

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 10, 2023

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Judge's Decision on HUB Will Shine Light on Massive Casino Impacts It's a Big Black Eye for Blakeman but a Win for Transparency and the Rule of Law

Mineola, NY – Yesterday, New York State Supreme Court Judge Kapoor annulled the HUB lease transfer to Las Vegas Sands and ordered Nassau County to start the land disposition process over again, this time following the law. This legal decision, and win for Hofstra University, who brought the case against the County, validates the contention of the Say NO to the Casino Civic Association, which for months has been sounding the alarm that not only did the County improperly rush the process through the legislature, denying residents the opportunity to weigh in, but it also neglected to review, quantify, disclose, and address the significant impacts that the mammoth casino project will have on County residents, businesses, and colleges.

New York State officials should take note of this ruling by Judge Kapoor when making decisions on awarding the gambling licenses, as it highlights County Executive Blakeman's contempt for his own constituents, and his blatant disregard for federal, state, and even county laws, as well as the right of every Nassau County resident to understand the wide-ranging, long-term impacts that this massive project will have on our way of life. Why were our elected officials willing to violate the law to push the lease transfer through? Was it because they knew that a massive, predatory casino in the center of our county couldn't withstand legitimate scrutiny by the people?

The Judge found that in addition to thwarting the Open Meetings Law, the county circumvented state law which requires that all impacts from the project be fully disclosed, so that the public and decision-makers fully understand the consequences and agree on a plan to mitigate impacts prior to disposition of the land. Local residents have expressed concerns over increased traffic, air and water pollution, strains on Long Island's drinking water, higher rates of crime and gambling addiction, and lower property values, all of which compounded year after year, will have very significant negative impacts on Nassau County's people, infrastructure, natural resources, and economy. None of these impacts have been fully acknowledged or addressed:

- **Traffic impacts:** Many of the roads in the vicinity are already at peak capacity, especially during certain hours of the day. LVS is projecting 25,000 gamblers and employees daily to travel to the site, situated in a densely populated community without mass transit. A full traffic study (and mitigation plan) is needed for local roads, as well as roadways across Long Island that feed into the HUB.
- **Increased crime:** Gambling addicts frequently turn to crime to support their addiction. [Studies](#) show they are seven times more likely to be arrested than non-gamblers. Overall, crime rates in suburban communities hosting casinos increase by 9%. Why would our elected officials invite higher crime rates without fully understanding and mitigating the impacts?
- **Drinking water:** Long Island's sole source aquifers must be conserved and protected. LVS plans to pull 875,000 gallons per day from our aquifer. That's enough water to serve 2,215 homes! Where is the long term plan to manage this fragile resource?

- Depressed property values: According to the [National Association of Realtors](#), “The impact of casinos on local property values is unambiguously negative. (Casinos) act as parasites upon them. Unsurprisingly, such communities also suffer higher rates of home foreclosure and other forms of economic distress and domestic violence.” The value of homes near a new casino often drops by 2-10%. Home values are not only a main source of retirement savings for residents, the property taxes residents pay also comprise a substantial part of our community’s tax base.
- Shadows, streetscapes, views and light pollution: Two new hotel towers will be 26 stories tall - twice as tall as the Marriott, disturbing the site line for miles. 9-story parking garages will tower over the recently built \$180 million MSK Cancer Care facility. Comprehensive shadow and light pollution assessments need to be disclosed.
- Sewage/air quality/energy use: At almost 4 million sq ft, running 24/7, with 12,450 parking spaces in three multi-level garages, this structure will strain the County’s energy resources, and place inordinate demands on sewage infrastructure.
- Gambling losses and local economic impact: LVS projects annual gambling losses by patrons to exceed \$2 billion/year, or \$5.5 million per day, approximately 10 times the money lost by visitors to Jakes 58. How much of that \$2 billion will come from Long Islanders who will be losing discretionary dollars that will no longer be spent in Long Island downtowns?
- Gambling addiction and social/community impacts: A casino within 10 miles of home has a significant effect on problem gambling and is associated with a [90 percent increase in the odds of being a pathological or problem gambler](#). Among severe problem gamblers, [approx 1 out of 5 report they’ve attempted suicide in the past year](#).

“We are grateful that Hofstra University was among those paying close attention to the land disposition process and took legal action.” said Allison O’Brien Silva of the Say NO group.

The Say No to the Casino Civic Association applauds Hofstra University and is gratified that the court ruled in their favor. Hofstra built a powerful case, exposing the ‘arbitrary and capricious conduct’ of our county government in its efforts to push the HUB lease transfer through to LVS while skirting their own rules. If Nassau County begins the lease transfer process again, we look forward to participating in a serious, transparent evaluation of the impacts of this project on our families, neighborhoods and quality of life.. The people of Nassau County deserve nothing less.

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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.

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