



September 4, 2007

Via Fax to 717-783-1153 and 215-560-3458

The Hon. Governor Edward G. Rendell  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Re: Alternative Sites for Philadelphia Casinos

Dear Governor:

We write to follow up on our effort to re-site the two Philadelphia casinos to locations that do not cause as much harm to residential neighborhoods. We appreciate your public statements indicating that you are open to considering other sites, and to helping incentivize the casinos to move to those sites.

There is a tremendous opportunity here and we urge you to make it as meaningful as possible. We understand you believe the sites were well-chosen, and as you know, we could not disagree more; the sites may suit the casinos, but they do not represent viable choices for Philadelphia communities.

As you know, since our July 26 meeting with you, Councilman Frank DiCicco has sent you two letters containing lists of potential alternative sites. We do not believe it would be a useful procedure to simply forward these lists to the casino operators with an inquiry about whether they want to move. Instead, we believe that further research, and a substantive process that includes your personal and active participation, will be necessary to ensure that this process is productive. We want to make the most of this important opportunity to protect Philadelphia's neighborhoods while providing a more welcoming business environment for the casinos.

We therefore suggest that you create a formal, open, structure and process for reviewing and evaluating these and any other alternative sites that become identified. A blue-ribbon panel of independent land-use experts is one promising option. Whatever the specifics, the process should provide for openness, transparency, fairness, and objectivity, with meaningful opportunities for public comment. We will then have a credible way, shaped by good land-use planning, of determining where the best sites are in Philadelphia for these two casinos.

Thank you for your consideration of our suggestion. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Joe Schiavo, Old City Civic Association  
Rene Goodwin, Pennsport Civic Association



*Signed with the agreement and on behalf of the following groups: Whitman Council, Queen Village Neighbors Assn., Northern Liberties Neighbors Assn., Passyunk Square Civic Assn., Society Hill Civic Assn., Fishtown Neighbors Assn., Pennsport Civic Assn., Old City Civic Assn., Port Richmond on Patrol and Civic, Bella Vista United Civic Assn., Rivers Edge Civic Assn., Kensington South NAC, Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition, Franklin Bridge North Neighbors Assn., Neighbors Allied for the Best Riverfront, Bella Vista Town Watch, East Kensington Neighbors' Assoc., Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Washington Square West Civic Association, Center City Residents Association, Cross Town Coalition, Chestnut Hill Civic Association, Mayfair Civic*

cc: Councilman Frank DiCicco  
Republican councilman nominee Mike Seidenberg  
Democratic mayoral nominee Michael Nutter  
Republican mayoral nominee Al Taubenberger  
Inquirer  
Daily News  
Plan Philly.com  
Hallwatch  
The Day  
The Chicago Tribune