

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Say NO to the Casino Group: We Call On Nassau County and Las Vegas Sands to Stop their Blatant, Cynical Efforts to Mislead the Public

Mineola, NY: Say NO to the Casino issued this statement, upon learning that Las Vegas Sands (LVS) has outsourced operations of the Nassau Coliseum to ASM Global:

"We want answers from our elected officials. We knew throughout this summer's lease transfer process that the argument, pounded out over and over by pro-casino voices, that coliseum workers would lose their jobs unless the County allowed a predatory gambling company to take over the coliseum, was absolute hogwash.

That lie was the main driver for the County to give LVS a 42-year operating lease, without bothering to conduct the required environmental impact assessments. It's clear that LVS never intended to operate the coliseum. They wanted the operating lease solely to show they have site control in their quest for their ultimate goal - to build the country's second largest casino, embedded in a 4-million sq ft structure, walking distance from where 40,000 high school and college students live and study, on 72-acres of taxpayer-owned real estate in the heart of our County. This proves that the 42-year operating lease is illegal; it's the textbook definition of segmentation. The NYS State Supreme Court already ruled once that the County violated SEQRA last year. Handing LVS the 42-year operating lease is indeed another violation of SEQRA law. We call on the NY Gaming Commission to disqualify LVS, and the Attorney General to investigate.

We asked multiple times why the County hadn't solicited competing bids and never got answers. Clearly there are reputable companies up to the job, whose primary focus is operating venues, rather than getting people hooked on feeding cash into slot machines. We learned this week that LVS has outsourced casino operations to a third party, ASM Global. The County could've easily and directly hired ASM Global, or any of ASM's competitors, to operate it. There is absolutely no reason LVS is needed as a 'middle man.'

County leaders should be embarrassed that they didn't even bother to make any effort to secure a future for the Coliseum site that actually benefits the community. The County is squandering a once in a generation opportunity to lead with vision, foresight and responsibility.

We wish for a day when we can look to local elected officials who make decisions in the best interest of their communities, not in the best interests of a predatory gambling company seeking to extract \$2billion a year in gambling losses from Long Islanders."

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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 by visiting our website, www.nocasinonassau.org, joining our Facebook group, and following us on Twitter and Instagram, @NoCasinoLI.