

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Say NO to the Casino Group: *Garden City is Fighting on Behalf of All Of Us*

Garden City, NY: Upon learning that the Trustees of Garden City filed a lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court against Nassau County, the Say NO to the Casino Civic Association issued the following statement:

"The Say No to the Casino group applauds the Garden City Board of Trustees for taking bold action in court today against Nassau County. After Hofstra University successfully sued on grounds that the County mishandled the first attempt to issue Las Vegas Sands (LVS) a lease for the Nassau HUB, the County yet again showed blatant disregard for federal, state, and even their own county laws in their second attempt to push the lease through.

Garden City Trustees filed documents in court that highlight multiple ways the County again skirted the law in order to secure a 42-year operating lease for LVS without completing the proper environmental review. The 70 acres of land at the HUB belong to the taxpayers of Nassau County. Through a faulty process, the officials we elected to act in our best interests, handed the keys to the heart of our county to a predatory gambling company.

Garden City Trustees today showed that they are thoughtful advocates for their community, and by extension, the whole county. We urge our elected officials to review the research as it exposes legalized predatory gambling for what it is – a destructive drain by all measures, be it economic, environmental, or social. LVS is proposing to build the second largest casino in the country, part of a massive structure almost twice the square footage of Roosevelt Field. If built, the casino will have extensive negative impacts on our community for generations to come.

Uniondale's Nostrand Gardens Civic Association President and one of the founders of Say NO to the Casino, Pearl Jacobs, commented, "It appears the County skirted the law again by having the Legislature vote on a new lease without first completing the SEQR process. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation recently designated several communities surrounding the HUB as overburdened from the impacts of air pollution and climate change. The additional air pollution and degradation of our environment that would result if LVS is allowed to build, would exacerbate an already serious health crisis facing nearby communities. These multiple efforts to circumvent NYS law should disqualify LVS from competing for a downstate casino license."

Any decisions on the future of the Nassau HUB should be taken with utmost seriousness. Nassau residents deserve a process that is fair, transparent, inclusive of community input, and abides by the law. The County was probably hoping its constituents wouldn't pay attention to the lease transfer process. We are grateful that The Village of Garden City was among those paying close attention and is willing to advocate for the residents of Nassau County.

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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 by visiting our website, www.nocasinonassau.org, joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter and Instagram, @NoCasinoLI.