



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI**

**FRANCIS G. SLAY
MAYOR**

**CITY HALL - ROOM 200
1200 MARKET STREET
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877
(314) 622-3201
FAX: (314) 622-4061**

January 25, 2010

Mr. James L. Mathewson, Chairman
Missouri Gaming Commission
3417 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: President Casino Gaming License

Dear Mr. Mathewson:

The Missouri Gaming Commission staff is going to recommend you revoke the license for the President Casino, which will force the Casino to close and fire its staff by July 1st. This recommendation is based solely on a questionable economic theory and not on any alleged misconduct. It is stunning that such an arbitrary, unsupportable and illegal recommendation that will hurt so many people is being thrust upon you so quickly, and with minimal transparency and public involvement. It is the kind of action that makes taxpayers mad at government. Needless to say, the City of St. Louis (the "City") strongly opposes this gambit.

Actions by the Gaming Commission to revoke the President Casino license would cost 241 people their jobs in a time of very high unemployment. These 241 workers are one of the most diverse gaming staffs in the State. Besides supporting their families, these 241 people generate an annual payroll of \$9 million and related taxes and other benefits to the City. The gaming related taxes provide \$2 million each year to the City's general revenue fund. The City is already looking at a significant shortfall in general revenue because of the poor economy. Eliminating this \$2 million would make the pain worse. To put this in perspective, \$2 million is equal to the salaries and benefits of approximately 40 police officers.

Shockingly, the Gaming Commission staff has not directly communicated with the home dock city about this recommendation. If the Gaming Commission staff has issues with the President Casino, based on the City's past productive relationship with the Commission, the City should have been informed and enlisted to help resolve those issues to preserve the jobs and tax revenues. The City has had a good working relationship with the Gaming Commission staff. While we have sometimes disagreed, we have always been very impressed by the transparency, public involvement, honesty and integrity displayed by the Commission and its staff in its dealings with the City. For example, we had an open line of communication and worked closely with Staff through the lengthy development process of Lumiere Place Casino, the Four Seasons Hotel and Hotel Lumiere, which are a resounding success for the City and this State.

Our City Gaming Plan on file with the Commission since 2004 specifically envisions two gaming projects. The appropriateness of that plan or the ability of the City to support two gaming projects has never been previously questioned by the Gaming Commission. Moreover, I have sent the Gaming Commission letters of support for the license renewals of the President Casino and Lumiere Place Casino. My representative Rodney Crim has spoken before the Gaming Commission in support of these projects. The licenses have been renewed by the Gaming Commission through its most recent renewal processes. So, what has changed?

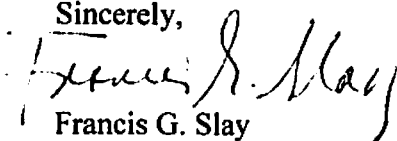
The owners of the President have put forward ideas to improve the property and generate more revenue for the State. For instance, they proposed a newer, better-equipped facility. Every proposal has been rebuffed by Staff. After throwing up obstacles to improvement, Staff now says it will attempt to pull the license because the President hasn't improved. It would be like your local government rejecting a legitimate permit to repair your house, then condemning your house because you didn't repair it.

What is more disconcerting is that Staff's recommendation lacks any discernible policy context. Is this legally suspect recommendation an attempt to move the license somewhere else in the State? Or, is this an attempt to throw 241 people out of work, and cut needed tax revenues with no backup plan? A secret plan or no plan at all – either possibility is very troubling. Such a lack of transparency or complete lack of foresight and planning has never been a tenant of this Commission or a policy of the State of Missouri. Adopting this drastic action under these circumstances would create a climate of suspicion that would jeopardize this Commission's credibility.

We hope this recommendation is a temporary lapse in judgment by the Staff that will be dismissed by the Commission. We request that the Gaming Commission halt the move to revoke the license of the President Casino. We would like to work with the Gaming Commission and staff to address any issues. We want to preserve jobs that are badly needed in this economy. Mostly, we want to ensure that gaming continues to operate in the fair and above board manner that it always has, and that Missouri taxpayers fully expect.

I have asked Rodney Crim, the Executive Director of the St. Louis Development Corporation, to serve as our point of contact for discussions with the Gaming Commission. He can be reached at 314-259-3441.

Sincerely,



Francis G. Slay
Mayor, City of St. Louis

cc: Jeff Rainford, Chief of Staff
Barbara Geisman, Deputy Mayor for Development
Rodney Crim, Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation
Gene McNary, Executive Director, Missouri Gaming Commission



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January 25, 2010

Mr. Darryl T. Jones, Commissioner
Missouri Gaming Commission
3417 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: President Casino Gaming License

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Missouri Gaming Commission staff is going to recommend you revoke the license for the President Casino, which will force the Casino to close and fire its staff by July 1st. This recommendation is based solely on a questionable economic theory and not on any alleged misconduct. It is stunning that such an arbitrary, unsupportable and illegal recommendation that will hurt so many people is being thrust upon you so quickly, and with minimal transparency and public involvement. It is the kind of action that makes taxpayers mad at government. Needless to say, the City of St. Louis (the "City") strongly opposes this gambit.

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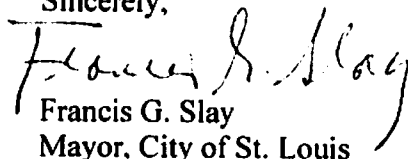
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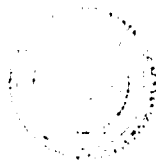
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I have asked Rodney Crim, the Executive Director of the St. Louis Development Corporation, to serve as our point of contact for discussions with the Gaming Commission. He can be reached at 314-259-3441.

Sincerely,


Francis G. Slay
Mayor, City of St. Louis

cc: Jeff Rainford, Chief of Staff
Barbara Geisman, Deputy Mayor for Development
Rodney Crim, Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation
Gene McNary, Executive Director, Missouri Gaming Commission



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January 25, 2010

Mr. Larry W, Plunkett, Commissioner
Missouri Gaming Commission
3417 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: President Casino Gaming License

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

The Missouri Gaming Commission staff is going to recommend you revoke the license for the President Casino, which will force the Casino to close and fire its staff by July 1st. This recommendation is based solely on a questionable economic theory and not on any alleged misconduct. It is stunning that such an arbitrary, unsupportable and illegal recommendation that will hurt so many people is being thrust upon you so quickly, and with minimal transparency and public involvement. It is the kind of action that makes taxpayers mad at government. Needless to say, the City of St. Louis (the "City") strongly opposes this gambit.

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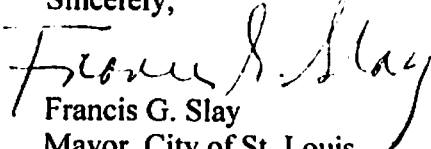
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Mayor, City of St. Louis

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January 25, 2010

Ms. Suzanne Bocell Bradley, Commissioner
Missouri Gaming Commission
3417 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: President Casino Gaming License

Dear Ms. Bradley:

The Missouri Gaming Commission staff is going to recommend you revoke the license for the President Casino, which will force the Casino to close and fire its staff by July 1st. This recommendation is based solely on a questionable economic theory and not on any alleged misconduct. It is stunning that such an arbitrary, unsupportable and illegal recommendation that will hurt so many people is being thrust upon you so quickly, and with minimal transparency and public involvement. It is the kind of action that makes taxpayers mad at government. Needless to say, the City of St. Louis (the "City") strongly opposes this gambit.

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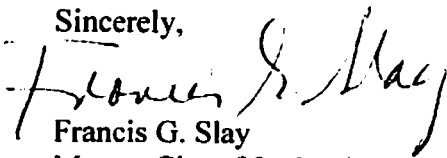
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I have asked Rodney Crim, the Executive Director of the St. Louis Development Corporation, to serve as our point of contact for discussions with the Gaming Commission. He can be reached at 314-259-3441.

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Francis G. Slay
Mayor, City of St. Louis

cc: Jeff Rainford, Chief of Staff
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January 25, 2010

Mr. Noel J. Shull, Commissioner
Missouri Gaming Commission
3417 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: President Casino Gaming License

Dear Mr. Shull:

The Missouri Gaming Commission staff is going to recommend you revoke the license for the President Casino, which will force the Casino to close and fire its staff by July 1st. This recommendation is based solely on a questionable economic theory and not on any alleged misconduct. It is stunning that such an arbitrary, unsupportable and illegal recommendation that will hurt so many people is being thrust upon you so quickly, and with minimal transparency and public involvement. It is the kind of action that makes taxpayers mad at government. Needless to say, the City of St. Louis (the "City") strongly opposes this gambit.

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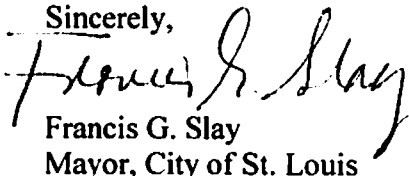
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