



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Mayor Scott T. Johnson
Commissioner Michele Madigan
Commissioner Anthony Scirocco
Commissioner Christian Mathiesen
Commissioner John Franck

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has introduced, and the New York State Legislature has passed, a concurrent resolution introducing an amendment to Article 1, Section 9 of the State Constitution to allow no more than seven casinos as authorized and prescribed by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, amending the State Constitution requires that such concurrent resolution must pass two consecutive sessions of the State Legislature and be approved by public referendum; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 21-02, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors adopted a Local Law (Introductory No. 1, Print No. 2) on February 13, 2002, authorizing Saratoga Casino and Raceway (formerly "Saratoga Equine Sports Center") to operate video lottery gaming in accordance with the New York State Tax Law and subject to state licensure and regulation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Tax Law, revenues generated from the Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) authorized to operate at Saratoga Casino and Raceway have been and are distributed in part to New York State for the purpose of funding education, to the Saratoga Raceway for the purpose of enhancing purses, and to the breeding funds that support local breeders and owners; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga Casino and Raceway is a proven revenue producer for New York State whose VLT operations have generated more than a half billion dollars in education aid since 2004, and over a hundred million dollars more in support of state lottery administration; and

WHEREAS, the approximately \$100 million generated to date by VLT operations at Saratoga Casino and Raceway for enhanced purses and breeding support has kept the harness racing industry alive in Saratoga County, directly supporting local racing-related jobs; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga Casino and Raceway is a major employer in Saratoga County, having approximately 400 full-time and 225 part-time employees; and

WHEREAS, in the event that the proposed Constitutional Amendment is approved and the State Legislature authorizes expanded casino gaming establishments in locations that do not include Saratoga Casino and Raceway, that action would negatively impact the facility, thereby reducing the revenues generated from its VLTs, and in turn reducing the corresponding reinvestment of those revenues in education and the local racing industry, and endangering local jobs; and

WHEREAS, not including Saratoga Casino and Raceway as an approved casino site would also result in a lost opportunity for local economic growth in terms of: increased tourism; the direct, indirect and induced effects of new jobs created to support expanded casino operations; and the construction jobs generated from building new gaming space; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga Casino and Raceway is a “shovel-ready” location for expanded casino gaming with existing infrastructure in place to support such a facility, with a proven track record of success to date; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Saratoga Springs, through the City Council expresses its strong support for Saratoga Casino and Raceway as a location for one of the seven potential casinos to be authorized by the State Legislature pending the amendment of Article 1, Section 9 of the New York State Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Saratoga Springs urges the Governor and the State Legislature to ensure that the locations for the proposed casino gaming be specifically designated in the enabling legislation, governing its implementation, prior to submission for voter referendum and ballot; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Saratoga Springs urges the State Legislature to retain the provisions and formulas in New York State Tax Law requiring the reinvestment of VLT-generated revenues into education and the local racing industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Saratoga Springs urges the State Legislature to develop appropriate provisions for the mandatory reinvestment of revenue generated from expanded casino operations into education, enhanced purses at local tracks, support for local breeders, and financial assistance to host communities for the purpose of defraying local costs associated with expanded casino operations or to minimize or reduce real property taxes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Saratoga Springs urges the Governor and State Legislature to recognize the unique importance of the racing industry to the local economy by allowing our elected representatives to actively participate in deliberations on the specifics of the proposed casino gaming expansion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the City of Saratoga Springs forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the City’s representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly.

Ayes _____ Nays _____

Dated: December 18, 2012