10 budget is \$389,000. \$187,000 of that budget is
11 directly related to our day-to-day operations. Our
12 apparatus loans are \$87,000 annually. These loans all
13 consist of a two percent low-interest loan through
14 PEMA, from Pennsylvania.

15 We co-own our facility with
16 Shippensburg Area Emergency Medical Services and our
17 portion of that building is 61 percent of the annual
18 building loan payment. Our portion is \$115,000 a
19 year.

20 Our firefighting costs increase
21 annually and funding has slowly decreased throughout
22 the years. This slow decrease is directly related to
23 bingo income directly related to our customer
24 attendance.

25 Our most recent pumper was purchased

1 in 2017 at a cost of \$603,000. Thirteen (13) years
2 ago, our present second line pumper was purchased for
3 \$369,000. You can see the prices are increasing.

4 The cost to equip one firefighter with
5 personal protective equipment is \$7,500.

6 Our balance budget funding is attained
7 by the following means; seven-and-a-half percent comes
8 in from fund drive requests, seven-and-a-half percent
9 is grant income, 25 percent is local government
10 contributions and the remainder, 60 percent, comes
11 from fundraising.

12 Our fundraising income goes directly
13 towards our billing and debt payment.

14 The Shippensburg Emergency Services
15 Building, which is right along the Walnut Bottom Road
16 corridor, was completed in 2012 at a cost of \$7.6
17 million. Costs or share at 61 percent Vigilant and 39
18 percent EMS.

19 The Vigilant Hose Company building
20 debt present day is \$2,440,000.

21 Presently we are partnering with the
22 Cumberland Valley Hose Company in a consolidation
23 effort to save money by moving Cumberland County
24 operations into our building and responding along with
25 us.

1 In closing, I appreciate your time and
2 allowing me to comment on behalf of the Vigilant Hose
3 Company. We are looking forward with excitement of
4 the possibility of future additional financial support
5 through the gaming operations we are discussing.

6 Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Janet Rose, with
8 Ronald Madison on deck.

9 MS. ROSE: Hello. My name is Janet
10 Rose, and I am President of the Shippensburg Civic
11 Club, an organization 111 years old, that has been
12 doing good things for Shippensburg throughout its
13 history.

14 Until the 1970s, there were very few
15 casinos, and almost all of them - all of them were in
16 Nevada. And then New Jersey decided they would allow
17 Atlantic City to open a casino, and it boomed.

18 Hotels were built, thousands were
19 hired at pretty low wages, but the rest of Atlantic
20 City saw no improvement. As you all know, the casino
21 boom ended and Atlantic City still has a problem
22 sustaining even one grocery store.

23 So the casinos have an initial
24 positive impact, but it spirals down very quickly.

25 There have been a number of studies on

1 the impact of gambling.

2 In Ohio, a report on the troubles of a
3 recently opened casino points out that the key
4 demographic, which you probably know, is women over 50
5 who spent - used to spend \$50 to \$75 per visit. Now,
6 there are fewer of them spending that money.

7 Between 2008 and 2015 revenues for
8 casinos, nationally, declined 1.5 percent. According
9 to Moody's, a pretty reputable outfit, casino revenues
10 will continue to drop, slicing industry earnings by as
11 much as 7.5 percent in the coming years.

12 These weaker revenues are now divided
13 among even more multiplying casinos. As they
14 proliferate, revenues in individual casinos will drop.
15 Add to that the recent Pennsylvania law for online
16 gambling and prospects look even dimmer.

17 According to economists of the
18 National Association of Realtors, the impact of
19 neighboring property values is unambiguously negative.
20 Unlike a sports arena, a movie theatre, casinos do not
21 encourage nongaming businesses to open nearby.

22 People who run casinos do not
23 encourage patrons to wander out in the neighborhood.
24 It is designed to be an all-absorbing environment that
25 does not release customers until they have exhausted

1 their money.

2 The Institute for American Values has
3 gathered evidence on the social consequences of
4 casinos. A range of studies reviewed by them estimate
5 that between 40 to 60 percent of casino revenues are
6 earned by problem gamblers. Think about that.

7 A study by Amy Zietlow observes that
8 problem gamblers are increasingly drawn from the
9 vulnerable elderly. More than half of casino visitors
10 are over 50 and poor and older than average residents.

11 Casinos market to the over 70s. That
12 would be me. This should worry responsible local
13 governments.

14 The average return of casinos
15 nationally to the local social services is 2.5 percent
16 of casino revenue. It's fair to ask what our local
17 government and the casino operators are proposing for
18 these sure-to-be-needed services, mental health,
19 problem gambling, food banks, homeless shelters, local
20 police, local EMS, and so forth.

21 The more than 70 women of the
22 Shippensburg Civic Club share these serious concerns
23 about the impact of the casino in our community.
24 Until these are addressed, we are opposed to the
25 casino.

1 Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ronald - Ronald
3 Madison, with Paul White on deck.

4 MR. MADISON: Good afternoon. Good
5 evening.

6 Okay.

7 My name is Ronald Madison. I am from
8 Katie's Place, 130 South Penn Street. We are an
9 organization that have community services under us.

10 We have a building that was the old
11 Martin's Bread Building, and under our umbrella is
12 SPO. SPO is an organization - Shippensburg Produce
13 and Outreach is an organization that feeds 150 to 200
14 families a week. A total of 175,000 pounds of produce
15 come through SPO every year, sometimes more. Okay.

16 We are trying to find out what you
17 want to do for us as a community. We also have, as
18 CRC - I don't want to steal their thunder, because
19 they are coming up pretty soon. We have Christ Among
20 Neighbors and we have CAN.

21 CAN is an organization - or I'm sorry,
22 Christ Among Members, and then we have a Community
23 Action Council, which tries to find people jobs, work
24 with food stamps, getting people food stamps.

25 I don't want to steal none of the

1 thunder, so - but we want to know, what are you going
2 to do for us? How are you going to distribute funds
3 to us?

4 Need I say any more? Okay.

5 I was going to read this long thing, I
6 had the laptop and everything. And I said, you know,
7 let everybody speak for theirselves. And I'm here to
8 ask, we need your help.

9 All of our Board members are 100
10 percent for the casino, because every dollar that we
11 can bring to help people in this community we'll
12 welcome it.

13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Paul White with
15 Laura Masgalas on deck.

16 MR. WHITE: Good afternoon. I'm Paul
17 White. I'm here on behalf of West End Fire and
18 Rescue.

19 The company was established in 1955
20 and is a 100 percent volunteer fire rescue company,
21 providing fire, emergency medical and rescue services
22 to the Borough of Shippensburg. Southampton Township,
23 Franklin County and First Alarm Automatic aids
24 Shippensburg Township, Southampton Township,
25 Cumberland County.

1 Maintaining necessary staffing. This
2 is a 100 percent volunteer company that responds to an
3 average of 670 incidents annually - is extremely
4 challenging.

5 Currently we face an ever-decreasing
6 membership and lack of applicants to provide these
7 critical services. The Pennsylvania State Senate and
8 House of Representatives recognize the state fire and
9 EMS services are in crisis, stating that the number of
10 volunteer firefighters have fallen dramatically over
11 the decades.

12 In 2018 members of the State
13 Resolution Six Commission released their final report.
14 This report highlights that the fact that the number
15 of volunteer firefighters have shrunk from 300,000 in
16 the 1970s to 60,000 in the early 2000s and currently
17 38,000.

18 And several communities still continue
19 to rely largely on volunteers to form this critical
20 emergency response.

21 According to a 2001 Pennsylvania Fire
22 and Emergency Services Institute Study, the value of
23 the service our volunteers provide was estimated at \$6
24 billion. Today that could be as much as \$12 billion.

25 West End Fire and Rescue houses two

1 class A engines, a brush, wildland suppression unit,
2 an ambulance and is the Shippensburg Area's sole
3 provider of vehicle, heavy truck and bus rescue, as
4 well as the primary provider of confined space, rope,
5 structural collapse and trench rescue services.

6 We are also a member of the Cumberland
7 County Technical Rescue Operations Team and operate a
8 technical operations rescue trailer.

9 The equipment required to provide such
10 services is very expensive. And although municipal
11 funding is provided, our personnel are required to
12 perform fundraising events in an effort to offset this
13 operational expense shortfall.

14 Patron attendance, revenue generated
15 and personnel available to work fundraising events are
16 ever-decreasing. In the last few years we were forced
17 to discontinue several of our events due to this
18 issue, resulting in a loss and decrease in operational
19 revenue.

20 In addition to required training,
21 emergency response service calls and standby hours,
22 the quality of fundraising events and the necessity to
23 perform such, place a heavy burden on volunteer fire
24 and rescue service providers.

25 This is a leading cause in the lack of

1 new member recruitment and retention of those who
2 currently provide this lifesaving service. Without
3 the ability to recruit and retain members, the
4 volunteer fire service will fail.

5 The impact that this new facility will
6 have on the new number of requests for emergency
7 services is truly unknown. Shippensburg Township, a
8 relatively small municipality, covering an area of
9 only 2.53 square miles, generates an average response
10 from our station of 60 times annually.

11 We anticipate there will be a slight
12 increase, simply due to the amount of patrons and
13 traffic in and out of this facility. Although we
14 welcome this new business to our community, our major
15 concern and prediction is that this will have a
16 negative impact on our already decreasing attendance
17 at fundraising events, thus resulting in a loss of
18 revenue that is so desperately needed.

19 If our predictions are realized, it
20 will greatly reduce our ability to raise revenue to
21 cover the shortfalls in our annual operational budget.

22 We are respectfully requesting that
23 you consider providing financial support to our
24 company for the service we will provide to your
25 business in an attempt to offset the predicated (sic)

1 loss of fundraising revenue.

2 Not only would this financial support
3 provide funding for critical service delivery, but it
4 would enhance our ability to recruit new members and
5 retain the current ones.

6 With submission support of volunteers,
7 we'll be able to focus on training, fire prevention
8 and Community Outreach Programs and critical service,
9 delivery of fire, rescue and emergency services to our
10 community, a community which you are now part of.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: Laura Masgalas,
13 with Heather Franzoni on deck.

14 MS. MASGALAS: Good evening.

15 Thank you to the Pennsylvania Gaming
16 Control Board for allowing us the opportunity to speak
17 today.

18 My name is Laura Masgalas, I'm a
19 Community Mobilizer with the Shippensburg Community
20 Resource Coalition, or SCRC, as we're known, according
21 to Ron.

22 The SCRC is a collaborative effort to
23 provide quality social services and Youth Programs
24 that are accessible and safe and recognize the dignity
25 and worth of each person. Our goal is to help

1 community members reach their full potential.

2 Since 2013 the SCRC has coordinated
3 the Shippensburg Human Services Council, a group of
4 more than 30 allied organizations and professionals
5 who are invested in the health and success of the
6 Shippensburg community within the bounds of the
7 Shippensburg Area School District, inclusive of
8 Shippensburg Township.

9 This Human Services Council has been
10 in existence for more than 25 years and is
11 well-connected to the pulse of the community itself.

12 As such, the Human Services Council
13 would like to present the following letter to the
14 Gaming Control Board.

15 The purpose of this letter is to draw
16 attention to and request assistance with the impact of
17 a casino on local human service organizations. The
18 risk of developing problem gambling doubles with
19 living within 10 to 50 miles of a casino.

20 Problem gambling is defined as a
21 disorder in which the individual experiences
22 persistent and recurring problematic gambling behavior
23 that disrupts personal, family or vocational pursuits.

24 Individuals and their families
25 experiencing problem gambling will need assistance,

1 but the effects go beyond just individuals. There
2 will be more demand for the existing human service
3 network with the addition of the local casino.

4 Examples of how Human Service Programs
5 may be affected by casinos include the following, an
6 increase in financial assistance requests for housing,
7 utilities, childcare and food, the increase in demand
8 for mental health services, drug and alcohol services
9 and domestic violence services.

10 The increased use of family services,
11 such as couples and family counseling, to manage
12 relational conflicts that result from problem
13 gambling. New programing for treatment for problem
14 gambling, such as certified gambling counselors and
15 support groups.

16 As providers of Human Service Programs
17 to the Shippensburg area, we are asking for attention
18 to the increased need for funding and support of Human
19 Service Programs for the life of the casino, in the
20 form of ongoing financial support.

21 According to research by the
22 University of Pittsburgh, the following preventative
23 recommendations and strategies are recommended to help
24 communities prepare for the opening of a casino and
25 the ongoing help needed by those patronizing the

1 casino and working at the casino.

2 Educational Programs about signs,
3 symptoms and treatment options for people experiencing
4 problem gambling for all human service providers.
5 Human service agencies should implement brief
6 screenings for problem gambling and provide public
7 awareness and Educational Programs directed at the
8 general community.

9 The allocation of financial resources
10 from those generated by gambling revenue to address
11 gambling-related problems, conducting a benchmark
12 study prior to the opening of the casino, to monitor
13 gambling behavior among the residents of our own
14 community. And training for counselors and
15 professionals to work with problem gamblers and their
16 families.

17 In order to implement these
18 recommendations, human service agencies will need
19 increased funding to cover the cost of programming,
20 trainings and the increase use of our current services
21 that provide financial assistance, mental health
22 services, food assistance and general family services.

23 We recognize the need for new
24 services, to address needs specifically related to
25 problem gambling, such as certified gambling

1 counselors, support groups and the financial fallout
2 of gambling debts.

3 We are asking for ongoing financial
4 support for the life of the casino to be allocated to
5 Shippensburg Human Services Providers to expand our
6 current services and to provide new services to
7 prevent and treat the impact that problem gambling
8 will inevitably have on this community.

9 This is signed by the Shippensburg
10 Human Services Council, particularly the Shippensburg
11 Community Resource Coalition, Christ Among Neighbors,
12 Shippensburg Produce and Outreach, YWCA Carlisle, the
13 Shippensburg Community Nurse and New Visions.

14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Heather Franzoni,
16 Barbara Hutchinson on deck.

17 MS. FRANZONI: Good evening. My name
18 is Heather Franzoni, and I'm the Captain of
19 Shippensburg Area EMS.

20 Shippensburg EMS is the sole provider
21 in the Shippensburg area with their career advanced
22 life support and BLS department with some BLS
23 volunteers. BLS volunteers such in student positions.

24 Shippensburg is kind of different than
25 a lot of municipalities that you may have heard of.

1 Shippensburg EMS is separate from the fire department,
2 so we're our own entity. We are - we cover over 52
3 square miles and run over 4,000 emergency calls a
4 year.

5 We have a very aggressive leadership
6 team and a very aggressive management team. We are an
7 accredited training academy and we have onboard
8 tactical medics on staff, to make up a rescue task
9 force.

10 So for example, if there was an active
11 shooter situation at the casino, we have trained
12 tactical medics that serve on the rescue task force
13 that will be able to officially respond with the
14 police department.

15 If anyone thinks - you know, when you
16 think EMS, you think, oh, the EMS, I got a bill, like
17 that's always what most people think. I got that huge
18 EMS bill. I don't know how to pay it, the insurance
19 company sent me a check, I don't know what to do with
20 it.

21 Yes, EMS bills, but EMS is also a
22 nonprofit organization. And a lot of people don't
23 understand that we don't see not much of anything that
24 we bill. And so we a nonprofit organization, and we
25 rely heavily on the community to keep us in service.

1 Shippensburg EMS officially supports
2 your casino, and we're prepared to handle the increase
3 in call volume in the Shippensburg area. Shippensburg
4 EMS, through the years, has rolled with every punch
5 that's ever been given to us.

6 We moved in our own house in 2006, an
7 apartment building, and we ran ambulances out of the
8 back of an apartment building. In 2012 we moved into
9 the beautiful station that Danny Byers spoke about,
10 that sits in the Borough and within the Township. And
11 we are so proud of that building.

12 So we've rolled with every punch. So,
13 any punch that you give us and increase in call volume
14 we're ready to handle.

15 Hearing the testimonies from other
16 areas and a lot of people in the communities concerns,
17 of course, we are concerned about the cost and the
18 call volume and our staffing matrix.

19 The casino's revenue, we would hope we
20 can work together in order to benefit the community,
21 benefit our staffing matrix, in order to kind of
22 offset the cost of EMS.

23 We hope we can work together to serve
24 you and we can work together to work and raise our
25 families in the community that we love and have grown

1 in.

2 That's all I have. Thank you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Barbara

4 Hutchinson, Mike Ross on deck.

5 MS. HUTCHINSON: My name is Barbara
6 Hutchinson, and I represent the Shippensburg
7 Association of Christian Ministers. And I invite our
8 group to please stand, and I invite you all to turn
9 around and look at the support of your local clergy
10 and caregivers in our community.

11 We are - we are a group of committed -
12 thank you.

13 We are a group of committed
14 individuals representing the churches and the
15 caregiving ministries in the Shippensburg area. We
16 meet monthly to plan services, which draw the
17 community into prayer. We coordinate efforts in
18 providing for those in financial and emotional need.
19 And we provide that stabilizing caring foundation to
20 our community.

21 We work very closely with so many of
22 the people who have already stood up today. We work
23 with agencies such as Katie's Place and Shippensburg
24 Produce Outreach and King's Kettle and Christ Among
25 Neighbors and the Harbor Recovery Center and the

1 Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition.

2 And we gather to meet the needs of the
3 residents and those who come through our area in
4 transit.

5 We endeavor to be the hands and feet
6 of Christ, following the words of Jesus and the gospel
7 of Matthew, which direct us to give food to the hungry
8 and clothing to the naked and to welcome the stranger,
9 and to visit those in prison.

10 As we serve the least among us, we are
11 following Jesus' mandate to love one another, as Jesus
12 loves us. We are aware of the current gap between the
13 human services needs of our community and our ability
14 to financially meet them.

15 Each month we offer financial
16 assistance to many in need, and many of our churches
17 participate in the community meal program that offers
18 free meals to the hungry every single night of the
19 month.

20 We support Christ Among Neighbors, who
21 financially assist people with rent and utility bills
22 and unexpected expenses. And sadly, there are always
23 people that we must turn away with empty hands,
24 because our financial resources cannot cover their
25 need.

1 So we, as a group of concerned
2 ministry leaders, have delved into the abundant
3 sources that site the economic and social impact of
4 casino gambling upon a community. And based upon our
5 research, with the arrival of the projected casino in
6 2020, we anticipate an increase in the need for human
7 services, for those who participate regularly or
8 repeatedly in gambling that will result in increased
9 joblessness or unemployment or the need for welfare.

10 Increased deterioration of the
11 physical and mental health of those who participate in
12 gambling. Increased numbers of arrests and
13 imprisonment and subsequent legal fees. And increased
14 drug use in our area, where we are already losing far
15 too many of our young people to addiction and to
16 death. And there will be increased domestic violence
17 situations and incidents of divorce.

18 Whereas we understand the potential
19 positive impact to the retail and the commercial sites
20 near the proposed casino -. And we can comprehend the
21 anticipated yearly revenue to our township, which can
22 result in increased infrastructure.

23 We are poignantly aware of the
24 potential negative impact on the social services. So,
25 we ask for your consideration of the following.

1 We would like to ask for money from
2 Parx to fund a survey so we can actually study the
3 impact of the casino on the existing social services
4 in Shippensburg. And we are asking for an annual
5 stream of money from the Township to support the
6 increased social services which will be needed due to
7 the impact of the casino.

8 We, as the committed Christian
9 Ministers in Shippensburg, are the ones who are on the
10 ground. We are meeting with people every day with
11 real needs for financial, emotional and social support
12 due to existing poverty, homelessness and addiction in
13 our area.

14 We understand the risks and the needs
15 of the people who will come into our area to gamble,
16 as well as those who are already in our area. They
17 will show up on our church doorsteps and in our social
18 services and we want to be prepared to help them.

19 What we do to the least among us, we
20 do to and for Jesus. And we are committed to
21 obtaining the resources available to meet their needs.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mike Ross?

24 MR. ROSS: Good afternoon. I'm Mike
25 Ross, and I'm here today as Chairman of the Council of

1 Trustees for Shippensburg University, and also in my
2 role as the President of the Franklin County Area
3 Development Corporation.

4 The decision to support the proposed
5 gaming facility was one in which the Council Trustees
6 thoroughly assessed the pros and cons, not only the
7 respective impact on the Greater Shippensburg
8 communities, the region and the university.

9 Having said that, the Council of
10 Trustee was unanimous in the support - as was made
11 mention of - with the exception of Doug Harbach, who
12 served on our Council of Trustees. He did not
13 participate in this decision.

14 Our rationale was predicated on - on
15 several facts. First of all, Parx is a known entity.
16 They have an operating history in the Commonwealth and
17 we were able to research that. And our research
18 indicates that they have a reputation for being the
19 most professionally-operated community-engaged
20 philanthropic casino operations in the Commonwealth.

21 Parx has a Comprehensive Compulsive
22 Gambling Plan that is subject to oversight and
23 enforcement by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.
24 That's a concern of ours. Understanding, though, the
25 potential impact - the negative impacts on gambling,

1 that was a concern of the Council of Trustees, we are
2 confident that that plan is in place. And that they,
3 in their other locations, have worked with local
4 service providers to ensure that they are serving the
5 community in the best ways possible.

6 The other thing that we looked at -.
7 Because gambling is a - is a very controversial issue.
8 And the fact that Pennsylvania casinos operate under
9 the strictest regulatory standards in the country is
10 important to us. Because we understand that that
11 oversight is there and that the policing will take
12 place within the casino. That's important to us.

13 Also, based on the premise that the
14 mini casino will be operating consistent with other
15 Parx locations, we think there are significant
16 benefits. To include the creation of a
17 state-of-the-art tourist and hospitality amenity that
18 will bring people to Shippensburg and create another
19 amenity that we believe will benefit the community.

20 The creation of 200
21 hospitality-related jobs, with an average salary in
22 excess of \$40,000, for full-time employees, is
23 significant in our region. Significant in any region,
24 but especially here.

25 The opportunity to develop internships

1 and scholarships for Shippensburg University students
2 is important, especially for our College of Business,
3 our Software Engineering Programs, our Computer
4 Engineering Programs and our Social Work Program. It
5 is important to us.

6 And we anticipate a relationship
7 between the University and Parx consistent with what
8 they've developed with other higher-educational
9 institutions in and around especially Bensalem and the
10 like.

11 So we believe that the Parx
12 relationship with the community, with the University,
13 is one that will be impactful and it will be of
14 benefit for everyone. And we believe that the
15 community will ultimately benefit from having them in
16 our - in our area here.

17 Now, I'm going to transition to my
18 role from the Shippensburg University to that as
19 president of Franklin County Area Development
20 Corporation, which - and we are a one stop economic
21 development corporation charged with delivering
22 economic development resources in Franklin County.
23 Which obviously, as you're very much aware, it is to
24 our neighbor - is a neighboring county to Cumberland.

25 The Parx decision to locate in

1 Shippensburg Township stand to have consequential
2 regional economic impacts, many of which have been
3 outlined in today's presentations.

4 In addition to the construction of a
5 65,000 square foot facility, it will - it will have a
6 catalytic effect in spurring additional commercial and
7 hospitality development, hotels, restaurants, retail
8 centers, in the greater Shippensburg community.

9 The tax revenues generated by the mini
10 casino for both Cumberland County and Shippensburg
11 Township will allow for effective management of future
12 development, so that they are - that there will be
13 community enhancement.

14 We don't believe in developing for the
15 sake of developing. We've developed to ideally
16 enhance the community, enhance the quality of life for
17 those living in the community.

18 And like the Performing - the Luhrs
19 Performing Arts Center, projects such as the Parx
20 Project have regional impacts.

21 As we work collaboratively across
22 Southcentral Pennsylvania, and especially between
23 Franklin and Cumberland Counties to enhance our
24 economies, these type of projects benefit the greater
25 population, regardless of what county they are

1 located.

2 So with that, I thank you for the
3 opportunity to be here today.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: That is the end of
5 my list for community groups. So, we will now move on
6 to the individuals that have registered to speak.

7 As I say your name, if you could
8 please stand to be sworn. Theresa Myers, Martin
9 Bigler, W. Mickey Nye, James Rogers, John Dyson, Tom
10 Horvat, Rachel McKinney, Zoe Williard, Sally Hershey,
11 Kirk Wilson and Jody Corbett.

12 ---

13 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

14 ---

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: And we will begin
16 with Theresa Myers, with Martin Bigler on deck.

17 MS. MYERS: Hello. My name is Theresa
18 Myers, and I live in Upper Mifflin Township. The
19 reason - in Cumberland County.

20 The reason I came is because
21 Shippensburg is my town. This is where I go to the
22 doctor, where I go to the church, where I eat out -
23 and the grocery store.

24 I want to state my support for
25 allowing the mini casino. Though I may personally not

1 go to the casino, I support the freedom of adults who
2 wish to - to have that adoption. The local impact
3 will help bring more jobs, recreation and tax revenue.

4 I realize that problem gambling is a
5 risk, but the vast majority of casino visitors will
6 not develop a problem. I ask myself if having a
7 casino alone is the risk, what greater risk is than
8 people developing a lottery or bingo gambling problem?

9 I do think that local efforts to
10 educate on the potential risk of problem gambling, how
11 to prevent it, how to identify it and how to treat it
12 should happen. The ground work for that process
13 should be started as soon as the decision to approve
14 the mini casino.

15 And I learned something. They already
16 do that, so that's nice. A proactive approach instead
17 of waiting until it is a problem. We have the
18 experience from other communities that have had a
19 casino for several years to learn from.

20 The question is, whose responsibility
21 is it to take the initiative to do these things? Who
22 is getting the tax money? I think the needs should be
23 determined. Then look to figure out how to do it and
24 who will pay for it.

25 I think if the mini casino is

1 approved, we should work together as a community,
2 government official, law enforcement, business owners,
3 churches, the school district, human service agencies
4 and concerned citizens like myself to minimize the
5 potential negative impact. And realize that with
6 almost every decision there are going to be risks and
7 benefits, good and bad.

8 In closing, the positive impact that
9 tax revenue will mean for Cumberland County and
10 Shippensburg Township should not be forgotten.

11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: Martin Bigler,
13 with W. Mickey Nye on deck.

14 No Mr. Bigler? How about W. Mickey
15 Nye?

16 Okay.

17 And behind him will be James Rogers.

18 MR. NYE: I'm W. Mickey Nye. I'm a
19 resident of Shippensburg Township. And I'm here
20 wearing three hats today.

21 As a resident of Shippensburg
22 Township, I'm here to support the casino. I'm very
23 excited about it, my wife and I. My wife and I and
24 our family. We have four daughters.

25 We're very excited about it. We're

1 excited to have another area of entertainment in the
2 town. Were excited about having another restaurant
3 and a really nice sports pub.

4 As a business owner in the Township,
5 I'm also in support. My business is inside the
6 Township. We don't anticipate seeing a lot of
7 activity from the casino operations itself, although
8 we do see the residual bonus opportunities from other
9 businesses coming in. More people into the town.

10 We feel that, more people, more
11 businesses, more of everything is going to be a
12 positive impact on my business.

13 My business takes me, from time to
14 time, to Las Vegas, so I go into the - they have the
15 meetings in the casino. We walk through the casino to
16 go through the business meeting. And we walk back
17 through the casino to go to the - leave and get back
18 to the room.

19 And I am not a person that sits down
20 at the machines. I don't play slot machines and I
21 don't play at any of the tables. However, I do enjoy
22 watching the people, and I do enjoy going to the
23 restaurants and enjoying the entertainment aspect of
24 the casino.

25 And lastly, I'm here wearing the hat

1 as the Shippensburg Area Development Corporation
2 President. SADCO is an arm of the Shippensburg
3 Chamber of Commerce. And I took the opportunity, as
4 President of SADCO, to reach out to other areas nearby
5 in the region who have casinos.

6 I reached out to the Economic
7 Development Authority, a person from Allegheny
8 Township, which is in the State of Maryland. They
9 have a casino down there called Rocky Gap. So, I
10 reached out to that Economic Development Authority,
11 and I asked them specifically for the negatives.

12 I asked them about, is there an
13 increase in drinking? Is there an increase in
14 alcoholism? Is there an increase in alcoholism? Is
15 there an increase in problems with gambling and
16 addiction? Is there increase in crime and other bad
17 things?

18 And they were very positive about
19 everything they had to say. They talked about these
20 things have not changed in any regard from - from a
21 result in the casino.

22 They basically talked about everything
23 that was the positives, but particularly the economic
24 impact, the fees that were generated, particularly in
25 Allegheny County, the funds were used to support the

1 EMS, to support local utilities.

2 And they're also giving grant
3 opportunities to the colleges, Frostburg and Allegheny
4 - it used to be Allegheny County Community College. I
5 think it's now a university.

6 Then I also reached out to the ranger
7 station at the Rocky Gap State Park. And I asked them
8 the same questions, is there a bunch of negatives?
9 And they said no, absolutely not, they haven't seen
10 any changes in the negative aspect from the drinking
11 and the gambling and the crime.

12 They also said that not only did it
13 help the region, but it has also helped their State
14 Park, because their State Park was starting to
15 deteriorate.

16 The hotel there, the Rocky Gap Resort,
17 was starting to go downhill, and having the casino
18 come in has been a huge economic boost to that and now
19 it's a thriving resort.

20 I also reached out to our friends in
21 Fayette County, which has the Nemaquin Casino, and
22 they had very, very positive things to say. The
23 Director of the Chamber of Commerce there directed me
24 to Redevelopment Authority's list. And she referred
25 to it as the LSA, or Local Share Account. And she was

1 extremely excited to share this with me.

2 She guided me to their website, and I
3 printed off the paper. I can enter it into the record
4 as SADCO Exhibit A, if you would like. But this -
5 this list gives a list of 26 local organizations that
6 receive funding from this Local Share Account. These
7 are the fees that the county gets from the operations
8 from the casino.

9 They've estimated to be approximately
10 \$700,000 at this local Parx Casino. The casino there,
11 this year's funding was \$685,000. And a couple of the
12 organizations that got money was the Fayette County
13 Business Education Partnership, \$30,000; Fayette
14 County Small Business Council, \$28,000; Workforce
15 Development got \$40,000. Counseling Services got
16 \$5,000. The - Marketing got \$60,000 - \$50,000.

17 Historic Society got \$10,000. Crime
18 Stoppers organization got \$10,000 - State Police. St.
19 Peter's Church, which is an historical property,
20 received \$25,000. A local Fish and Game Club got
21 \$25,000. The fire station got - one of the fire
22 stations got \$25,000. The Township got playground
23 safety equipment for \$3,500. The YMCA got \$25,000.
24 Helpings Hand Ministry (sic), \$23,800.

25 The Water Authority, local - three of

1 the different municipalities got money from the Water
2 Authority; \$30,000 to \$50,000, et cetera.

3 And then I also checked with the
4 Township Supervisors, and they were also very happy.

5 Thank you very much for having me.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

7 James Rogers. John Dyson on deck.

8 MR. ROGERS: Hello. My name is Jim
9 Rogers. I am a Senior Pastor at Shippensburg First
10 Church of God. And I think I speak on behalf of many
11 of the congregations in Shippensburg, which there is
12 40-plus churches in Shippensburg.

13 And I speak, I think, on behalf of
14 many of the churches and many of the people that make
15 up the churches, and we don't want a casino in
16 Shippensburg. Just plain and simple. Yeah. We don't
17 want it.

18 It brings with it a chance of
19 increased crime, as you've heard. Increased
20 addictions, possibility of organized crime,
21 prostitution and many other things.

22 And any of the possible financial
23 resources that may come to human services because of
24 their presence will be absorbed because of increased
25 need.

1 So rather than asking the casino for
2 money to meet the increased need, how about we just
3 don't have a casino, then we don't have the problem.

4 And so I hope that the Board realizes
5 the negative impacts. I consider Shippensburg to be a
6 hallmark town. I moved here with my family about four
7 years ago, and we just love it. To us, it's the
8 quintessential small town America. And neon lights
9 and casinos don't fit into a hallmark town. So, I
10 hope you decide to deny the request.

11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: John Dyson with
13 Tom Horvat on deck.

14 MR. DYSON: Thank you. I'm John
15 Dyson, a resident of Shippensburg and also a
16 Shippensburg business leader.

17 For the past 20 years, I have worked
18 here in Shippensburg at Sailhamer Real Estate, where I
19 am now the broker of record. With this new title came
20 a sense of responsibility. The responsibility not
21 only to my family, employees and clients, but also to
22 my community.

23 Part of this responsibility is to
24 ensure everyone that has a voice is heard, that we
25 have a fair conversation about the impact the casino

1 will have in our community.

2 I was contacted by representatives of
3 the local Mennonite community. It was expressed to me
4 that the Plain Community does not wish to impose their
5 beliefs on anyone else, but they do have grave
6 concerns about the casino.

7 They asked me to speak on their
8 behalf, as they do not wish to speak publicly. The
9 comments I make here today are shared with the
10 Mennonite community. In addition to these comments
11 and their moral concerns, they asked for - that the
12 safety of their horse and buggies are taken under
13 consideration.

14 The increase in traffic is a concern,
15 as Route 174 is a highly-utilized road. The best way
16 to ensure safer travels is to create a larger shoulder
17 on the side of the roadways.

18 A couple of months ago a good friend
19 of mine asked me, what do you think about the proposed
20 casino? I replied that I was indifferent. To me it
21 was like any - another warehouse that would provide
22 the appearance of progress.

23 We would get some improvements to
24 infrastructures and jobs and increase in tax revenue.
25 I expressed that I was most likely - it was most

1 likely useless to try to fight it, as I believe the
2 public officials were behind the idea. And I hadn't
3 heard anything negative in the chatter throughout the
4 town.

5 But her question intrigued me, and I
6 felt the need to look into it further, to ensure my
7 business and the community were prepared.

8 I was surprised by the amount of
9 peer-reviewed research readily available pertaining to
10 the impact casinos have on Pennsylvania communities.
11 I was primarily looking for positive results. I
12 wanted to provide some relief to my friend's concern.

13 However, what I found was a common
14 thread throughout all the studies, the negative
15 effects the casino has on the human services negates
16 the positive impacts.

17 The only positive reviews I was able
18 to find were from press releases, industry outlets and
19 government officials. And then it occurred to me,
20 this is why there is no concern in the chatter
21 throughout the town. It is easy to frame the
22 conversation when no one else is talking.

23 And that's what is frustrating about
24 this process. The stated goal from the state and
25 local officials has always been an increase in tax

1 revenue. So, we plow ahead, only highlighting the
2 potential positives and disregard the negative.

3 Because regardless the effects to the
4 local community, the tax revenue will come. However,
5 the average citizen does not trust tax revenue to be
6 spent on items that will help us locally.

7 When a warehouse or a Wal-Mart is
8 proposed, massive studies are conducted to identify
9 potential impacts on the infrastructure in the
10 community. However, a casino brings a different set
11 of impacts.

12 The studies I reviewed indicate there
13 will be a significant impact on the human services in
14 the community-adjacent casino. These impacts are
15 difficult to quantify, so they're easily pushed to the
16 side.

17 So, I'm, therefore, asking that the -
18 for the Shippensburg Township and Cumberland County
19 elected officials to acknowledge this potential impact
20 and secure a designated percentage of their tax
21 revenue from the casino to go towards local human
22 services.

23 The casino industry will highlight
24 that they do provide funds for counter - to counteract
25 problem gambling. But the reality is that a large

1 portion of their income comes from problem gamblers.

2 There seems to be a disconnect here.
3 And there is no direct funding to help alleviate the
4 strain on the human services as a result of problem
5 gambling.

6 After my research, my reply to my
7 friend was the same. I am indifferent.

8 In fact, when I registered to talk
9 today, I indicated that I am neutral, because I do
10 believe there will be some positive outcomes a casino
11 may bring to our community. But without careful
12 preparation and support, I fear the negative impacts
13 will have far greater effect.

14 I'm often asked, how can we make
15 Shippensburg better? It's not traffic counts, Liquor
16 Licenses or some new restaurant. It happens by being
17 a community. It's businesses, government, human
18 services and places of worship coming together to lift
19 up everyone.

20 Every month there are people in our
21 community that must make - that must make a decision,
22 do they pay their rent or do they - or their heating
23 bill or get their car fixed?

24 I only see these questions growing and
25 becoming more difficult with the addition of a casino

1 in our community. So, if we choose to have a casino
2 in Shippensburg, please take tangible steps to support
3 the human service needs.

4 Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER: Tom Horvat, with
6 Rachel McKinney on deck.

7 MR. HORVAT: Hi. My name is Tom
8 Horvat, and I have a whole list of talking points that
9 I'm just going to put away, because they've most been
10 talked about already.

11 But I'm going to talk from heart to
12 heart this afternoon. And that is - I come from steel
13 country. I'm a resident - used to be a resident in
14 Pittsburgh. I was born and raised there.

15 I came from a gambling family, and I
16 have seven children and 11 grandchildren myself right
17 now. I've been 30 years in the ministry as a Pastor.
18 And we recently moved to Shippensburg from Maryland.

19 I sold a seven-and-a-half acre
20 farmette to move to small town America, as it was
21 mentioned earlier.

22 And the thing that strikes me about
23 the meeting this afternoon is the discussion has been
24 all about money. And there's something far more
25 profound than money that I hope that you consider this

1 afternoon.

2 It's the lives of our children and
3 grandchildren. It's the whole idea of - to take the
4 fabric of a Philadelphia or a Pittsburgh, and impose
5 it upon a farming community in a small-town community
6 like this, it imposes an injustice to me.

7 Regardless of the money that comes and
8 regardless of how much your organizations are funding.
9 I work right now presently for the federal government,
10 and we're being told daily, do more with less.

11 Does that sound familiar to anybody?
12 Do more with less.

13 And we're stretched right now to the
14 limits, our taxes, how to pay bills. And I don't
15 believe, and I'm against the casino for the very fact
16 that I watched my mother, who died at 105 years old,
17 live her life to the end on a limited income, paying a
18 hundred dollars a week for bingo cards, and she'd talk
19 to me on the phone, and say, I won this week, I won a
20 hundred dollars.

21 She didn't win anything. It was
22 exhausting her funds. And we've heard about
23 addiction.

24 And I don't know, maybe I'm stupid, I'm
25 from Steel Country, so - but maybe I'm stupid. I

1 heard - I heard someone say this afternoon that - that
2 some of the funding from this casino is going to go to
3 helping people with addictions.

4 Does that sound like a dog chasing its
5 tail? I mean, you're going to help to get people out
6 of addictions to, what, come back to the casino? Are
7 you going to counsel heroin addiction and all the
8 opioids that are going on today? Are you going to
9 counsel them to come out of it in order to provide it
10 for them?

11 I mean, this is - in order to consider
12 the fabric of a community, I'm asking whether they
13 have considered what the fabric of Shippensburg is?
14 This is a farming community. This is a religious -
15 this is a Christian community.

16 And regardless of what you think about
17 Christianity, when I say it's a Christian community,
18 that means something. That means something that's
19 connected to the fabric of our culture here. We moved
20 up here for that very reason.

21 And I think any funding that goes to
22 any Christian organization is the same as Jesus and
23 his disciples accepting funding from the
24 money-changers table.

25 God provides for his own. God

1 provides for the needs of his people. We do not need
2 an organization to come into the community that is
3 directly contrary to our value system as Christians in
4 order to help us.

5 Where is God in all of this? Where is
6 his provision in all of this? So regardless of my
7 point list, I hope you hear my heart this afternoon,
8 that we're -. I think that as a farming community, I
9 hate to see that land being buried under asphalt. I
10 hate to see I-81, as trashed as it is right now, it
11 will receive more trash when things like this come in.

12 We're facing a crisis in the nation of
13 addictions. We're trying to find things for our youth
14 to be meaningfully engaged in, and I don't think
15 gambling is a meaningful engagement.

16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: Rachel McKinney,
18 with Zoe Williard on deck.

19 MS. MCKINNEY: My name is Rachel
20 McKinney. I did not plan to talk about addiction when
21 I was put on the list, but I think I must.

22 I stand here today - I am a food
23 addict and a diabetic. I do not take any medicine. I
24 am 83, I don't take any medicine at all for my
25 diabetes, because I made a decision to deal with it a

1 number of years ago, because I am an addict. Whether
2 or not we put this casino into Shippensburg is not
3 going to make people an addict or not an addict.

4 Because we put in shopping malls,
5 shopping addicts are taken advantage of every day. I
6 talk to people. Seniors - I am a senior. I'm on the
7 Advisory Board of the Cumberland County Office of
8 Aging, I'm very active in the Senior Center here. And
9 by the way, we would like some money, too.

10 While - we are supported, by the way,
11 all the seniors in Pennsylvania, by the lottery money.
12 I don't gamble, so I'm not contributing. I might find
13 myself at the restaurant for some good healthy food,
14 but I won't be gambling.

15 But I live one street from
16 Shippensburg Township, right near the university,
17 among all the students.

18 When I first moved to Shippensburg in
19 2008, my sister said - I said, I've never lived
20 anywhere -. By the way, I lived for 39 years in
21 Southern California. I was there during all of the
22 '70s and '80s. I know all about drugs and everything.
23 Okay?

24 When I moved to Ship, I said to my
25 sister, you know, there's no bad area in Ship. And

1 she said oh, yes, there is. And I said where? She
2 said where you live. And I said really? She says
3 yeah, that's the student area.

4 And Steve - Steve, on - what's that
5 street, Richard, is it?

6 MR. OLDT: Yes, dear.

7 MS. MCKINNEY: Shippensburg Township
8 hires a former police chief, I think, and some of his
9 people on Friday night and Saturday night - Saturday
10 night, to keep - to keep control there for the
11 students.

12 And they do a wonderful job, but it's
13 a really poor Shippensburg Township. One-third of it
14 is the university, now, they don't get any tax revenue
15 at all. So, one of my jobs, a hundred years ago, was
16 in commercial real estate.

17 So, when I saw that they were looking
18 at that piece of land, I can't think of any place
19 better to put something like a casino, because there
20 are no houses close by, it's all off by itself.

21 And by the way, there will be probably
22 a hotel there at some point by somebody, and it's
23 close to the 81, so it's not going to ruin wonderful
24 Ship.

25 And also, whether or not we put it in

1 Ship, somebody in Pennsylvania is going to get that,
2 and they're going to get all the money, too. And I
3 know you say, oh, we shouldn't talk about money.
4 Well, yes, we should. Everybody up here talked about
5 money.

6 There isn't any group here that
7 doesn't need money. There's not a - the fire stations
8 all around, everybody. The casino is going to bring
9 money into this area.

10 And yes, we're going to have to watch
11 addiction. And yes - but I want to tell you, you
12 know, where the worst place to get food is? Your
13 church - your churches.

14 I have to watch when I go to my church
15 suppers and everything, because that's a really bad
16 place. They got a lot of comfort food I don't eat.

17 So - I am a Christian, I do not
18 gamble, but I think we can co-exist.

19 I do not think that I can dictate
20 Sharia Law or anything else, including people that
21 gamble, because I don't gamble. But I think we can
22 work together.

23 And I think the casino will bring some
24 needed funds into this wonderful community, and I'm
25 very happy it's going to be way off to the side by 81,

1 which we don't like to go close to anyway.

2 And I am for the casino. Now, I'm
3 taking a lot of heat for this, let me tell you. I've
4 already gotten a lot of phone calls, but I really
5 believe that the casinos don't cause addiction. They
6 will find - any addict will find a place.

7 Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Zoe Williard, with
9 Sally Hershey on deck.

10 MS. WILLIARD: Hello, everyone. My
11 name is Zoe Williard and I'm a senior at Shippensburg
12 Area High School. I'm here to voice my opinions as to
13 why I oppose the potential arrival of the casino.

14 The installation of the casino is
15 problematic for many reasons. First of all, as of
16 2016, 34.2 percent of Shippensburg residents earn an
17 income below the poverty line. This makes our town a
18 very low-income community.

19 The proposed casino is said to bring
20 about \$50 to \$55 million worth of revenue, if that's
21 correct. I believe I read that on PennLive.

22 The - Shippensburg Township would only
23 be receiving about two percent of that revenue. A
24 community where over a quarter of its residents live
25 below the poverty line deserve more than two percent

1 of that revenue. Even if we would be getting more,
2 the revenue created by casinos is not given back to
3 the community.

4 A good example of this is Atlantic
5 City. The National Association of Realtors states
6 that communities within ten miles of the casino double
7 their rates in problem gambling and also experience
8 higher rates of home foreclosure, economic distress
9 and domestic violence.

10 Not only would we not be economically-
11 benefitting, we would be inevitably - we would have to
12 inevitably increase our local police and highway
13 patrolling, which would be even more of an expense.

14 Second, and finally, our town is not
15 prepared or equipped for the psychological effects
16 that casinos and gambling create. Between the years
17 of 2012 and 2016, Pennsylvania was recognized as
18 having the 27th highest suicide rate, with a 30
19 percent increase since 1999.

20 This is a serious concern because the
21 National Council on Problem Gambling states that one
22 in five pathological gamblers attempt suicide.

23 To further illustrate my point, a town
24 in Mississippi experienced a 213 percent suicide
25 increase in only two years after the installation of a

1 casino in their town.

2 Is our town prepared to combat such
3 serious and telling statistics? If our community
4 wants to consider having a casino, we also need to
5 consider increased local police resources, local
6 medical resources, local addiction rehabilitation and
7 treatment facilities, more local jobs. All of these
8 things residents of this community have been told that
9 we do not have the means for.

10 I am only 17, but in a few years, I
11 will be allowed to gamble and so will all of my
12 friends. Bringing a casino into a college town full
13 of young adults with new freedom such as gambling is a
14 recipe for disaster.

15 And if I may be so bold, feels like a
16 very strategic move taken by the Greenwood Gambling
17 Corporation. And is very insulting.

18 I strongly oppose a potential casino
19 in the Shippensburg Township because the disadvantages
20 strongly overshadow the benefits.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sally Hershey,
23 with Kirk Wilson on deck.

24 MS. HERSHEY: The development of a
25 casino in Shippensburg concerns me for many reasons.

1 I have quoted several sections from the Application
2 submitted by Greenwood Casino to the Pennsylvania
3 Gaming - Gaming Board.

4 Concern number one is traffic.
5 Appendix 33 states, we anticipate negligible impact on
6 street maintenance because the site is located
7 immediately off of 81. But then in Appendix 37, it
8 continues, GWC anticipates that approximately 850,000
9 visitors, annually, those visitors will bolster the
10 regional economy.

11 That's an average of over 2,300
12 visitors daily, with only 500 parking spots. And are
13 suggesting they will spend money in our town on
14 lodging, retail and other goods and services, but not
15 use on our roads to get there, I guess.

16 Those who are locals can agree, if
17 possible, you avoid going through town during rush
18 hour, because what normally takes about five minutes
19 can easily take 20 minutes or more. And if there's an
20 accident on 81, the number of trucks rerouted through
21 can be astronomical.

22 There has been no study on increase
23 flow of traffic from the additional visitors and also
24 no consideration of visitors coming in from the east
25 off of the Turnpike through Newburg or from the west.

1 Concern number two is safety.
2 Appendix 33 states, Shippensburg Township is under the
3 jurisdiction of the State Police force. We do not
4 anticipate the casino itself would necessitating (sic)
5 the addition of locally controlled police force.

6 For those of you wondering, I did not
7 misspeak. That is verbatim out of the local impact
8 report prepared by Mark S. Stewart, grammatical errors
9 and all. And that's not the only one.

10 Did Mark Stewart reference any similar
11 casinos and compare the numbers of call (sic) before
12 and after implementation of the casino? According to
13 Mayor Sommers in Monticello, New York, with a mini
14 casino - with a casino, you get urban problems in
15 rural areas.

16 With increased visitors, there will be
17 increased potential drug trafficking, putting our
18 community at risk of developing drug and gambling
19 problems. The proposal continues, stating that the
20 tax revenues from the casino may enable the Township
21 to reinstitute a local or regional police force.

22 But at what cost?

23 This brings me to my next concern, the
24 total economic impact on continued operations. When
25 the casino was first proposed, the initial projections

1 were around a million dollars annually to the
2 Township. According to the PA Gaming Commission,
3 casinos usually give two percent of gross terminal
4 income to the local municipalities.

5 GWC estimates their GTI to be 42 and a
6 half million, two percent of which would be around
7 \$850,000. However, the PA Gaming Legislation limits
8 the host community share of gross gambling revenue to
9 50 percent of the 2016-'17 municipal budget.

10 Consequently Shippensburg Township
11 will receive approximately \$690,000, with the
12 remaining two percent going to the county. So, it's
13 obvious why Cumberland County Controller Al Whitcomb
14 is in favor of the casino.

15 The PA Gaming Board explained this
16 casino was considered a convenience casino, with the
17 majority of patrons within 25 miles of its location.
18 The estimated ancillary dollars spent for
19 out-of-county visitors is \$74, and is most likely
20 someone who stops to grab a bite to eat, top off their
21 tank and grab a snack for the road.

22 Remember, throughout the proposal, GWC
23 emphasizes their estimated 850,000 visitors who will
24 bolster the regional economy.

25 In review of the ancillary spending

1 profiles, the number of visitors estimated to be drawn
2 to the community is only 425,000.

3 So either their initial estimates are
4 off, or they know in reality only about half of the
5 visitors will spend additional money within the
6 community.

7 Appendix 37 also states the total
8 economic impact of ongoing operations in Shippensburg
9 is projected to be \$74 million - Table 4 - and create
10 320 jobs in the Township. However, if you review the
11 table, it states \$42.9 million and 160 full-time jobs.

12 So which is it? Or is that just
13 another typo?

14 GWC is projecting close to \$90 million
15 of an investment for their casino. Watche Manoukian -
16 a/k/a Bob Manoukian is the primary shareholder listed
17 as owning over 87 percent of this new casino. He is a
18 wealthy businessman based in London and California,
19 with an estimated net worth of \$850 million.

20 Our local community will be getting
21 some of that money from the casino, but it's a mere
22 drop in the bucket compared to the return on
23 investment Bob and the other distant owners are
24 expecting.

25 Remember the majority of visitors will

1 be coming from within 25 miles of its location. In
2 reality, more money will be going out of the community
3 than coming in, because the source of the money is
4 within the community.

5 Our local money will mostly be going
6 to support their continued success out of state and
7 country. We are little peons in their big boy game of
8 business.

9 They don't care what happens to our
10 little town. They merely want to make money, leaving
11 our small town to deal with the complications of such
12 an establishment.

13 I found it rather sloppy, the number
14 of mistakes I discovered in the proposal prepared for
15 the PA Gaming Commission. If they are - carelessly
16 threw their application together, what does it say
17 about their level of concern for the community?
18 They're just trying to make a buck.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Kirk - Kirk
20 Wilson, with Jody Corbett on deck.

21 MR. WILSON: Good evening. My name is
22 Kirk Wilson. Most of you may know me. I've spent 26
23 years as Mayor of Carlisle. I spent another 34 years
24 in state government.

25 And I have developed the ability to

1 read through a lot of these governmental things.

2 And I have an interest in this only
3 because I sat in Carlisle where I, at the time, was
4 not Mayor. And I watched as they fumbled through the
5 process of whether or not they wanted to open up the
6 possibility of having a - a casino in their community.

7 When I stepped down as Mayor of
8 Carlisle and moved into South Middleton Township,
9 ironically they went through the process, both
10 municipalities turning down the opportunity.

11 One of the things I found was - and
12 that's, I guess, perhaps the reason that I'm here is
13 that, it's become a very emotional issue, and I
14 understand that. But I heard so many statistics that
15 were cited from this study and that study.

16 So I spent a great deal of time,
17 because I'm retired, and I went through and probably
18 spent about a day and a half reviewing statistics.
19 And here's what I've discovered.

20 For every statistic that says A, I can
21 go on the internet and find a statistic that says Z.
22 So those of you who have presented statistics tonight,
23 with the time, I would be happy to sit down - I can
24 show you another study that will rebuke - refute
25 exactly what you've said.

1 So, I kind of cringe when I hear
2 people say one thing and get a round of applause, when
3 I know that there's probably absolutely no accuracy
4 whatsoever to the statistics that I've heard here this
5 evening.

6 But what I did hear this evening, that
7 I find very, very positive and perhaps the Board has
8 heard of it in other locations, but what I, as a local
9 government official, stand up here today and salute,
10 is that the local government officials that are here
11 tonight.

12 I'm hearing a borough and I'm hearing
13 at least two, perhaps three, townships already talking
14 about the possibility of sitting down and working
15 together. We don't hear enough of that today.

16 I struggled with that as Mayor when I
17 was in Carlisle. We couldn't sit down. We all had
18 our own little fiefdoms - fiefdoms (changes
19 pronunciation), however you want to pronounce it, but
20 nobody wanted to work together.

21 And my remarks, I'm not even going
22 through tonight, because I was so positive about what
23 I see here in Shippensburg. I think that the Gaming
24 Control Board has the responsibility, obviously, under
25 law to move forward and make a decision.

1 And I think that they would be placing
2 a great deal of trust and responsibility, and
3 rightfully so, in Shippensburg Township, in
4 Shippensburg Borough, also in the - help me with the
5 other township -

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

7 Southampton.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

9 Cumberland.

10 MR. WILSON:

11 Cumberland. And the other one?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Southampton.

13 MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's it.

14 This, to me, is something new for
15 Pennsylvania. I was an active member in the statewide
16 organization of local governments. We see examples of
17 municipalities working together. And I think this is
18 a wonderful thing.

19 And I think perhaps, you can set an
20 example, perhaps, statewide, for other possibilities,
21 for municipalities to get there.

22 And I'm not talking about gaming, I'm
23 talking about a community in Southcentral,
24 Pennsylvania where four municipalities put their heads
25 together to develop a gaming casino, or people with

1 the owners, and within the constraints of the Gaming
2 Control Board, who could perhaps, even later on, going
3 and tackling other issues.

4 I heard talk about water and sewer.
5 That's a big issue, especially if you're starting to
6 develop it and promote it.

7 So I come here tonight to say that the
8 Gaming Control Board can provide the opportunity for
9 four municipalities to start working together and
10 stepping forward.

11 Now, you had asked why would someone
12 like me drive 18 miles to Shippensburg to provide
13 testimony? I'm looking for a job. Thank you very
14 much.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Jody Corbett.

16 MS. CORBETT: Wow. That's all I can
17 say is wow.

18 I am 59 years old. I was born in
19 Chambersburg, and I now live in Shippensburg. We
20 moved to this area because of the farming community.
21 We moved to this area because of the Godly community
22 that is here.

23 And we love this - this area. My
24 husband and I both do. I have listened to so much
25 tonight, it's overwhelming.

1 But if you had a scale in front of you
2 and you're doing this, raising hands up and down, all
3 night long - will this - the gaming they're going to
4 give this to us and they're going to provide this to
5 the casino. And they're going to bring all this money
6 into the - you know, they're going to bring all this
7 money to Shippensburg.

8 What's the - what's the other side?
9 You're - it's that up and down. There's positive
10 things about bringing money into this area, but it's
11 not at the cost that this casino would cost
12 Shippensburg.

13 This is a farming community, and the
14 farmers are quitting farming because of what's going
15 on in this area. It's kind of like - if it looks too
16 good to be true, it's not good.

17 Why bring - we - look, guys, we all
18 know we have a drug problem in Shippensburg, we have
19 alcohol problems. Two o'clock in the morning, or one
20 o'clock, you can by Arooga's and you can see the drunk
21 teenagers out there. I've seen it. It's already a
22 problem.

23 This is only going to make it worse.
24 You're only going to be bringing a problem into this
25 town that is going to skyrocket what is already a

1 problem.

2 Please consider the detrimental
3 effect -. You - the Gaming Board, you all have this,
4 great, oh, we're going to do this, and we're going to
5 provide this, and we're going to - you know, for the
6 drugs and alcohol, and we're going to bring money into
7 this group and -.

8 Come on, people.

9 You're going to say exactly what
10 you're saying to convince this town. We're not going
11 to see hardly anything from the Gaming Committee.
12 That two percent. Two percent. That's unrealistic
13 thinking.

14 We can do better, people, in this
15 town. We, as the residents of Shippensburg, should be
16 standing up for our local businesses. We should be
17 supporting and shopping at our local businesses and
18 supporting them instead of bringing a casino in, which
19 is only going to cause more traffic, only going to
20 cause more issues.

21 Oh, I know, they're saying no, we'll
22 fix it, you know. But it's not going to work.

23 You can't rob Peter to pay Paul here.
24 You have to look at the facts. An intelligent person
25 makes an intelligent decision when they have all the

1 facts. And every fact that I have heard here tonight
2 is not a positive one for this gaming - for this
3 casino to come in. Not one thing is positive.

4 Thank you.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER: We'll recall
6 Martin Bigler. Mr. Bigler?

7 Okay.

8 I am at the end of the list of
9 registered speakers. If there's anyone here tonight
10 that wants to add something that has not already been
11 talked about, raise your hand.

12 MR. KEEFER: Do you want me to go up
13 to the speaker?

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Come on up. And
15 we'll have you sworn in by the court reporter.

16 MR. KEEFER: Oh, okay.

17 ---

18 WILLIAM KEEFER,
19 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
20 HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS
21 FOLLOWS:

22 ---

23 PRESIDING OFFICER: And if you could
24 tell us your name as well?

25 MR. KEEFER: Yes. Bill Keefer,

1 William Keefer.

2 I live on Cramer Road, and I'm one of
3 the five houses that's on Cramer Road. I really don't
4 have a concern with the casino, but I do have a
5 concern with the traffic flow on Cramer Road.

6 That's all I need. That's my concern.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: I see a hand in
8 the far back.

9 MS. MANDERINO: Two hands.

10 MR. MUSTIO: Did we give the website
11 for those that perhaps don't want to come up and talk
12 but want to submit testimony or are we going to - in
13 case they don't want to come up?

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: And if you want to
15 add comments to the record, I will give you the
16 Board's website in my closing argument - or in my
17 closing remarks.

18 MS. MANDERINO: Would the second
19 person who wanted to be sworn in -?

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Was there another
21 hand?

22 MS. MANDERINO: Go over to the court
23 reporter, let's do it both at once. Last call.

24 ---

25 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

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MR. GODHART: My name is Alan Godhart. I'm a land owner and farmer on the Walnut Bottom Road. I see you all talking and make it sound really nice, and you're all ready to divide up your money, each and every one of you. And I'm kind of ashamed of you.

A few things that I have to speak about as a farmer, which I know a lot of people don't care much about. There's a lack of State Police enforcement. You call the State Police, you can't get them.

The increased traffic on the Walnut Bottom Road, we have tremendous traffic. And anybody that is in this room that stands and says the Interstate is capable of anything that you guys are talking about, you don't know what you're talking about.

Go down and set there for a day and see how many times you get run over. We have farm equipment. I own the cross roads, a good hard road in Walnut Bottom Road. I am one of four farms left on the Walnut Bottom Road from 81 to Leesburg.

One is in land preservation, two are owned by Mennonites and mine. Mine's not for sale.

I don't care for anything you people

1 have talked about, because you're all talking about
2 trouble. And if you're covering it up, you're very
3 foolish.

4 I have children, I have grandchildren.
5 Those children are out on the roads as people pass by
6 on our old tractors, very inconsiderate. We have all
7 kind of Amish neighbors always on the road, any time
8 of the day and night. Very inconsiderate people. I
9 don't think we need more.

10 Destruction of natural resources.
11 They just cut out a piece of woods up at our place,
12 near Sunoco Station. Everybody's got their big signs.
13 It used to be the only one was Sunoco, now we have
14 more. All of the lighting, it's a disturbance.

15 We have traffic all hours of the night
16 and day with tractor-trailers that shouldn't be on the
17 road, but nobody cares. State cops don't want to do
18 anything about it. The Township don't want to do
19 anything about it.

20 Go through Shippensburg and count the
21 tractor-trailers going through Shippensburg. If you
22 can't count them, you're blind.

23 Called the State Highway Department in
24 the wintertime to maintain the roads. People crash,
25 people crashed into the barn. We've had drug,

1 alcohol, all kinds of wrecks at our place. They don't
2 - they don't slow the traffic down.

3 The last time I seen a State cop
4 sitting on 81 was on a Sunday morning going to church
5 sitting in the Beistle's parking lot.

6 I've called numerous times for our
7 township road, which is posted 25 miles an hour. The
8 only time I see a State cop on that road is going from
9 Walnut Bottom Road to 11. Never setting, never
10 controlling traffic. Never seen a person pulled over.

11 I've taken license plate numbers of
12 tractor-trailers that ran over my property. I own the
13 corners. They have ran over my property, destroyed
14 property.

15 Give them license plate numbers and
16 everything else, not a one has ever come back to me
17 about recouping.

18 It's not the point of recouping money,
19 it's the point of respect. People crash, they run
20 through our fields. We have all kind of litter.

21 And oh, of course, maybe the highway
22 might pick the litter up two foot off the road. That
23 doesn't account for the litter that's all through my
24 fields getting buried every year.

25 Does anybody care? No.

1 Even morality of just the idea of the
2 gambling casino coming in our area with the amount of
3 Mennonite Church organizations that we have, I think
4 is appalling.

5 Everybody is hunting tax money. All
6 we hear is about the fire departments. True we need
7 fire departments. But gentlemen, do we have to build
8 things elaborate and big?

9 We're taking care of a college. How
10 much unnecessary things do we - but yet you send
11 pamphlets out for us to donate. And we do donate.

12 MS. MANDERINO: Excuse me, sir. Could
13 you direct your testimony to the Board?

14 MR. BARASCH: So we can hear you. So
15 we can hear you.

16 MR. GODHART: Well, the fire companies
17 - everybody donates to the fire companies.

18 MS. MANDERINO: Your time is up, but
19 you can submit online.

20 MR. GODHART: I have submitted online,
21 but I made it in here today, because I was working.

22 MS. MANDERINO: Thank you.

23 MR. GODHART: Thank you for your time.

24 MS. MURPHY: My name is Debbie Murphy.
25 I'm not in Shippensburg. We moved four years ago to

1 Newburg. We have a small tiny little farm outside
2 Newburg that we have not yet made a profit at all in.

3 But anyway, we heard this great sales
4 pitch, right. We've heard these glowing reports of
5 money, money, money.

6 And I did some research today and it's
7 not always like that. It doesn't come out that way.
8 I'm hoping this is not a done deal. Have you already
9 shake (sic) hands, you already decided we're going to
10 have this here?

11 We moved here because it was a nice
12 place. We love the area. You're going to have to
13 prepare to build some homeless shelters, if this goes
14 through. You're going to have a lot of problems, a
15 lot more people on welfare, a lot of kids growing up
16 with dads who go there and drink and lose their money.

17 I mean, it doesn't take a genius to
18 know what's going to happen.

19 Now, let's be real. Forget the
20 glowing promise of riches. Gamblers will come off
21 Route 81, they'll come to the casino, they'll leave
22 off Route 81. They're not going to come into town and
23 go to our little shops and help our little shops
24 survive.

25 They're going to come to the casino.

1 They're going to leave broke most of the time and
2 leave back up Route 81.

3 I have some papers I'd like you all to
4 read. Atlantic City, a third of the town's local
5 businesses closed within four years of a casino
6 opening in Atlantic City.

7 We used to go to Atlantic City when I
8 was a kid, a little kid. I'm older than I hopefully
9 look. But anyway, it was a nice place then. After
10 the casinos came, it was no longer a nice place.

11 Casinos do not revive local economies,
12 they act as parasites upon them. Communities located
13 within ten miles of a casino exhibit double the rate
14 of problem gambling.

15 Unsurprisingly, such communities also
16 suffer higher rates of home foreclosure. That's
17 really something we need, isn't it, more home
18 foreclosures.

19 And other forms of economic distress
20 and domestic violence. This is statistics, this is
21 actually true.

22 Here's an article on gaming the poor.
23 Most of the people who come to these casinos who make
24 the money are the poor who do little bits here, little
25 bits there that add up, because the casinos want them

1 to come day after day after day or week after week for
2 the whole year.

3 How gambling contributes to
4 inequality. It's - gambling is a form of economic
5 probation. Today, among massive budget shortfalls,
6 politicians are scrambling to find new sources of
7 revenue in the hope to solve their economic issues.

8 But the effects of the expansion of
9 gambling on low income and disadvantaged individuals
10 have failed to receive adequate consideration.

11 We are in the low-income bracket.
12 We're doing okay. I think this is a bad example to
13 the children. I'm a member of the Church of Jesus
14 Christ of Latter-day Saints. And morally and
15 spiritually I am completely against gambling in all of
16 its forms.

17 I don't believe that we should be
18 using money from something like gambling to support
19 anything in our communities, because I believe it's an
20 evil thing.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. GRAYBILL: I'd just like to say,
23 as a Christian -.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Could you tell us
25 your name, sir?

1 MR. GRAYBILL: Paul Graybill.

2 I live in the Newville area of
3 Pennsylvania. As a Christian, I really don't want
4 gambling in this area. I got children and I hope my
5 two cents means something. And I hope that you'll not
6 allow the gambling to come to this area.

7 That's all.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

9 I think we are - completed our public
10 comment for this evening. The Board has received
11 written comment via our website, the regular mail,
12 e-mails to the Board's Clerk address and fax.

13 We have received 15 written comments
14 in support, 18 comments in opposition and one that was
15 neutral, with some observations. Those records -
16 those comments will be entered into the record and
17 provided to the Board for their consideration as well.
18 And we will post those to our website as well.

19 The record in the matter will remain
20 open. The transcript from today's hearing, as well as
21 all the written comments received by the Board, will
22 be given to all Board members for their consideration.

23 The Board, at its convenience, will
24 schedule the matter to be heard at a future Board
25 meeting.

1 Again, the presentation, all of the
2 comments, the video of today's hearing will all be
3 posted to our Board's website for others to see.

4 I want to thank everyone - or the
5 staff here at the University Conference Center for
6 their help with arranging and holding the hearing
7 today, for all of you for coming to the hearing today,
8 and for your cooperation.

9 One more thing, if you do want to
10 submit written comments, this - the rest of this week,
11 you can send them to our e-mail address, which is
12 Boardclerk, B-O-A-R-D, C-L-E-R-K, @pa.gov.

13 If you'd like to add more comment to
14 the record this week. Outside of that, the hearing is
15 adjourned.

16 Thank you.

17 * * * * *

18 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:33 P.M.

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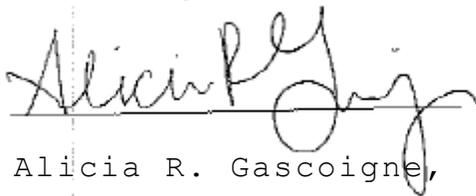
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings was reported by me on 03-25-19 and that I, Alicia R. Gascoigne, read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 12th day of April, 2019



Alicia R. Gascoigne,
Court Reporter