

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15, 2023

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“Las Vegas Sands’ zoning petition shows the project is unequivocally wrong for our county” says the Say NO to the Casino Civic Association

Hempstead, NY – Earlier this month, Las Vegas Sands (LVS) filed a document requesting that the Town of Hempstead Board rezone the 70+ acre site where Nassau Coliseum and the Marriott Hotel sit, to allow for development of a massive casino and hotel complex. The information provided in the document provides a clearer picture of the mammoth scale of the project and validates the concerns of the Say NO to the Casino Civic Association and the countless residents of Nassau County who adamantly oppose letting a casino move in and exploit our community for profit.

“After disingenuously implying in their talking points that the casino will be small, by emphasizing the gaming floor will be only 10% of it’s footprint, LVS reported in the zoning application that its behemoth casino will be 393,726 sq.ft. - the size of seven football fields - which would make it the **second-largest casino in the country**. LVS expects annual gambling losses to exceed \$2 billion/yr, because the casino footprint will be on a scale not even seen in Las Vegas. And let’s not forget that most of the \$2 billion will likely come from Long Islanders, not tourists.” said **Rich Catalano** of Garden City, after reviewing the LVS document.

Pearl Jacobs of Uniondale added, “LVS is playing us all for fools. The annual ‘community benefits’ they propose to offer to organizations in the surrounding areas, as a way to ameliorate the existential threat of living near a casino, will total a mere \$4 million /yr. LVS earns \$4 million every 12 hours operating its enormous casinos in China and Singapore. The \$2 billion in annual gambling losses dwarfs the miniscule ‘payments’ that LVS is dangling in exchange for support for this abhorrent idea.”

“LVS highlighted that it will fund \$500,000 for construction of a police substation on the premises, and will pay up to \$1.8 million /yr for the additional policing needed. By agreeing to this, LVS and Nassau County are both conceding that crime will go up if this casino gets built. I am flabbergasted that our local government would welcome such a project and put the families living in the surrounding communities at such risk.” commented **George Krug** of Garden City.

Rase Denny of Baldwin, noted that LVS’ proposed plan to spend \$1 million on a veterans memorial doesn’t sit right with him. “Our veteran heroes fought for our freedom and our way of life, not for the right of a casino company to prey on our citizens by draining their wallets on the false promise of big winnings. Placing such a memorial next to a massive casino is an affront to our Long Island Veterans. LVS doesn’t even have the courage to publicly admit that they plan to knock down the memorial that now stands on that land, the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.”

Sierra Club member and Baldwin resident **Steve Rolston** raised concerns about the environmental impact of such a project. “A structure this big, almost 4 million sq ft, running 24/7, with 12,450 parking spaces in three multi-level garages, will strain our energy and water resources, place inordinate demands on our transportation and sewage infrastructure, and exacerbate and entrench traffic congestion. Many of the roads in our county are already at peak capacity. A land-locked casino dumped into peaceful Nassau County is a short-sighted money grab, which benefits no one but LVS and the politicians they have hoodwinked.”

East Meadow resident **Deirdre Benoit** reviewed the LVS petition and reflected on Comptroller DiNapoli's recent report. "New York Comptroller Tom DiNapoli recently issued a report urging local governments to use caution in budgeting potential casino revenue, as state data shows that tax revenue from New York casinos has by and large fallen short of expectations. I anticipate that the Town of Hempstead will do their due diligence when reviewing the LVS petition. I am baffled why our county gave the land lease to LVS without first pressure-testing all of the revenue assumptions and looking deeply into the impact that a \$4 billion, 4 million sq ft monstrosity will have on our quality of life."

"Make no mistake, LVS is hungry to take root in our community to drive as many people as they can to their gaming floor. LVS' other casinos generate more than 70% of revenues from gambling. Everything else they propose to build - the restaurants, spa, hotel rooms, etc - is designed to drive people to the casino floor. And the one they want to build in the Town of Hempstead will be colossal. I expect the elected officials in the Town of Hempstead will reject LVS' request. Why would our elected officials let LVS move in and prey on their own constituents?" said **Lynn Krug** of Garden City.

"We want to make sure everyone in the Town of Hempstead understands what's at stake. If LVS gets the opportunity to build, our communities will be shattered. We can list the harms - increased traffic, air, and water pollution, higher rates of crime and gambling addiction, lower property values, among others. But when those negatives compound year after year, it will cause both tangible and intangible harm. A proposal for a casino has been denied by the Town of Hempstead in the past and should be rejected again for all the same reasons. The presence of a casino will erode the hopeful, supportive, communal fabric that generations before us have built, and that we all should be protecting." reflected **Marge Congello** of Bellmore.

Recent research conducted on the impact casinos have on their host communities validates the Say NO to the Casino Civic Associations' concerns, and should serve as a stark warning for the Town of Hempstead. In the University of Illinois Law Review (Vol 2021, No. 5), Nobel Laureate Paul Samuelson emphasized that gambling 'creates no new money or goods' and 'subtracts from the national income.' The National Association of Realtors' reported, "The impact of casinos on local property values is unambiguously negative. (Casinos) act as parasites upon them. Communities located within 10 miles of a casino exhibit double the rate of problem gambling. Unsurprisingly, such communities also suffer higher rates of home foreclosure and other forms of economic distress and domestic violence."

The Say NO to the Casino Civic Association expects that the Town of Hempstead will complete a thorough and fair review of LVS' petition. We plan to fully participate in the process and are confident that the Town of Hempstead will serve in the best interest of its constituents and reject LVS' petition.

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Say No to the Casino Civic Association is a non-partisan group, composed of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents from across Nassau County, who have come together with one goal: to stop the Las Vegas Sands Casino proposal. The group believes that a casino will have an unequivocally negative impact on our community and irrevocably change the character of our county. The group believes that a casino will lead to an increase in crime, gambling addiction, bankruptcy and home foreclosure rates; exacerbate traffic problems; impact our natural environment including air and water quality; depress home values; and strain law enforcement. We invite everyone in Nassau County to join us and get involved by signing our petition on our new website, www.nocasinonassau.org, joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter and Instagram, @NoCasinoLI.

Interested in getting involved in our group?

Visit our newly relaunched website: www.nocasinonassau.org; Email: nocasinonassau@gmail.com

Facebook: Say No to the Casino Civic Association; Twitter/Instagram: @NoCasinoLI

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