

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Cameron

James F. McHugh

Bruce W. Stebbins

Enrique Zuniga

HOST COMMUNITY HEARING - REVERE

July 15, 2014 4:00 p.m.

REVERE HIGH SCHOOL

101 School Street

Revere, Massachusetts 02151

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.

4 Good afternoon, everybody. I'd like to call
5 to order the second session of the host
6 community hearing that we started on June 24
7 and are continuing here tonight, this
8 afternoon. This is, of course, the
9 statutorily-mandated hearing that we conduct,
10 not only because the statute requires it, but
11 because the value we take in the thoughts and
12 expressions we hear as we move toward the
13 licensing decision later this summer.

14 So I want to welcome all of you here
15 tonight. I want to recognize Mayor Rizzo,
16 who's here tonight. The mayor is not going to
17 speak tonight, but will speak when we have the
18 final session as -- in August. We'll be back
19 for one more session at the close of this
20 hearing, and we'll hear from the mayor then,
21 and we'll give everyone a chance to speak at
22 that point.

23 But tonight's meeting is as we
24 talked about last time we were here, an

1 opportunity for those who signed up to speak
2 at the last meeting, but couldn't do so
3 because of time constraints, to talk tonight.
4 And those are the only ones from whom we'll
5 hear tonight. As I said, we'll have another
6 opportunity to hear from everybody who wants
7 to be heard when we come back in August. But
8 tonight we'll just hear from those who signed
9 up, and we'll hear from them in the order in
10 which they signed up. You'll recall that at
11 the last meeting that we stopped at eight
12 o'clock, believing, as we did, that, that was
13 the fairest way to deal with commitment,
14 dinner, hunger, fatigue, and at the same time
15 get the thoughts from all of you.

16 Once, again, the time constraints
17 are those that we've used throughout all of
18 these hearing. There's a clock on the stage
19 in front of us that will start when the
20 speaker approaches the podium I'm going to
21 designate a hot seat in which I'd like the
22 on-deck speaker to sit so we can make a smooth
23 tran -- quick transition to the podium, and
24 perhaps we could use the seat in the front row

1 right next to the podium as the hot seat. So
2 I'm going to call two names, and each time a
3 speaker takes the -- comes to the podium I'll
4 call the name of the second person who can
5 come to the hot seat.

6 And, finally, before we start,
7 before I call the first name, I would -- I've
8 been asked to remind everybody that there are
9 three exits, should -- in the unlikely event
10 of an emergency, two on either side of the
11 stage, and then one in the rear of the
12 building.

13 So with those preliminaries, let me
14 begin by calling Vincent F. Cammarata to the
15 podium, and I would call Kerri Abrams to the
16 on-deck chair. Mr. Cammarata.

17 MR. CAMMARATA: Good afternoon,
18 members of the commission.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
20 afternoon.

21
22 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good
23 afternoon.

24 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good

1 afternoon.

2 MR. CAMMARATA: Testing. I think it
3 sounds pretty good.

4 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Yeah.

5 MR. CAMMARATA: First of all, let me
6 thank you gentleman, and the ladies on the
7 commission to send me back my letters. I
8 really appreciate it.

9 Members of -- members of the
10 commission, thank you for allowing me to share
11 my thoughts and my opinions. My name is
12 Vincent F. Cammarata, a retired City of Revere
13 employee, sanitary code enforcement inspector,
14 Revere Board of Health for 18 years, and a
15 retired Suffolk Downs employee security
16 officer for 10 years. And I'm proud to say,
17 City of Revere resident for over 80 years.

18 The hearings we have explained all
19 of the important mitigation plans, traffic
20 designs, and the beautiful structure and
21 landscaping designs being proposed, along with
22 the many other benefits when the Mohegan Sun
23 sets in Revere. Thank you, Mayor Rizzo and
24 your team, and a special thank to Chip Tuttle

1 and to Suffolk Down for all of your hard work
2 for our great city of Revere.

3 The city of Revere has been a great
4 attraction for many visitors. Revere Beach,
5 the first public beach in the country, has
6 been enjoyed by so many over the years. There
7 were also so many entertainment places no
8 longer in existence and surely missed. I'll
9 be right with you.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Take your
11 time.

12 MR. CAMMARATA: When Mohegan comes
13 to Revere so will the entertainment pleasures
14 of days gone by. Amusements on the beach were
15 enjoyed by children and adults, as well as the
16 many games that test your skills. And I have
17 such wonderful memories of the sandy beach so
18 crowded that we had to share towels. I would
19 be remiss if I didn't mention the beautiful
20 Oceanview ballroom and the Frolics Nightclub.
21 Two showpieces that featured wonderful
22 entertainers. We cannot talk about
23 entertainment in Revere and not mention the
24 Wonderland ballroom dance hall and sports

1 arena, where boxing and wrestling matches are
2 missed. Also, sorely missed, our wonderful
3 dog track, another Revere establishment gone
4 from our landscape. Something that lives on
5 the good -- something that lives at the good
6 homes found for the greyhounds that were
7 adopted by many dog lovers. Suffolk Downs
8 racecourse, Sport of Kings, enjoyed by so
9 many, standing room only for the late-comers.
10 Suffolk Downs racetrack, in my opinion,
11 deserves to be included in The Triple Crown
12 gala with the Massachusetts handicap.

13 Now, I would like to mention what
14 Suffolk Downs has done, and still does for
15 Revere. Suffolk Downs, the giver and the
16 do-gooder. Suffolk Downs has held events for
17 special-needs children, including games, pony
18 rides, and refreshments, concerts for all to
19 enjoy, Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari enjoyed
20 by many. Sporting event shows, athletes
21 signing autographs for happy people, donations
22 to organizations for good causes.
23 Suffolk Downs security aided in patrolling the
24 area when fuel spilled out of a nearby storage

1 tank, a possible fire hazard. During heavy
2 snowstorms, Suffolk Downs would allow the snow
3 to be placed in the parking lots. They also
4 allowed vehicles to be parked in the lot to
5 aid the city during snow removal. Suffolk
6 Downs has contributed so much to the city of
7 Revere and the surrounding communities.

8 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right,
9 Mr. Cammarata, thank you very much. We'll be
10 happy to take --

11 MR. CAMMARATA: Just a few more
12 words, please.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: We'll be happy
14 to take, sir, the rest of your remarks as
15 written.

16 MR. CAMMARATA: It's only three
17 lines. Please.

18 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Three lines.
19 Three lines.

20 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you,
21 Mohegan Sun for your honest and sincere desire
22 to be part of our city. Once again, thank you
23 Gaming Commission for your patience and hard
24 work. Game -- Gaming Commission, please make

1 the right choice. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
4 much, sir.

5 MR. CAMMARATA: Thank you. Thank
6 you all.

7 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: All right.

8 Ms. Abrams didn't take the on-deck chair.

9 Scott Maibor and Steven Russo. Are they in
10 the hall tonight. Mr?

11 MR. ROUSSEL: Roussel.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Steven?

13 MR. ROUSSEL: Roussel.

14 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Yes, sir. And
15 then I'll look for Gary Barrett in the on-deck
16 chair. Mr. Roussel.

17 MR. ROUSSEL: Thank you. Gaming
18 Commission, thank you for having me. My name
19 is Steve Roussel. I grew up in East Boston.
20 I consider myself a civic leader. I now live
21 in Winthrop with my wife. And I'd just like
22 to tell you what I've observed over the last
23 five or six years with Suffolk Downs and their
24 partner Mohegan Sun.

1 I feel that they're the most
2 transparent project out of the two. They --
3 they participate in a lot of community
4 activities. They came to a multi -- a
5 multicultural chamber event where there were
6 five communities. There was East Boston,
7 Revere, Chelsea, Malden, Everett. And the
8 people from Mohegan Sun were there, along with
9 the people from East Boston. So what's
10 happening is, they're becoming part of the
11 fabric of the community. And I think that's
12 really important. I think it's important that
13 if you're going to provide leadership, if
14 you're going to be one of the two economic
15 engines in this area, in the gateway of
16 New England, I -- I think that you have to
17 have leadership, you have to become part of
18 the fabric of the community, you have to care
19 about the community, and I think that's what,
20 in my opinion, Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs
21 does.

22 They've negotiated with the all
23 their surrounding communities. It wasn't easy
24 for them, but, again, that's a good example of

1 leadership, whereas, Wynn, they have, I think,
2 half the amount, and they still have two
3 outstanding commitments that they're going to
4 go to arbitration. I guess the point that I'd
5 like to try to make here is that, if every
6 time something comes up are they going to go
7 to an arbitrator, or are they going to do what
8 Mohegan Sun did, and Suffolk Downs, which was
9 to, you know, respect and have confidence, and
10 have a relationship and come to a compromise.
11 I think that's a good example of -- of what
12 I'm seeing with the Mohegan Sun.

13 I think the location is a superior
14 location. I see highway, I see train. My
15 vision is that, eventually, I think down the
16 road, once it's all built, I'll see a water
17 shuttle, and I'll maybe see a tram. I like
18 the fact that -- I just kind of think that the
19 Wynn people are more corporate, they seem far
20 away. I think that the Mohegan Sun, by them
21 participating, by them going to a YMCA, The
22 Boys and Girls Club, participating, going into
23 golf tournaments, meeting the people, shaking
24 hands, going to the housing -- the affordable

1 housing community organizations, I think
2 that's helpful.

3 I think a project like this needs a
4 leader. It's one thing, I think, that if this
5 was a real small job of a small business
6 owner. But what we have here are thousands
7 and thousands of people that are going to be
8 affected. I think that if I'm the gaming
9 commission, I want you all to look back 20
10 years from now and saying, hey, I made the
11 right decision. I feel that if you do choose
12 the Mohegan Sun you would be making the right
13 decision.

14 The one thing that I wanted to bring
15 up, I've heard a lot of people's testimony,
16 but this is a subject that has not come up, I
17 think. It's called food and security. In
18 this area there's a lot of people that,
19 because of the amount of money that they make,
20 they don't make a lot, there's a lot of single
21 female mothers that are going to bed hungry,
22 they're not able to feed their kids. It's a
23 real problem. I've seen the Mohegan Sun, I've
24 seen Suffolk Downs participate with the local,

1 nonprofit organizations. I just have so much
2 confidence that if Mohegan Sun were to get the
3 license, if you were to choose them, that not
4 a drop of food would go to waste. And because
5 they know all these organizations, they've
6 made a point to know these organizations, we
7 could fight food and security, and provide
8 jobs. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
10 Thank you very much. Next on the list, a
11 Gary Barrett. Mr. Barrett didn't answer. Are
12 you here, Mr. Barrett? No?
13 Ann Marie Casey. Ms. Casey and Gail Miller to
14 the on-deck circle, if Ms. Miller is here.
15 Ms Casey.

16 MS. CASEY: Good afternoon,
17 Commissioners. I appreciate you all taking
18 the time this evening and throughout this
19 entire process to listen to presentations and
20 testimony. My name is -- my name is
21 Anne Marie Casey, and I am the executive
22 director of the North of Boston Convention and
23 Visitors Bureau, which is the state designated
24 tourism promotion organization for the 34

1 cities and towns and towns in Essex County,
2 which includes Lynn, Salem, Gloucester,
3 Rockport, Newburyport, Haverhill and many
4 more. The North of Boston CVB would like to,
5 once again, offer our support for Mohegan
6 Sun's proposal to build a destination resort
7 casino in the city of Revere. The CVB's board
8 of directors are confident that Mohegan Sun
9 will be a strong tourism partner with us and
10 our member businesses as we work together to
11 promote Essex County and our surrounding
12 regional partners as premier visitor
13 destinations for leisure, group, meetings and
14 special events travel, both domestically and
15 internationally.

16 As Mohegan Sun mentioned in their
17 presentation a few weeks ago, the
18 North of Boston CVB has entered into a
19 partnership agreement with Mohegan Sun.
20 Working together, Mohegan Sun Massachusetts
21 and the North of Boston CVB will conduct and
22 follow-up on sales calls and trade show
23 participation that generate business economic
24 growth, and tax revenue for Massachusetts.

1 Tourism is currently the third
2 largest economic generator in Massachusetts.
3 In 2012 tourism generated \$17.7 billion in
4 direct expenditures and supported 127,000
5 paying jobs paying \$3.7 billion in wages. And
6 with increased international visitation
7 expected from direct flights, such as
8 Hainan Air, the Beijing to Boston flight,
9 Massachusetts has never been better positioned
10 said for increased tourism growth.

11 We will also cross-promote one
12 another, not only through job creation and the
13 purchase of goods and services, but all
14 through -- also through programs like the
15 Mohegan Sun Massachusetts Momentum Points
16 Partnership Program, tourism events,
17 publications and initiatives. Methods of
18 cross-promotion also includes Web sites and
19 mailings, on-site kiosks and visitor centers,
20 and, of course, educational and informational
21 seminars and events.

22 Additionally, I would like to
23 mention that the North of Boston CVB is very
24 pleased with Mohegan Sun's commitment to

1 transportation and infrastructure improvements
2 that will not only address resort conditions,
3 but also improve longstanding regional traffic
4 issues, such as the ramps at Route 1 and
5 Route 16, and access from the north to Logan
6 Airport.

7 In conclusion, thank you for all
8 your thoughtful evaluation of -- of the
9 Mohegan Sun's proposal, and we urge you to
10 give them every consideration. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
12 Thank you. Ms. Miller did not answer.
13 Nick Moulaison, Sr., am I pronouncing that
14 correctly? Moulaison, Sr. Steven Fielding,
15 Diane Cataldo, Jeffrey Howe. Mr. Howe, and
16 Jane O'Reilly to the on-deck chair.

17 MR. HOWE: Good afternoon.

18 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
19 afternoon, Mr. Howe.

20 MR. HOWE: Thank you for allowing me
21 to speak today before the commission in
22 support of the Mohegan Sun project in Revere.
23 I'm a 17-year Revere business man and bank
24 manager over on Broadway in Revere. I've also

1 had the privilege of serving as the president
2 of the chamber of commerce, and been a member
3 for many years as well. Over the years I've
4 had the pleasure and benefit of interacting
5 and having conversations with, literally,
6 thousand of Revere business owners and
7 residents. I've witnessed many Revere
8 business owners struggle to increase revenues,
9 and residents have continually asked me if I
10 know anyone hiring. The incidences of
11 businesses and personal customers overdrawing
12 their checking accounts have dramatically
13 increased over the years, and I think we all
14 know how costly that can be.

15 The positive economic impact that
16 the casino would have on Revere businesses and
17 residents cannot be overstated. Mohegan Sun's
18 commitment to spend \$10 million annually with
19 Revere vendors would allow businesses to drive
20 revenues, create additional jobs and prosper.
21 The Mohegan rewards program would further
22 benefit Revere businesses, not to mention the
23 thousand of casino visitors that might rent a
24 hotel room, buy gas, or go out to eat at one

1 of our city's great restaurants.

2 Mohegan Sun's \$50 million commitment
3 within a 15-mile radius would obviously
4 provide similar benefits at a regional level
5 to many local cities and towns. Economies
6 from Boston to Salem would all be
7 strengthened. The construction of permanent
8 jobs created by the casino would create
9 thousands of jobs for Revere residents,
10 offering them hope and the ability to improve
11 the quality of their lives. It would also
12 save the livelihoods of hundreds whose jobs at
13 Suffolk Downs are at stake, and those of all
14 that provide services to the horseracing
15 industry. Make no mistake, this casino
16 represents a critical lifeline for many in
17 Revere.

18 Suffolk Downs and Revere have been
19 planning and working for this casino for many
20 years. I had the honor of introducing
21 Chip Tuttle at a Revere Chamber of Commerce
22 breakfast seven years ago. And Chip talked
23 about job creation for Revere residents,
24 vendor opportunities for Revere businesses,

1 and even rewards cards being able -- being
2 able to be used to buy goods and services from
3 Revere businesses. He also spoke of the tens
4 of millions of dollars that would be spent on
5 infrastructure road improvements to not only
6 handle casino traffic, but to provide much
7 needed relief for troubled traffic and
8 bottlenecks. Over the years, that message has
9 not changed one iota. Mohegan Sun picked up
10 the ball and has been along step with the
11 original message and commitments. Everything
12 we've been told for years remains true today.

13 Mohegan Sun has been a great partner
14 to the city of Revere. The communications
15 have been frequent, timely and very clear.
16 They've conducted countless meetings and
17 informational forums to share plans, to help
18 business owners learn how to become vendors,
19 and to help residents learn how to make
20 careers at Mohegan Sun. Their employees have
21 become our advisers and friends.

22 All of our experiences with
23 Mohegan Sun validate state -- the statement
24 that Mitch Etes made at our last meeting

1 about transparency. They truly have been
2 completely open and very ethical. Mohegan Sun
3 has earned our respect and loyalty.

4 The fact that Mohegan Sun has
5 successfully negotiated agreement with all
6 communities, including Boston, speaks volumes
7 of their business acumen, character and
8 integrity.

9 Mohegan Sun is the right choice, and
10 Suffolk Downs is the right location. The time
11 is now, and we're all ready to leverage this
12 once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create jobs,
13 drive significant revenues at local and state
14 levels, and transform this great city with its
15 historic and beautiful beach into a
16 first-class destination resort. Please cast
17 your votes for Revere and Mohegan Sun
18 Suffolk Downs. Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: I called
20 Jane O'Reilly and she didn't answer. So
21 James -- oh --

22 MS. O'REILLY: I'm here.

23 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Oh, I'm sorry.
24 So I'd ask James Pasquariello to take the

1 on-deck chair, please, if he's here. If not,
2 Kathy Wyatt. If not John -- there's
3 Kathy Wyatt. All right. Ms. O'Reilly.
4 MS. O'REILLY: Thank you,
5 Commissioners. I got lost. I left my
6 glasses. But my name is Jane O'Reilly. I'm a
7 resident of East Boston, a graduate of
8 Harvard, and a retired -- retired national
9 political reporter. I've attended almost all
10 of these hearings. I've heard many things
11 both probable and possible. I'm concerned
12 about one particular thing today that I've
13 been doing some research into. I've been
14 told, or perhaps it's even agreed upon
15 somewhere, that the racetrack at Suffolk Downs
16 will continue to operate for 15 years if a
17 casino comes to Revere. There's some doubt,
18 given the news from Moody's Investor Services
19 from Trump Plaza in -- in Atlantic City and,
20 indeed, across the nation of the state of
21 casinos, that casinos may not exist for 15
22 years. The glamor seems to have grown thin.
23 But there is also, alas, great doubt that
24 Suffolk Downs can continue to exist as a

1 racetrack for 15 years, whether or not it
2 nestles next to a casino.

3 During the 2008 recession many small
4 horse farms went under. The foal crop, the
5 number of thoroughbred horses born each year,
6 was 35,000 nationally in 2006. It's now
7 21,000. It declined to 40 percent. The
8 number of races run in the U.S. also declined
9 to 21,000 this year, a 16 percent decline.
10 Even so, there are more races than there are
11 suit -- available horses. In New York state,
12 there are 1600 thoroughbred mares and 70
13 stallions. In Massachusetts, there are 43
14 thoroughbred mares and 10 listed stallions
15 we're lucky get more than four dates a year.
16 The idea that a connected casino will save a
17 racetrack might be arguable in New York, but
18 it's absurd in Massachusetts.

19 New York has a well-developed,
20 extensive, state-backed, decades-old system of
21 state subsidies for the racetrack industry.
22 Massachusetts has nothing like it and would
23 have to start from scratch. And, in fact,
24 nationally, most racetracks connected to

1 casinos have tended to move toward less
2 racing. The best examples I can think of are
3 tracks in Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana and
4 Florida. All are reducing their number of
5 races. Ground and solar tracks unconnected to
6 gaming, such as Colonial Downs in Virginia,
7 which canceled its season this year, even
8 Saratoga's reduced the number of races planned
9 for the season, and voters also rejected a
10 casino. Small, minor league tracks, such as
11 Suffolk Downs, are the first to be hit by the
12 nationwide shortage of horses.

13 This season Suffolk Downs has had
14 trouble filling its races, even when it is
15 only open only three days a week. In
16 yesterday's racecard at Suffolk, for example,
17 the total amount bet on nine races was
18 830,000, which means that the track earned
19 less than 50,000 from its share of the
20 betting. From that same racecard, Suffolk
21 paid out \$118,000 in purses to the owners of
22 successful horses. That was before they paid
23 anyone to sweep the floors and turn on the
24 lights. In today's economic climate, a track

1 like Suffolk can't come anywhere close to
2 breaking even. They're going through the
3 motions, presumably, until the shower of gold
4 comes from the punitive casino.

5 I, myself, yearn for the romance of
6 a track as much as anyone --

7 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right,
8 Ms. O'Reilly, very much. We'd be happy to
9 take the rest of your remarks, if they're
10 written out.

11 MS. O'REILLY: I will send them to
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Pardon me?

14 MS. O'REILLY: I will give them to
15 you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Okay. Good.
17 Thank you very much. Ms. Wyatt, and
18 John Vitigliano to the on-deck chair, if he's
19 here. And, if not, Ellen Wallace. I'm sorry.
20 Ms. Wyatt, go ahead.

21 MS. WYATT: Hi. My name is
22 Kathy Wyatt, and I'm an abutter to
23 Suffolk Downs and Waldemar Avenue in East
24 Boston. My family and I aren't just a stone's

1 throw away, two miles away, a block away or up
2 the hill. Our backyard shares a property line
3 with Suffolk Downs. We are a matter of feet
4 away from the starting gates. So close that
5 someone in the house usually yells, they're
6 off, when they hear the ring of the bell and
7 the clang of the gates opening as a race
8 starts. So close that when the morning sun is
9 burning the dew off the grass and the fog is
10 lifting, I can actually hear the horses hooves
11 on the track and see their breaths when they
12 are out conditioning. When I look out my back
13 window I usually see green and blue. Green
14 grass, green trees, green shrubs and bushes,
15 and a beautiful blue sky that stretches all
16 the way to Revere Beach, which is more than a
17 mile away.

18 In the evenings when the setting sun
19 reflects off the buildings on Revere Beach it
20 makes them look like they're on fire. Double
21 rainbows arch across the sky after a summer
22 rain. It's so peaceful and serene that
23 sometimes I forget I'm living in the city.
24 But I fear that my little piece of paradise

1 will be lost if Mohegan Sun is not granted a
2 gaming license in Massachusetts.
3 Suffolk Downs will eventually close its doors,
4 and it's 79-year legacy of thoroughbred racing
5 will end.

6 Developers are already chomping at
7 the bit with their plans, and none of them
8 will make any improvements to our roads and
9 traffic conditions. I doubt that they will
10 enhance and preserve the green space, or train
11 employees for salaried positions with benefits
12 that Mohegan Sun has proposed. I doubt very
13 much that when I look out my back window in
14 the future I will see any green space,
15 nevermind all the way to the beach like I do
16 now.

17 Do my opponents realize the gravity
18 of the alternative if Mohegan Sun is passed
19 over for the gaming license? I wish they
20 would think about who and what is going to be
21 affected. To say that they would rather have
22 the 161 acres bulldozed over and developed
23 into a strip mall, low-income housing, or
24 possibly a freight company without any

1 improvement to the traffic situation is
2 ludicrous.

3 Suffolk Downs just isn't a
4 racetrack. It's part of East Boston and
5 Revere communities. If Mohegan Sun obtains
6 gaming license in Massachusetts, it would mean
7 saving Suffolk Downs and the hundreds of jobs.
8 Some of those employees have been working
9 there for more than 30 years and are close to
10 retirement. What are they going to do, if
11 Suffolk Downs closes, especially with the
12 economy the way it is? How are they going to
13 earn a living and support their families? Who
14 is going to offer them health insurance,
15 especially to someone who has a preexisting --
16 preexisting condition? Who's going to find
17 such dependable and faithful employees who
18 love their jobs as much as those at Suffolk
19 Downs? Will my opponents be willing to
20 support those who will be out of their jobs,
21 or would they rather have them go on welfare?

22 If Mohegan Sun doesn't get the
23 gaming license in Massachusetts and
24 Suffolk Downs does close, not only will the

1 actual racetrack be gone, but so will the best
2 neighbors in the world. Neighbors who have
3 always been concerned with my welfare and
4 asked for my opinions, and my concerns, before
5 moving forward with their plans for hosting
6 events such as Cirque du Soleil, the Hot Dog
7 Safari, the Phantom Gourmet rib fest and beach
8 parties, autism walks, concerts and Cavalia.

9 Most likely, we will have to sell
10 the house that we have lived in for the past
11 13 years. Our home where we have raised our
12 two boys. The home that we bought because of
13 the nice, big backyard and the beautiful view.
14 But who wants to live beside a small -- a
15 strip mall, freight company or low-income
16 housing? There will be no more green and
17 blue. No more green grass, no more green
18 trees, no more green shrubs and bushes, no
19 more beautiful blue skies, no more
20 immaculately-groomed grounds, no more
21 beautiful landscaping, no more horses, no more
22 piece and quiet.

23 So I'm asking that when you make
24 your decision, please remember me and my

1 family, and a song that Joni Mitchell used to
2 sing, they paved paradise to put up a parking
3 lot.

4 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
5 Ms. Wyatt. John Vitigliano, and Ellen Wallace
6 to the on-deck seat. You're close enough.

7 MR. VITIGLIANO: Thank you very much
8 members of the commission for the opportunity
9 to speak here today very briefly. I would
10 just like to reiterate exactly what the
11 previous speaker has said about the value of
12 Suffolk Downs. She took the words out of my
13 mouth, but much more eloquently than I could
14 possibly do. I had the privilege of living in
15 East Boston for 12 years, and I was the
16 City of Boston transportation commissioner
17 living in Orient Heights overseeing Suffolk
18 Downs, and she described Suffolk Downs and its
19 value toward East Boston exactly.

20 In fact, the green area inside the
21 racetrack is, perhaps, I believe, one of the
22 largest green spaces inside East Boston. So
23 the Suffolk Downs, if it has to fold up, it
24 will also be the -- the loss of that green

1 area.

2 I live in Winthrop. I wanted to,
3 you know, thank, for example, Mohegan Sun for
4 its very generous community -- or surrounding
5 community agreement with my town, which will
6 mean an awful lot to economic development of
7 the town of Winthrop, which, of course, could
8 only happen if the commission awards the
9 Region A license to Mohegan Sun, which I
10 implore you to do so.

11 One of the issues that, for example,
12 has come up time and again with respect to the
13 casino proposals, is the value of the jobs.
14 About two or three years ago UMASS Boston
15 published a very -- a very in-depth study of
16 the value of casino wagers across the country.
17 And in that study told us that casinos wagers
18 were extraordinarily stable, and of a very
19 high value and -- compared to the typical
20 wagers of jobs across the country. I don't
21 have it with me, but if it's okay with the
22 commission, I would like to e-mail you a copy
23 of that within the next day or so. I thought
24 it was very, very instructive.

1 One of the aspect of the Mohegan Sun
2 proposal that I've been particularly intrigued
3 with, I've spent some 45 years as a
4 transportation planner and -- and a strong
5 supporter of public transportation. And one
6 of the great aspect of -- of the Mohegan Sun
7 proposal is its dependence on, for example,
8 the MBTA blue line as a major element of its
9 transportation infrastructure proposal.
10 Particularly, comparison to the other casino
11 proposal on the table for Everett.

12 The Everett proposal, for example,
13 references the accessibility of -- of its
14 casino site to existing MBTA, heavy rail
15 stations in Everett. The closest one is 1.2
16 miles, the next one is 1.5 miles, and the next
17 one that will be coming on line in a few
18 months will be 1.6 miles at the Assembly
19 Square Mall. With respect to the Mohegan Sun
20 proposal for Revere, we're talking about,
21 literally, 121 feet from the main entrance to
22 the casino proposal, half a block to, you
23 know, the MBTA station and -- and beach water.
24 This is a relatively new station, fully

1 escalator and elevator equipped for -- for
2 handicapped service and so forth with direct
3 service right into Boston's Logan Airport and
4 downtown Boston, being served by -- by
5 relatively new six-car trains. And, at some
6 point, with the potential of further access
7 directly to the site from the north shore as
8 blue line extensions continue to escalate out,
9 you know, in terms of proposals, which have
10 been on the table at -- at the state.

11 So we could be -- so that an award
12 by you to Region A -- for the Region A license
13 to Mohegan Sun would actually, you know, have
14 historic implications for this particular
15 proposal. It would be a genuine
16 transit-oriented development site.

17 And I would like to -- to close my
18 remarks, by commending, for example,
19 Mayor Rizzo from Revere, for having the
20 political integrity and courage to keep this
21 proposal on the table and benefiting my -- my
22 community. Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
24 much.

1 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.

3 Ms. Wallace, and Alejandro Magno to the
4 on-deck circle. Diego Pizarro. Why don't you
5 start, Ms. Wallace. Go ahead.

6 MS. WALLACE: Good afternoon,
7 Commissioners. I'm Ellen Wallace. I'm a
8 subregional director of Region 9A of
9 United Auto Workers. Our region includes the
10 New England states, eastern New York,
11 including New York City and Long Island, and
12 Puerto Rico.

13 As you may know, in the gaming
14 industry, the UAW represents more gaming
15 dealers than any other union in the country,
16 with workers at facilities in Connecticut,
17 Rhode Island, Atlantic City, Ohio, Detroit,
18 Indiana and Las Vegas. We represent about
19 1800 dealers at Foxwoods in Connecticut, and
20 all of the workers at Newport Grand Slots in
21 Rhode Island.

22 In March we testified at the
23 surrounding community hearing in support of
24 Mohegan Sun's application for a resort casino

1 in Revere because its -- because of its strong
2 commitment to labor harmony. And I'm pleased
3 to testify to reaffirm our support for this
4 application.

5 On June 25th we testified at the
6 Everett host community hearing about Wynn's
7 approach to the gaming statute's requirements,
8 generally, and their approach to labor
9 relations. In particular, their approach is
10 to figure out how they can do less than the
11 statute requires. Here are just three
12 examples that are concerning future employees,
13 they propose to repeal the on-site daycare
14 requirements, they want to weaken the pooled
15 tip provision, and they refuse to discuss
16 labor harmony for gaming dealers.

17 In deep contrast, Mohegan Sun's
18 approach to the statute and labor relations is
19 to ask, how can we do more do more? Do we
20 meet and exceed the goals of the statute?
21 This is so with its focus on the entire
22 region, not just its host community, with its
23 more than 300 partnerships with local
24 businesses, with its inclusive surrounding

1 community agreements, and with its signed
2 labor harmony agreements with many unions that
3 protect 100 percent of its permanent
4 nonsupervisory employees.

5 Mohegan Sun is the only casino
6 applicant that submitted these labor
7 agreements with its application. It is
8 committed to a unionized workforce and its
9 host community agreement with the city of
10 Revere, and it has a project labor agreement
11 with the unions for the construction facility.

12 Labor and harmony agreements help
13 achieve the three goals of the Expanded Gaming
14 Act, revenue for the state, regional economic
15 development and job creation. With it's
16 positive approach to labor, to local
17 businesses, and to the community at large,
18 Mohegan Sun will give us the best chance of
19 achieving the aspirations of the statute.

20 Mohegan Sun has worked hard to
21 become integrated into the community and a
22 good corporate citizen, even before the
23 license is awarded. They have done extensive
24 outreach, and we know who they are. This

1 bodes well for the kind of collaboration we
2 can expect, if you award them the Region A
3 license. For all of these reasons, we urge to
4 you to award the license to Mohegan Sun.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you. all
7 right. Alejandro Magno, Mr. Magno. And,
8 then, Diego Pizarro to the ready chair.
9 Mr. Magno.

10 MR. MAGNO: Good afternoon. My name
11 is Diego Pizarro, also known as
12 Alejandro Magno.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Oh, okay.

14 MR. MAGNO: I'm a criminal justice
15 student. I'm a homeowner and a resident of
16 Revere. I'm a father of -- of a
17 four-month-old baby, and I speak on behalf of
18 a thousand of Latinos that are currently
19 working right now and would like to voice
20 their opinions as well.

21 I'm a community leader. I work in
22 communities of Chelsea, East Boston and Revere
23 in so many ways for so many years,
24 specifically with the high-risk youth. I have

1 seen the need of those of -- in need of
2 support. I've worked with high-risk youth
3 that are heavily involved in gangs, substance
4 abuse, and all the problems that we face in
5 these main cities, Chelsea, Revere and East
6 Boston. The police department, the district
7 attorney's office, the court system will all
8 agree with me that we do need a lot of
9 support, especially here in Revere.

10 I am the president, also, of
11 Columbian Festival here, which every year
12 brings over 9,000 people. We started in East
13 Boston, now we're here at Suffolk Downs. I
14 was there this morning coordinating what's
15 going to be one of the biggest Latino
16 festivals here in the area this Sunday, which
17 is the Columbian Festival. It's an open
18 invitation for all communities to join and
19 celebrates with us. This festival benefits
20 all local businesses in East Boston and
21 Revere. I'd like to embrace our roots, and
22 once again open all nationalities and
23 communities to join us.

24 I'm very focused building a career

1 at this time. Working on my bachelor's degree
2 at a Bay State College. I took the police
3 exam last year, passed with a 94, to become a
4 police officer here. I'm on a waiting list
5 due to the lack -- due to the lack of budget
6 for the Revere Police Department. The Revere
7 Police Department has been understaffed for
8 several years. We all know that. An average
9 of four to five police officers patrol
10 Revere's streets at night. We need more than
11 that. Revere will be a better city to work
12 and raise our kids.

13 Your decision, Gentleman, will
14 impact the generations of thousands. We hope
15 you take our voices into consideration. Thank
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
18 much. All right. The next on my list -- the
19 next on my list is Anne Guange. I'm not sure
20 I'm pronouncing that correctly, G-U-A-N-G-E.
21 All right. Would you come forward? Oh, yeah,
22 here she comes. And Stephanie Scopa would be
23 the next up, if you'd come to the ready chair.

24 MS. GUANGE: Good afternoon. My

1 name is Anne Guange. Commissioners, good
2 afternoon. First and foremost, thank you very
3 much to allowing me the time to express my
4 support for Mohegan Sun Massachusetts. I
5 stand here before you as a unemployed, long
6 East Boston resident and a major supporter of
7 Suffolk Down, and their partner, Mohegan Sun,
8 and the vision they have to change Revere, the
9 region of the commonwealth like ever before.

10 I have -- this is passionate to me
11 so hang in there guys.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: No. Take your
13 time.

14 MS. GUANGE: I'm just a little a
15 wreck.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Take your
17 time.

18 MS. GUANGE: You'll find out why in
19 a minute. I have expressed my opinion to the
20 commission several times. I've done so
21 because I am very passionate that and believe
22 in this project than everything I've ever
23 believed in before in my life.

24 As I mentioned, I'm unemployed and

1 things aren't going so well for me in my life
2 right now. This is an opportunity that can't
3 be missed, and something that can turn
4 people's lives around. Such as myself and
5 many others in the situation I face myself in
6 today.

7 As you enter the final moments of
8 this process, I'm sure you consistently hear
9 both good and bad things about the casino.
10 You hear positive, negative impacts regarding
11 this project, but this benefits, not only
12 outweighs the negatives, in this situation we
13 truly, desperately need the positive effects
14 to come thorough for all of us, not just me.

15 Mohegan Sun is the best fit for the
16 region. They are a really true to the word
17 and ready to bring every promise and
18 commitment to fruition. Last week Mohegan Sun
19 signed the most lucrative and generous
20 surrounding agreement in the state. The
21 agreement with Boston will provide significant
22 economic community benefits along with a
23 minimum of 300 million in direct payments to
24 the city over 15 years. This project will

1 have endless impacts and do nothing but
2 benefit the region, the state, unlike anything
3 else. They are the right choice for this
4 license, and I hope you agree.

5 Thank you for the time and
6 consideration. Best of luck in your hard
7 decision. Don't ever let anybody tell you in
8 this room you're not worth anything. I'm 52
9 years old and worked all my life. I know I'm
10 good-hearted and work hard, but suddenly
11 someone turned around and told me that I'm too
12 old. And, yet, I know that I have 20 more
13 years to live and to work hard, and to offer
14 someone.

15 The casino will not discriminate
16 against age, race, religion or gender. Look
17 at yourselves today and count yourself very
18 lucky if you have a job. Thank you for your
19 time, and please consider -- it's not just
20 about the youth today. It's about the rest of
21 us also. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
23 Ms. Guange. I called Stephanie Scopa, who is
24 not here, I take it. Mark Berninger.

1 Mark Berninger, Candy LoPresti, Ana Lanzilli,
2 and then Nancy Burns to the ready chair.

3 MS. LANZILLI: Good evening,
4 Massachusetts Gaming Commission. My name is
5 Ana Lanzilli, and I would like to thank you
6 all for giving me the opportunity to speak on
7 behalf of the many employed at Suffolk Downs.

8 My husband David has been employed
9 by Suffolk for the last 10 years as an
10 accountant. He has seen the financial
11 struggle to keep the doors open at
12 Suffolk Downs, but he has also seen the
13 determination and commitment the owners have
14 to their employees in the historic racing
15 industry.

16 Suffolk Downs has -- has a 78-year
17 legacy of thoroughbred racing and wagering,
18 and also has been active year round as a
19 simulcast venue, along with live racing six to
20 eight months per year. At the height of the
21 racing season, over a thousand people work on
22 the property. 325 are employed by
23 Suffolk Downs, and its five primary on-site
24 vendors. Over a thousand people are licensed

1 by the commonwealth to work at the facility.

2 Thoroughbred racing, breeding, and
3 related businesses in Massachusetts currently
4 supports 1486 jobs, utilizes 6650 acres of
5 farmland, and have a total annual economic
6 impact of \$116.3 million. The economic impact
7 can grow with a healthier thoroughbred racing
8 and breeding industry in the commonwealth.
9 All this can only continue, or have the
10 opportunity to develop, if Mohegan Sun
11 Massachusetts earns the Category 1 license for
12 its region.

13 The City of Boston has signed a host
14 community agreement with Mohegan Sun last
15 week. The City of Boston has also signed an
16 agreement with Suffolk Downs, which will
17 preserve hundreds of jobs and secure revenue
18 through continued property and real estate
19 taxes. Suffolk Downs has agreed they will
20 keep their track open for the duration of the
21 initial 15 years' license. In addition, if
22 Suffolk Downs begins any reconstruction or
23 revitalization of their property, the City of
24 Boston will serve in the master planning and

1 oversight role.

2 I was happy to hear last week that
3 the City of Boston reached a surrounding host
4 agreement with Mohegan. This has secured a
5 significant economic and community benefit to
6 the City of Boston, along with the minimum of
7 300 million direct payments to the city for
8 the next 15 years.

9 The city will also benefit from
10 Mohegan Sun's 45 million transportation plan,
11 which will mitigate all measurable
12 transportation impacts in Revere and East
13 Boston small businesses. Revere residents
14 have continued to support the project in their
15 city.

16 My father, who is in the audience
17 today, has been a resident of Revere for the
18 last 40 years. He owns not one but two
19 properties in the city. One of his property's
20 back yard abuts the track. My father is a
21 strong supporter of this project, and this
22 73-year-old man, along with his wife, went
23 out, not only once but twice and voted yes.
24 And on November 4th, I can join my father and

1 my mother, along with all Massachusetts
2 residents in voting no to not repeal expanded
3 gaming, and I cannot wait to check off that
4 box. My dad's supports the creation of the
5 new jobs, \$45 million in transportation
6 improvements, and the economical benefits this
7 project will have to the city of Revere.

8 My father-in-law, who also sits in
9 the audience today, is a homeowner in Revere.
10 And he also wants to see the Mohegan project
11 be granted the Region A license. As a former
12 business owner himself, he sees the
13 opportunity to local businesses and the
14 commitment Mohegan has made to buying local.

15 Last month in a poll obtained in the
16 new service commissioned by Mohegan Sun,
17 50 percent of voters preferred the Mohegan
18 proposal, compared to 22 for the Wynn plan.
19 This is a two-in-one favorite for the Mohegan
20 project. The support for this project
21 extends -- extends way past Revere.

22 Mohegan has a rock solid plan that
23 is overwhelmingly winning over the Wynn Resort
24 proposal. Revere has not only voted once, but

1 twice to have this casino in their
2 commonwealth.

3 I stand here today asking the
4 commission to grant Mohegan Sun the license so
5 that the jobs at Suffolk Downs are preserved,
6 as well as the creation of new jobs in this
7 city. We have seen the closing of Wonderland
8 extend to the community of Revere. Wynn
9 cannot do or provide what Suffolk Downs and
10 Mohegan will. They are the right choice.
11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very
13 much. Nancy Burns. And, then, Kim Luiso is
14 in the next -- in the ready chair. Ms. Burns.

15 MS. ORLANDO: Good afternoon. My
16 name is Kathy Orlando. I've spoke before you
17 two or three times. But today Nancy unable to
18 attend because of a work commitment, so she
19 asked if I'd read her statement, if you allow
20 me?

21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Surely.
22 Surely.

23 MS. ORLANDO: Nancy Burns has been a
24 resident of Revere her entire life. The

1 benefits the resort casino can bring to the
2 city of Revere is a no-brainer for her. She
3 sees a full vision that this venture to her
4 city, as well as the surrounding communities,
5 and the vision is key. Revere has always been
6 a gambling community. Now, a proposed
7 world-class resort, with not just a casino,
8 but restaurants, entertainment, shopping and
9 concerts will just make this venture even
10 better. Other sections of the city can only
11 grow as well. Empty buildings and businesses
12 will once again be filled and thrive. No more
13 empty lots and unmaintained buildings.

14 Nancy said it before, it's all about
15 jobs, jobs, jobs. Additional bonuses,
16 including road improvements, schools, and the
17 economic benefit to small businesses is so
18 important. She sees a vision of all the
19 surrounding areas benefiting from this
20 project, and all the -- the current businesses
21 thriving and continuing to grow. The small
22 mom and pop shops that make up the community
23 will benefit greatly. She is personally very
24 excited about this venture int her city, and

1 she hopes the commission can see that as well.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you very

4 much. All right. I call Kim Luiso.

5 Ms. Luiso. And Robert Repucci, please, to the

6 ready chair, if you're here. If not,

7 Frank Pioppi.

8 MS. LUISO: Thank you for giving me

9 the opportunity to speak today. I've changed

10 my mind a few times about the things that I

11 wanted to say. What it comes down to is I

12 keep hearing the word community. And being a

13 lifelong resident of Revere, Revere is a

14 community. That's family. And we partnered

15 with Mohegan Sun, which Mohegan is a tribe,

16 which is another family. And we've kind of

17 joined and made it one family. And doing

18 that, we're keeping jobs that are already

19 here. We're not getting rid of jobs. We're

20 trying to keep existing ones that our family

21 and friends have. And to stand there and one

22 day, if you say no, and you have to hand them

23 their last paycheck to a family that has two

24 kids and maybe one on the way and say, sorry,

1 we did everything we could, but, you know,
2 it's not going to work out. It is very tough
3 to handle.

4 What I want to say is, they're in it
5 for the long -- long haul, the long-term.
6 Mohegan Sun, it's kind of being in their
7 backyard, having their facility come here and
8 be in Revere, and all they're doing is making
9 a new playground for themselves. If something
10 goes wrong long-term, it's going to affect
11 their bottom line in Connecticut. It's going
12 to be here, it's going to cause trouble and
13 make things not work out all the way around.
14 So they're going to make sure everything goes
15 smoothly. They're making sure they work with
16 the surrounding communities and the families
17 that need the help and make sure that things
18 are done.

19 Going to the Wynn side, he's across
20 the country. If he doesn't get it he's going
21 to stay over there and -- a little tax
22 writeoff. If he does get it and doesn't like
23 how it pans out, what's he going to do? Well,
24 I'm board with this. Let me sell it to

1 somebody else. And things can trickle down
2 and be bad, even more down the way long-term.
3 And that's my concern.

4 The long-term commitment that we're
5 seeing with Mohegan Sun is a tremendous
6 victory for us. Keeping jobs that we already
7 have we do not want to lose. And that
8 trickles down even in our city. Having the
9 dog track close, we lost not only walkers and
10 tellers, and wait staff that work there, we
11 lost city jobs because that revenue no longer
12 came in. And if Mohegan Sun does not get to
13 open a facility, we're going to lose jobs at
14 the horse track, and that's going to trickle
15 down. So when you're talking about police not
16 being enough, well, we may have to fire one
17 more because we don't have that revenue coming
18 in.

19 So it's not just the track that's
20 going to be losing jobs. We'll lose more jobs
21 in the city, in the mom and pop stores because
22 those families are now laid off and can't buy
23 dinner that they normally did for the family
24 that may have been \$50 for the week. But you

1 have five to 10 families doing that at one
2 restaurant that they get pizza and sandwiches
3 from, they're going to start having to lay
4 people off too.

5 So it's the trickle-down effect that
6 we'll be losing big time if Revere does not
7 get this. So that's where I'm hoping that you
8 can understand it's the loss of the jobs, not
9 just the gain of jobs. So please consider
10 Revere as a yes, and the long-term effects.
11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
13 Ms. Luiso. Mr. Repucci, Mr. Novack. Mr.
14 Repucci.

15 MR. REPUCCI: Good afternoon,
16 Commissioners. Thank you very much for this
17 opportunity to testify today. My name is
18 Robert Repucci, and I'm the executive director
19 for Community Action Programs Inter-City
20 Incorporated, called CAPIC. We have offices
21 that are located throughout the Chelsea,
22 Revere and Winthrop area. CAPIC is a private,
23 nonprofit corporation, we're state and
24 federally designated as a community action

1 agency. We're the local antipoverty agency.
2 We serve the communities of Chelsea, Revere
3 and Winthrop. We were chartered in 1967,
4 we're governed by a 21-member board of
5 director, community-based board of directors,
6 and we provide about 15,000 units of service
7 annually to area residents, Chelsea Revere and
8 Winthrop, who live in poverty. Our goal is to
9 create employment opportunities and help
10 individuals and families become
11 self-sufficient and leave their reliance of
12 public assistance.

13 I'm originally from Revere. I've
14 worked at this company since 1972, and I've
15 been executive director here since 1978.

16 In 2009, city of Revere commissioned
17 CAPIC to develop an employment training
18 program in the Shirley Ave. neighborhood.
19 This was in response to recommendations that
20 are made by a gateway cities plus initiative.
21 And to that extent, we went out and developed
22 these programs, a GED, ESL computer training
23 programs. Those programs continue to operate
24 right within that neighborhood today. But I

1 want to stop there just for a minute, and I
2 want to -- I just want to share observations
3 that I made from the last hearing that you
4 conducted here. That's with regard to some of
5 the comments that were made by the opponents
6 of the plan.

7 You know, as I listened to the
8 people that were opposed, I could only think
9 if they were making these comments based upon
10 the competitive nature of process then I
11 respect that. But to make these unfounded
12 allegations about our elected officials to --
13 I can't respect that decision. These are
14 people that have dedicated their careers to
15 public service and to the betterment of the
16 city of Revere. So it's very unfair -- I
17 found it, quite frankly, very revealing.

18 You know, I'm invested in this
19 project. I'm a stakeholder. I operate a
20 community program, community-based program.
21 And my interest here is to help these 30 to 50
22 people that come to our office every week,
23 oftentimes the same people, they're looking
24 for help to pay their mortgage, to pay their

1 rent, and a lot of the times just to put food
2 on their table.

3 So I -- I wish that some of these
4 opponents, that they have the opportunity to
5 maybe come to our offices and deal with these
6 issues, these problems that people have on a
7 daily basis. And, of course, these problems
8 are all result of lack of employment.

9 Commissioners, I want to tell you
10 that the landscape of poverty has changed.
11 It -- it now extends to those lifelong Revere
12 residents. These are people that we've gone
13 to school with, these are our neighbors.
14 These are people that, unexpectedly, have lost
15 their jobs. I don't want to see these Suffolk
16 Downs employees be standing in the lines at
17 the CAPIC offices for help with their
18 mortgage, and for fuel assistance, and to put
19 food on the table. So we're on the front
20 lines, we need this project to boost the
21 Revere community, and in simple term -- in
22 simple terms, we need the jobs.

23 So the good news, anticipation of
24 this emerging job market CAPIC has developed a

1 job rating certificate program in conjunction
2 with Mohegan Sun, Suffolk Downs the American
3 Training Corporation, the City of Revere, and
4 the town of Winthrop. The city of Chelsea has
5 also expressed an interest to participate.
6 The unique initiative promises to certify 800
7 area residents in acquiring basic job
8 readiness skills in the first two years.

9 Our plan does not stop there. We'll
10 also be providing comprehensive social support
11 services, daycare, helping people with housing
12 problems, childcare needs and gambling
13 addiction. Finally, we'll establish food
14 service handler certification program also.
15 We're going to teach people in a test kitchen
16 how to work in the industry before they get
17 there.

18 So we have are delighted by the
19 proactive and enthusiastic manner by which
20 Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs has embraced the
21 Revere community and the stakeholders, such as
22 CAPIC. Clearly, they are invested in seeing
23 that Revere residents benefit from an improved
24 quality of life, and we urge the commission to

1 award the license to Mohegan Sun.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.

3 All right. I called Frank Pioppi. Mr. Pioppi
4 here? Yes. And Gina Walker to the ready
5 table if -- ready seat, I should say, if
6 you're here. All right. Mr. Pioppi.

7 MR. PIOPPI: Good evening,
8 Gaming Commission. I want to take this --
9 take this opportunity to -- to thank you for
10 giving me the opportunity to speak. My name
11 is Frank Pioppi. I currently reside in
12 Winthrop. My family owns Luigi's Italian
13 Eatery located at 616 Winthrop Avenue,
14 directly across from Suffolk Downs and the
15 Beachmont train station.

16 Since 1981, my family has served as
17 direct abutter to Suffolk Downs, and
18 potentially direct abutter to Mohegan Sun
19 proposed casino project.

20 Addressing the issue of traffic,
21 Luigi's was the first restaurant in the city
22 to offer a food delivery service,
23 understanding traffic was a way of life for
24 our business. Most of our revenue was

1 generated through our delivery service, and
2 our target delivery area was the tri-city
3 community of Revere, Winthrop and East Boston.
4 During the time of full employment by Suffolk
5 Downs and Wonderland Park, our average
6 delivery time to any destination in the
7 tri-city community was only 15 minutes after
8 preparation time. And that figure still holds
9 true today.

10 I believe the -- the concerns
11 related to the proposed traffic issues are
12 completely exaggerated. Mohegan Sun, the City
13 of Revere will address these concerns
14 appropriately they'll be able to rectify any
15 potential problems, traffic will be mitigated,
16 and I am not concerned.

17 What I am concerned about, however,
18 is the potential loss of jobs in our
19 community. I hold in my hand, one week's
20 worth of job applications on a weekly basis.
21 These are good people who are just trying to
22 find work. The community still feeling the
23 effect of Wonderland Park closing. Many
24 decent jobs were lost. Previously, anybody

1 who wanted to work was able to do so. In
2 today's world that is not the case. Some
3 opponents have mentioned the potential rise in
4 crime. I believe this is no greater risk for
5 crime than a person who cannot find a job to
6 feed his or her family.

7 Suffolk Downs currently employs 800
8 employees. Most, if not all employees, have
9 patronized my family's business, and I am sure
10 they have patronized many businesses in the
11 tri-state community. One person's spending is
12 another person's income. And without a job,
13 one person cannot spend. Without spending,
14 the community cannot hire, and we're all in a
15 hiring freeze right now. Take the story of
16 William Rizzari, (phonetically) 57 years old,
17 who lives with his wife and two children at
18 82 Washburn Avenue, four houses up from my
19 family's restaurant. He visits at least twice
20 a week. Suffolk Downs has employed William
21 for the past 37 years. The loss of his job
22 would be devastating to his family, as it
23 would be to the other, approximately, 800
24 people who work there. He wouldn't be able to

1 pay his mortgage, feed his children. I know
2 the tri-city community would suffer a
3 tremendous loss if Suffolk Downs were to
4 close.

5 The ecosystem of the thoroughbred
6 racing industry is spread throughout the
7 commonwealth and would all feel the negative
8 effects. From the breeding farms, to the
9 layup farms, to the hanging grape alfalfa
10 farms and so many more. Leasing the Revere
11 side of Suffolk Downs to Mohegan Sun will
12 ensure the racing industry presence in
13 Massachusetts.

14 Some opponents have criticized
15 Mr. Tuttle and the owners of Suffolk Downs.
16 My family would like to thank them. Our
17 business and the businesses of tri-city
18 community have greatly benefited from their
19 employment, and Suffolk Downs has served as a
20 phenomenal neighbor.

21 I'm extremely excited about the
22 4000-plus new jobs that will be created if the
23 proposal project by Mohegan Sun is approved.
24 I believe the communities of Winthrop, Revere

1 and East Boston will all experiencing a
2 much-needed economic boost. Currently, there
3 are not enough people spending because they're
4 not enough people working. I look forward to
5 the tourism dollar that will give folks a
6 chance to work at a respectable wage. Mohegan
7 Sun and its staff has been honest, open,
8 transparent during this whole process. They
9 have included the business community, as well
10 as the residents in their quest to be awarded
11 a Class A eastern regional gaming license.
12 This is truly a circumstance where the rising
13 tide of economic activities can lift all
14 boats. For both myself and my family, the
15 choice is clear where this project should be,
16 the preservation of jobs the revival of the
17 dynamic thoroughbred racing in Massachusetts
18 and the major economic boost to our region are
19 all positive results that we can look forward
20 to. Beachmont Revere is where this project
21 deserves to be. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
23 Mr. Pioppi. Next on my list is Gina Walker.
24 Ms. Walker and Gene Vecchia is in the ready

1 chair. Ms. Walker.

2 MS. WALKER: Commissioner McHugh and
3 members of commission, good afternoon.

4 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
5 afternoon.

6 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good
7 afternoon.

8 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Good
9 afternoon.

10 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Good
11 afternoon.

12 MS. WALKER: And thank you for the
13 opportunity. It's nice to see you again. My
14 name is Gina Walker, chief operating officer
15 and partner at North Shore Shuttle Be Driven,
16 a diversified passenger transportation company
17 based here in Revere.

18 You may recall I addressed you at
19 the Boston Convention Center back in March.
20 At which time, I expressed by enthusiasm and
21 optimism for the possibility for Mohegan Sun
22 coming to Revere. I told you that I was
23 excited about the opportunity Mohegan Sun
24 would bring to the region. From jobs to

1 connecting the missing link between north --
2 the north shore and our world-class city of
3 Boston, including the historic -- the historic
4 thoroughbred racetrack and the partnership
5 they've established with the City Center for
6 Performing Arts, as one of many alliances the
7 Suffolk-Mohegan team has strategically built
8 throughout the region. I also talked about
9 the integrity I've observed from the
10 Suffolk-Mohegan team, having worked with them
11 over the past two years.

12 Today, however, I'd like to speak
13 about a concern many have expressed over
14 traffic. Let me begin by reminding us all
15 that gridlock is nothing a new phenomenon to
16 this area, and nor is it something Mohegan Sun
17 intends to bring. Gridlock is an existing
18 problem that Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun
19 have made a significant commitment to
20 alleviate. The proof of their commitment is
21 in the agreements with the host city and
22 surrounding cities and towns, in which they
23 clearly outline a financial obligation to the
24 region to improve roads, schools and

1 infrastructure. And speaking of
2 infrastructure, my father, who grew up in
3 Revere, told me today, on his 84th birthday,
4 Bell Circle has remained much the same from
5 the day he was born.

6 As a transportation provider with a
7 fleet of vehicles on Route 1A every day, if
8 anyone should be concerned about gridlock it
9 should be us. But, rather, we view this time
10 as an opportunity to innovate and be part of a
11 solution to existing traffic conditions. We
12 believe it is our responsibility to help make
13 a difference, and we are passionate about
14 reducing gridlock and creating jobs.

15 Over 35 years ago North Shore
16 Shuttle, now also known as Be Driven, coined
17 the shared van ride to Logan Airport as one of
18 many service options between the north shore
19 and greater Boston. Today, Be Driven aims to
20 make a local difference and a global effort to
21 reduce gridlock by providing
22 corporate-sponsored employee commuter
23 shuttles. Again, not a new phenomenon, but a
24 proven and successful one in other parts of

1 the country, and growing in popularity among
2 our clients as well.

3 We believe by working together with
4 Boston businesses and neighboring cities and
5 towns in a regional effort to mitigate traffic
6 Mohegan Sun can help. Perhaps their account
7 will call for solar-powered buses. And guess
8 what, we'll make it happen. Yes. We are
9 indeed focused on the prospect of Mohegan Sun
10 to help grow our business and create jobs, and
11 we hope others are similarly focused on growth
12 opportunities for their businesses as well.

13 I respectfully ask the commission to
14 vote in favor of Mohegan Sun to start the
15 engine for progress toward a bright future for
16 the city of Revere that will benefit the
17 entire region. Let's not wait another 84
18 years for progress to begin. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
20 Gene -- Gene Vecchia. Barry Hock is next to
21 the ready chair, please. Mr. Vecchia.

22 MR. VECCHIA: Thank you. Good
23 afternoon, members of the commission. Thank
24 you for the opportunity to speak today. My

1 name is Gene Vecchia, and I reside at 49
2 Burnett Road in Revere. And like others who
3 have spoke before me, I too am a lifelong
4 resident, 57 years and a third generation of
5 Revere.

6 I speak today in support of the
7 Mohegan Sun project. I think back to 2011,
8 which seems so long ago, when the gaming
9 legislation finally came to the forefront.
10 What really jumped out at the time was that it
11 would be a great jobs creator, and, boy, the
12 commonwealth really needed that. And added to
13 that was the preservation of thoroughbred
14 racing, which has been an institution at
15 Suffolk Downs and in our community for the
16 past 78 years. With that, I was on board.

17 So now we fast forward three years
18 and a lot has transpired. two applicants for
19 the project, two elections, and, yes, Revere
20 did say yes twice. A very lucrative host
21 community agreement. Twelve surrounding
22 community agreements, hundreds of vendor and
23 business partnerships, local economic
24 interest, regional activity, and the list goes

1 on and on. The list -- this goes on beyond
2 anything that we could ever imagine happening
3 to our city, transformational, like it's been
4 mentioned before, and this is going to be
5 something.

6 But I have to go back to my original
7 feelings. Suffolk Downs employs 800 permanent
8 employees. Not awarding this license to
9 Mohegan Sun is going to add 800 to 1,000
10 people to our state's unemployment. Revere
11 had to endure this back in 2010 when
12 Wonderland Park closed due to the elimination
13 of Greyhound racing, and I don't think we
14 should have to experience this again, and I
15 hope the feel the same. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
17 All right. I call Barry Hock. Mr. Hock is
18 here? No? Michael Mangin, M-A-N-G-I-N.
19 Bob Upton. Dan -- Bob Upton? No.
20 Daniel Skerritt -- Bob Upton -- Mr. Upton,
21 yes, sir. And, then, Daniel Skerritt would be
22 next, if you can come forward.

23 MR. UPTON: Good afternoon,
24 Commissioners. Thank you very much. My name

1 is Bob Upton, and I am the president of the
2 Revere Chamber of Commerce, and I do welcome
3 and appreciate this opportunity to once again
4 speak in front of you as commissioners, and
5 also in support of the applicant, Mohegan Sun,
6 and Suffolk Downs, both active and very
7 aggressive members of the chamber of commerce.
8 They've helped us to grow the chamber of
9 commerce in the two years that we've been
10 working with Suffolk Downs and the new
11 applicant, Mohegan Sun, our chamber of
12 commerce has grown in numbers and in revenue,
13 and it's actually a very exciting time to be
14 in the presidency of the chamber of commerce,
15 and also working with these Revere businesses.
16 I do represent, approximately, 200 Revere
17 businesses, nonprofit and individuals.

18 I believe this to be an exiting time
19 for Revere businesses because I can see a lot
20 of incentive here. We've been working with
21 the City of Revere and the economic
22 development office with the city, and we've
23 been learning a lot about what this can mean
24 for this area, for our small businesses, with

1 a \$10 million commitment in the local
2 agreement, as well as the \$50 million
3 mitigation packages will for the surrounding
4 areas. We think that is fantastic for those
5 people that are going to be working with us
6 and members of the chamber of commerce to help
7 to improve their business.

8 As a gateway city to Boston's north
9 shore, we have forged alliances and built
10 relationships with our regional parts to
11 explore ways to capitalize on this potential
12 for increased business growth, specifically as
13 it pertains to travel and tourism. And, you
14 know, it just happens to be that this week we
15 will be hosting the Revere Beach National
16 Sand-Sculpting Festival. We'll be bringing
17 in, approximately, 350 to 450,000 people into
18 this area, and that is significant. We're
19 going to into our 11th year. Hopefully, there
20 won't be any problems. I don't expect that
21 there will be. We will be able to handle that
22 traffic. It will be a great way for us to
23 increase travel and tourism opportunity for
24 business development in this area as well.

1 I think it's something to take note
2 that when you have 350 to 450,000 people
3 coming into this area, it's telling you
4 something. It's telling you that they will
5 come. If you build something as great as we
6 know Mohegan Sun will be, they will come to
7 this area. They will spend money. They'll be
8 plenty of opportunity for the
9 entrepreneurial-spirited people in this area
10 as well -- as well as for the existing
11 businesses that are here.

12 You know, we have this
13 sand-sculpting festival that's really only for
14 three or four days, in fact, this year it's
15 the 18, 19th and 20th, but there are plenty of
16 people that are here in advance of that, there
17 will be plenty of people that'll be staying
18 afterwards. But, you know, they go home at
19 night when the sand-sculpting festival is
20 over. And I think there's plenty of
21 opportunity there as well for more business
22 growth. When you bring in that -- that number
23 of people into this area there's additional
24 spending that can be had, if there was more

1 there for them to utilize and take advantage
2 of. So I see that as something else to really
3 consider.

4 We, also, here in Revere this past
5 week, we had a -- a mural at the gateway
6 portion of Revere Beach at Shirley Avenue,
7 which is of great interest to that -- to that
8 particular area. We see it as a great place
9 for us to look at business developed in growth
10 in Revere.

11 I would also say that we had
12 Hollywood here this week. We had Johnny Depp
13 that came here for filming Black Mass because
14 they see Revere Beach as a -- a possible film
15 site for a big-screen movie such as that.
16 It's really interesting to see that people
17 come into this area.

18 Revere is a very positive area.
19 We're a passionate group of people. As you
20 can see, in the last two hearings that you've
21 seen here, and probably by my own tone about
22 the support of this community, we are a
23 passionate group of people. You had people
24 talking about a lifeline. This is certainly

1 something that people need. People need the
2 jobs. They need opportunity. They're willing
3 to work, but they are looking for that
4 opportunity. Our business members are looking
5 for business growth, and I think that this
6 really does provide us with that opportunity.

7 So I thank you once again for this
8 opportunity, and I really hope you will
9 consider all of the factors that will go into
10 making this a great Mohegan Sun world-class
11 casino here at Suffolk Downs. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
13 Daniel Skerritt. Daniel Skerritt,
14 Kevin McCarthy, Dennis Moschella,
15 William Jackson. Mr. Jackson. And
16 Joanne McKenna will be next to the ready
17 chair, please, if you're here. Mr. Jackson.

18 MR. JACKSON: Thank you members of
19 the commission. Before I start my commentary,
20 I'd like to thank the woman who got up
21 earlier. She was against the casino. And
22 actually she was quoting, I think, the gross,
23 or the handle at Suffolk Downs. It wasn't
24 very high. She didn't understand that she was

1 arguing favor to the casino. Why? Because if
2 the casino goes in over there, there's going
3 to be more people going to Suffolk Downs.

4 I'd like to begin by thanking each
5 of you for your professionalism and, indeed,
6 your patience throughout these hearings. And,
7 by the way, that word patience brings me to
8 another brief topic off the script.

9 Last week, or at the last hearing,
10 each of you was insulted and abused, and also
11 the mayor, by a gentleman who got up and spoke
12 accusing each of you by name of bringing upon
13 prostitution, addiction, drinking and
14 everything else if this casino goes through.
15 I apologize to all of you on behalf of the
16 people of Revere.

17 John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a son of
18 Boston and Massachusetts once said, there is
19 an ancient saying, to begin a voyage of a
20 thousand miles requires the first step. Well,
21 we have reached a thousand miles. Tonight
22 marks the culmination of all the efforts of
23 the hundreds, if not thousands, of Revere
24 residents to bring a casino to this city.

1 Our residents have not acted in a
2 capricious manner, they have thought long and
3 hard. They have studied the issues. They've
4 looked at the numbers and the attributes that
5 Mohegan Sun will bring to this city. The
6 results were two, not one, two elections. Two
7 elections on the casino, which were
8 overwhelmingly voted yes. And, by the way,
9 the margin of victory in both of these votes
10 would be considered a landslide if it were a
11 political election, isn't that right
12 Mr. Mayor, a landslide?

13 With respect to the people of
14 Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs, they have been
15 unceasingly kind, they've been highly
16 professionally, and I think they deserve a
17 nice round of applause from this audience.

18 I firmly believe that when you take
19 a vote it will be a unanimous victory for
20 Revere. With everything that you have seen in
21 Revere, with everything that you have heard
22 about Revere, to vote no casino in Revere
23 would be a tragic and an egregious mistake on
24 your part.

1 I'd like to close with another quote
2 from John Kennedy. One of the first efficient
3 -- decisions that he said to make upon
4 becoming the president was The Bay of Pigs
5 Invasion, which was a complete disaster. It
6 was the best thing that ever happened to him
7 because that would never happen again. The
8 next thing that happened in Cuba was that John
9 F. Kennedy got the Soviet Union to turn their
10 votes around and go right straight home to
11 Russia.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
13 Thank you very much, Mr. Jackson.

14 MR. JACKSON: There was a little
15 more, but that's all right.

16 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you. We
17 get the drift. We get the point. Thank you
18 very much, sir. Joanne McKenna. Ms. McKenna.
19 Gerald Esposito, Louis Minnicucci, Matilda
20 Bonfardeci. Yes. All right. And, then,
21 Frank Sabbio would be next up. If Mr. Sabbio
22 would come forward.

23 MS. BONFARDECI: Well, I think the
24 person before me took a lot of words out of my

1 mouth here, but good evening, members of the
2 Mass Gaming Commission.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good evening.

4 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good evening.

5 MS. BONFARDECI: My name is
6 Matilda Bonfardeci, and my husband and I have
7 been long-time residents in the city of
8 Revere. We have two children who both attend
9 Revere public schools, and are very involved
10 in citywide activities. I also have extended
11 family here, such as my mom, dad and sister.
12 So as you can see, my love for this city
13 extends well beyond me, and we all support
14 Mohegan Sun at Suffolk Downs.

15 This is not the first time I speak
16 before you. The first time I spoke before you
17 I touched on how important it is from a
18 family's perspective to see this come to
19 Revere, for all the benefits it can bring to
20 our youth. Just to refresh your memory, here
21 are a few, a million dollars a year to public
22 schools, a brands new youth center,
23 new-and-improved stadiums and parks, and one
24 of my personal favorites, a new high school to

1 be built.

2 I know that at the last hearing most
3 people touched on why Revere is a better
4 choice over Everett. And people like
5 Morris Morris and Bobby McKenna have done a
6 great job in telling you why they were. So
7 since they have covered that, I wanted to talk
8 a little bit on how I think the residents are
9 feeling at this point.

10 In my opinion, we as a community
11 have grown stronger and stronger and I tell
12 you why. You see, we have had to go through
13 some hurdles, and every time we turn around
14 there seems to be another one. We had to vote
15 once like everybody else, but no one else had
16 to vote twice. Least to say, Revere has shown
17 over and over again how badly we want and need
18 this, on how we always come back stronger.
19 And I think the proof was in our second vote
20 with an overwhelming turnout and a landslide
21 win.

22 I attend many things throughout our
23 city, and without a doubt the issue of the
24 casino always comes up. And, oftentimes,

1 parents ask me, what else can we do to make
2 this happen? I say, at this point, it's out
3 of our hands and up to the Mass Gaming
4 Commission to make their decision.

5 The people of Revere are still so
6 very eager to see this become a reality and
7 are still very much in favor of this project.
8 Our mayor's very passionate about our city and
9 want to make it a place where everybody wants
10 to come, whether it is to live here or just
11 visit. He has always been respectful to both
12 sides, pro and con, contrary of what people
13 have said at these hearings in regards to
14 that. It's really disheartening to me when
15 people, who don't even live in our city,
16 pretend to even know our mayor and his
17 constituents. It's just annoying.

18 Now that I have clarified that,
19 there is one more thing that I think is
20 irritating as well. Is that, is the
21 anticasino group shows up consistently to
22 Revere hearings, and yet rarely seem to attend
23 Plainridge, Springfield or Everett. If you
24 are anticasino in Massachusetts, then you

1 should be at all and not just at one.

2 I so hope that the Mass Gaming
3 Commission has taken notice. They talk about
4 crime, drug abuse and robberies, and how
5 pawnshops are going to make so much money. I
6 don't know what rock they're living under, but
7 pawnshops have never seen such good revenue in
8 the last four or five years. People have had
9 to pawn their jewelry and much more just to
10 pay for their mortgage and put food on their
11 table. And why? Because there are no jobs.
12 No jobs equal more crime. No jobs means going
13 to a pawnshop. We need the jobs.

14 And, lastly, to the
15 Mass Gaming Commission, I just want to say I
16 commend you for being so poised and calm when
17 people have stood here before you and
18 personally attacked you one by one. They have
19 been condescending, rude and downright
20 disrespectful. There is no need to be like
21 that. You can make your point without doing
22 so. So I just wanted to applaud you on being
23 so eloquent.

24 In closing, I want to leave you with

1 the following statements, and thank you in
2 advance for your time. This city needs the
3 jobs, this city needs the revenue, this city
4 is the right choice. And, most of all, this
5 city needs a yes to the license at
6 Mohegan Sun at Suffolk Downs.

7 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right
8 Frank -- Frank Sabbio and Patricia Reardon
9 will be the next speaker.

10 MR. SABBIO: Good afternoon.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Mr. Sabbio.

12 MR. SABBIO: Chairman McEwan --
13 McHugh, and members of Massachusetts license
14 committee, my name is Frank Sabbio, and I live
15 at 420 Revere Beach Boulevard. We all know,
16 and we all understand what Mohegan Sun and
17 Suffolk Downs will do for the city of Revere.
18 What I have to say is more of a statement
19 about the men and the women that run these
20 companies. The people that run Mohegan Sun
21 and Suffolk Downs.

22 Being self-employed for many, many
23 years I've met lots of people that are so
24 self-absorbed, and their only concern was to

1 make money. What I've seen is not that. these
2 two companies do not feel that way. It is a
3 privilege for me and my family to have some
4 association with Chip Tuttle and
5 Peter Schultz. These are men that have
6 integrity, they have foresight, and they have
7 the best interest of not just the city. They
8 have the interest of the people who live near
9 the casino project. And let me not forget our
10 Honorable Mayor Rizzo. Without a doubt, he is
11 the hardest working man in the city of Revere.
12 If it were not for -- for Mayor Rizzo with his
13 vision for a new Revere, we would not be on
14 the verge of making this city the best in the
15 state.

16 Chairman McHugh and members of the
17 license committee, I ask you to consider not
18 just the nuts and bolts of what we're going to
19 get, but please ask yourself and consider the
20 human factor, ask yourself -- excuse me.
21 Please ask yourself, do the men and the women
22 that run these companies have character,
23 integrity, and a vision for a better Revere?
24 I think they do. And the committee should

1 award the eastern license to Mohegan Sun.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Patricia

4 Reardon and Richard Dolan would be next.

5 Ms. Reardon.

6 MS. REARDON: Hi. How are you? I'd

7 like to thank the board and commission here

8 for going forward in making a decision and not

9 putting it off 'til after the election, so

10 that we can come to a decision soon of who's

11 going to get this casino.

12 I would like to touch on some things

13 that Ms. Reilly had said about farms and

14 breeding farms. And one of reasons there

15 aren't the breeding farms in Massachusetts is

16 because the Massachusetts as a state does not

17 support it or have legislation that will

18 support it. She mentioned New York and

19 Maryland. And I urge that Massachusetts just

20 take their form, scratch out their state and

21 put in Massachusetts. And I, as a person that

22 has horses, will bring my mares and foal from

23 Florida to Massachusetts.

24 I live in the city of Revere. I --

1 my backyard will face the corner right there
2 on Furlong Drive. And I want the casino. I
3 enjoy having a casino life there. I do not
4 bet, but when they have that resort there,
5 I'll be the first one to check in. They have
6 a way of life at Suffolk Downs that needs to
7 be extended. They need to have that money
8 that's coming in from the slots in order to
9 produce better and better races. They need --
10 every one that puts their horse in a gate that
11 comes out that finishes gets a check for
12 \$1,000 to be split between the owner and the
13 trainer. If that is not done, they'll only be
14 three or four horses racing in each race,
15 because when it gets down on the line there is
16 nothing for anybody else. So there has to be
17 some sort of way of setting up that the
18 horsemen are taken care of and it's -- this
19 whole way of life is allowed to go on.

20 The farms are essential to
21 Massachusetts. We need them for more than one
22 reason. We see all the GMOs and how it's
23 poisoning our children. How all the corporate
24 farms are taking over and the little farmers

1 are gone. It's been happening since the 80s.
2 We need to get ahead of this, a step ahead of
3 this. Massachusetts needs to be in the
4 forefront because when they decide that all
5 these allergies and -- and sicknesses and ADD,
6 and all this stuff related to food, we need to
7 have our farms up and ready to go to produce
8 food for our people in our state.

9 This -- the commission has done very
10 well, and they've invited everybody that wants
11 to come up to talk. I was at the Boston
12 meeting, I didn't get called. I was at the
13 last meeting, I didn't get called. I got
14 called today. You made enough time for
15 everyone that wants to speak can get up and
16 say what they have on their mind.

17 Revere is the place that the casino
18 should go. They've proven over and over again
19 that they can handle the people. They can
20 handle things like the sand sculpture, 400,000
21 people, the bike ride for the soldiers.
22 They've proved it over and over again. This
23 is a destination that people want to come to.
24 They always have. I've lived in the north

1 shore of Boston all my life, and I'm proud to
2 be a Revere resident. I hope you hear what
3 everyone has to say, because we all need jobs,
4 but we don't need to lose 800 of 'em. Thank
5 you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Richard Dolan
7 is next. Is Mr. Dolan here? Vincent --
8 Vincent Giarrusso, Michelle Jeffrey,
9 Wilson Correia, Kevin Buckley, Charles Webber,
10 Gary Ferragamo. Mr. Ferragamo. And
11 Mark D'Ambrosio is next.

12 MR. FERRAGAMO: Good afternoon.

13 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
14 afternoon.

15 MR. FERRAGAMO: My name is
16 Gary Ferragamo, and I would like to speak to
17 you in three different manners, if you will.
18 One as a Revere native, two as a realtor, and
19 three as a business owner.

20 As a Revere native I was born and
21 raised here in Revere, and I've lived in
22 Revere most of my life. I remember growing up
23 in this beautiful beach city of Revere and
24 being proud to say I was from Revere. Back

1 then, Revere was a world-class city. I
2 remember going to the beach as a young boy in
3 the 60s and 70s, and I'd go on all the rides
4 and the rollercoasters and I played in the
5 arcades. I remember not only meeting new
6 people from not only different cities and
7 states, but people from all over the world. I
8 remember running home to my mother and father
9 and telling them who I met on the beach that
10 day. One day it was people from Germany, the
11 next day it was people from Sweden. Back in
12 those days, Revere attracted people from all
13 over the world.

14 However, in the past three decades
15 the rides and arcades are gone, the visitors
16 from all over the world are gone, and our much
17 needed economic growth is at a standstill.
18 The recession in the past few years has really
19 hurt our beautiful, world-class city of Revere
20 even further. It seems that there is little
21 hope for the future and to bring Revere back
22 to its world-class status, or so I thought.
23 It's time to stop remembering and bring Revere
24 back to world-class status.

1 And as a realtor, I'm the vice
2 president of a real estate company, and we
3 have seen the past five or six years in real
4 estate, property values have been down,
5 suppressed and not showing much life. I speak
6 for many real estate professionals when I say
7 we feel the possibility of a resort casino
8 here in Revere can have many significant,
9 positive effects on values -- of the core
10 values of a local real estate community. This
11 resort casino can lead to many positive
12 effects. Defray property taxes for
13 homeowners, defray water and sewer rates for
14 homeowners. We know this will boost activity,
15 spark widespread interest that lead to future
16 economic growth as well as so many other
17 positive attributes. From a professional
18 realtor's point of view, the location of
19 Revere, with its close convenience, just a few
20 miles away from Boston and Logan International
21 Airport make it a desirable, easy location for
22 any world traveler to easily visit on a daily
23 basis.

24 I am also a business owner, and I

1 have a beautiful restaurant on Revere Beach.
2 We all know the recession of the past few
3 years has hurt many businesses, specifically
4 speaking for myself, restaurant business.
5 However, we believe we are finally seeing our
6 business start to pick up again for the first
7 time in years. We believe the possibility of
8 a resort casino located just a mile or so down
9 the road will lead to more customers for us,
10 more business for us, and more income to our
11 restaurant. We believe it can lead to many
12 more visitors, once again, from not only
13 different cities and states, but hopefully all
14 over the world.

15 We believe in Revere. We believe
16 that in democracy each city should be able to
17 vote for what they want and what we believe
18 in. We believe we voted twice for this resort
19 casino, and we believe we voted yes twice.

20 We believe in Suffolk Downs for they
21 have been a wonderful neighbor and a wonderful
22 manager professionally gambling -- managing
23 gambling professionally for almost 80 years.
24 We believe in the COO of Suffolk Downs, Chip

1 Tuttle, and his team of many supporters and
2 staff, including Ed Limoli. We believe in the
3 principal owner of Suffolk Downs, Richard
4 Fields, who's ready to invest hundreds of
5 millions of dollars into the city and our
6 community.

7 We believe in our city councilors,
8 who vote yes. We believe in our former state
9 representative, Kathi-Anne Reinstein, who
10 voted yes. We believe in our current state
11 representative, RoseLee Vincent, who voted yes
12 - three seconds - we believe in our economic
13 development, John Festa. We believe in our
14 Mayor Dan Rizzo.

15 In closing, it is time we truly
16 believe that this resort casino here in Revere
17 is the right development in the right location
18 at the right time. Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
20 Mr. Ferragamo. All right. Mark D'Ambrosio,
21 Angelo Vigliota, Paul Umbrello,
22 Patricia Courtney, Carol Tye. Ms. Tye.
23 Vincent Ferrazano is next. Ms. Tye.

24 MS. TYE: I've lived in Beachmont,

1 that section of Revere for almost
2 three-quarters of a century. And for 54 years
3 I have driven by those red car barns -- those
4 red horse barns on my way to this very
5 building. And I remember when it was called
6 the new Revere High School. When I came here
7 to teach, when I came here as superintendent
8 of the schools, and when I came here now as an
9 elected member of the school committee. And
10 for all of those years I have always regarding
11 Suffolk Downs as a good neighbor and as a good
12 corporate citizen.

13 I usually speak before commissions
14 about school and governmental issues, but I'm
15 here today to testify on behalf of the school
16 department and the city I love, because I
17 believe that Suffolk Downs and Mohegan Sun has
18 an economic develop -- development proposal
19 that is essential to the future of Revere. I
20 support the proposal because of the benefits
21 that will accrue to education and to young
22 people.

23 The host community agreement
24 requires payments of \$1 million annually to

1 the Revere Public Schools, a \$2 million
2 payment toward rehabilitation of the stadium,
3 and a \$1 million payment toward building our
4 new view center. And the mayor has pledged to
5 all city revenues to build a new high school.
6 We couldn't even get a science lab here
7 because they said this building was too old.
8 But that's his pledge, and there's no other
9 way we're going to get that pledge.

10 I'm a money manager for elderly
11 citizens from Chelsea Revere Winthrop Elder
12 Services. They can't afford to pay the taxes
13 for a school that our kids need and deserve.
14 And, sadly, we've lost so many homes to
15 foreclosure. You can't keep a house if you
16 don't have a job. And too many of the kids
17 who lived in those houses, and who went to our
18 schools are now homeless.

19 We need money. We need jobs. Jobs
20 give not only financial security, but
21 emotional security for children so they'll
22 thrive in an academic and social environment.
23 We can't lose these jobs and the business that
24 horseracing brings in our community -- to our

1 community now. And we all know that that
2 sport cannot survive without a casino
3 development.

4 So why is Revere a better site?

5 Well, because Suffolk Downs has a history as a
6 good neighbor. When I was a child, horsemen
7 lived in rental quarters in Beachmont, our
8 brothers walked horses every morning. We were
9 called to church on Sunday by a carillon that
10 had been donated to our Lady of Lourdes Church
11 in memory of a deceased jockey. Our lives
12 were intertwined with Suffolk in a easy
13 mutuality.

14 Throughout the years, Suffolk Downs
15 has supported so many nonprofits. Some from
16 Revere and some from surrounding communities.
17 They've given to CASTLES, a Revere High School
18 alumni group, to CPAC, which is organizing to
19 help children with autism. We're a city with
20 a great history in the entertainment business.
21 There were lots of jobs at the track for
22 ambitious, hard-working people willing to
23 forego days in the sun for a better future.

24 I had a job on Revere Beach. I

1 graduated from making cotton candy to being a
2 check -- hat-check girl in Oceanview Ballroom,
3 and I paid my college tuition with the money
4 that I earned from those jobs. All work is
5 honorable no matter what, if it's done in an
6 honorable way.

7 Mohegan Sun has already worked with
8 us at Revere Cares so that we can address any
9 issues that arise in the community.

10 Bunker Hill will give education to our kids,
11 not only for a job there, but for a career
12 there.

13 The city and the community have
14 demonstrated firm support for Suffolk Downs
15 and Mohegan Sun. We also believe that we have
16 the best site, a beautiful, 3-mile beach.
17 Stop at the sand castle festival on your way
18 home. The centerpiece is up already. We have
19 a population of eager, educated workers. And,
20 in spite of our physical needs in the Revere
21 Public Schools, we are academically the best
22 urban district in the nation. Please, thank
23 you for coming. Award the license to Suffolk
24 Downs and Mohegan Sun.

1 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.

2 Thank you, Ms. Tye. Mr. Ferrazano. Oh. Your
3 name is what, sir?

4 MR. UMBRELLO: She skipped me. I
5 wasn't going to tackle her or go ahead of her
6 so I let her go.

7 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Your name?

8 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Okay. And
9 your name?

10 MR. UMBRELLO: Paul Umbrello. I
11 was --

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Oh, yes. Oh,
13 yes. Yes, sir. Okay, good. Thank you very
14 much.

15 MR. UMBRELLO: Do you want to call
16 somebody else?

17 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Go ahead. No,
18 no.

19 MR. UMBRELLO: All right. Thank
20 you, members of the board. I'm Paul Umbrello,
21 owner, managing partner of Charles River
22 Racing stables. I offer race horse
23 partnerships and have hundreds of partners
24 that contribute to the racing industry and the

1 economy. I'm here today -- here today to
2 support a yes vote for a casino in Revere, and
3 support Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs.

4 My comments today are my own are and
5 not solicited by Mohegan Sun or Suffolk Downs.
6 I know as members of the board you have a
7 tough decision to make in awarding Revere or
8 Everett the casino license. How we got here
9 is no longer the issue. Going forward, the
10 only decision is to whether award the gaming
11 license to Mohegan or Wynn. The fact is that
12 a casino at either site will create thousands
13 of jobs, but there are some facts that support
14 Revere over Everett, in my opinion.

15 The first and foremost is that a
16 casino in Revere retains over 800 existing
17 jobs and the potential to add and even create
18 more to the racing industry. Mohegan has
19 committed to millions of dollars in road
20 revenue as we know and have heard. They're
21 working with area businesses to help promote
22 and generate revenue outside of the casino and
23 not take away of it.

24 I haven't heard or seen anything

1 comparable that Wynn will do for the horse
2 racing industry, or the millions of dollars
3 contributed to host communities, road
4 improvements, or what he is doing to support
5 area businesses.

6 Without the marriage of Revere
7 casino and Suffolk Downs, I can't see the
8 track continuing to operate. Folks will lose
9 their jobs and the economy would need more
10 jobs. Some will have to relocate their
11 families to race elsewhere, sell their farms.
12 How do you start over when you've lost the
13 only job you know? I'll be out of business.
14 Those opposed can't deny the fact that we need
15 jobs today and need to retain existing jobs.
16 So why not a casino and the preservation of
17 the racing industry, and jobs of other
18 alternatives.

19 Before I close I also want to make a
20 comment, as I see I have a couple minutes,
21 about the comment I heard about the Mass.
22 breeding program and the horses at the tracks.
23 The Mass. breeding program, in my opinion,
24 will thrive, excel with a casino in Revere.

1 The revenue, obviously from the casino, will
2 go towards the purse structures. You don't
3 have breeders breeding today because it's very
4 costly to take a horse, breed it and get it to
5 the track.

6 The tracks -- the horses at the
7 track, yes, we don't have as many horses.
8 Why? Because I can race in New York for more
9 money than I will at Suffolk. When you
10 increase the purses that I'm going to race for
11 20,000 instead of 10, I'll bring more horses
12 in, I'll bring more quality horses in, you'll
13 bring more people to the track.

14 Why does Florida survive? Because
15 they have a casino and gulf stream. Why does
16 Pennsylvania survive? Because they have they
17 have a casino at their racetracks.
18 Pennsylvania offers 40-percent bonuses for
19 their PA-bred horses. I expect and hope we'd
20 see the same in Massachusetts. New York also.
21 Those tracks all survive because casinos
22 reside in those states.

23 In closing, I support and urge you
24 to do the same and award Mohegan Sun and

1 Revere their gaming license. I thank you for
2 your time.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
4 Thank you. So now, Vincent Ferrazano,
5 Richard Sheehan, Dr. Richard Sheehan. Johanna
6 Renzi. Ms. Renzi. And David Lamalfa will be
7 next. Ms. Renzi.

8 MS. RENZI: Good afternoon members
9 of the commission.

10 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
11 afternoon.

12 MS. RENZI: My name is
13 Johanna Renzi. I am a Revere resident, and a
14 supporter of establishing Mohegan Sun in
15 Revere. One of my concerns in considering my
16 support was the impact Mohegan Sun Mass. would
17 have on local businesses, and would it help
18 drive local spending? And we all know that
19 any program that drives local spending in the
20 local economy is a plus.

21 After attending meetings and
22 deciphering information, it did not take me
23 long to put my concerns to rest and realize
24 that Mohegan Sun would be a tremendous help to

1 local businesses. Just one of the way they
2 will to this, and to which I will speak, is
3 through their Momentum Partnership Program,
4 which you have already heard about.

5 Mohegan Sun already maintains a
6 reward program for their patrons at their
7 three other locations. With over 5 million
8 members, many of them concentrated here in
9 eastern Massachusetts, points are awarded to
10 its members to use as cash throughout the
11 casino. And the gaming industry standard is
12 for points to be redeemed only within the
13 casino property.

14 So why is Mohegan Sun Mass.
15 different, and how will this program help our
16 local area businesses? It is because it is
17 establishing a first of its kind community
18 benefit, the Momentum Partnership Program.
19 It's important to know the word partnership
20 because it allows the patrons to use their
21 Momentum points outside of Mohegan Sun at
22 local, retail, restaurant, other commercial
23 entities in Revere and throughout greater
24 Boston.

1 To date, nearly 400 businesses in
2 greater Boston have already signed up to
3 participate. So Mo -- Mohegan Sun anticipates
4 that patrons who are Momentum members will
5 earn up to \$50 million annually, and they're
6 free to use these points as currency in
7 request to have their cash payments directed
8 to participating businesses. Just imagine
9 what impact this will have. It is a model
10 program.

11 We know that many area small
12 businesses have been adversely affected by the
13 state of the economy over the past years. I
14 have spoken with some of these local, every
15 day, hard-working business owners, and they
16 could surely use a boost. The financial
17 impact of this partnership program could be
18 huge for them. More businesses means a better
19 quality of life for them and their families.
20 So please consider just how this one program
21 alone will benefit business by increasing the
22 revenues and bottom line, how it will
23 contribute to the development of the region.
24 This unprecedented commitment by Mohegan Sun

1 Mass. is in addition to their commitment to
2 spend a minimum of \$50 million annually in
3 goods and services within 15 miles of the
4 casino. This will ensure a purchase that are
5 paid directly by Mohegan Sun will flow to area
6 vendors.

7 In closing, Mohegan Sun has proven
8 that it is committed to building long-term
9 relationships, and integrating itself into the
10 community. It does have a powerful vision,
11 and I hope your vision will be to award a
12 Region A license to Mohegan Sun Massachusetts.
13 Thank you very much for your time.

14 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
15 David Lamalfa, Michael Hinoso -- Hinojosa, I'm
16 sorry. Mr. Hinojosa.

17 MR. HINOHOSA: Good afternoon,
18 members of the gaming commission. My name is
19 Michael Hinojosa. I'm the director of parks
20 and recreation. I stood in front of you a few
21 months ago, spoke about the importance of a
22 casino, and how our host community agreement
23 favorably impacts my department, the citizens
24 of Revere, especially the kids. The

1 \$1 million set aside for a rec. center is just
2 the beginning of a transformation of quality
3 of life for this great city.

4 But I'm here on a personal note.
5 I'm here to tell you the importance of
6 Suffolk Downs to my family. My father,
7 Herbert Hinojosa was a jockey. He won over
8 3300 races in his career, many of those at
9 Suffolk Downs, including the 1963
10 Massachusetts handicap.

11 I can't begin to tell you how many
12 times I snuck out of the house with my father
13 at five in the morning to watch him work out
14 horses. I walked around the place like a
15 prince with everyone calling me little Herbie.
16 I wanted nothing more to be a jockey. You
17 know, I mean that's -- that was me.

18 Unfortunately, those hopes were dashed when I
19 outweighed my father by the time I was 12.

20 But when I was a kid I would -- I
21 would be on the corner of my couch grabbing
22 one of my father's whips and, you know,
23 pretending like I was coming down the stretch.
24 And let's just say my mother wasn't too happy

1 about me pounding the side of my couch with
2 one of my father's whips, so on the chase it
3 was. But that brings me to my mother Maria,
4 who also worked at Suffolk Downs until -- for
5 about 15 years, and she was a teller there.

6 I tell you all this because
7 Suffolk Downs has been a fabric of our
8 community for many years putting food on many
9 tables, including mine. Suffolk Downs has
10 been an integral part of the Revere community
11 socially and economically. It is difficult to
12 imagine life in the city without it. Suffolk
13 Downs is not just part of Revere's identity,
14 it's part of it's being.

15 Choose Mohegan Sun so the
16 horseracing community can continue to strive
17 and the city of Revere can continue its
18 transformation. Thank you for your time.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
20 sir. Next on my list is Joseph Cuoco. And
21 after that will be Saverio DeCicco.

22 MR. COCO: Hello. It's pleasant to
23 be in front of you today. I'm sure you must
24 remember the name. I've sent a couple of

1 letters. I just want to say that Revere has
2 to be a no-brainer for this. And you guys
3 have to listen to what I got to say, because I
4 got it on DVR. I mean, you take Mohegan Sun
5 on one side, and you take Wynn on the other
6 side. Mohegan Sun you got their utmost
7 attention. Wynn sleeping. I got him three
8 times right in front of you guys sleeping,
9 actually sleeping while you're talking to him.
10 Now, if you don't believe me, I've got it on
11 DVR.

12 Why -- why should Revere be picked?
13 Because we're the best city in this state.
14 That's number one. Because we got the best
15 transportation. We got the first public
16 beach, which you've heard before, but anybody
17 that comes to the casino or comes to Revere
18 can visit the beach in their spare time,
19 instead of hanging around the hotel.

20 Also, we're preserving the
21 racetrack, which is the most important thing,
22 I think for you guys, is your preserving jobs.
23 Not only the 800, but the people that deliver
24 the hay to them, all the other people. The

1 horse farmers. And not only that, what they
2 didn't mention is that with the casino coming
3 in you're going to bring quality-taught race
4 horses here, which are going to bring a lot of
5 race men into -- in here that you've never
6 seen before so the track will be crowded.
7 Minutes from the airport, which you're heard,
8 walking distance from the train station, less
9 than a mile from one of the biggest bus
10 routes. You got the beach, like I said, not
11 the Mystic River, which is polluted. It's
12 good -- going to be good for so many
13 businesses, not only in the area, but in
14 Boston and the surrounding communities.
15 People that come here will not only put money
16 into the casino, but will undoubtedly put it
17 into the businesses. I'm trying to see -- I'm
18 trying to get something that nobody else said
19 but -- anyway.

20 One other thing I want to say. I
21 also want to apologize for them, I don't want
22 to say it to you, that were here and said what
23 they said about you people. And not only
24 them, but what they said about Dan. I've

1 known Dan for years. He's the best mayor I
2 could ever want in this city, and anything he
3 supports I will be right there beside him.
4 And I've been on this thing since day one with
5 him, and I will continue standing beside
6 Mayor.

7 Really, you guys got to think about
8 this. There's -- there's no other city.
9 Revere has to be it. Look it, come in like my
10 friend and I did coming from the Dominican,
11 and look at both sites from -- from the --
12 from an aerial view. It looks like a slum
13 area, one, and the other looks like a resort
14 area. I don't know how you could even votes
15 for-- for Everett. You got an ignorant guy
16 that wants to sleep while you're talking to
17 him.

18 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Now let's --
19 let's -- let's --

20 MR. COCO: No. Well, listen --

21 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: We're better
22 than, though.

23 MR. COCO: Well, yeah. But you're
24 talking -- he is, though. You're talking

1 about a billion dollar --

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Let's talk
3 about the merits. Okay. Let's talk about the
4 merits.

5 MR. COCO: Revere's the place to go.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
7 All right. Next on my list is Saverio
8 DeCicco, Jim DePaulo, Jeannine Beaudoin.

9 MR. DEPAULO: Good afternoon and
10 thank you --

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
12 afternoon.

13 MR. DEPAULO: -- for allowing me to
14 speak. I'm a resident of Revere. I've lived
15 in Revere all my life. I'm a homeowner. I
16 live on Revere Beach Parkway, which is
17 otherwise known as Route 16. I voted for the
18 casino twice. I think it would be great for
19 our city. However, there's one thing that
20 does disturb me.

21 And that is, I think it was March of
22 this year the commission approved Everett to
23 be a surrounding community to the Mohegan Sun
24 project in Revere. But to date they haven't

1 allowed Revere to be a surrounding community
2 to the Everett project. So if Everett gets
3 the license Revere gets nothing. The
4 residents who live on Route 16 will get no
5 traffic mitigation. But the commission has
6 already ruled the other way, which I don't
7 think is very fair. I think once the
8 commission rules that Everett was a
9 surrounding community to Revere, they should
10 automatically say Revere should also be.

11 If my memory serves me correctly, I
12 think it was Commissioner Zuniga who went on
13 the record to say, because of the increased
14 traffic on Route 16 for the residents of
15 Everett he allowed Everett to be a surrounding
16 community, forcing Mohegan Sun to mitigate
17 traffic with Mohegan and -- and for the
18 residents of Everett.

19 So my point is, if you're going to
20 allow one community to be a surrounding
21 community, the other one should also be. I
22 don't know if the mayor has to request it, or
23 if you people can just designate it by the
24 simple fact that you've already designated

1 Everett as a surrounding community to the
2 Mohegan project.

3 And if -- if my figures are right, I
4 think it was \$500 million a year to the
5 City of Everett as mitigation, if the project
6 goes into Revere. But, if, by chance, the
7 unthinkable happens and you give the license
8 to Everett, Revere gets nothing. Not only --
9 we don't even get traffic mitigation to people
10 who live on Route 16. Route 1 empties out
11 onto Route 16. A lot of my neighbors are
12 going to have to deal with all that traffic.
13 And right now, on the table, there's nothing
14 to make any improvements if the projects does
15 go to Everett.

16 So my point for speaking tonight was
17 to thank you people for being so patient,
18 allowing us to speak. I am for the casino in
19 Revere, but, if, by chance the license goes to
20 Everett, I think it's only fair that Revere
21 should get something out of it, just as you
22 gave the other residents mitigation for the
23 project in Revere. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,

1 sir. Next on my list is Michael Lawyets,
2 Weezy Waldstein, Zayika Alake. All right.

3 MS. WALDSTEIN: Hello. My name
4 is --

5 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Good
6 afternoon.

7 MS. WALDSTEIN: Good afternoon. My
8 name is Weezy Waldstein. I'm here today
9 representing a coalition of community groups.
10 And, particularly, I want to say that I'm
11 hearing what people are saying about the jobs.
12 Our concern is the quality of the jobs,
13 regardless of which applicant gets the final
14 license.

15 We want to thank you. We want to
16 thank Mohegan Sun. Last week we opened a
17 conversation and we're hoping to continue it
18 with Peter Schultz. I'm hope it was
19 productive.

20 We are here tonight to say that our
21 best information is that between 800 and 1200
22 of the jobs, no matter which casino is awarded
23 the license, will not be unionized. And we're
24 concerned about the standards of those jobs.

1 What we know is that half the
2 fast-food workers in the country get food
3 stamps. We know that there's a possibility,
4 at least, that without a living wage standard
5 for all the jobs, especially the ones we're
6 concerned about here, and the and ones that
7 aren't going to have a union, that we could
8 end up, by accident almost, with jobs that
9 don't pay a living wage, don't have benefits,
10 aren't the kind of jobs that everyone here is
11 talking about.

12 We've given you testimony, as we
13 have shared with Mohegan Sun, and for a full
14 disclose, we're also in the same conversation
15 with folks from the Wynn casino. We're asking
16 that the casinos set a standard for the jobs
17 of their partner restaurants, partner retail
18 and contracted-out workers. And I
19 particularly wanted to come here tonight to
20 recognize Revere, which is a really special
21 town. It had one of the very first
22 living-wage standards for its own contracts of
23 any city in the country. And it just is a
24 real sign that -- that these kind of

1 approaches can be done, and that we're really
2 interested in the continuing dialogue with
3 Mohegan Sun. Obviously, with Wynn as well,
4 but particularly with Mohegan Sun here. So
5 thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you.
7 Next is Zakiya Alake, if I'm pronouncing that
8 correctly, Michael Nicastro, Joseph Spaziano.
9 Joseph Spaziano, and Joanne Bonavicchia
10 (phonetically).

11 MS. BONURA: My name is
12 Joanne Bonura. I'm a former 20-year resident
13 of Revere Beach, currently residing in
14 Peabody. My mother was born in Revere, and
15 her parents and extended family lived in
16 Revere, and some of them still do. They were
17 employees, some of them, of the two original
18 tracks in Revere, Wonderland and
19 Suffolk Downs.

20 I came here to voice my opinion, as
21 I did about three years ago at the state when
22 people were gathering to talk about casinos.
23 I stood before you then, and I reminded you
24 that the commission could not legislate

1 morality when the issues of prostitution and
2 drugs, and crime came up. I reminded you also
3 that the commission could see to it that any
4 casino coming into any community in
5 Massachusetts could enforce partnerships and
6 vendor contracts, and host community
7 resolutions and ordinances to ensure safety
8 protections for people who are addicted. You
9 did all that.

10 Revere is the place. I came from
11 Revere when I spoke before you. Revere was
12 the first city to come out and work, solicit
13 and work, and put together a package that they
14 felt the commission would accept. Now is the
15 time. Give them the reward for the work that
16 they did. You did the job. You brought in
17 the people. You stood up against all of the
18 malicious comments made against you. Now it's
19 time for the two of you, the commission who
20 did the job the best, and the city who did the
21 job the best, bring gaming, ethical gaming to
22 Massachusetts.

23 I visited Foxwoods. They've a
24 six-floor historical museum on the native

1 tribe that they come from. They bring riches
2 to the mind, as well as to the pockets. We
3 need that kind of thing for communities.
4 Mohegan Sun, I saw Pavarotti perform live.

5 Everyone who goes to casinos are not
6 addicted gamblers who bring down neighborhoods
7 and force more policemen. The average person
8 who go there are decent people. Let's let the
9 people in Massachusetts spend their money in
10 Massachusetts so they can get it back in tax
11 revenue. Now is the time for Revere.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
13 Next on my list is Deborah Davis. Is
14 Ms. Davis here? And Christopher Graham. All
15 right. First, Ms. Davis.

16 MS. DAVIS: Good evening. I'd just
17 like to say thank you to everyone. And I'm
18 here it support of Mohegan Sun. I truly
19 believe that the people who are opposing to
20 it, Mohegan Sun, along with the supporters,
21 can work together to make this a positive
22 effort. We need the -- we need the opposition
23 to keep checks and balances. So the promises
24 that Mohegan Sun make -- the people -- the

1 opposers will assure that they keep their
2 promise, so we need to work together as a
3 team.

4 I'm also, you know, a residence of
5 Massachusetts. I grew up here. And I know
6 that this city and this state's very strong.
7 And whenever we allow citizens to come here
8 we're going to assure that they deliver what
9 they promise and not scare us away. Perfect
10 example is the Boston Marathon. There was a
11 tragedy that took place. Lives were lost,
12 lives were -- were forever changed.

13 However, Boston, Massachusetts did
14 not cease having the marathon. What they did
15 was that they increased the security and they
16 increased the safety for all who wants to
17 participate. And I see the same with
18 Mohegan Sun. Yes it will bring some negative,
19 whenever you increase number of people, well,
20 you also increase risk. But it also brings
21 the funding to provide security to ensure that
22 the negative doesn't hurt the positive. So I
23 definitely I'm thumbs up for bringing
24 Mohegan Sun to Massachusetts.

1 In addition to that, Mohegan Sun
2 is -- they're bringing something. If they're
3 not going to put -- be in our -- in our city
4 well, then, that means that jobs are lost.
5 And if those jobs are lost, how are they going
6 to be replaced? Many of these people -- and I
7 can say this because I'm in the same age
8 bracket, they've been at these jobs for over
9 20 years. They're looking close to
10 retirement. Where are they going to go when
11 those jobs are lost? Who's going to hire a
12 56-year-old person who's been working in one
13 place for over 30 years? Where you going to
14 find a job to match their salary? How are
15 they going to make their means? How are they
16 going to earn their living and -- and be able
17 to support themselves? Mohegan Sun is
18 bringing something to the table.

19 Then, in addition to some of the
20 concerns, an example of them, listening to the
21 concerns for Winthrop about -- in regards to
22 traffic and hospital. And I just read in the
23 paper, the article where the mayor,
24 Marty Walsh, has put together something where

1 they will also benefit from the funds that's
2 coming to Massachusetts. Winthrop, Chelsea
3 Everett. All of the surrounding towns that
4 had legitimate concerns are now also
5 benefactors. So that tells me that Mohegan
6 Sun is listening to the issues that these
7 residents of these towns are having.

8 So, once again, I believe
9 Mohegan Sun is a positive addition to our
10 state, and they bring nothing but positive
11 benefits. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
13 Ms. Davis. Mr. Graham.

14 MR. GRAHAM: Yes. Hi. Good
15 evening. My name is Christopher Graham, and
16 thank you for having us here today. I too
17 support a casino coming to Massachusetts. I
18 could tell you a little bit about myself. I
19 am in a wonderful position where, you know, I
20 got a chance to come to this country. I'm
21 from the Jamaica. I'm loving the weather
22 today, by the way.

23 I'm from Jamaica, and I got to
24 experience a lot of different things in my

1 life. I got to go to the military, college,
2 and now I'm a business owner. And these are
3 things that we strive for coming from, you
4 know, our native country. And now we're in a
5 position where we can see history be made
6 again, where a casino would come into this
7 town and it will give my business and the
8 surrounding business from where I'm from an
9 opportunity to not only grow, but to be part
10 of something wonderful, creating new jobs.

11 We sit in a hub zone, where I'm
12 from, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. A lot of
13 people struggle every day to pay bills to, you
14 know, put food on their table, or anything
15 like that. To see a casino come to this
16 community, into Massachusetts, it gives them a
17 hope and opportunities to go out get jobs, go
18 out, start new business, build on the business
19 they have. Their are vets like myself who
20 come back into -- to Massachusetts and to
21 Boston, and there's no jobs for us. This is
22 an opportunity not only in the casino, but on
23 the outskirts, of companies like myself or
24 smaller companies. Kids coming from college.

1 My son is heading to college this fall. He's
2 heading to Perdue University. And how
3 wonderful it would be for him to come back and
4 there's jobs here for him. Not come -- not
5 stay in Pennsylvania or going to Florida, or,
6 you know, wherever, but come back home where
7 there are jobs here for him, and to continue
8 his life.

9 I see nothing but a wonderful
10 opportunity for us. Again, like Deborah said,
11 there will be -- you know, there's always
12 negative and positive, but it's our job as
13 residents of Massachusetts to fix that. We've
14 been in tight situations before. I could tell
15 from the military we've had some serious --
16 serious situation, and it was for us to come
17 together as a group and fix that situation
18 that we could come back home.

19 And I see this being that situation.
20 I think I echo what that lady just said, I
21 missed her name, when she said now is the
22 time. And I'd like to be part of that
23 history, and I'm sure a lot of people would
24 like to be part of that history too, even

1 those who oppose it. So thank you very much,
2 and I am in support of Mohegan Sun.

3 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
4 Now that completes my list. The lists were
5 posted outside, and if anybody saw their name
6 on the list but I did not call, we'll be happy
7 to hear you now. You, sir. And you are?

8 MR. MOULAIISON: My name's
9 Nick Moulaison. I was called earlier. I
10 showed up late.

11 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: All right.
12 That's all right. Your name is on the list so
13 go ahead.

14 MR. MOULAIISON: I'm here -- live in
15 Revere now, brought up -- born and brought up
16 in East Boston, and I'm here in support of the
17 casino for many reasons. I've been actively
18 involved in youth sports in the city of East
19 Boston for years. Past president of little
20 league and Pop Warner, and this proposal that
21 we get doesn't just help the city of Revere,
22 it helps all the surrounding communities, and
23 it helps millions of dollars, jobs for
24 everybody. Be able to -- like I said -- I

1 said this to Dan many times, I run T-ball now,
2 currently, in East Boston. It costs me, say,
3 \$20,000 a year to run the program. It'd be
4 nice to have someone to say, I need 20,000 to
5 run my program this year and not be able to
6 charge -- not have to charge the parents for
7 their children to play.

8 This is a -- like someone said
9 earlier, it's a no-brainer. This is a
10 no-brainer for Revere. The comparison of the
11 host community agreements between the two
12 choices are -- throw one away and look at the
13 one that's the right one, which is Revere.
14 Thank you for your time.

15 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: Thank you,
16 sir. All right. Now that does complete the
17 list. And on behalf of myself and my
18 colleagues, I want to thank all of you for not
19 only the thoughts you've expressed tonight,
20 but the thoughts you've expressed throughout
21 this process. We take all of this very
22 seriously. It's a very important part of our
23 decision-making process.

24 We will be back here one more time

1 to close -- for the final segment of this
2 statutory hearing. We will post the date soon
3 and -- so you have advanced notice of it. We
4 will, at that time, be focused primarily, if
5 not exclusively, on comments about the
6 surrounding -- the events that have taken
7 place since we had the first hearing, the
8 surrounding community hearing, any other
9 things that have taken place since the hearing
10 so that they can be brought up to date as to
11 your current thinking about all of that, so we
12 want to focus on that the next time.

13 But until the next time, thank you,
14 again, as I say, on behalf of all of us, and
15 have a good evening.

16

17 (Proceeding concluded at 6:18 p.m.)

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- 1 GUEST SPEAKERS:
- 2 Vincent F. Cammarata
- 3 Steven Roussel
- 4 Anne Marie Casey
- 5 Jeffrey Howe
- 6 Jane O'Reilly
- 7 Kathy Wyatt
- 8 John Vitigliano
- 9 Ellen Wallace
- 10 Alejandro Magno
- 11 Anne Guange
- 12 Ana Lanzilli
- 13 Kathy Orlando
- 14 Kim Luiso
- 15 Robert Repucci
- 16 Frank Pioppi
- 17 Gina Walker
- 18 Gene Vecchia
- 19 Bob Upton
- 20 William Jackson
- 21 Matilda Bonfardeci
- 22 Frank Sabbio
- 23 Patricia Reardon
- 24 Gary Ferragamo

1 GUEST SPEAKERS CONT'D:

2 Carol Tye

3 Paul Umbrello

4 Johanna Renzi

5 Michael Hinojosa

6 Joseph Coco

7 Jim DePaulo

8 Weezy Waldstein

9 Joanne Bonura

10 Deborah Davis

11 Christopher Graham

12 Nick Moulaison

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, Brenda M. Ginisi, Court Reporter, do
4 hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
5 and accurate transcript from the record of the
6 proceedings.

7 I, Brenda M. Ginisi, further certify
8 that the foregoing is in compliance with the
9 Administrative Office of the Trial Court
10 Directive of Transcript Format.

11 I, Brenda M. Ginisi, further certify
12 that I neither am counsel for, related to, nor
13 employed by any of the parties to the action
14 in which this hearing was taken and further
15 that I am not financially nor otherwise
16 interested in the outcome of this action.

17 Proceedings recorded by verbatim means,
18 and transcript produced from computer.

19

20 WITNESS MY HAND THIS 17th of July
21 2014.

22

23 BRENDA M. GINISI My Commission expires:
24 Notary Public June 18, 2021