

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 9, 2024

Contact: Allison O'Brien Silva; [aobriensilva@gmail.com](mailto:aobriensilva@gmail.com); cell: 240-355-7635  
Monica Kiely, [monicackiely@gmail.com](mailto:monicackiely@gmail.com); cell: 516-643-6740

## **Large Group of Say NO to the Casino Activists Spoke with Passion, Armed with Facts at Tonight's Hearing *Speakers Argued Sands Proposal is Unmitigable***

Mineola, NY: The Say NO to the Casino Civic Association urges the County Legislature to reject predatory gambling company Las Vegas Sands (LVS)' proposal to build the country's second largest casino at the Nassau HUB. The destructive drain on our environment, our local economy, and our social fabric is too great a cost for our community to bear. LVS used tonight's hearing as an opportunity to 'greenwash' the catastrophic impacts and gaslight residents into focusing on a few token reduction measures rather than the generational calamity that this project represents. It is a travesty that the County is still entertaining the idea of dropping a massive casino into our community.

'Say NO' lead organizer Steve Rolston of Baldwin points out, "LVS uses terms like 'mitigation' and 'best practices' to absolve themselves from the massive environmental damage their project will cause." We demand the County shine a light on the fact that LVS' perfunctory mitigations barely dent the significant impacts. For example, even with minimal 'mitigation,' LVS expects to dump 120,000 tons of CO2 into our air each year, after 'mitigating' from 137,000 tons. At this enormous scale, it would take more than 5 million new trees to remove the dangerous pollutant. 'Say NO' lead organizer Pearl Jacobs of Uniondale adds, "Several minority communities surrounding the Nassau HUB have been designated by the NYS DEC as already overburdened from the impacts of air pollution and climate change. Asthma rates are sky high - we can't stand by and let this happen to our community without a fight."

LVS' token 'mitigations' clearly are no match to the colossal scale of the expected damage. Lynn Krug, another 'Say NO' lead organizer, states, "LVS would use 5.3 million gallons of water per week, beyond the capacity of our current wells. LVS would need to build a new well to meet its water needs. Our aquifers are already under significant stress from drought, over-pumping, salt water intrusion, and pollution. Why would we let a predatory gambling company exploit our precious water resources?"

For several of the proposed 'mitigations,' LVS wants us to believe that they are doing us all a favor. We want to be crystal clear: Las Vegas Sands' *only* motivation is their own bottom line. Everything they propose in their biased environmental review is for their own benefit only. For example, the only reason why LVS is proposing to expand the Meadowbrook Parkway and other surrounding highways and intersections is because the 10 million visitors they expect per year will otherwise overwhelm our already inadequate traffic infrastructure. And make no mistake, after years of inconvenience during road construction, traffic will remain just as bad if not worse. Our congested roads are simply not designed to handle an additional 20,000-30,000 vehicles per day.

Next, we find the environmental review process itself to be purposely deceptive to the public and a minefield of conflicts of interest. The 28,000 pages of documents were publicly posted late last month, yet the County expects residents to absorb it and provide feedback within a few weeks, during the busiest time of the year for many families. We can't be sure the environmental study is even fair or accurate, given that it was funded by Las Vegas Sands. We insist that an independent study be conducted and verified to ensure an unbiased assessment. We also insist that the two County Legislators, Mr. McKevitt and Ms. Bynoe, whose participation in Las Vegas Sands

Working Groups as co-chairs of two committees was revealed in Appendix 2-9 of the DEIS, should recuse themselves from any further votes on this matter.

'Say NO' lead organizer Rich Catalano added, "The County just spent tens of thousands of dollars mailing a political ad to every County resident but has not spent a dime on mailings or town halls to educate residents on a proposed 4-million sq ft structure that will forever harm our quality of life."

In conclusion, of all the downstate locations competing for a gaming license, a casino at the Nassau HUB is most uniquely unsuitable for these reasons and more:

- Casino would be within walking distance of two universities and a high school
- Casino operations would require excessive pumping of our already-depleted sole-source aquifer and fragile drinking water supply
- Casino would be centered in an already-congested, car-dependent community, without access to mass transit
- Casino would put the survival of adjacent last remains of the Hempstead Plans at great risk
- Casino operations and resulting car traffic volumes would generate excessive air pollution into communities already identified as suffering inordinate burdens from air pollution and climate change

We urge our neighbors throughout Nassau County to read the full Draft Environmental Impact Statement (read it here: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/5734/Sands-DEIS>) and submit your comments and concerns to Nassau County at [sandscomments@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:sandscomments@nassaucountyny.gov) before the January 21, 2025 deadline.

###

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