

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

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## **Say No to the Casino Group Outraged, Not Surprised By Blakeman and Las Vegas Sands Continuing to Harass Hofstra**

Uniondale, NY: Upon learning that County Executive Bruce Blakeman held a rally today in support of predatory gambling company Las Vegas Sands, the 'Say No to the Casino' Civic Association issued the following statement:

"Mr. Blakeman needs to understand that he works for the people of Nassau County, not Las Vegas Sands (LVS). Mr. Blakeman's false accusations today that Hofstra colluded with Steve Cohen is nothing short of defamatory. Enough is enough. The County's dirty fight to win a casino license is unfairly targeting a prestigious academic institution that has sought to defend its student body and neighboring communities from the significant, pervasive, negative impacts that casinos bring.

We wish for a day when we have a County Executive who governs in the best interest of the people rather than serving as a strong man for a casino. Since Hofstra University turned to the courts to rectify the County's disregard for the rule of law last spring, Hofstra, and its President, Dr. Susan Poser, have been in the crosshairs of Mr. Blakeman and LVS' politically motivated, unwarranted attacks and harassment. We are grateful for Hofstra's leadership and commitment to protecting our community from a possible future as host to a massive, predatory casino.

Today's rally is nothing less than an attempt to manufacture more distractions from the fact that Hofstra's win in the courts is putting LVS' proposal in serious jeopardy. Instead of decrying Hofstra, we suggest that Mr. Blakeman simply abide by the court ruling and set an example to his constituents that laws are meant to be followed and will be enforced.

The fact remains that there is virtually no community support for a casino. During the recent Town of Hempstead public hearing process, which concluded on February 20, approx. 90% of written comments were in opposition to the casino. Unions will work to build whatever project gets approved for the Nassau HUB. We request that Mr. Blakeman lead an effort to invest in a future for the site that will serve the best interests for County residents, rather than line the pockets of Las Vegas Sands and its surrogates."

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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.nocasino Nassau.org](http://www.nocasino Nassau.org), joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter and Instagram, @NoCasinoLI.