

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Residents Call on Town of Hempstead to Stop Playing Games: Be Transparent on the Massive Impacts of the Proposed Casino; Delay SEQRA Proceedings Pending Final Court Ruling

Hempstead, NY: We find it perplexing that the Town of Hempstead is commencing an environmental impact study on the massive casino proposed at the HUB, given that the New York State Supreme Court has voided the transfer of the Nassau Coliseum lease to Las Vegas Sands Corporation. We call on the Town of Hempstead to halt their planned SEQRA proceedings until the courts make their final ruling on the status of the land lease. The HUB land is owned by the taxpayers of Nassau County and its fate should not be decided in back-room deals or through dubious loop-holes that would likely not hold up to scrutiny in court.

The proposed casino would be colossal (2nd largest casino floor in the country - dwarfing casinos in Las Vegas) and will have far-reaching, monumental impacts on our community. We call on the Town of Hempstead to start communicating with residents directly, openly, and transparently - we have a right to understand what's at stake.

The Town of Hempstead recently sent out mailings to residents announcing two SEQRA scoping meetings on the "Proposed Development of the Nassau Hub." The mailing incredibly left off any mention of the proposed casino or the proposed casino operator, Las Vegas Sands. Instead it referred to the casino as "proposed development" and Las Vegas Sands as simply "the organization proposing the development." In addition, residents in some communities, including Uniondale and Hempstead, are reporting that they haven't even received the mailing.

We believe that this intentional act of deception is designed to reduce attendance at the meetings and avoid public scrutiny of a proposal to build the country's second largest casino. This is not within the spirit of our Open Meetings Laws. The mailing must be immediately revised and delivered to ALL residents, and the SEQRA proceedings should be postponed until all residents receive transparent and comprehensive notice of the purpose of these important meetings.

The documents provided on the Town of Hempstead website (<https://hempsteadny.gov/1043/DocumentsCorrespondence-Filed>) confirm the significant adverse environmental and social impacts that this monstrous complex will bring to the heart of Nassau County: more traffic, more air, light and noise pollution, enormous use of our water supply and energy for a casino complex that will be more than 1.5x the size of the Roosevelt Field Mall, more gambling addictions, and a corrosive, destructive change to the character of our community.

What the documents do not address is the "in excess of \$2 billion" gambling losses that Las Vegas Sands plans to drain from the wallets of visitors to one of the country's largest casinos - money that will

come mostly from Long Islanders and that will no longer be spent in our local restaurants and downtowns. The documents also provide no disclosure as to the number of expected daily visitors to the massive casino - why is this critical information being withheld from the public? Is the Town of Hempstead afraid of the reaction of its residents if they knew just how massive this casino will be?

In the event the Town of Hempstead continues with its plans to hold the SEQRA scoping sessions on Thursday, January 18, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Uniondale Marriott, we encourage all Nassau County residents to come to the meetings and let Town of Hempstead elected officials know why they must "Say NO to the Casino" and why Las Vegas Sands must "Stay out of Long Island."

Residents are encouraged to visit our website www.nocasinonassau.org to learn more.

Residents can also sign up for updates and send an opposition letter to the New York State Gaming Commission at <https://form.jotform.com/233377955558170>

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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.