



CITY OF KINGSTON
INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-295

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth

RESOURCE STAFF: Same

DATE OF MEETING: October 2, 2012

SUBJECT: OLG Process: Public Consultation Analysis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of OLG's new gaming and lottery modernization plan, municipalities are being asked to provide a clear expression of interest about their willingness to host a gaming facility in their community. Following the public meeting on August 8, Council Report 12-291 was submitted to the August 14th Council meeting to provide further information respecting the OLG process.

At the August 14 meeting, Council directed staff to extend the timeline for the online survey to September 5th. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the public input that has been received from the August 8 public meeting, from the on-line survey and through other correspondence (letters and e-mails) that has been submitted.

The general public was consulted in order to gauge public opinion on a position on Council's pending decision on whether or not to advise OLG of the City's interest in being a host municipality for a new gaming facility in Kingston. A public meeting was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 in Memorial Hall at City Hall. Opportunities for public input were also offered through a survey available in paper copy, online, at the public meeting, or completed via phone by contacting the Client Services Division. The City also received public input via mail and e-mail.

This report provides a numerical breakdown of the 3,338 responses to the public consultation invitation based on the comments received at the public meeting, through the on-line survey and correspondence received by the City. The comments and minutes of the public meeting, surveys and correspondence have also been attached to this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information purposes only.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER _____ Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability and Growth

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER _____ Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Lanie Hurdle, Community Services	N/R
Denis Leger, Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services	N/R
Jim Keech, President & CEO, <i>Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

As part of OLG's new gaming and lottery modernization plan, municipalities are being asked to provide a clear expression of interest about their willingness to host a gaming facility in their community prior to the OLG issuing a Request for Proposals to private sector gaming operators in the fall of 2012. Following the public meeting on August 8, Council Report 12-291 was submitted to the August 14th Council meeting to provide further information respecting the OLG process and to outline the proposed content for a future report(s) to Council. At the August 14 meeting, Council directed staff to extend the timeline for the online survey to September 5 to provide additional time for public engagement to gauge public opinion on whether the City of Kingston would like to be considered as a host municipality for a future gaming facility.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the public input that has been received from the August 8 public meeting, from the on-line survey and through other correspondence (letters and e-mails) that has been submitted.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 in Memorial Hall at City Hall for the purpose of receiving feedback on the question, "Should Kingston Support a Gaming Facility in the City?". The meeting was chaired by Mayor Mark Gerretsen and attended by members of City Council and City staff. It included a brief presentation of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's (OLG) process to modernize lottery and gaming in Ontario, followed by an opportunity for members of the public to speak. The meeting was advertised in the Kingston Whig-Standard and Kingston This Week. Other media included TV, radio, video signage, Twitter, and a posting on the City website.

150 members of the public attended the meeting with 43 members of the public providing verbal comments to Council and the audience with regards to their sentiments on Kingston hosting a gaming facility. It is estimated that 8-10 individuals selected for the opportunity to speak, did not come forward when their card was called.

- 37 people recorded as 'Opposed'
- 2 people recorded as 'In Favour'
- 4 people recorded as 'Neutral/Don't Know/Other'

The public meeting minutes 'Exhibit A' is attached to this report. Additional documents re: casino public meeting 'Exhibit B' set out the comments made or submitted at the public meeting can be found at: http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/council_agenda.asp.

Public Survey

The public consultation process on the matter of City Council passing a resolution in support for the possible location of a gaming facility in Kingston included an invitation to the general public to submit a letter or complete a public opinion survey. Public access to the opinion survey was open, inclusive, and unlimited. Conducting this survey has fostered a limited assessment of the general public opinion or trend on the matter but given the structure and methodology of this

type of exploratory based survey, the level of statistical significance of the analysis is low. General open access to the survey eliminated any randomization and verification of the authenticity of the individuals completing the survey. The mandatory inclusion of names and addresses enabled the detection of 59 duplicates.

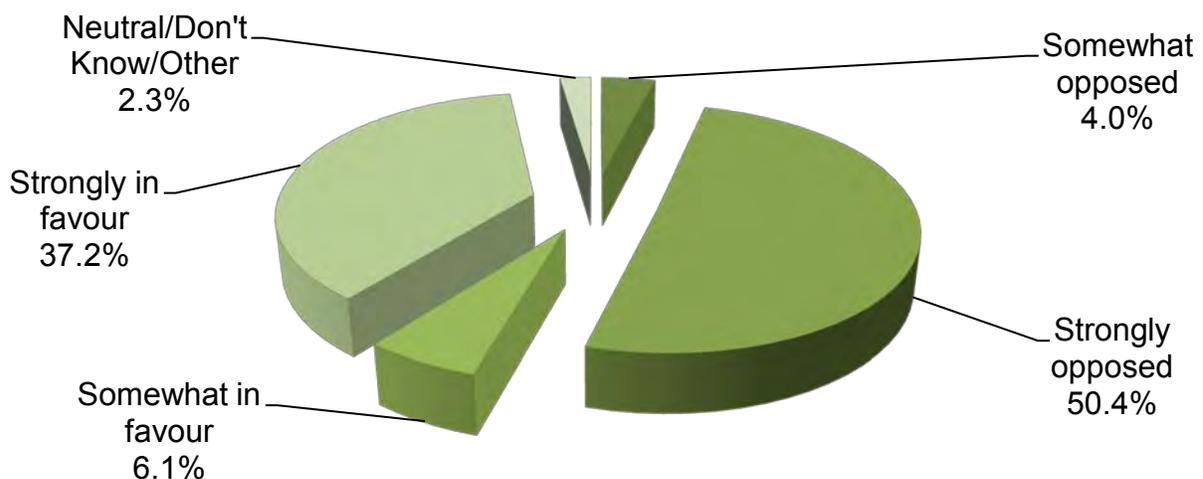
Overall, the City received 3338 responses in total to the public consultation process that included personal letters, emails and completed surveys submitted through the online survey on the City’s website, at the August 8 public meeting or by fax.

There were 91.5% or 3055 of those responses from residents or property owners of the City of Kingston and 8.5% or 283 from non-residents/non property owners. This level of response from residents and property owners represents 1.91% of the population of the metropolitan area of Kingston and the greatest response to any public opinion survey conducted by the City.

Responses to the public consultation included 33 personal letters from residents. These can be found in Exhibit ‘G’ at: http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/council_agenda.asp.

The first mandatory question on the survey asked individuals to describe their position on City Council passing a resolution in support for the possible location of a casino in Kingston. Combining survey and letter responses together on this initial question, 43.3% of responses from just residents or property owners indicated they were somewhat or strongly in favour of City Council passing a resolution in support for the possible location of a casino in Kingston. There were 54.4% of the responses from residents and property owners that indicated they were somewhat or strongly opposed to the matter. There were 2.3% of the responses that indicated a position on the matter of either neutral, didn’t know/couldn’t say or other.

Position of Residents/Property Owners

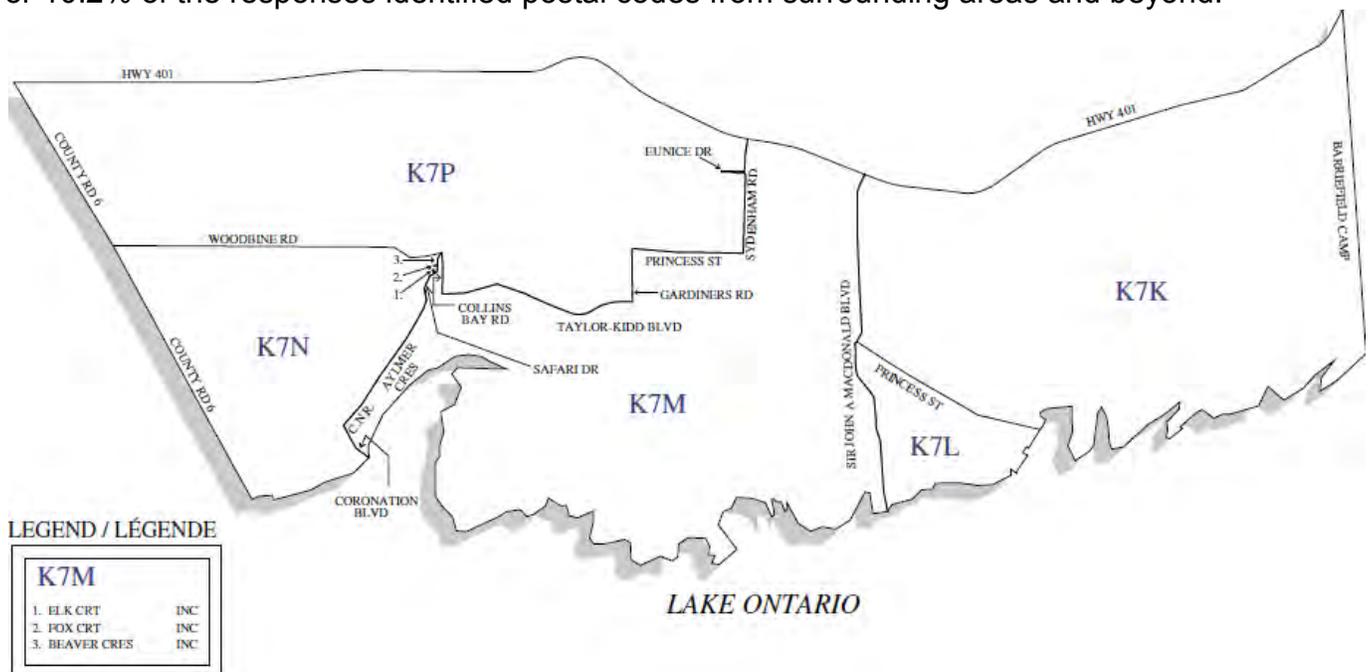


Based on all 3338 responses to the public consultation combined on this initial mandatory question, 37.2% of all responses indicated that they were are strongly in favour, 6.1% were

somewhat in favour, 50.4% of responses were strongly opposed, 4% were somewhat opposed and 2.3% of the responses indicated a position on the matter of either neutral, didn't know/couldn't say or other.

Many individuals indicating a position of "Other" also included comments in a text box indicating their position in favour or opposed based on a qualifying condition of the location, economic opportunity or social impact conditions. Those comments have been included in Exhibit 'D' which can be found at: http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/council_agenda.asp.

From the 3338 overall responses received, 1332 or 39.9% of them identified a postal code of K7K or K7L located east of Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd. and 1665 or 49.9% of the responses identifying a postal code of K7M, K7N or K7P located west of Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd. 341 or 10.2% of the responses identified postal codes from surrounding areas and beyond.



The overall breakdown of position on the issue within each postal code area has been sorted by row as follows:

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* Question One: <u>Total number of surveys/letters</u> describing their position on City Council passing a resolution in support for the possible location of a casino in Kingston:				Strongly in favour	Somewhat in favour	Neutral/Don't Know/Other	Somewhat opposed	Strongly opposed	Don't know / Can't say	Other (next question)
Postal Code	Area	#	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
K7K	East of Sir John A. / North of Princess	733	22.0%	35.6	5.9	1.0	5.7	49.9	0.0	1.9
K7L	East of Sir John A. / South of Princess	599	17.9	22.4	5.7	1.2	4.5	64.9	0.2	1.2
Sub-total		1,332	39.9%							
K7M	West of Sir John A. / South of Sydenham-Princess-Gardiner-Taylor Kidd - Woodbine	1117	33.5	38.5	6.0	0.5	3.6	49.7	0.2	1.5
K7N	West of Coronation	59	1.8	57.6	11.9	0.0	0.0	30.5	0.0	0.0
K7P	West of Sir John A. - North of Sydenham-Princess-Gardiner-Taylor Kidd - Woodbine	489	14.6	49.3	7.8	0.6	2.9	38.0	0.0	1.4
Sub-total		1,665	49.9%							
K0H	Surrounding Kingston	210	6.3	49.0	5.7	0.0	2.9	41.0	0.0	1.4
K0K	Camden East	22	0.7	36.4	9.1	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
K7G	Gananoque	15	0.4	6.7	0.0	0.0	6.7	80.0	0.0	6.7
K0E	Northeast of Brockville	12	0.4	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	91.7	0.0	0.0
K0G	Surrounding Perth & Smith's Falls	6	0.2	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
K0A	Surrounding Ottawa	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
K7H	Perth	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	Manitoba, BC, Winnipeg, Halifax	74	2.2	31.1	1.4	1.4	4.1	62.2	0.0	0.0
Sub-total		341	10.2%							
Total		3,338	100%							

The non-mandatory questions asked individuals to identify their top three reasons for supporting or not supporting the establishment of a casino in Kingston based on a set list. 3192 or 95.6% of the total 3338 responses answered these questions. The results are:

<i>Number of times a reason was identified as being among their top-three reasons (out of five) by 1422 online survey responses that are IN support.</i>	#	%
A casino would be a source of new revenue to help pay for City services.	1114	78.3%
A casino would create employment opportunities for local people.	964	67.8%
A casino may bring more tourists to Kingston on a year-round basis.	833	58.6%
Kingston may get more value out of facilities and services we already have (eg. airport, hotels, entertainment venues, restaurants, stores, tourism operations).	704	49.5%
May attract investors.	360	25.3%
Residents who want to go to a casino don't have to go out of town.	233	16%

<i>Number of times a reason was identified as being among their top-three reasons (out of four) by 1770 online survey responses that are NOT in support.</i>	#	%
Gaming can lead to addiction and other social problems.	1559	88.1%
There will be no new spending because residents will just spend money at the casino they would have spent on something else.	1180	66.7%
It could cost the City more money to have the casino than it will make from the casino.	917	51.8%
The casino will cause traffic and parking problems.	729	41.2%

The survey also provided text boxes for individuals to include additional comments on their position as either “supporting” or “not in support” and for any other additional comments. Overall the individuals completing the surveys included 380 comments on their position of “support”, 1175 comments on their position of “not in support” and 1163 other comments. These comments have been included in this report as Exhibits ‘E’ ‘F’ & ‘C’ can be found at: http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/council_agenda.asp.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

There is no existing policy/by law.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

There are no notice provisions with this report.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no accessibility considerations with this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial considerations with this report.

CONTACTS:

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

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613-546-4291 ext. 1263

Tim Laprade, Project Coordinator

613-546-4291 ext. 1155

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

Exhibit A – Casino Public meeting minutes

Due to the number of pages staff has made the following exhibits available online at:

http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/council_agenda.asp

Exhibit B – Additional Documents re: Casino Public Meeting

Exhibit C – Public Survey Comments – Overall

Exhibit D – Public Survey Comments – Other Position

Exhibit E – Public Survey Comments - Reasons For Not Supporting

Exhibit F – Public Survey Comments - Reasons For Support

Exhibit G – Additional Public Correspondence



**CITY OF KINGSTON
POSSIBLE HOST MUNICIPALITY FOR A FUTURE
GAMING FACILITY PUBLIC MEETING
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
Wednesday August 8th, 2012
6:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, City Hall**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Gerretsen
Councillor Berg
Councillor Downes
Councillor Glover
Councillor Hector
Councillor Hutchison
Councillor Neill
Councillor Osanic
Councillor Paterson
Councillor Reitzel
Councillor Schell
Councillor Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Deputy City Clerk
Ms. Cynthia Beach, Commissioner,
Sustainability & Growth
Mr. Gerard Hunt, C.A.O.
Mr. Tim Laprade, Project Coordinator
Mr. Hal Linscott, City Solicitor
Mr. James Thompson, Committee Clerk
Ms. Holly Wilson, Manager
Intergovernmental Relations

REGRETS

Councillor George

OTHERS PRESENT

Approximately 150 Members of
the Public

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Gerretsen called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Schell declared a pecuniary interest regarding this matter as her son works for the OLG.

STAFF BRIEFING

Ms. Beach stated that the City of Kingston is seeking the input of residents on whether or not it should be possible for a casino to be located in Kingston. She noted that input is being sought in order to answer this question put to City Council by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.

Ms. Beach explained that the OLG is opening the gaming industry to private sector operators this fall. She indicated that the OLG wants to pre-determine the interest for possibly establishing a casino in Kingston and other communities in its E3 gaming zone, including Gananoque and Leeds and Grenville United

Counties, which already co-host a casino in Gananoque. She mentioned that only one casino per gaming zone would be allowed. Ms. Beach clarified that the OLG will not locate a gaming facility in a community whose Council does not want one.

Ms. Beach stated that all feedback and comment on this issue will be compiled into a staff Report to Council that will be presented at a special meeting of Council at the latest in September, 2012.

DELEGATIONS

Ms. Victoria Huehn, Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services stated that gambling is a widely used method of entertainment and noted that in 2005 over 63% of Ontario adults reported that they gambled in the past year. She commented that most people gamble for the excitement and the money. She mentioned that moderate to severe problem gambling is a health issue and provided the following statistics:

- 4.8% of Canadian adults experience moderate to severe problem gambling which equals almost 6,000 people in the City of Kingston.
- 9.6% of people are at risk for problem gambling.
- Older adults have a higher percentage of involvement with 73% of people over age 60 reported taking part in gambling of which 2.2% of older adults have severe issues with problem gambling.
- Many adults who report past gambling difficulties also report loneliness and depression; 77.5% of those experiencing problem with gambling had been diagnosed with a mood disorder at some point in their life, compared to only 25% in the control group.
- There is a higher incident of suicide among people with a problem gambling issue.
- Teenagers are at a greater risk of having a problem gambling issue than adults and by the age of 18, risk of developing a gambling problem almost doubles. 8.3% of youth between the ages of 16-24 are at risk of problem gambling with 2.7% being at risk of pathological gamblers.
- 1.6 adults report a problem resulting from either their own involvement or a friend/family due to problem gambling.

Ms. Huehn stated that education, prevention and early intervention are essential to limiting problem gambling.

A complete transcript of Ms. Huehn's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Matthew Gventer stated that the City of Kingston is in need of a radical change to stimulate the tax base and the economy in general. He indicated that he is supportive of the City of Kingston hosting a casino.

Mr. Alan Cob commented that while the City of Kingston would receive some of the proceeds from a casino the majority of the revenue generated would leave the community. He mentioned that the premier jobs at the casino would likely not be held by Kingstonians. He stated that the Kingston Penitentiary site should be considered as a possible location for a casino should the City of Kingston opt to host a casino.

Mr. Ed Smith, Chair, Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area stated that the Downtown Kingston BIA has conducted research regarding this matter by examining articles on the internet, speaking to BIA's in jurisdictions that host casinos and by reviewing studies on casinos in hopes of finding support that a casino would benefit the City of Kingston economically. He stated that unfortunately the Downtown Kingston BIA has found that casinos at best offer no economic benefits to its host municipality and noted that more often than not negative economic impacts result. He commented that the following remarks will emphasize the many red flags and questions related to the suggested economic benefits. He indicated that the red flags and questions are as follows:

- Most economic benefits to hosting communities accrue at destination casinos – Kingston will not be a destination casino – Ontario will be hosting 29 casinos, our immediate neighbour New York State has many casinos.
- Casinos in urban settings, like Kingston generate most of their revenue from the local community and region where they are located, as opposed to from visitors.
- Existing expenditures for department store goods, restaurants, bars, movies, major purchases such as furniture, appliances and automobiles will be redirected in part to casino revenues (the displacement effect) potentially negatively affecting existing businesses, employment numbers, property taxes, etc.
- Compared to destination beach, ski and country tourists who spend liberally on activities outside their main destination, casino tourists are more likely to spend very little outside the casino, therefore limiting potential benefits.
- Distance decay, essentially the further a service or attraction is from a consumers location, the less likely they are to consume that service or attraction. Kingstonians will spend more at a casino located in Kingston than they spend at a casino located in Gananoque.
- Does the City of Kingston have any say in where the casino would be built, its design or the casino's size.
- How would a casino affect the City of Kingston "brand".

Mr. Smith stated that the Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area has yet to take a position for or against a casino. He commented that the aforementioned red flags and questions were raised not only for downtown Kingston but for all of the City of Kingston as a whole.

Mr. Smith encouraged the Kingston City Council to carefully review this matter and not be pressured into making a decision under unreasonable time constraints, without effective controls and without proper information. He stated that the City of Kingston has much to lose with the wrong decision. A complete transcript of Mr. Smith's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Chris Cannon commented that a casino in the City of Kingston would be detrimental to existing businesses. He stated that if a casino was built in the downtown it would impact the K-Rock Centre and would draw people away from other downtown establishments. He indicated that a casino located in the suburbs would attract people away from the downtown. He mentioned that downtown Kingston is the heart of the City and commented that a casino would damage the downtown's viability. He questioned if additional gaming facilities are really necessary in Ontario and noted that a casino currently exists in Gananoque. He commented that casinos are not a permanent fixture in a community. He stated that a casino is a form of regressive taxation.

Mr. Gerry Wein stated that he is a family councillor and indicated that he was present to speak in opposition to a casino in the City of Kingston on behalf of a client. He mentioned that his client has been addicted to gambling for a number of years and noted that a few years ago she would have lost everything if a family member did not relieve her of her gambling debt. He stated that a casino in the City of Kingston would lead to increased temptation to gamble. He commented that problem gambling causes stress in families and spoke to the social costs associated with hosting a casino. He commented that some people in the community utilize household money to support their gambling habit when this money should be used to purchase food, shelter and clothing. A complete transcript of Mr. Wein's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Bradley Summer commented that a casino in the City of Kingston would reduce local business's dependence on the public service sector. He stated that a casino in the City of Kingston would be beneficial as it would attract tourists to the City. He indicated that a casino would benefit the restaurants and hotels in the downtown. Mr. Summer stated that despite his previous comments the City of Kingston had their opportunity to permit a casino approximately twelve years ago and stated that the casino should remain in Gananoque. He reiterated that the City of Kingston must attract another business or industry to reduce the reliance on the public service sector to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Mack Freeman commented that he can appreciate the argument that a casino in the City of Kingston would generate additional revenue, excitement and community spirit. He stated that he believes that casinos are part of the problem with society. He indicated that it would be cultural suicide if the City of Kingston hosted a casino.

Ms. Helen Finley stated that she moved to the City of Kingston in the 1960's and commented that when she first arrived she thought the City of Kingston had quite a bit of potential. She was of the opinion that the City of Kingston has since achieved a great deal of its potential. She commented that about twenty years ago she visited Windsor soon after a new casino opened and noted that the area was strangely quiet. She stated that one of the City of Kingston's strengths is the vibrant downtown. She explained that the aforementioned casino in Windsor was negatively impacted by the opening of a casino in Detroit. Ms. Finley spoke to the strengths of the City of Kingston and stated that the City should not host a casino. She encouraged Council to research this matter fully prior to making a decision and suggested that this decision should be based on planning principles. She noted that she was in agreement with the statements of Mr. Smith and reiterated that a casino in the City of Kingston could be the death of the downtown. She commented that people are moving into the downtown and indicated that the downtown is becoming a neighbourhood. She noted that the City of Kingston has one of the most successful downtowns in the country. She stated that a casino could damage the City of Kingston's image.

Mr. Gavin Anderson spoke to the first time he witnessed gambling as a young adult while visiting New York City. He stated that the City of Kingston is being recruited by the OLG to enter into a contract which promises riches without providing any real data. Mr. Anderson indicated that he has been a social worker and program manager for Pathways for Children & Youth in the City of Kingston for over twenty years and commented that he believes he is qualified to speak to some of the social costs associated with gambling. He commented that addictions to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, pornography and gambling damage families and hurt children. He commented that serious gambling problems deprive families who are often the most economically hard-pressed. He mentioned that problem gambling compromises the ability to work and also creates amplified conflict and disengagement. He commented that the cost of gambling falls mostly to the gamblers and to their partners and children but also to extended family members, friends and neighbours. He stated that a casino represents an unethical economy. He expressed concern that the City of Kingston would have to make fresh concessions every time the contract is up for renewal. A complete transcript of Mr. Anderson's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Will Robinson Musshat spoke to the impact of the casino in Halifax. He noted that while the City of Halifax did benefit from some gains in revenue the positive impact on the local economy is very small. He indicated that casinos strive to take in as much money as possible and try to keep people inside the casino as long as possible. He suggested that if the City of Kingston hosted a casino the City would have to ensure that the casino would contribute to small businesses.

Mr. John Raham quoted Mr. Robert Hunter a psychologist who stated that "if you don't think gambling is a serious problem for society, consider that no alcoholic

ever drank away four generations of money in a weekend, which gamblers can do". He stated that the poor, less educated and elderly are the groups that are most negatively affected by gambling. He indicated that according to research low income households spend more than twice as much on gambling than high income families. He was of the opinion that gambling is a tax on the poor. He mentioned that statistics indicate that 3.2% of Canada's adult population has a gambling problem. He commented that five to ten people are directly affected by the behaviour of each problem gambler. He noted that problem gambling leads to bankruptcy, divorce, suicide and an increased reliance on social programs. A complete transcript of Mr. Raham's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. David Rutenberg, Board of Directors, KEDCO noted that several industries were closing in Gananoque when they opted to host a casino. He indicated that casinos do not hire unskilled workers and mentioned that a casino would likely hire the same employee that a local business would like to hire. He was of the opinion that there is a shortage of skilled workers in the City of Kingston and it would not be beneficial if the skilled workers were lost to a casino. He suggested that members of Council speak to the Chief of Police and those involved with social services regarding the social costs of hosting a casino in the City of Kingston.

Ms. Sharon Cruise stated that there are many talented people living in this area and commented that there must be a better way to generate revenue for the community.

Mr. Beare Weatherup stated that he loves living in the City of Kingston. He mentioned that he has discussed this matter with many of the guests visiting his inn and his neighbours and noted that he has yet to hear that the City of Kingston should host a casino. He indicated that most people do not believe that a casino would benefit the community. He commented that a casino in the City of Kingston would not aid local business or the downtown as a whole. He mentioned that people on all sides of the political spectrum do not want a casino in the City of Kingston. He indicated that he is disappointed that the provincial government has tried to push this initiative through as quickly as possible.

Ms. Mary Rita Holland stated that there is much to be proud of in the City of Kingston. She commented that the majority of jobs that would be created if the City of Kingston decided to host a casino would be low wage service sector jobs. She noted that service sector jobs are very expendable. She stated that the City of Kingston should not encourage the growth of low wage service sector jobs due to the lack of affordable housing in the City of Kingston. She commented that casinos prey on people with limited income.

Mr. Howard Stone mentioned that he spent a large portion of his life conducting research for the provincial government. He commented that the decision before Council is very important and requested that Council conduct a cost benefit analysis before arriving at a decision. He emphasized the study should focus on

the social costs related to a casino. He suggested that members of Council review social services budgets from cities who host a casino.

Mr. Edward Chene Nuole stated that he is grateful to live in a safe and family friendly City. He commented that he believes most communities are envious of what the City of Kingston has to offer. He questioned how a casino would help the City of Kingston achieve their goal of becoming Canada's most sustainable city. He asked members of Council to consider how a casino is compatible with sustainability, who will be the biggest losers and winners and the social costs associated with hosting a casino. He indicated that a casino is a form of regressive taxation and commented that a casino would take away from those who have very little. He expressed concern regarding the negative impact that a casino would have on the future generations of Kingstonians.

Mr. Harold Pickering stated that he is in agreement with Mr. Freeman's statements. He commented that he believes a casino is a temple of desperation. He was of the opinion that the provincial government is desperate for additional revenue and stated that the current process to allocate additional gaming facilities is flawed. He requested that Council take into account that the majority of residents are opposed to the City of Kingston hosting a casino.

A member of the public explained that the slot machine facilities at numerous horse racing tracks will be closed once the new generation of casinos open in Ontario. He noted that 30,000 people are employed by the horse racing industry in Ontario. He stated that the horse racing industry in Ontario will collapse due to the close of the slot machine facilities. He commented that those who are supportive of building new casinos are also supporting the destruction of horse racing in Ontario.

Mr. Len Kordy stated that Council made the right decision several years ago when they declined to host a casino in the City of Kingston. He commented that casinos should be built in large markets. He indicated that he is not supportive of the City of Kingston hosting a casino as it would ruin the City's reputation. He mentioned that the tourism industry in Gananoque relies on their casino.

Mr. Doug Ritchie, Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area thanked Council for an opportunity to comment on this matter and stated that he would provide a statistical overview regarding gambling.

Mr. Ritchie stated that existing jobs in retail, entertainment and food service sectors of the economy are often displaced or cannibalized by the gambling industry as spending patterns shift to casino gambling. He noted that casinos are often associated with a drop in general merchandise and miscellaneous retail and wholesale trade within ten miles of a casino. He mentioned that a study found that business volume fell at restaurants located within a thirty mile radius of casinos with food service.

Mr. Ritchie suggested that with urban and suburban casinos, the ratio of benefits to costs declines relatively because the export component largely disappears due to the fact that most of the casinos' customers are drawn from the metropolitan area. In addition, he mentioned that the social impacts related to casinos, and gambling often stay within the metropolitan area. He commented that job creation in the casino industry is often offset by reductions in jobs elsewhere in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Ritchie indicated that when a casinos patron base is from the local area it is more likely that there will be negative impacts on other local businesses. He elaborated that any benefits to gambling venues or other businesses or a specific geographic area usually occur at the expense of other business sectors and or geographic areas.

Mr. Ritchie spoke to the impacts that casinos have on the surrounding local economy as a slight majority of studies have found that the introduction of gambling has either simply created changes in business patterns or resulted in a negative impact on other businesses. He advised that studies indicate that when casino patrons are generally from the immediate area, local business may be impacted negatively.

Mr. Ritchie mentioned that casino vacationers typically participate in very few activities outside of the casino during their trips.

Mr. Ritchie indicated that a report on Six Casino Patron Surveys in Five Ontario Communities found that 58% of patrons interviewed indicated that they lived in the community hosting the charity casino, and another 11% came from the surrounding county. He stated that the report also noted that seven out of ten visitor patrons said they had not spent and did not expect to spend any money in the municipality. He elaborated that the study suggests that at most sites, one in five visitor patrons also indicated that they expected to eat in a local restaurant outside of the charity casino, and one in ten visitor patrons said they were planning to visit other area attractions or do some shopping while in the municipality.

Mr. Ritchie informed Council that the aforementioned excerpts can be found in the following studies regarding gambling:

- Socio-Economic Impacts Associated with the Introduction of Casino Gambling: A literature Review and Synthesis – Alberta Gaming Research Institute July 31st, 2004.
- The Spread of Casinos and Their Role in Tourism Development – William R. Eadington, Professor of Economics; Director, Institute of the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, University of Nevada, Reno
- The Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling: Financial Report – Robert J. Williams, Ph.D., Jurgen Rehm PhD., Rhys M.G. Stevens,

M.L.I.S. – Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research November 3rd, 2011

- A Profile of the Casino Resort Vacationer – Alastair M. Morrison, Carl G. Braunlich, Liping A. Cal and Joseph T O’Leary “Journal of Travel Research – Oct. 1996”
- Report on Six Casino Patron Surveys in Five Ontario Communities – Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre – Joan Nuffield and Robert Hann – Robert Hann & Associates Limited

A complete transcript of Mr. Ritchie’s statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk’s Department.

Mr. Hugh Thorburn stated that he was opposed to the City of Kingston hosting a casino.

Ms. Libby Beckwith noted that the elderly and those who have a low or fixed income are at a high risk of developing a gambling addiction. She stated that seniors are the fastest growing demographic in Canada and indicated that by 2026 it is expected that 1 in 5 Canadians will be 65 or older. She commented that research indicates that those who suffer from moderate to severe gambling problems are often between the ages of 60-65. She indicated that the 60-65 age group generate thirty percent of casino revenue. She mentioned that research suggests that loneliness, fixed incomes and amount of leisure time can cause seniors to become problems gamblers. She stated that she is supportive of a City of Kingston that seeks progressive ways to stabilize and stimulate the economy. She commented that a casino in the City of Kingston would create a negative cycle for years to come. A complete transcript of Ms. Beckwith’s statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk’s Department.

Ms. Carol Ganyo commented that she loves living in the City of Kingston. She indicated that a casino in the City of Kingston would downgrade the quality of life. She stated that the provincial government requires a decision from Council too quickly and encouraged Council to carefully study this matter. Ms. Ganyo referenced a study entitled “The Community Impact of Casinos – Literature Review and Cost Estimates”. She commented that the victims of casinos are often those with very little.

Mr. Ian Breen stated that the City of Kingston would benefit from increased convention related business rather than from revenue generated by a casino. He was of the opinion that casinos take from the poor to give to the rich. He expressed concern that Gananoque does not have the social services in place to aid people with gambling addictions. He commented that the City of Kingston may be in a better position to aid those with gambling addictions.

Ms. Marilyn Birmingham indicated that she hopes Council takes the comments made tonight into consideration. She stated that she is in agreement with Mr. Smith’s statement.

Ms. Barbara Schlafer stated that gambling is a pernicious activity and commented that the City of Kingston should not pander to the OLG for the alms it promises in exchange for the troubles a casino could cause. She stated that the sole goal of the gaming industry is to best its customers, to take their money and ultimately to remove more money from the community than the promised payback. She suggested that if the City of Kingston has desires or needs that current taxes are unable to fund the City of Kingston should either chose to forgo those things, delay their acquisition or decide to pay for them through legitimate taxation. A complete transcript of Ms. Schlafer's statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Olu Sobanjo indicated that when people are desperate they often believe that there is something they can do suddenly to solve the problem. He commented that it is consistent hard work that leads to success. He stated that a community should be constantly working towards making progress. He indicated that he is opposed to the City of Kingston hosting a casino as casinos can cause harm. He noted that a casino does not help an individual.

Mr. Melvin Skeete commented that he loves living in Kingston. He expressed concern that a casino in the City of Kingston would negatively impact St. Lawrence College and Queen's University students. He noted that many students choose to study in Kingston due to its environment and stated that a casino in Kingston may dissuade students from choosing to study in the City of Kingston.

Mr. Norman Rice stated that gambling is not harmless. He noted that 62% of slot machine revenue is generated from people with moderate or severe gambling problems. He indicated that the OLG targets people with gambling problems. He commented that he doubts there would be an economic benefit to hosting a casino in the City of Kingston. He stated that a study should be conducted to determine if hosting a casino would provide an economic benefit. He commented that it is immoral for the government to prey on society's most vulnerable citizens.

Mr. Frank Huntley commented that Kingston is a great place to live. He stated that a casino would not improve the quality of life in Kingston. He indicated that he is supportive of Mr. Smith's and Mr. Ritchie's statements. He mentioned that a casino in the City of Kingston would not improve the employment situation as most casino jobs would not improve the employee's quality of life. He was of the opinion that gambling is a tax on the poor. He stated that the City of Kingston should not host a casino.

Mr. Brian Yealland spoke to the demographics of the vulnerable groups which would be negatively impacted by the City of Kingston hosting a casino. He stated that a casino in the City of Kingston would increase the number of problem gamblers in the community. He noted that less than one percent of problem gamblers receive treatment. He indicated that a casino in the City of Kingston

would feed on the local economy and stated that most of the revenue would leave the community. He expressed concern regarding corruption and commented that gambling is fraudulent and should not be permitted in the City of Kingston.

Mr. John Allen indicated that he would not have moved to downtown Kingston if a casino existed in the community. He encouraged Council to conduct a cost benefit analysis prior to reaching a decision. He stated that he highly doubts that the City of Kingston would benefit economically from hosting a casino. He commented that the City of Kingston would not see an increase in jobs as the casino would likely retain the employees from the casino in Gananoque. He noted that revenue generated from gambling is regressive. He commented that a casino in the City of Kingston would lead to increased social services and policing costs and would contribute to additional traffic problems in the downtown.

Mr. Joe Hawkins stated that the City of Kingston should host a casino as it represents an opportunity for the City of Kingston to enhance its tourism industry, thus increasing economic development, resulting in increasing assessment, new taxes and employment opportunities. He commented that the revenue generated from a casino would help to sustain the present level of services which all citizens have become accustomed to and expect. He noted that since amalgamation in 1998, taxes have increased by approximately 17.8% an average of 3.56% per year. He was of the opinion that taxpayers have reached their tolerance in receiving any more tax increases. He suggested that the City of Kingston must become more creative and assertive in attracting new business. Mr. Hawkins explained that in 1982 the Trillium Foundation was incorporated and is funded exclusively by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. He spoke to the local associations which received funding from the Trillium Foundation in 2010 and 2011. Mr. Hawkins was of the opinion that the town of Gananoque has not faced any adverse affects relative to the operation of a casino. He indicated that over the last ten years the town of Gananoque and the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands have spilt over 34 million dollars of revenue which was generated by the casino. Mr. Hawkins requested that Kingston City Council endorse a casino in the City of Kingston. A complete transcript of Mr. Hawkins' statement is attached to the original set of minutes located in the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Frank Gibson spoke to casinos in relation to organized crime. He commented that the City of Kingston would not benefit from hosting a casino. He reiterated that a casino would have a negative impact on students.

Ms. Brenda Slomka mentioned that the City of Kingston is striving to become Canada's most sustainable city. She indicated that the cultural pillar, social pillar and environmental pillar of sustainability do not relate to a casino within the City of Kingston. She requested that Council give consideration to the comments that have been provided tonight. She stated that this decision will have a lasting effect on the City of Kingston.

Mr. Robert Kiley suggested that Council should give consideration to the environmental aspects associated with hosting a casino in the City of Kingston. He stated that a study should be conducted to gain an understanding of how a casino impacts the lives of those involved and how a casino would impact future generations. He indicated that he is not supportive of the City of Kingston hosting a casino. He stated that there is not sufficient time to conduct the necessary studies.

Ms. Michelle Kasey noted that she spends a majority of her summers in Atlantic City. She stated that the area nearby the casinos in Atlantic City is tacky, crass and crowded. She indicated that the casinos in Atlantic City do not benefit the community. She commented that most residents of Atlantic City avoid the area completely. She stated that a casino does not improve the quality of life in the host city. She mentioned that Atlantic City is void of culture and stated that the City of Kingston has a vibrant arts community and is of historical relevance.

Ms. Margaret Turner mentioned that property values in Windsor have decreased by as much as fifty percent following the inclusion of a casino in the community. She stated that Council should take into consideration the number of people who commit suicide due to gambling addiction. She commented that the revenue generated from a casino in the City of Kingston is not worth the negative impact on the community.

Mr. Dan Usher expressed concern regarding suicides associated with gambling addiction. He noted that the suicide rate in cities with a casino is fifty percent higher than in cities without a casino. He stated that a casino in the City of Kingston would lead to approximately six additional suicides per year.

Ms. Eleanor Murray thanked Council for hosting a public meeting regarding this matter and requested that Council examine this issue carefully.

Mr. Richard Leblanc was of the opinion that casinos are scams. He stated that casinos mainly take money from the poor. He spoke to fraudulent online gambling sites.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mayor Gerretsen thanked members of the public for attending the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Glover
Seconded by Councillor Hector

THAT the meeting adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

CARRIED