

# **SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

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Contact: Allison O'Brien Silva; 240-355-7635 / aobriensilva@gmail.com

## **Casino Opponents Support Union Jobs for Projects that Benefit Our Community**

***Casinos bring wide-ranging negative impacts to suburban communities;  
We call on local unions to join us in demanding that our leaders champion  
something better to build at the HUB***

Garden City, NY – Members of the Say No to the Casino Civic Association invite local unions to join us in our opposition to the casino proposal. We ask the unions to help us urge our elected officials to reject the Sands Casino proposal, and support a development project at the HUB that benefits our community.

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# **SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

## **OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL UNION LEADERS**

To the leaders of the hard-working unions in our community,

We reach out to you today with deep respect for unions and appreciation of the work you all do on behalf of individuals and businesses throughout our thriving community. We support your efforts to find well-paying jobs and consistent, reliable work for your members. We support your commitments to job training and job safety, so that the next generation of union members will be strong.

We understand that you are in support of the Sands proposal to build a casino at the HUB, and that you have been promised jobs to build and work in the casino if the project is approved. This of course would be a positive outcome for your community of union members. While union members may indeed enjoy at least short-term steady employment from this project, we respectfully invite you to look deeper at the far-reaching, negative consequences that casinos have when they come into suburban communities.

We are confident that once you are apprised of the potentially devastating negative effects a casino can have on your neighbors, friends, and union colleagues, we are confident that you will join us in our efforts to stop the casino proposal. We invite you to help us push for a project to build at the HUB that serves to benefit all of us who live and work in Nassau County. We want you to work, we want you to build - we just don't want you to build a casino.

Rates of problem gambling and addiction go up in direct correlation with proximity to a casino. Your neighbors, friends, and family may be among those in our community whose lives will be shattered from gambling addiction. Among severe problem gamblers, approx 20% of them report they've attempted suicide in the past year (source: foxnews.com). Casinos design their slot machines to maximize addiction; studies have shown that slot machines affect our brain function in a way similar to prescription opioids

(source: "How Casinos Enable Gambling Addicts," *The Atlantic*, Dec 2016). Would you want to see your neighbor lose his house and family because of his addiction?

Your neighbors, friends, and family may also be subject to increased rates of crime. Studies show crime rates in suburban communities with casinos increase by 9%, and gambling addicts are seven times more likely to be arrested than non-gamblers. For every 100,000 people, that implies possibly 615 more larcenies, 325 more burglaries, 272 more auto thefts, 10 more rapes, and 100 more aggravated assaults. (source: "Crime: Review of Economic and Statistics Study" Professor Earl L. Grinolds, 2011). Would you want to be a victim of these crimes? And do you want to over-burden our police department and pay higher taxes for increased patrols?

Several colleges and schools surround the HUB site, including Hofstra, Adelphi, Nassau Community College, Kellenberg Memorial High School, and public school districts including Uniondale, Garden City and East Meadow, among others. Young people, especially under the age of 25, haven't fully matured neurologically, which makes them predisposed to addiction, particularly to gambling addiction. In fact, adults ages 18-24 have the highest rates of gambling problems (Source: NYproblemgambling.org).. Wouldn't you think twice about sending your child to a local school knowing s/he could simply walk right into a casino any time of day or night?

Prices of homes near a casino can drop 2%-10% according to the National Association of Realtors. Many of your friends and neighbors are relying on the equity in their homes to help fund their retirements. Would you want them to face financial hardship in retirement without the 'nest egg' they were expecting?

Members of the Say No to the Casino Civic Association are proud to live, work, and raise our children here in this wonderful county. There's an energy among us all in Nassau County of supporting neighbors, helping others in need, and working together for the good of our communities. In that spirit, members of our group are motivated to fight this proposal out of a powerful desire to make sure our government does what's best for all of us. We believe our local unions want only the best for our communities as well. We ask you to join us and help us stop this casino proposal from moving forward. We look forward to hearing from you. Please reach out to us at [nocasinonassau@gmail.com](mailto:nocasinonassau@gmail.com).

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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 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 (<http://nocasinonassau.org/>), joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter (@NoCasinoLI).

Our petition:

<http://nocasinonassau.org/>

Interested in getting involved in our group?

Email: [nocasinonassau@gmail.com](mailto:nocasinonassau@gmail.com)

Facebook: Say No to the Casino Civic Association

Twitter: @NoCasinoLI

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