

SAY NO TO THE CASINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Say NO to the Casino Group: *History Will Remember That This Legislature Squandered Our Future*

Mineola, NY: Say NO to the Casino Civic Association issued the statement below, following tonight's shameful 18-1 vote to relinquish control of the HUB to a predatory gambling company for the next four decades:

"The County Legislature tonight cemented its role as willing accomplice to the vast gaslighting effort underway by predatory gambling company Las Vegas Sands (LVS) and County Executive Bruce Blakeman to spin the specious argument that giving LVS a 'site control and operating lease' for forty-two years has nothing to do with a casino. It has absolutely everything to do with Sands' insidious, relentless effort to use our community as unwitting host to the second-largest casino in the country.

The HUB lease the Legislature approved just now is the textbook definition of segmentation according to New York State environmental review laws. This sham of a lease should not have been passed until a full assessment of environmental, economic, and social impact could be conducted. LVS clearly has a plan for the land and the environmental review should NOT be segmented. Last fall the New York State Supreme Court told Nassau County to start the casino lease process over again due to their failure to follow the law. They played fast-and-loose with the rules once and we believe they're doing it again.

We appreciate and celebrate Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who voted in the best interest of the communities she represents. The majority of the Legislature, however, solved for the interests of LVS.

This lease is a dangerous example of the power of money in politics and the pay to play system at work in Nassau County. LVS is publicizing, even flaunting that it's paying off community organizations in exchange for support, backing Legislators into a corner with their vote. In another era, these payments would've been considered illegal bribes. Today, it exposes the depth to which predatory casino companies have infiltrated the halls of government and co-opted the rules of the process.

We call on Governor Hochul and members of the Gaming Facility Location Review board to take note of the continued actions of the County on behalf of LVS, their failure to represent the will of the people, and their disregard for the rules that govern this process. We urge the Gaming Commission to instruct the county to invalidate the lease until a complete, thorough environmental review is conducted, as required by SEQRA laws, or otherwise disqualify LVS from contention."

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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.