
From: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Carla Stilson
Cc: CTCouncil; Adam Brumbaugh; mike@centrecountypa.gov; mark@centrecountypa.gov; sdershem@centrecountypa.gov; Jennifer Snyder
Subject: Follow-up on proposed casino-related letter (College Township)

Good afternoon, Carla,

It was great to see your comments at the **March 3** College Township Council Meeting while discussing the proposed Nittany Mall casino. It was great to hear your reassurance that each member of the College Township Council is closely reviewing the nearly 500 casino-related public comments already posted to the CollegeTownship.org website.

Now it's **April 3** and I'm following up to ask if your letter to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has already been sent? Please let us know. A newspaper article in the local media shouldn't be too much to ask.

As the elected officials in Centre County maintain that laser focus on the potential casino revenue that will roll in without hesitation and then only continue to increase, I'd like to mention **just two inconvenient truths**.

Here's the first one. A casino in the Nittany Mall that will be open 24/7 for the next 30 years will bring a lot more chaos than just gambling-related problems. How many alcohol-related traffic fatalities in our area will follow in the many years after that casino's grand-opening ceremony?

Here are the facts that no elected official wants to face:

When a casino gambler is on a winning streak, it does not matter if the alcoholic beverages served by the casino are complimentary to casino patrons or if the drinks are available for purchase. Remember, those lucky gamblers are celebrating their victory streak while enjoying that really fun visit to the casino in College Township.

The drinks will flow freely throughout the night (or day) and most of those gamblers enjoying the celebration will soon have a blood alcohol content (BAC) much higher than the legal limit for driving. Of course, they never will consider bringing along that designated driver on the casino visit. When that winning streak quickly vanishes and that last dollar is gone -- the suddenly disappointed gambler will quickly leave the casino and drive off in their vehicle while focusing on their losses.

Zero thought would be given to consider waiting around at the casino long enough to begin to sober up. It will be more like *"I'm outta here!"* Right out onto the highways of a rapidly changing Happy Valley.

Even one casino patron causing an alcohol-related traffic fatality is unacceptable. What will community sentiment be when those local highway fatalities continue to regularly and sadly take place? Remember, the casino will not go unmentioned when the media has to sadly report those tragedies with every occurrence.

I could parrot the Council members' comfortable casino approval discussion point of **"Well, the decision about the casino is out of our hands now and there is nothing we can do at this point."** The remaining inconvenient truth no one wants to even think about is **"But what if the decision about the casino was not out of our hands? If we could make a difference by speaking out now, what would we say now?"**

That is where the courageous would choose to step forward from the comfortable crowd who chose the easier option of remaining silent.

Please make the right decision because that gambler will get behind the steering wheel without giving any of this a single thought.

It would be greatly appreciated if the Council will include this in the Consent Agenda meeting packet for the next College Township Council meeting.

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Howard, PA