
From: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:40 PM
To: mike@centrecountypa.gov; mark@centrecountypa.gov; sdershem@centrecountypa.gov; Adam Brumbaugh; CTCouncil
Cc: Jennifer Snyder
Subject: Erie County casino - Impact on the community

Good evening Centre County Commissioners and College Township Council members,

As a follow-up to the Centre County Commissioners' regular weekly meeting on August 17th, I noted each commissioner briefly discussed the casino proposed for Nittany Mall in College Township.

The following day, The Express newspaper in Lock Haven published excerpts of that discussion and some are quoted below:

QUOTE

Commissioner Steve Dershem voiced his concerns over the potential casino.

“Going back to some of the issues with substance abuse, I think gambling abuse might be something that we need to look at and figure out how much impact that will have on our community and how we have to fund the treatment — if you will — for some of the folks that may find themselves in trouble with excessive gambling,” Dershem said. “Before we write this all in place, I really want to look at some of the impacts that the casino might have on our local communities.”

Commissioner Mark Higgins suggested speaking to other counties to gauge what type of an impact a casino could have on Centre County.

“Erie County is a few years ahead of us in this process. Definitely want to take a look at what they’ve done. We obviously want to look at counties our size and what have they done? What’s been successful for them?” Higgins asked.

UNQUOTE

I checked on some local community impact of Erie County's casino and found the following link to a May 24, 2021 news release from the United States Department of Justice detailing the gambling-related conviction of a former Erie County elected official:

[Former Erie City Council President Sentenced for Defrauding the Non-Profit She Founded to Cover Her Gambling and Personal Expenses | USAO-WDPA | Department of Justice](#)

Additionally, here's a very recent link to the Erie County casino's revenue information published on July 21, 2021.

[Presque Isle Downs & Casino revenue up from previous year \(goerie.com\)](#)

For the College Township Manager and Council members: Please include this email in the consent agenda for the next regularly scheduled College Township Council meeting. Thanks very much!

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Howard, PA