

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

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## **Say No to the Casino: Casino at the HUB is a Disastrous Idea, No Matter How Long the Process Takes**

Upon learning that the New York State Gaming Commission doesn't anticipate issuing downstate casino licenses until late 2025, the Say NO to the Casino Civic Association issued the following statement:

"We welcome the commission's slower timeline. No matter how long it takes, we are confident that the commission will find serious fault with Las Vegas Sands' (LVS) application. Not only is the proposed site wholly unsuited to host a massive casino, the Las Vegas Sands organization has shown a willingness to bend the rules and skirt the law in pursuit of a license. LVS has continued to brashly evade compliance with the law despite multiple court rulings, and has tacitly supported the harassment of local community members by our County Executive. Who would want that kind of menacing presence in their community?"

The illegal rush to push through the Nassau HUB lease transfer was motivated by the desire to gain the lease and zoning approval before the public was fully aware. This extended timeline will enable even more residents to get educated on the enormous scale of the casino proposal. The 4-million square-foot mega-structure would forever change the character of our community, and bring significant, pervasive, long-term negative impacts. We are also confident that the SEQRA process will find the extensive environmental impacts that will result from building the second-largest casino in the country can't be mitigated.

This timeline enables as many applicants as possible to participate. We're confident that compared to other more suitable locations, the commission will agree that the location Las Vegas Sands hopes to utilize is categorically wrong for a casino. Its proximity to Memorial Sloan Cancer Center; several institutions of higher learning; local public and private schools; and minority communities, including Uniondale, Westbury, and Hempstead, identified by NYS DEC as overburdened from the impacts of air pollution and climate change, should be enough to disqualify the application. In addition, the site is not accessible to mass transit and, if built, the traffic burden would be overwhelming. The amount of water and energy needed to operate the massive structure would strain our already fragile infrastructure. The additional air pollution expected from the increased traffic, and the construction and operation of the structure, poses a significant health hazard to the community.

Last but not least, studies have shown that individuals who live within a ten mile radius of a casino are at significantly increased risk of developing a gambling addiction. Research shows that rates of crime in neighborhoods surrounding a casino increase by 9%, while property values decline by 10%. It is bafflingly irrational to us that New York State leaders would want to partner with predatory gambling companies to exploit their constituents in exchange for the mirage of increased tax revenue.

No matter how much time Las Vegas Sands has to buy off support of special interest groups, bringing the second-largest casino in the country into the heart of our community will never, ever be a good idea.

In a perfect world, our state leaders would use this time to take stock of the explosion in gambling, and the number of new gambling addicts in New York, and choose to abort the process altogether, and abandon the idea of putting three casinos downstate. The expansion of commercialized, predatory gambling will leave our residents, and our state government, poorer in the end.”

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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 letter to the New York State Gaming Commission on our website, [www.nocasinonassau.org](http://www.nocasinonassau.org), joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter and Instagram, @NoCasinoLI.