CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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JOHN F. STREET, ESQUIRE
MAYOR

December 15, 2006

Honorable Tad Decker
Chairman
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
PO Box 69060
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

Dear Chairman Decker:

The City of Philadelphia is pleased to enclose our final review of the applications for gaming licenses in Philadelphia. This analysis is the culmination of a two-year process that builds upon the work of the Philadelphia Gaming Advisory Task Force and includes the results of meetings with applicants, community residents, and a technical review. Our analysis is organized around five criteria: design, transportation, fiscal impact, economic opportunity, and community engagement.

Our analysis concludes that each of the five proposals could be viable, if the respective challenges are addressed successfully. We believe that two casinos located on the Delaware River waterfront can be successful, but only if significant transportation challenges are met. Timely investment in transportation infrastructure is essential to both prospective casinos and to neighboring communities. Transportation solutions also should enable a more robust use of public transportation. Encouraging the use of public transportation is good for the environment and good for our businesses.

Economic opportunity is a critical factor for the City. Casinos represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for wealth creation. Accordingly, we have been especially sensitive to development proposals that meet our objective that Philadelphians benefit from these wealth creation opportunities.

We endorse the Riverwalk proposal because of its substantial local and minority ownership, which exceeds that of other applicants. In addition, the Riverwalk proposal has a strong diversity plan for contractors, as well as local, neighborhood and minority

employment. It is ideally located to extend the entertainment corridor that now stretches from South Street to Old City and has excellent public transit access. Riverwalk is the best overall proposal. We urge the Gaming Control Board to award a license to Riverwalk.

Gaming represents perhaps the most important new development in Philadelphia in 50 years. With that idea in mind, the Philadelphia Gaming Advisory Task Force worked to educate the government and people of Philadelphia about the opportunities and challenges of gaming. The Task Force's Final Report is a thorough and unbiased evaluation of the issues Philadelphia will face and provides a roadmap for the successful introduction of gaming into Philadelphia. The credibility of this effort has been validated by the Final Report's broad use as a roadmap by host communities throughout the Commonwealth and, indeed, the nation. Earlier this year, the City Council of Philadelphia voted unanimously to enact Commercial Entertainment District zoning legislation, closely modeled on a Task Force recommendation.

We have made a considerable investment in preparing for the introduction of gaming. We look forward to working in partnership with the licensees and the Gaming Control Board to realize the potential of gaming in Philadelphia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our final comments. We trust our effort will inform the Board's decision and assist the Board in appropriately balancing the concerns of the City and its citizens with the unique opportunity that gaming represents to Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

John F. Street, Esquire
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Members, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board