



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT:

CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN CASINO PROPOSAL

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Context: NYC Casino Proposals and Approval Process

In April 2022, New York State legislators voted to allow up to three casino licenses in downstate New York, including New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County. In January 2023, The New York State Gaming Facility Location Board (the Board) released a Request for Applications calling for proposals to build a casino with a minimum capital investment of \$500 million. According to the Board, “Revenue from new gaming facilities is expected to generate substantial fiscal benefit to New York’s public schools, local governments, and problem gambling treatment services. The jobs created by these casinos must deliver livable wages to help families live, stay, and prosper in New York.”¹

Although the timeline for a final decision is not fully set, the Board has outlined the process as follows:



According to the Board’s most recent update posted in March 2023, they received several hundred Round 1 questions from interested parties and are in the process of drafting responses.² After the Board publishes these responses, respondents will have four weeks to submit Round 2 questions. At the conclusion of the question/answer period, Community Advisory Committees (CACs) will be formed for each proposal remaining in the process. For proposals located in New York City, the CACs will consist of six members, one each appointed by the:

- Governor;
- Mayor;
- Applicable State Senator;
- Applicable State Assemblymember;
- Applicable Borough President; and
- Applicable City Councilmember.

¹ <https://nycasinos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/01.03.23.gflbfarelease.pdf>

² <https://nycasinos.ny.gov/>

The CACs will solicit written comments and hold public hearings on the proposals in their respective communities before weighing in. Subsequently, based on a two-thirds vote, the CACs will “issue a finding either establishing public support approving or disapproving the application.”³ In order to proceed to final Board review, the applicant must submit this evidence of public support, evidence of compliance with local zoning requirements, and an application fee of \$1 million. The Board will then evaluate applicants and issue its recommendations based on the following factors:

Factors	Weight
Economic activity and business development	70%
Local impact siting	10%
Workforce enhancement	10%
Diversity framework	10% ⁴

According to the *New York Times*, approximately 10 developers have expressed intent to submit proposals, including four in Manhattan, one on Long Island, one in Yonkers, two in Queens, one in the Bronx, and one in Coney Island, Brooklyn.⁵

The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President is focused on the Brooklyn proposal, in which Thor Equities, with partners Saratoga Casino Holdings and the Chickasaw Nation, proposes a \$3 billion casino project to be located at Surf and Stillwell Avenues, adjacent to the Coney Island Boardwalk. The proposal includes the casino, as well as a hotel and convention center and a substantial retail and food/beverage component, with the developer promising a “community-friendly” venue that provides year-round entertainment and local jobs for the Coney Island community.⁶



Renderings of proposed casino in Coney Island via Thor Equities

³ https://nycasinos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/01.03.23.rfa_.pdf

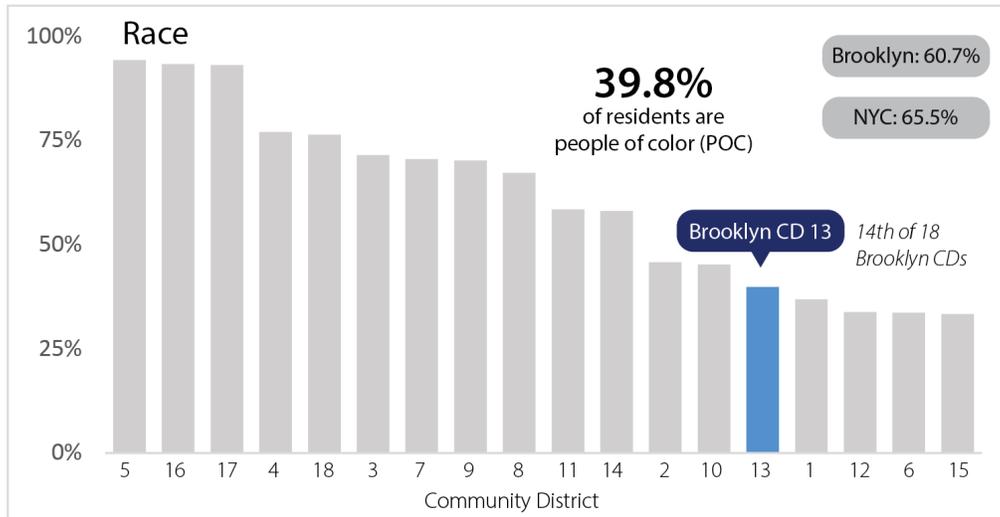
⁴ https://nycasinos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/01.03.23.rfa_.pdf

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/article/nyc-casino-tracker.html>

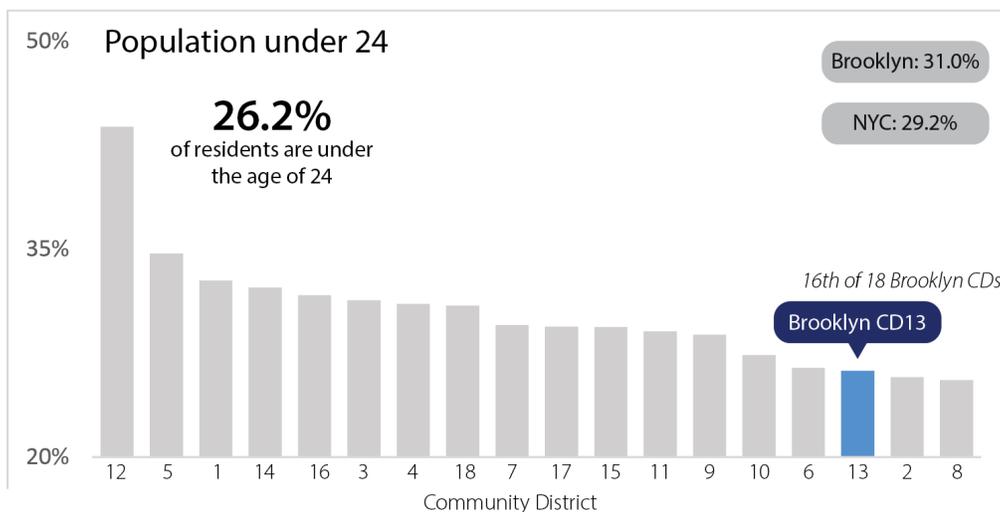
⁶ <https://secretnyc.co/nyc-casino-coney-island/>

Context: Who Lives in Coney Island and Surrounding Areas?⁷

But who is the Coney Island community? The following demographics cover Brooklyn Community District 13, which includes Coney Island, as well as nearby Brighton Beach, Sea Gate, and Gravesend:

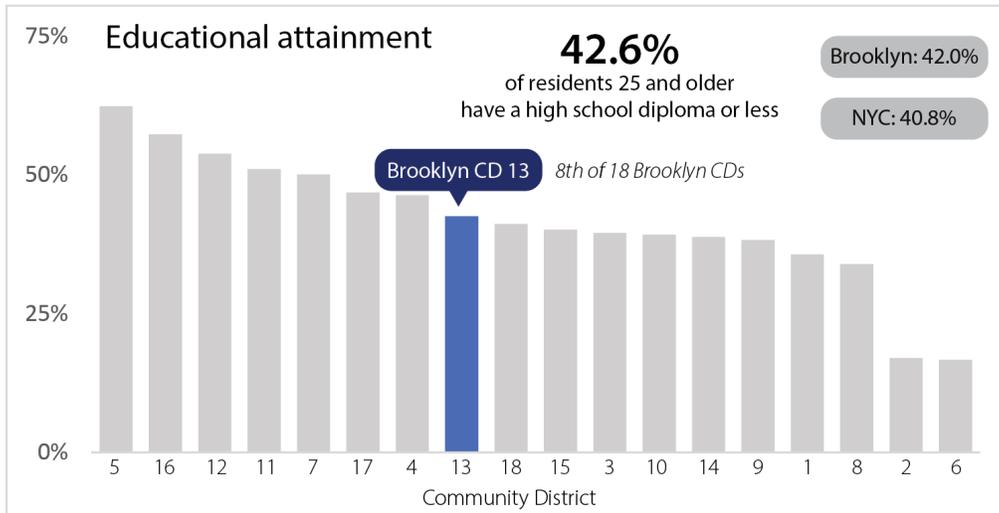


About 40% of residents are people of color.

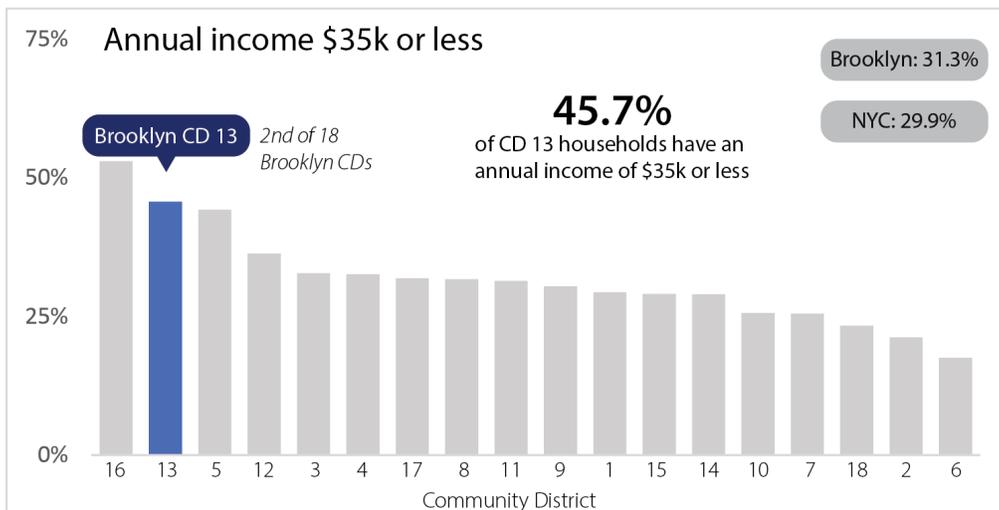


About a quarter of the population is 24 years old or younger.

⁷ US Census ACS 5-Year Estimates (2016-2020)



A little under half of the adult population has a high school diploma or less.



A little under half of the adult population has an income of \$35,000 or less.

Public Participation

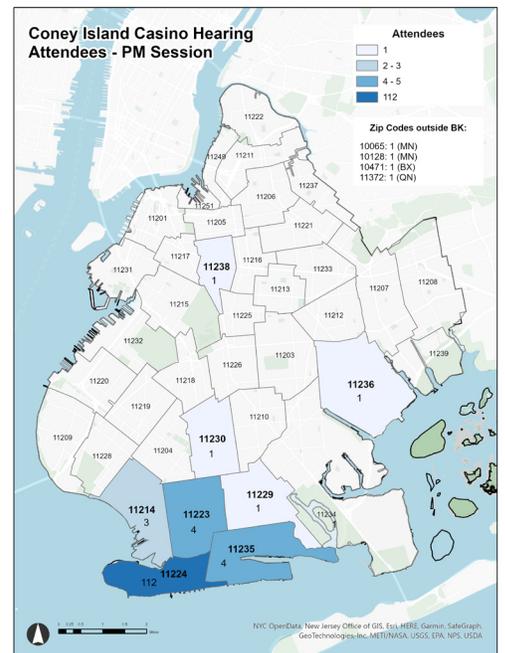
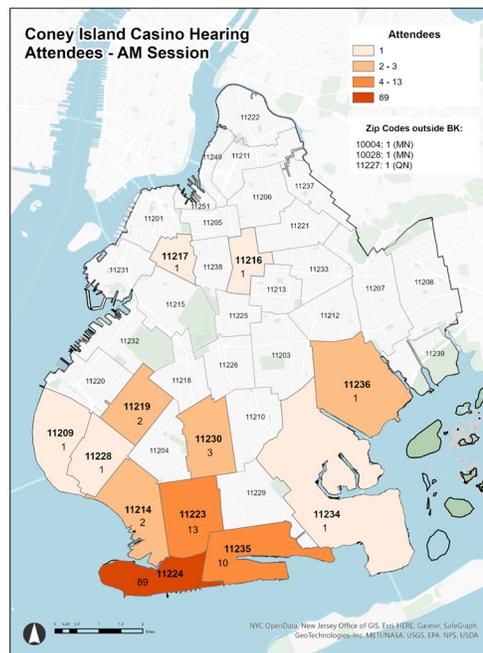
The approval process outlined above includes no requirement for the prospective developers to share proposal details with local residents, or for the developers and the State to hear from the community, before the CAC begins soliciting comments. To fill this gap, the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office organized two community forums to hear directly from residents.

It is important to stress that Borough President Reynoso has not taken a position on Thor Equities’ proposal, and does not intend to do so until the CAC vote takes place, since he will appoint a representative who will have a voting role. Rather, the goal of these forums was to present residents with all available information on the Coney Island casino proposal, and to better understand local perspectives and needs related to the process.



Participants in one of two forums held on March 6, 2023

These forums took place at the Coney Island YMCA at 2980 W. 29th Street on March 6, 2023 – one session in the morning and one in the evening. More than 350 people participated across the two sessions, with the majority coming from Coney Island and immediately adjacent neighborhoods. These maps show where participants in both sessions said they live by zip code:



Question A: *What are your thoughts on a new casino in Coney Island?*

Participants submitted over 200 comments on this question, which represented a wide range of views, with about three times as many comments against the casino as for it. A small group of participants remained undecided.

Question B: *If a casino were located in Coney Island, what kind of amenities or local benefits do you think are necessary for the community?*

Participants submitted over 120 responses to this question. Priority needs raised in these responses included:

- Well-paying, full-time, union jobs for local residents
- Investment in local infrastructure, including: road conditions, parks, public transportation, parking, sanitation, and supermarkets
- Job training and mentorship programs for youth
- Repairs/upgrades to the Boardwalk
- Restoration of empty storefronts
- Discounted access to the amusement park for locals.

Question C: *If a casino were in Coney Island, what expectations or fears do you have for your community?*

Participants submitted more than 150 comments to this question.

Fears/concerns raised in these responses included:

- Increased crime
- Increased use of drugs and alcohol
- Increased traffic
- Gambling addiction among locals
- Increased rents and resulting residential displacement
- Infrastructure issues, including sewer capacity, traffic, and crowded subways
- Decrease in property values
- Negative impact on local businesses
- Incentive for privatization of nearby public housing.

Positive expectations raised in these responses included:

- More local jobs
- Increased investment in the community
- Making Coney Island a year-round destination.

Full text of all responses is included in the Appendix of this report.

Next Steps

As Borough President Reynoso committed during the forums, this report has been submitted to the New York State Gaming Facility Location Board, Thor Equities and partners, and the public. Our office awaits an update from the Board on the next steps in their process and whether a Community Advisory Committee will be convened in Brooklyn to review Thor Equities' proposal. Should the proposal move forward in the process, Borough President Reynoso knows that strong enforcement mechanisms that deliver community benefits ahead of project construction will be critical to ensuring that this proposal, if implemented, delivers for the people of Coney Island.

Appendix: Feedback

Note: Participants in the two events submitted most of these comments on post-in notes they wrote in response to the prompts below, as indicated. Some participants chose to write long-form comments on-site, or print comments in advance and bring them to the meeting. All comments have been transcribed exactly as provided, and the inclusion of these comments in this report does not constitute an endorsement from the Brooklyn Borough President or any other entity besides the individual participant who provided them. Some readers may find some of the language used offensive.

Question A: What are your thoughts on a new casino in Coney Island?

Don't do it!

I said yes to casino and job and more money for us

Destroying a family community. Brings in: a) gambling addiction b) drinking c) depression d) drugs

We don't need more crimes - No Casino

love the idea for casino's

Great idea it will bring jobs to the community

Against the casino. West End/Coney Island needs revitalized Mermaid Ave. for businesses

Bring more jobs to community

New things are always good :)

Horrible. More gambling, more lives being thrown away, more children succumbing to bad behavior

NO WAY NO HOW

Skeptical about community benefits. What % of profits will be directed to community Development?

No. More traffic. More violence. More prostituion. More Robberies. No.

On days when sports events take place, it takes hours to get out of CI area. The promise of employment is a joke. How many CI Residents will actually Gain employment?

The spirit of yesterday is slowing fading; No casino.

A casino in Coney Island will bring more crime. We don't need it.

No Casino

Yes! Coney Island has been in decline for the last 50 years not because of bad investments but because of no investments.

No Casino.

No Casino it hurts the community.

Coney Island SShouldd be a year-around destination.

Is there a webstie that the community can go to express their opinions

Any benefit to the community +city will be offset by treating addictions as well as loss of productivity to the individual, community, + city!

YES! MORE NEW JOBS, Entertainment year round! MORE REVENUE

What about the infrastructure water, sewer(?), traffic, parking real jobs for community

I think it not a good idea because it will bring more crimes

Hate it gambling an addiction! Don't promote harm

What we need is to bring back our old Coney Island No casino and big builds

CASINO GETS RICH PEOPLE STAY POOR

The affordable homes will be no longer affordable re: increase taxes

I'm against it! Crime traffic 18-yr-olds gambling

HORRIBLE IDEA IT WILL LOWER OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

What are they going to do about the traffic no casino

Casino will destroy our valuable youth

Its a shame that the politicians are going to sell us out!

Increasing Crime. We don't need casino.

Why in CI and not by their community? We in CI do not need a casino here.

Disgusting! Drugs, gambling.

It's going to bring problem gambling to our youth. You are going to need gamblers anonymous along with the casinos.

Infrastructure. Electrical Grid- sewers-etc.

How can a low wage job empower people financially?

No Casino. Our kids don't need a water park and casino.

No Casino. Bad idea. Do something for the kids.

I am against the casino. It will not benefit. Our community is extremely congested with new construction (affordable housing) traffic congestion

We live here. We are not all about rides and games community.

No Casino. We don't need this to hurt and raise crime rate.

Undecided. Share more on how you will help the community grow/develop

You're not getting a ferry at Steeple Chase Pier - read EDC's studies

Hope we are listening to no casino

What kind of jobs? We can do better!!

No buses No trains No bathrooms No parking NO ROOM High rents

More jobs for community safety concern

NOPE! Not now not ever!

Awful idea in every way

CASINO IS NOT THE SOLUTION

Mr B.P you didn't allow anyone to speak This is not right

Hate the idea crime drugs traffic

Put it in Floyd Bennett Field

My granddaughter got divorced because her husband was a gambler!

We need much more data than one single sheet of paper, the one pager provided

We need help with crimes, new boardwalk not casino wrong location

CASINO EQUALS PROFIT OVER HUMANITY

I think you should have put up a picture of where the casino will go.

History shows that surrounding areas deteriorate after five years. Don't need it in C.I. Matt.

Great Idea with community involvement and a community agreement in place to benefit C.I.

Yes Casino We need jobs

I want jobs.

Big no. It is a way of a crime, prostituion , losing money

Yes!

More Traffic/ dead end jobs/high rent

No to casino.

Casino gives shitty jobs. Build community centers, cultural, and venues

Community with casinos do not experience growth! Casinos cannibalized from existing businesses causing small business to go bankrupt. No to Casino

It makes sense!

No Casino!

No Casino!

No Casino!

Casinos bring money. Coney Island needs money

End of safety. Enf of tranquil life. Moer crime

No casion. We need vocational school. More schools for the population coming in. We have infrasturcture issues - casinos crime (human, sexual, porn. etc.)

Re: Spence Inc. To whom it may concern thank you - this is a request for a Happy Hair Pana; Chucky Cheee

A Casino?! This is not the best plan to increase revenue to coney sland. How abou tevents & better parks?

We don't need a casino in our community. No casino Indoor amusement park is more beneficial for the residents.

Casino brings crime

People with big \$\$\$ want to get even richer. no casino!

Traffic concern due to build up. Emergency vehicles not getting through. It once took 1 hour to get from sea gate to the highway.

No! Coney Island would be stripped from culture. Casuing more gentrification!

Het kazuho het!

No casino this will destroy the community

The truth will set us free. Yes to casino.

Yup!

We need a better economy. Casinos help!

No casion. We need vocational school. More schools for the population coming in. We have infrasturcture issues - casinos crime (human, sexual, porn. etc.)

Gambling does not help you get ahead in life. - no!

No real jobs!

Concerns: Crime, parking, jobs for community, crime

I support as long as the people in CI are hired

The amusement & supposed casion are is superficial fixing

Opportunitie - Come to CI but do not benefit its residents

You have 1 shot aat a 2nd chance. 25 years ago the stadium brought life. Now 25 years later a 2nd chance at Coney being opened 365

CI residents tend to get pushed to the back burner.

Are we going to get job. How much is pay. Traffic crazy!

Si!

Community Board Meeting - Subway will be crowded from the last stop stillwill avenue station. Traffic will be backed up.

Look at how it destroyed Atlantic City!

I believe the influx of casino visitors will create an overcrowded mess on public transport including out-of-town buses on the parkways. Also, an increase in alcohol use & Carousing will not be beneficial to the community

Casino is not for Coney Island. Coney Island is already too congested we don't need it here.

Non-residents owning everything and having too much political power.

I think it would bring more jobs opportunities

Bad for area. No jobs

More traffic problems

Privitizing the NYCHA buildings is my only concern. Pushing out the low-income residents

Raising boardwalk and seawall creates fllood zones. Neptune avenue with rerouted bus and no trains

Traffic would be inanse!!

A new casino could devastate this area forever. Though it may generate revenue and jobs to whom or who? Not this community. The low income and poor residents will suffer. Home owners taxes will rise. Who's going to bail us out!!!

NO CASINO A. My thoughts on a casino in Coney Island is absolutely not. They made the same promises in Atlantic City. The chairperson of CB13 laid it all out for the community of CB13. Too much to write here. B. The resources needed spelled out in a detailed plan are more local businesses that are owned & operated by the community. Banks, schools, more police, [illegible] plans regarding traffic patterns C. The casino in Coney Island poses a threat to the entire borough of Brooklyn Traffic, parking, Air quality, Crime, Prostitution, etc. Build this community like you would other thriving communities. My answer is No NO CASINO - David J. Weiner CB 15

Traffic is already an adverse issue and a very sensitive topic amongst residents here in Coney Island as well as Brighton Beach. A casino will obviously attract many more vehicles to the area. What are the plans when it comes to casino parking? Will there be a garage and if so how much will it cost to park? How will you alleviate double and even triple parking along Surf Avenue and surround streets? The amusement area already attracts over one million visitors during hte summer months - from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A casino would now make Coney Island a year round attracting. Crime and safety are always a leading concern. It is one thing to have an abundance of security inside the casino and outside, along the immediate perimeter of the building. How ill the casino assist in keeping the visitors, but for local business owners and residents like myself who live only a few blocks away? If your short answer to this, is that public safety is the NYPD's responsibility - then who is to fit the bill for what will now be extended from a 5 month responsibility to as 12 month responsibility? - Joann Weiss

Dear Real Estate Developer, my name is Yuri Endo, resident of Jackson Heights, Queens and I represent Passengers United. I'm oppose casino in both Coney Island Brooklyn and Belmont Park, NY. For Coney Island, we do not want casino because drunk people will invade Amusement Park. if casino is built, emergency responders from firefighters, police officers and paramdeic response time will increase, delays on buses. We do not need casino in Brooklyn and Belmont Park. We already have Resort World Casino in Queens, Emipre City Casino in Yonkers, Atlantic City Casino in NJ which are accessible by public transit and shuttle buses for casino. For example during NY Islanders game at USB Arena in Elmont, fans park illegally nin Queens Village, Bellerose Terrance, Elmont, Floral Park because parking is higher. Sincerely Yours Truly, Yuki Endo

Better jobs for the community, affordable housing, more protection, better roads and board walks, youth centers, community centers

Better jobs , better youth centers, fix up the community, fix up the projects, build community center, get jobs for everyone and more protection, affordable housing

No privatization of the NYCHA Properties

I dont like the idea to have the casino in the community. Too dangerous for this neighborhood. Please please stop it.

No thoughts but building up a future for our youth

I put yes to it

It bad to much Robbery gonna be scare to go out it gonna be bad for traffic

The reason why I came to Coney Isalnd because my family live here and I work to boardwalk and I travel to Coney Island a lot

No to the Casino

Will there be privation of NYCHA?

No to Casinos

My concerns are rise of crime

No Casino

I agree with us having a Casino as long as us residents are 1st priority for employment. Full Time!

Fix up Coney Island House and Community More jobs more centers, more jobs, more centers, more business, community center, more prection, more police more security, fix up Aides(?) fix up apartments

Are our rents going to rise?

Bad transportation no real amon(?) job

Its anti family. Does not promote family values. Prep on (?) poor.

I believe that the operators of the Casino should pay for participants of the YMCA (who live in 11224) to have Free Coney Island Membership

No Casino jobs account for our youth that are the (?)

No No to destroying our oceanside community with a casino

I listened with an open mind. Sadly I only heard the same empty promises made to other communities this will only benefit a select group of people. Not those who have been truly invested in Coney Island. I wish for once a “developer” would or could be more creative in rebuilding communities that have been the life + soul of NYC.

I vote no

No to casino - will bring more crime to community. part time jobs not worth it. Property value will go down.

The traffic is not for CI casino does not fit here.

No Casino jobs account for our youth that are the (?)

Casino cause displacement and we need to focus on bettering our community with resources for the youth!!!

More jobs! We need that! Yes!

Removal of roads to place casinos who will that help us and them?

We really dont need a casino too much trouble not safe

It would destroy or property values! No casino

Im unsure. Atlantic city is (?) & unsafe. Casinos did nothing to benefit them!! I dont see the benefit to the commnity. Unless profits are posmarked each year to benefit cocommunity

I know that the Casino are coming to Coney Island. But whatever is promise use in writing not meeting. Yes, Casino more kobs for the community @ Banks.

My thoughts on a Casino in Coney lland are that it would not be a good idea due to the traffic congestion, high crime and safety. No to Casino

My thoughts are somewhat mix, simply because not sure who really is benefiting from this. The point is that in past project as I look back the community was left out in the cold with nothing to show.

It would steal business from our small businesses. No Casino!

There is no scenario where I support a casino in Coney Island

No new business

I wold like to have the (?) Casinos come with their own agenda

A Casino in the part of Brooklyn will decrease the morality and family aspects of what made Coeny Island so special. Im against it. It will drive more crime gambling addiction and poverty

Will drive more drugs, violence and crime!

No Casino jobs account for our youth that are the (?)

My thoughts on a Casino in Coney Island are that there shouldnt be one due to Public Safety Concerns

It would be great for community for ocean front

High property Tax??

Will some profits from Casino benefit the youths + senior citizens of Coney Island

More full time jobs

No Casinos in Coney Island

We need to expand our area or build multiple structures

There will be jobs for teens. Its going to happen 100% Yes!

We need to upgrade! Casinos Help!

As a long time Coney Island Resident. I am not in favor of the Casino! We can bring life to Coney Island without it.

Youth, our child deserve a future where they do not have to believe that they are only good enough to work at a Casino

I think a new Casino could cause many concerns about safety and gentrification that would make things tougher for those struggling ahead.

Destroys our youth! Pushes them further into limited spaces

Lack of trains, busses, bathrooms, jobs, no ferry and no LIRR

CI has real problems that need to be addresssed and corrected first and foremost

I don't have a problem with having a casino in my residential area, but only if the residents are 1st priority for jobs at the casino.

No likely to benefit local people very much.

Good for revenue and jobs but on other hand the crime rate will go up more. Let's work around the table to find common ground for the people of CI

This area is already overcrowded - tall buildings constantly being built in place of smaller homes. Bringing more people and more cars. There is no easy access to CI as it is. Roads are clogged and loud. Its more polluted. NO to casinos! Please do not allow this.

Where? Parking? Accomodations? Traffic? Overcrowding? Bias against the community.

Yes Casino! We need to boost our economy and get more jobs for teh community

Coney Island is a family destination. Casinos bring gamblers, drinkers, and do not help the communities. AC & Vegas- not great by the casinos. No to casinos in CI. Please do not allow this.

Could potentially make area less seasonal!

No casino!

Mermaid parade rerouted or cancelled?!

Provides more jobs and revenue

No Casino

We want school. Affordable supermarket Not Casino

Traffic - how will you handle incoming vehicles? Parking, congestion What are your plans for the youth of the commuity schools Access to the Belt Parkway? need new entrance Access + Egress, what are your plans

Infrastructure sewer system flooding!

Don't fucking build a casino It's going to bring more crime and more homelessness

I think it's a dumb idea. Look at Atlantic City - the 1 block along the boardwalk is a slum. No worker want to live there so it's not helped the people who [illegible]

We need a theatre More traffice out of Coney Island. After an event, cars are stock in the street for hours Bring back the ferry

No casino should be build in Coney Island or anywhere in Brooklyn

I believe the casino will hurt homeowners with increase in taxes

Not worth endangering our youth!!! for money

We here in Coney Island do not need a casino we do not need the heavy traffic and all of the bad that comes with it

More jobs for Coney Island!! Wonderful 20,000 jobs

Traffic, parking in Coney Island is already bad

NO. We don't want to live in another Atlantic City

Greed - No good for community

Crime Robbing due to gambling losing all the money

We don't need it in your community

Should not be here. More focus on the quality of life issues. Jobs is a false promise when casinos are using AI

No casino!

Parking!! Parking!!

Job opportunity for the residents of Coney Island

Casino is not family friendly not safe for all

That's a bad idea to have a casino in Coney Island

No to Casino

Question B: If a casino were located in Coney Island, what kind of amenities or local benefits do you think are necessary for the community?

More training for the jobs in this area. More certificates for position with no experience

Jobs. Security. More venue for business owners

Financial Literacy

A casino in Coney Island will not offer any longterm benefits for Coney Island

I can't imagine what can be added in this overcrowded peninsula. Another bridge? A ferry (not at the end but at the pier?) More police. None of this is what I want. I want no casino.

Transportation - the MTA wants to cut bus service out here - it should be expanded, not cut!

More food options

Support for kids

JOBS

More police activity. Reduced traffic. Jobs

Considering majority of people in this community make less than \$40,000 a year. Discounted access to local amusements would be beneficial.

Coney Island would need more police protection. Also they will need more sanitation clean up. Need for full-time jobs

I am for the project because I believe it can bring businesses and provide jobs year round

NO CASINO AT ALL

Parking lot

Security for the buildings and cameras

Can this group fund the bridge Coney Island needs

Ensure public access to the waterfront as much as possible

Bringing jobs would be great if it were given to the people in the community

Traffic and parking solutions

Security. Jobs

Funds for parks and community gardens

Not any benefit will reimburse the harm from it

No casino

In 2019, the four casinos upstate fell short of revenue projections. In Atlantic City, several went bankrupt in recent years. Casinos will NOT create revenue! NO TO CASINO

Increase in public transportation. Better beach services/cleaning

Build union strong

Jobs which they promised to do & more protection, more police yes!

Libraries, housing, hospital, buses, trains, bathrooms, parking, traffic plan, residential benefits to local amusements

Security

Stop talking about nonsense. No casino!

It does not benefit because response time will increase, slow buses. Just like UBS Arena, people will steal parking

NO casino in Coney Island/Belmont Park - Yuki Endo

NO CASINO. This will destroy the community

NO to casino

NO casino

We need better sanitation services. We also need funding poured back into our community centers & programs

We need more educational funding for our schools. Our children need funding and educational programs that are technology based

B: sponsorship to tutoring program. After school program

We need a trade school

Safety - Give back to community - Fix our boardwalk - Fix our congestion/traffic - Setup union apprenticeship for our kids - Real jobs - Help small business

Jobs for teenagers in the summer. CI first

Guaranteed jobs for CI residents. Full-time options \$25+ to \$30+

As mentioned by community speakers, protection for the rising crime. Programs to educate the youth to be prepared for job opportunities as well as business opportunities for the community

IS ANY CASINO NECESSARY? NO CASINO!

The resources necessary would be for the another way out of the Island in event of emergency

Financial literacy. Free membership to YMCA & the casino

We do not need another Atlantic City in Coney Island. We need an indoor park for children and parents in the winter months

More public transportation will be needed - *not less* - and it needs to serve the community - *not* just the tourists

I think developers are too late. They could have asked the community years ago

Bridge from Coney Island to Belt Pkwy to ensure traffic run smoothly. Center for young people. Coney Island resident 80% discount to the casino

We need a place for youth and adults for educational and entertainment for free

More security - police - awareness/groups for safety - residents w/ venues - residents w/ storefronts

We need resources as of: Trainings w/ certifications - More transportation in area - More jobs - More venues - More opportunity for residents - Full-time jobs/positions - Bridge to stop congestion - Ferry to help with better commute

Help out Coney Island businesses and stores and residents before you build a casino. Offer jobs and programs. Donate money to help out Coney Island community and people. Fix it up and here build it up for the better

To have larger supermarkets and targets and employ our community people

We need a movie theater with enough parking lots in the community

I want if it goes through which I hope it doesn't that whatever is promised it is written in stone

Jobs - stores - programs for children

I've lived here for 71 years my whole life. I really don't trust anyone who previously couldn't delivered.

There's not enough parking space as it is already

Scholarships to college programs and trade school

Sponsorship to local sporting teams in the community and school and hospitals

Full-time jobs. No part-time

Infrastructure! Infrastructure! Infrastructure! Electric, gas, water + sewer

Jobs jobs jobs

Get storefronts open. Give us jobs that way

We need to replace the Republican leadership in Coney Island

Banks. Community Centers for seniors

Only resources that will benefit them and not the community

Jobs, security and resources for the community. Programs to enhance and grow the community it is in.

Protection. New police department. How casino is going to affect buildings around it?

Open all storefronts, have residents own it

Therapy + suicide prevention

Create a safer community. Redesign streets to resolve traffic issues/concerns which are a safety issue. Jobs for the community. Cleanup the community spaces

The Coney Island community need full commitment from the casino that there will be an investment in local infrastructure and employment

I say yes. Just keep the CI community in mind

Open empty storefronts. Give residents opportunities to open their own business. Help us, not cripple us

Reduction of property taxes will cause cheapening of home values

Field mentorship would also help

Bring revenue to Coney Island

Better healthcare physically and mentally. Engage our youth to help them become more productive in their lives. Provide skilled training

New roads

All for new things coming to Coney Island. Jobs all year around! Love it

No casino. Life is not going to improve but we are forced to leave Brooklyn

No casino. Horrible idea and no pros to our community

The police. Need more staff to combat crime + traffic

I think we need better parking, And a hotel

NOT A GOOD IDEA. Brings the worst element here

We don't need a casino in the first place

I want a Coney Island conservancy like the one in Brooklyn Bridge Park

No casino. Crime, Traffic!

Why a casino. Why not a trade center

Why casino? There's after choices schools

Jobs

NONE. BAD IDEA!

NO WAY. NO HOW

Zero. No casino

None

Put it in Floyd Bennet field

There is no benefit at all, only create crime and homeless

Your literature says that "18-24 year old have the highest rate of problem gambling" Kids are shooting each other here, and you're giving them another problem

THE STREETS ARE ALREADY CONGESTED. WE DON'T NEED MORE TRAFFIC

Mentorship programs for trouble teens. Life skills programs. Jobs for the youth

Save Coney Island + the people here

We need more vocational school thing for kids to do playroom

Locals should have a "first shot" at training and job selection. Big business should give to the community first, so everyone wins! G.B

Put money in a special fund specifically for the use of the community. To pay for security, sanitation etc

1) Fix boardwalk 2) Water ferry 3) Youth center/afterschool program 4) Associate Degree 5) Program w/ Kingsboro CC 6) Counseling program

A deli. A bakery. A coffee shop. Decent supermarket restaurants

It's not always about JOBS. Especially if you have to find new housing and suffer with traffic and parking problems. There has to be a CBA to make it work

Jobs close to the community

More jobs for our youth community benefits for CI

No comments

NONE

Do not increase home taxes

Money funneled back into the community

Mr BP, you didn't allow anytime to speak - this is not right

Jobs for community

YES! more jobs year round entertainment

JOBS

Homeless, drug addicts, food pantries, free youth centers

Question C: If a casino were in Coney Island, what expectations or fears do you have for your community?

It will cost more crimes in our community

No casino in Coney Island. The crime & drug use will go up.

Will improvement dollars will go upfront in case if CI will have a casino?

Tax increase for property taxes

What concessions will developer bring local businesses?

Will infrastructure improvements be build around the project?

Fix the parking/congestion problem in the area

No trickle down effect, unkept promises, not future planning or community presence outside of amusement season. It should serve us year round and have a plan do so. I'm waiting.

Will traffic studies be performed upfront before the project will come up?

The House always wins but some of the win must be shared :/

My concern would be that crime would go up so No to casino in Coney Island

Concerns, firsthand most important, the rise of crime, the lack of proper police activities, as well as drugs, just to name a couple of what would take place

Expectation - to create employment where families are able to support themselves with a decent salary to care for their families without having to run for help to other entities in search of handouts

I fear that crime will go up and more traffic jams and crime rates will be going up so I expect them to fix the boardwalk bring the ferry to the oceanside and to give back to the communiyt as we fit not broken promises

Concerns: crime, gambling addiction, poverty, less family togetherness, influx of alcoholism and drug addiction

No Casino I am worry about the crime rate going up for all people

C: My concerns is late night crime and noise

C: I want to see a cleaner and safer Coney Island and fulltime jobs to the residents of Coney Island and access for the emergency vehicle to get in + out of CI

I would have concerns about drugs, prostitution, overcrowding, increased crime and inequitable conditions for the less fortunate and economically struggling

No casino! It not safe for our kids, here. Open up a college that woul dbe better for our youth to grow. There be traffic in the summertime. Robberies, theifs and etc... Again no casino!

Need recreation center for seniors + youth

Where there are casinos, small businesses go bankrupt

My concerns would be more boardwalk vigilance + more community meetings to curtail

Trade jobs for people in community. More things for children.

Atlantic City's community is frightening - not safe!! - The casinos there give nothing back or benefitted the community at all!

C: my concerns is illegal activity drugs

I am concern about jobs for the community

My expectations & concerns are mainly - safety -edutcation -our children(s) future. -crime rate -increase/decrease of rent -50% discounts with venues & amusement entertainment bsuinesses in our areas.

Residents & small shops will be gentrifying & displaced

Parking needs to be added. Underground is out of question. Will roof parking be added?

My concerns for the community would be that crome would go up. Our streets would not be safe as it is now there are not enough Police officers, not only on the streets but also boardwalk

What is the solution for traffic

Coney Island is our HOME! We don't need anymore DISPLACEMENT

Traffic environmental decay further gentrification crime destroyed resident quality of life

More crime more shots more disorder No to Casino

3/6/23 Community Board Meeting concerns: 1) Crime 2) Drug usage 3) High Traffic 4) No Parking 5) Crowded subway from the start point. 6) Lots of garbage all around

Concerns: safety, congestion, low paying jobs. IA taking over jobs.

Gardens and Parks

yes to casinos = yes to better transportation

If a casino does happen... (I want to see) -upgrades to our area -a safer community -less traffic -more jobs

Rent increase where ppl are barely able to keep up with rent

There is no need for casino since drunk peopl ewill invade amusement park -Yuki Endo

No casino because it will delay emergency responder, buses just like Belmost Park resident Floral Park oppose

Casino - addiction -> already a problem in the community

Child trafficking = casino

Need school put money back to community asked the community safety

Casinos structure their business profiting off the weakness of the already imperished members of the ocommunity

Traffic & overcrowding summer are chaotic w/ multiple attractions

Do you really want to give poor people an easily accessible way to become more poor?

Real community oversight

More crime. More traffic. More noise. More pollutions. Less family atmosphere. Less safe. No to casinos in Coney Island

A casino would place family owned stores at risk of closure!!

A casino would be great, but you must deal with our traffic issues 1st. Thank you

Yes to casino! = Fixing the boardwalk

Increases in: -crime -drunkenness -suicide -prostitution CONCERNS

My concerns are with if there will be a change as far as residential living for example: will residents rent increase? Will there be problems with finding parking for drivers?

All attention will be drawn to amusements, overlooking the real problems of the community.

Research from the National Association of Realtors shows casinos hurt property values due to increased crime, traffic, congestion, and bankruptcies. NO TO CASINO

price increases @ local businesses -businesses sold to outside owners -rent increases -political corruption -less access to waterfront

a casino would bring debt to family's. giving struggle to already low income families!

No CASINO AT ALL!

Will the 60th pct step up on patrolling the entire CI area

No union scabs deadend seasonal jobs overcrowded bus/train bathrooms

Continuous horn honking when traffic is inevitable backed up. Have you seen CI on 4th of July or Friday fireworks game nights

Seawall creates a basin like NOLA - bad flooding

No! Casino! more cops targeting black and brown community's

No to casino! Coney Island has enough issues with TRAFFIC + parking congestion. Not to mention crime! Property values would decrease! How congested do they want to make Coney Island!

NO CASINO. THIS WILL DESTROY THE COMMUNITY

Traffic would be terrible

Resident oversight!

Bring too many people to the area

Parks!!!

You are fucking up local people who build this community. NO

More crime!

60 percent housing cops

People would claim to be afraid of our own residents based on looks. Targeted, overpoliced

I support the casino no concerns because they said they would put more police activity & add more parking & jobs

A casino would bring in corporations that have no ties to the community

More crime!!!

The areas around the amusements will continue to falter & struggle

More people being shot for no reason casino = more crime

Increase Homeless

Seniors fear of getting mugged

Texas for our property will increase

Lower property taxes

Traffic Crime Kids play no casino

Crimes + Parking

Put it in Floyd Floyd Bennit field!

Safety -Traffic mediation -street redesign. Traffic is a Safety issue/concern -crime -infrastructre

Robberies

Safety!

Poverty and crime will go up. Unacceptable idea and foreseeable high crime rate

More jobs all year round!

CRIME Health issues Lack of resources which will sustain CI community Traffic

Crime Drugs Traffic

NO CASINO NO CASINO NO CASINO

Traffic increase

Traffic violent crime our teens waisting theri hard earn money NO Casino

IT WILL BURY MIDDLE AMERICA IN DEBT & HURT LOW INCOME FAMILIES

I AM CONCERNED FOR OUR YOUTH GAMBLING AWAY THEIR LIVES & BECOMING GAMBLERS

TRAFFIC IS BAD ENOUGH IT WILL MAKE IT WORSE. DRUGS GO ALONG WITH GAMBLING.
SAFETY & HEALTH OF BKLYN RESIDENTS WILL BE COMPROMISED

Concerns that the interest in the safety & health of the local residents will be ignored

Mr. BP You didn't allow anyone to speak! This is not right

Casino will increase VIOLENCE

Prostitution drug addiction multiply, more homeless more killing No Casino!!!

CASINO WILL CAUSE MORE THIEFT

If you put up a casino, you'll wind up condemning small housing to put parking for out of town users that go to the casinos

TRAFFIC crime pot smokers Drugs low life clientel

Crime! vagrants

More illegal vendors overcrowded bus/trains no new ferry :(

SAFETEY

Coney Island and its residents can benefit from havnig year round activity

Addition

People will expect a lot of crime in the community.

CRIME

Gamble away \$ PAY BILLS

Too much traffic on Ocean Parkway + other streets. Our 18-year-olds will come + lose money + get in trouble

TRAFFIC Loss of revenue

Bring more traffic jam. But needs to utilize the public transportation. Also safety

Jobs + community agreement. Concerned about uptick in crime

none none none

More crime, and violence and homelessness

Make Coney Island a TRUE tourist destination, like Times Square! Let everyon have a chance

NO CASINO TRAFFIC BAD RIDES

NO WAY NO HOW

CRIME

CRIME NO CASINO

Street walker Crime Traffic Jams

Access + egress Fix the Boardwalk Clean air concerns meaningful education programs counseling programs youth center real jobs money back to the community + schools learn from Atlantic City

Prostitution

It will hurt the community. ADDICTIONS

Lack of bus/train no ferry lack of bathrooms no growth jobs overcrowding

NOT TO HAVE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE

Have more police and security

More jobs, year round entertainment! yes :)

CRIME

CRIME We don't need casino

Traffic Crime Our kids gambling wasting money

SAFETY Crime

Safety more police presence

Resident parking

Traffic

Can't drive here on any event day Traffic

Traffic Crime Prostitution Parking

We Need more Schools "NOT" Casinos

More affordable Housing!

No Ferry rerouted trains/buses NO B Express! Overcrowding

We need schools recreation centers, living wage, jobs

Leave the Express ALONE!

We do not want or need a casino. Will raise crime, poverty, and displacement.

Say “NO” to Coney Island Casino!

Credits to: Yvonne Mayo

“We, the undersigned residents of Coney Island and surrounding Southern Brooklyn neighborhoods, are adamantly against having a casino built on the Coney Island peninsula. While we want a healthy, year-round economy here in Coney Island, a casino is not the right way to achieve this goal and does not belong in our future as it would have detrimental impacts to our neighborhood including but not limited to:

Quality of Life. Coney Island is a vibrant, tight-knit seaside community with many multigenerational families. We are proud to live in a historic, hard-working neighborhood. However, too often we are saddened to find ourselves in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. As a community struggling to overcome decades of disenfranchisement, we have significant gaps in our neighborhood’s social service network. Too many of our neighbors do not receive desperately needed vital services, especially in areas such as mental health, addiction, counseling and harm reduction services. And, yet, development continues unabated, increasing neighborhood density to the point of distress. Something’s got to give.

We want to live in a safe, clean, inviting neighborhood with better schools, centers for civic and social activity, thriving local businesses, and similar public amenities that other neighborhoods enjoy. Many of our neighbors often feel unsafe, our streets are not always clean, and we do not receive the levels of municipal support and services we deserve; however, we believe that these existing neighborhood conditions will be made worse, not better, by a casino. We can look no further than to Atlantic City to see that our concerns are not misplaced. Coney Island is brimming with possibilities for a brighter future. We welcome projects that will uplift our community and not add to our daily problems.

Infrastructure. Coney Island is one of the leading neighborhoods in the borough in terms of new development, yet its old and failing public infrastructure does not keep up with the pace. Coney Island, a flood-prone neighborhood most affected by sea level rise, has not seen anywhere near the levels of investment in green infrastructure as other watershed areas. Public infrastructure systems throughout the neighborhood have lagged far behind the rest of the city

- whether in sea level rise and stormwater management, traffic safety and congestion, or communications networks
- while developers continue to build at an alarming rate. In the absence of significant public infrastructure investment, critical system-wide failures are a real threat.

Jobs & Labor Force Development. While the development team and their supporters are quick to point out how many jobs could be created, the real question is: How many of our neighbors would be qualified and eligible to fill those jobs?. Many skilled, high-paying, quality union jobs in

the construction, hospitality and gaming industries could be created (assuming the developer is committed to building with union labor); yet, how many Coney Island residents would be trained and ready to begin on day one? Coney Island lacks a pipeline to union membership through apprenticeships and other related training programs. Neighborhood unemployment is high. Residents need access to adequate job training, job placement and job retention programs. Saying that jobs will be available to the community without creating the necessary structures to grow and support a local labor force to fill them comes across as a hollow offer.

Transportation & Parking. Coney Island lacks mobility and access to efficiently process the volume of vehicular traffic visiting the neighborhood, especially on event days. This especially hurts us as we must compete with visitor traffic. It adds significant time to get on and off the peninsula. The same Vision Zero traffic safety improvements that are commonplace throughout the city are few and far between here. Additional traffic from a casino will add to the neighborhood's congestion, increase competition for scarce parking, and worsen ambient air and noise pollution. The demand for on-street parking far exceeds supply, particularly in the amusement district where there is insufficient parking turnover. Coney Island has long needed a regional traffic study which would both identify ways in which even more people can visit while using fewer personal vehicles to do so, and analyze the curbside regulations and inefficiencies to suggest ways in which on-street parking can be optimized.

Developer's Track Record. It is important to note that the casino's principal developer, Thor Equities, has owned significant Coney Island real estate for decades. At any time they could have taken a more active interest in our neighborhood by addressing many of the things they are now promising to do in exchange for our support of their casino proposal. If the development team was serious about building a casino, they would have been a much better local partner by making more of an upfront investment in the very community in which they now want to make a substantial profit.

This proposed casino is not the right project for Coney Island. We, the undersigned, want a year-round, sustainable, and empowering economy for the people of Coney Island; but not like this. Let's dream bigger when it comes to creating a better quality of life for Coney Island. We say "NO" to the casino!"

Cons of opening a casino within an urbanized area:

Social Problems: Casinos are associated with gambling addiction, which can lead to a range of social problems, including bankruptcy, depression, mental health issues, suicide, and family breakdown

Crime: A casino can attract crime, including theft, fraud, and money laundering. Make the casino a target for criminals. Sexual Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, Prostitution, Crimes of all levels

Infrastructure/Traffic and parking: The casino can cause traffic congestion and parking problems, especially during peak hours. This can have a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Already have major traffic. Gridlock issues throughout Coney island. Only two roads going in and out. Tour buses will be coming to the area. The water, power and sewer systems are not built for that kind of expansion. Most recently, on December 23, 2022 - many areas of Coney Island dealt with flooding, catch basins clogged, etc. Work needed by Department of Environmental Protection.

Negative impact on local businesses: The presence of a casino can negatively impact local businesses that are not related to gambling, such as restaurants, bars, and shops.

Impact on the community: The presence of a casino can change the character of a community, and some residents may view the casino as a threat to their way of life.

Lies fed:

Increased revenue: A casino will not generate significant revenue for the local economy by attracting tourists and locals, because the monies spent on gambling, food, drinks and other entertainment, will all be done within the confines of the casinos, and monies will not be spent on businesses within the community. Local economies, do not improve, actually decline. Local residents tempted into new forms of self-destructive behavior, and a dwindling flow of cash to show for it all.

Job creation: Often stated that job opportunities will be created for the local community, meanwhile we know people will be brought here from other areas, to fulfill the higher paying jobs.

Taxes: The casino can generate significant tax revenue for the local government, meanwhile we all know these funds will be used as they see fit, our needs of public services, infrastructure, youth development, vocational school, another school, services for our growing aging population.

Look at Atlantic City and Las Vegas area, there has been an increase of crime, and we are no strangers to the amount of crime that we are dealing with on a weekly basis. <https://www.richmondfed.org/publications/research/economicbrief/2022/b-22-28>

Atlantic City:

Casinos and Economic Development

The 40 years of casino activity in Atlantic City has made it the subject of much empirical work to understand the effects of gaming. The intention of casino development in Atlantic City was not just to boost tax revenue, but also to help redevelop the city.

A successful resort in its early 20th century heyday, Atlantic City had fallen on hard times by the 1970s. According to the 2004 book "Boardwalk of Dreams," the city's population had fallen by a quarter, widespread air travel made resort destinations in Florida more accessible to well-heeled tourists, and potential local visitors had reoriented their beach trips to more family-friendly destinations along the Jersey Shore. Being the only destination on the East Coast for legalized gambling, commercial casinos offered "a unique tool of urban redevelopment for Atlantic City" according to the amendment to the state's constitution.

However, many researchers conclude that the industry did not have a significant lasting positive impact on the city's economy, nor did it spur widespread urban development beyond the casinos themselves." Despite booming casino development in the 1980s, the city's central business district continued to struggle, and significant amounts of developable land remained vacant and deteriorated. To this day, the city notoriously has difficulty keeping a single grocery store open."

Vice or Entertainment?

An argument against casino development is that casino gambling is associated with certain ill societal effects, such as problem gambling and impulsive risk-taking behavior.

- The individuals themselves (income lost from work, depression, suicide attempts)
- Their families (divorce, bailout costs)
- Their employers (decreased productivity)
- Their community (strain on public services, theft to pay gambling debt)

The 2009 paper “Are Gamblers More Likely to Commit Crimes?” examines data from a nationally representative survey of young adults and concludes that gambling (particularly the problematic sort) is associated with other risky activities such as binge drinking, hiring prostitutes and using hard drugs. Furthermore, the 2010 paper “The Impact of Casinos in Fatal Alcohol-Related Traffic Accidents in the United States” finds a positive association between the presence of a casino in a county and the number of alcohol-related fatal traffic accidents, with higher rates of accidents in less-populated counties. In other words, impulsive risk-taking behaviors tend to be correlated with one another.”

“A Criminal Element?”

More recent empirical evidence also brings into question the extent to which casinos attract a criminal element to their immediate neighborhoods. On the one hand, commercial casinos from Atlantic City to Las Vegas were notorious mainstays of organized crime for decades, and the prominent 2006 study “Casinos, Crime and Community Costs” suggests that casinos increase county-level property and violent crimes.”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/08/a-good-way-to-wreck-a-local-economy-build-casinos/375691/>

“People who live close to casinos are twice as likely to become problem gamblers as people who live more 10 miles away. As casinos have become more prevalent, so has problem gambling: in the states, the evidence suggests a tripling or even quadrupling of the number of problem gamblers.

<https://dismalscience.journalism.cuny.edu/2014/05/18/casinos-always-gamble-neighboring-home-values/>

“Casinos can, and often do, have a negative impact on home prices of neighborhoods around them. That’s because they attract gamblers and partiers flocking to their resorts, leaving some cities facing issues like bankruptcies, crime, traffic and congestion, which can place a heavy role on home values. So while some cities’ residents welcome casinos for the promise of jobs and revenue, others hope they never come because of what they bring.”

“Casinos are an attractive nuisance, nuisances on home values,” Jed Smith, of the National Association of Realtors, said when citing the “Economic Impact of Casinos on Home Prices Literature Survey and Issue Analyst.” “The impacts are negative - the positive benefits are minimal but the negative impacts are substantial.”

Homes within 1 mile of the casino would have an immediate loss of value that could be as high as 10 percent. That alone could add up to be a loss of millions of dollars to homeowners, and it would lead to lower property assessments.

External factors such as traffic, noise and congestion are “generally negative near the casino,” and it also goes on to address bankruptcies, foreclosures and pathological gambling which are likely to cost millions of dollars more to the local community and economy.

“Based on FBI statistics, for an average county with 100,000 population size, the introduction of a casino implies, 615 more larcenies, 325 more burglaries, 272 more auto thefts, 10 more rapes, 65 more robberies and 100 more aggravated assaults.”

<https://www.asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/latest-news/online-exclusives/2022/human-trafficking-in-casinos-the-ghost-crime-operating-in-plain-sight/#~:text=Within%20casino%20gaming%20establishments%2C%20the,and%20cover%20for%20sex%20traffickers.>

“Within casino gaming establishments, the sex trafficking aspect of human trafficking is the most common form of this crime. Casino crowds and co-located lodging facilities-coupled with the transient nature of sex trafficking-provide convenience and cover for sex traffickers.

Human trafficking, frequently referred to as a ghost crime, occurs in plain sight within casino and resort properties, but it remains largely unseen because the indicators of this crime are invisible to most.”



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