
From: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 4:07 PM
To: CTCouncil; Adam Brumbaugh
Cc: Jennifer Snyder; mike@centrecountypa.gov; mark@centrecountypa.gov; sdershem@centrecountypa.gov
Subject: 162 pages of public feedback on the proposed casino

Good afternoon, Mr. Brumbaugh and College Township Council members,

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) has just posted the latest batch of casino-related public comments and letters.

All are posted now on the College Township website here:

[Casino Information | College Township, PA](#)

I have closely reviewed all 162 pages of feedback. **There are only four comments supporting the proposed casino.**

Sincerely,
Dan Materna
Centre County, PA

From: Strauss, Susan G <sgs9@psu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2022 6:53 AM
To: boardclerk@pa.gov
Cc: CTCouncil
Subject: Urgent request to DENY casino license at the Nittany Mall

Dear Board Commissioners,

By now you have received literally thousands of signatures and comments opposing the PGCB's licensing of the casino at the Nittany Mall in connection with the application by former PSU Trustee Ira Lubert and Bally's Corporation.

As you are also now well aware, **the State College/College Township/Penn State community had not been kept abreast of these plans in their entirety throughout the history of the endeavor.** As we came to learn more about the details surrounding this application, about **the individuals involved, and the proposed location, the picture began to grow all the more complex and problematic.**

Since just mid-April, 2022, when the plans and players emerged more clearly and in more detail, thousands of **community members (including Penn State parents, faculty, staff, fans, and alumni; religious leaders, local school board members, K-12 school parents, retirees, and former casino employees; and also prominent scholars and practitioners in the fields of sociology, medicine, education, public health, psychology, and psychiatry)** have voiced **extremely strong opposition to this project**—citing the predictably dire consequences that will ensue in relation to the State College community including the Penn State student body of 48,000+ students, due to **multiple factors including the sheer proximity of the establishment to Penn State University.**

The **Penn State University Park Campus has the largest student enrollment** of the 187 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania. **It is located just 4 miles from the site of the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.**

Residents of College Township have voiced strong opposition to and dissatisfaction with this plan at the rate of 9 to 1. Door-to-door grassroots petition collection activities among College Township households have revealed that **90% of College Township residents vehemently oppose the plan.** A very small number of our residents support the casino for reasons such as fun, entertainment, and perceived economic value for the community.

Unfortunately, **College Township did not request any community input** and it is now facing strong opposition from the very community that it is designed to serve.

Scholarly articles unanimously indicate that **young adults are at the highest risk of gambling-related harm**—and this, coupled with school and life-related stressors, points to an inevitable set of dire consequences that **6% - 14% of Penn State students will face**. Not one article published between 2018 and 2021 points to a single positive lasting advantage that gambling would bring to young adults.

University of Pennsylvania Professors of Neuroscience and Medicine Michael Platt & Peter Sterling (2022) indicate that **the U.S. is experiencing an epidemic of “deaths of despair” related to drugs, alcohol, and suicide, while other nations are seeing a decrease in these numbers**. While not caused exclusively by gambling, these statistics are disturbing and we all collectively should be doing everything possible to improve the mental and physical health of our citizens, including young adults, and not directly contribute to and exacerbate the problems.

Penn State has its own history of nationally and internationally reported student deaths related to drugs or alcohol: Timothy Piazza, Justine Gross, Joseph Dado, Conor MacMannis... not to mention the hundreds of reported and unreported Penn State student suicides and deaths/injuries in State College attributed to alcohol or drugs--**and these without having a casino located within biking or even walking distance from campus.**

The equation is all too clear:

students + onsite gambling = addiction, depression, financial hardship, physical injury, and suicide.

These **results are predictable**. If the proposed casino is developed, these outcomes will occur.

But the situation is preventable.

Clearly, **College Township does not have the safety and well-being of its own community in mind.**

Clearly, **other institutions and entities related to this proposal face moral and ethical contradictions as they affect State College, the Penn State student body, the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed casino, and the safety and well-being of the people in those surrounding neighborhoods.**

The moral and legal responsibility now rests with the PGCB to deny this license on the basis of the thousands of voices strongly opposing the development of this proposed casino.

Building a casino within four miles of the university **defies common sense. It defies moral responsibility.**

If the casino is developed and the easily foreseeable tragedies associated with this development do occur, they will be on the shoulders of those very entities and institutions who

had the power to prevent this– but who instead chose to remain silent, and worse yet, those who greenlighted the plan and turned a blind eye to the facts.

PLEASE DENY THE LICENSE FOR THE PROPOSED CASINO AT THE NITTANY MALL.

Susan Strauss,
College Township

From: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 6:26 PM
To: CTCouncil; Adam Brumbaugh
Cc: Jennifer Snyder
Subject: WPSU.org "Take Note" radio program of 6/10/22 about proposed casino

Dear Mr. Brumbaugh and members of the College Township Council,

It would be greatly appreciated if you would include the entire interview transcript provided at the following link to the meeting packet for the Consent Agenda portion of the regular Council Meeting scheduled for June 16:

[Take Note: Opponents of a casino proposed for the Nittany Mall in Centre County on why they're trying to stop it | WPSU](#)

Thank you for your consideration and your continuing focus on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Howard, PA