

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

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## **Say NO to the Casino Group: *Las Vegas Sands Reveals Alarming Assault on Our Infrastructure***

Mineola, NY: Upon yesterday's public disclosure of Las Vegas Sands' Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Say No To The Casino Civic Association issued the following:

"Predatory gambling companies like Las Vegas Sands (LVS) have mastered the 'bait and switch' art of manipulation for profit. In the environmental report released yesterday, LVS revealed in great detail how they will co-opt, exploit, and abuse our resources and infrastructure in cynical, unabashed service to their bottom line. We cannot let stand the false premise that this massive casino will be safe for our environment and beneficial to our economy and society. This project will produce economic harm, environmental harm, and egregious societal harm that will last for generations. We urge our elected officials to save our suburbs and put a stop to this preposterous proposal.

Extensive infrastructure expansions are needed to support the proposed 4-million sq ft structure. This underscores the mammoth impact this project will have - it will once and for all kill off our county's suburban nature and quality of life.

LVS' highly-paid representatives are already spinning their plans to expand the Meadowbrook Parkway as a selfless service to the community. Don't be fooled, read the fine print. LVS *needs* to build out our roads otherwise they won't be able to get their expected **10 million visitors per year** into their 24/7/365 casino and its assemblage of no less than eight parking lots and garages. For comparison, about 10 million people per year visit Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, one of the largest theme parks in the country, situated in a major city designed to support and encourage tourism. Even with a few segments of extra lanes, our parkways will not be able to handle the massive increase in traffic that LVS expects, and we have no feasible mass transit alternative.

LVS' will also spin that their 'mitigation measures' planned for constructing and operating the massive casino will protect our resources. The focus should be on the massive amount of resources LVS expects to consume, not the rounding error that is their 'mitigation.' For example, as the current drought has reminded us of how precious a resource our water is, LVS will need to build a new well to tap into the 760,000+ gallons of water this monstrous casino complex will consume every day. LVS expects to emit **100,000 tons of CO2 per year**, after factoring in mitigation. It would take more than 5 million new trees to offset 100,000 tons of CO2. Accompanying the CO2 will be a host of pollutants and particulate matter that will infiltrate into communities already designated by the NYS DEC as overburdened from the effects of pollution and climate change.

In addition, Sands claims to support problem gambling treatment, yet if they build, they will create an addiction crisis in our community that will put tremendous strain on our mental health and social services. Studies show that people who live within 10 miles of a casino are twice as likely to become problem gamblers; and 3-4% of all gamblers are severe "problem gamblers." Of those, about 30-40% contemplate suicide every year,

Why should we bear these dangerous burdens while LVS rakes in \$2B in gambling losses?"

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