

---

Kevin Law: alright folks we're going to get started. Thank you. Alright Kev thanks for getting the crowd going. Okay for those who weren't here earlier today just a couple, actually I'll do some introductions again. My name is Kevin Law, I'm the Chair of the Casino Location Siting Board. I'm here with Paul Francis and Dennis Glazer. And we have Bill Thompson and Stu Rabinowitz who were with us earlier today on the phone participating. We have been going since 8:00 this morning and it's been non-stop. We had 2 sets of speakers, at the top of each hour we have speakers who pre-registered and then we have people who registered to speak today. And so we have a 5-minute limit for speakers. If you don't need your entire 5 minutes, that's certainly welcome and appreciated. But we've heard a lot of good testimony this morning and to the extent folks want to share their time with each other, come up together and keep it moving so all your neighbors have a chance to speak. That's welcome as well. And with that we're going to get right to those folks who pre-registered. Starting with Mary Erhle. Is Mary here. Stu I mentioned you a few minutes ago. Put your phone on mute.

Stu Rabinowitz: I will.

Kevin Law: Are you Mary?

Samantha Erhle: That's my mom.

Dennis Glazer: Mary's daughter, what's your name?

Samantha Erhle: Samantha Erhle.

Kevin Law: Samantha and just to remind you I'm not going to be rude or disrespectful with people but at 5 minutes, we're going to try to cut you off so thank you Samantha the floor is yours.

Samantha Erhle: My name is Samantha Erhle, I'm 14 years old and I've lived in the town of East Greenbush my entire life. I'm here because I can give you a unique view of the proposed East Greenbush Casino location. That's because I'm a girl who has attended both the Girl Scout camp that is adjacent to the casino and the Montessori school that is right across the street. I've been attending Camp Is-Sho-Da for 6 consecutive years and I have the Girl Scouts Wood Woman badge to prove it. I'd like to tell you what it's like to go to Camp Is-Sho-Da. When I'm there I'm surrounded by girls who range from as young as 5 years old to teenagers like myself. Camp Is-Sho-Da is a day camp, a little woodsy world all to itself where girls come together to try new things, reach new goals and make new friends. On Wednesday nights, most of the campers choose to sleep over in rustic accommodations that include tents, covered wagons, cabins or under the stars. Before campers climb into their sleeping bags at night they will have enjoyed cooking and eating dinner outside, campfires and marshmallows, singing all kinds of goofy Girl Scout songs and making memories with their new found friends. I'd like to ask you what kind of camping experience will they have beneath a lit up casino where people gamble their money away 24x7. do you think that Girl Scouts should be begin offering a badge for gambling. What about the noise which will certainly be around the clock from buses, cars,

---

trucks and not to mention the construction vehicles that will be on the site for years as the casino is built. What about the safety of the girls and their teenage counselors. For more than 50 years Camp Is-Sho-Da has been a refuge for girls from all over the capital region. A safe, nurturing place where they can be themselves and create themselves. But with a casino next door, you can forget about that. I'm also here to talk about the independent Montessori school that will also adjoin the casino property if it is built. I have attended Woodland Hill Montessori school for 11 years from the age of 3 to eighth grade. Woodland Hill has over 275 students including toddlers, preschoolers, kindergarteners, elementary students and middle schoolers in first through eighth grades. Woodland Hill has nature paths. It has gym classes held outdoors on a soccer field. And a cross-country track through the woods. It has custom-engineered playgrounds that even generate their own power to fun a well. It has a peace garden and an organic vegetable garden. Above all, it has children playing in and learning from everything that surrounds them. Does a casino belong next to these things? Who would want to send their kids to a school right next to a casino? Nobody. And should Capital View Casino plans become a reality what will Woodland Hill's parents tell their children in the car as they drive past the casino on the hill? I wouldn't want to be the parent responsible for explaining what goes on in that building to my children. On behalf of the Girl Scouts at Camp Is-Sho-Da and the students at Woodland Hill Montessori school I ask that you site the Capital Regions Casino some place other than East Greenbush. Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Nice job Mary. I was talking about you raising your daughter.

Kevin Law: Thank you Samantha. Glen Saunders.

Glen Saunders: Hi, as you figured out my name is Glen and I'm here to vehemently opposed the casino in East Greenbush, big surprise. Basically, we don't need this thing, we don't want this thing. I've been a resident of East Greenbush for 25 years. When my wife and I finished college we had 3 advanced degrees between us in engineering and technical fields. We had our choice of where to locate and we could have elected to move to the popular tech locations like Boston, Silicon Valley or Seattle where a lot of our contemporaries were going at the time and continue to go today from the engineering schools in our area. But we wanted to stay in Upstate New York because we like it here. So we found a nice piece of land, we built a house with our own two hands I might add, and settled in East Greenbush. But I can say without question that if there had been this sleazy low brow Wal-Mart style casino perched in the top of Thompson Hill as Capital View is proposing there is no way we would have ever chosen to stay in this area. Is that really what Governor Cuomo and the whole gaming referendum or the constitutional amendment is all about? Do we really want to chase people out of this nice residential town and drive even more professionals out of Upstate New York? I don't think so. I have a lot to say about casinos themselves. This casino, there's a lot of evidence that casinos are very destructive. This is a colossally bad idea borne by a corrupt and predatory developer. Personally, I believe that promoting casinos as an engine of economic development is irresponsible and disingenuous. Casinos make nothing of value and contribute nothing of value. They take money from those who can afford it least and give it to those who need it least. They promote sleaze, corruption and they suck the value out of an entire host community. But, far be it from me to oppose a

---

community that wants a casino, Schenectady, Howe's Caves. The residents of those communities would like a casino, then by all means that's your right go right ahead. I'm a resident of East Greenbush and despite what Capital View or the town board might want you to believe, we do not want a casino in our community. You've heard a lot about and read a lot about how our town board conspired with the developers to support this project, skirting open meeting laws, promoting their own interest over the interest of their supposed constituents. How there was no time for a referendum but that somehow other communities managed to have time to have one. As residents we ended up having to sue the town. We watched as our voices were trampled and our interests brushed aside. We collected thousands of signatures in opposition, but still the board continued to do just what the developer told them to do, rather than what the people who elected them demanded they do. We watched as our elected representation failed to represent us while the casino project with all its associated sleaze and corruption moved forward at every step of the way. We stood witness to the sleazification without representation of our community. My understanding is that the site selection criteria that this board will use in evaluating proposals includes 20% under support from the host community. You don't have to look very far to see how opposed this community is to this project. Although the town board has successfully blocked an actual referendum which would have undoubtedly shown the community does not support this project, we do have data from residents who cared enough to sign petitions either in favor of or in opposition to the casino. Using data available from those signatures on residency we can show that there are about 6 times as many residents opposed to this project as in favor. Clearly this project does not have the support from the host community. I respectfully ask that the Gaming Facility Location Board show a score of 0 under support from the host community in your evaluation of the Capital View Proposal and recommend to Governor Cuomo that siting sleazy Wal-Mart style casino in a residential neighborhood of a host community that is not distressed between an elementary school and a Girl Scout camp would be a very, very bad idea. We don't need this thing. We don't want this thing. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Bonnie Lester

Bonnie Lester: Hi, my name is Bonnie Lester, I am from East Greenbush, New York and I have a rebuttal that I'd like to make and to help make my rebuttal I have a few pictures am I allowed to give it to you for just a quick look?

Kevin Law: Sure.

Bonnie Lester: I am taking, oh keep them. I have some pictures that I want to submit for the record so I am opting so you can take a few moments just to look through. I'm taking something out of my presentation here because I think it's important for you to take a look at a few of those pictures. As I said, my name is Bonnie Lester, I'm a resident of East Greenbush, New York and I wish to address Capital View's Executive Summary stating in exhibit 5 that Hampton Manor, a development in which I live for more than 37 ½ years is one of two pockets of distress in East Greenbush. I find that statement to be extremely offensive to me, my family, my neighbors find it offensive and it's certainly a false statement. Capital View developers state Hampton Manor has an aging infrastructure. Okay yes, we are an old community which developers in the 1920s

---

actually starting building quaint little homes across the river from Albany okay and that's part of my development. Old doesn't mean that our community is distressed. Today Hampton Manor has 632 homes which are built around a small lake and Hampton Manor still remains a quaint little community. The photos I submit above prove this to be true. We know our neighbors, we care about our property appearances, most homes have 2 or more cars in their driveway and we all pay our taxes. We are no burden to the town of East Greenbush. East Greenbush does not need a casino to aid Hampton Manor, my community in any way. We have professionals, we have non-professionals alike living in Hampton Manor and some examples are, some of these people I know personally, pharmacists, nurses, teachers, a lawyer, state workers, retired town employees, an ex-fire chief, retirees from diverse occupations, business owners, college students, stay at home moms and much more. Hampton Manor is not impoverished. We are not a pocket of distress and we don't need assistance from any casino revenues. In November of 2011 Red Mill School located in Hampton Manor was recognized by the Federal Government as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and to qualify for that award, Red Mill School in Hampton Manor had to be in the top 10% of New York State schools for 5 straight years. According to Principal John Caporta, I talked to him of Red Mill School, they made the top 10% 9 years in a row in English, Language Arts and Mathematics. The children of Hampton Manor and throughout East Greenbush are well educated and do not need a casino to save them. Hampton Manor, oh this part I'll skip, if I have time. At the center of our community sits Hampton Manor Lake, it's perimeter is about 9/10 of a mile. Activities in and around Hampton Manor Lake include boating, fishing, ice skating, walking, jogging, biking and other activities. We have 2 parks in our community of Hampton Manor. Hampton Manor Park is a playground for children including a basketball court for the teams, and the other Onderdonk Park has activities geared more for adults such as bocce pits, shuffleboard, horseshoes and a small putting green. People from many towns come into our community to enjoy Hampton Manor Lake and the parks. There's nothing distressing about our community. Hampton Manor hosts Music in the Park for executive weeks. We host Saturday in the Park every September, vendors we have people coming from all over East Greenbush to our neighborhoods. Coming to our towns, our little community for a time of physical activities and time of relaxation. In conclusion, Hampton Manor is rich in many ways and certainly does not qualify to be labeled a pocket of distress, a couple more sentences that the Capital View Casino developers have portrayed our community to be. Now it would appear that the Capital View developers and our town boards are not in touch with my community. I strongly urge that you reject the Capital View proposal for East Greenbush. My community doesn't need it, our town doesn't need it, we don't want it, give it to someone else. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Next is Mohammad Afas.

Mohammad Afas: Good evening. My name is Mohammad Afas, I'm here to speak in opposition to the proposed Schenectady Casino. I live in Schenectady and I'm a member of Schenectady Landlords Group. We had several discussions about the proposed casino and the majority of our members oppose a casino in Schenectady. We have 5 reasons for that:

1. At our June meeting 75% of our landlords and tenants signed the no casino petitions. We have concluded that there's no doubt that a casino will hurt the rental business, our rental business. A casino will decrease our property values and a casino will eventually contribute to

---

the creation of more blight in our neighborhoods. More than 56% of our housing units in Schenectady are rentals. The city has about 15,000 rental units with a vacancy rate of 12% well above the accepted 5% considered healthy for a city. A casino within a walking distance from our neighborhoods will simply compound the housing problems that we have in Schenectady. We fear that by gambling rent money, tenants will kick-start the cycle of property neglect and blight. As landlords won't be able to pay their taxes and mortgages, abandon their properties, lose their investment resulting in a downfall of Schenectady neighborhoods.

2. On June 9, the casino proposal did not get a unanimous support from city council, from the Schenectady City Council. 2 out of the 7 voted against it. Councilman Erickson voted for the casino only after he promised that gambling revenues, he was promised that gambling revenue will be allocated for property taxes. Erickson though resigned 7 weeks later, he resigned. He left. Councilman Kozier who voted for the casino is not an elected councilman, he was appointed by the Democratic party. Mr. Kozier was appointed earlier in the year. Accordingly there is no popular support okay for the casino as they claim there is in Schenectady and there is no, not all the representatives are for the casino. And even the people that went and spoke at city council meetings and evening this morning I watched it on television, don't even live in Schenectady.

3. The close proximity of the Schenectady proposed casino site to the Union College dorms also located 1 mile away from Schenectady county community college will contribute to problem gambling among young students. Mary was just here talking about the East Greenbush who wants to send their kids to a school that has a casino? We have 2 colleges. Are, Union College is a walking 300 feet, less than 300 feet to the casino location. Schenectady county community college on the other end of Erie Boulevard. Nobody wants this casino. We're going to have problem with the kids. I cannot understand how could they do that. I understand one of you is a \_\_\_\_\_ University President, it's like putting a casino on Hempstead Turnpike. I've been to Long Island. It's like putting a casino on Union turnpike in front of St. John's University. We don't want that.

4. The closest of the proposed casino site to the Stockade Historic District will adversely impact the neighborhood. Stop the casino group. You know David was talking this morning and believed that a casino only a few blocks away from the neighborhood would threatened the quality of life in that neighborhood. Residents believe the casino will increase crime, traffic, gridlock and pollution and a host of negative health effect on Stockade.

5. The Alco site was being developed without a casino in the picture altogether. In the February 16 Gazette edition, David Buicko who is right there of the Galesi Group he announced we are full speed ahead on designing the harbor. We are full speed ahead on the utilities. The roads and all of the infrastructure needed this side. That was before, all this talk before the casino came into picture. We are designing the apartments right now. We are designing the condominiums right now. We retail space, all this stuff is happening. We strongly believe that we don't need the casino project and it will simply impede the development of the Alco site. The casino proposal is a poor use of this waterfront land. The casino requires more parking lots, designated

---

areas of green space or community garden. Furthermore, after hearing the employees of the Sugar House this morning on television complaining about their company and how they're treating them, we don't want that company in Schenectady. We don't want it. Therefore we do not support the Schenectady casino project as the casino will fail to revitalize Schenectady, it will contribute to problem gambling among young college students, it will adversely impact the historic Stockade neighborhood and finally because plans were in place to revitalize Schenectady before the casino even came in the picture. I have with me Reverend Gregisby, he could not get a time slot, I appreciate if you could give him a few minutes.

Kevin Law: No, not happening. I'm sorry thank you for your comments but we have a process here and other people correctly registered and you could sign up but I've got to follow the process sir. It's unfair, you could leave materials with us. We'd be happy to take that. Thank you. And Ann Taylor. Now we go to the list of the people who registered today. Is that Ann? Good timing.

Dennis Glazer: The well dressed Ann Taylor.

Ann Taylor: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Okay you've got 5 minutes or less.

Ann Taylor: I'll be good. Knowing the site, my name is Ann Taylor as you know and I'm a resident of East Greenbush. I also work in East Greenbush for a small software company and I'm also a small business owner. Knowing the site is not properly zoned for it, the East Greenbush elected officials continue to forge ahead and pass every resolution to support the casino. The East Greenbush elected officials are also well aware the town of East Greenbush does not meet the New York State economic criteria for a casino. In the last 2 months alone, East Greenbush has seen a Starbucks Coffee House open and a Peebles Department Store. There's not a lot of municipalities in the area that are opening brand new department stores. Peebles is based in Virginia. So we're seeking out businesses brand new to the area. As the town planning board agenda is \_\_\_\_\_ the town is currently in the middle of various commercial projects which includes a hotel, not that casino one, a whole different one, in a whole different location that is properly zoned for it and another sports grill, The Recovery Room, which there's one across from Turning Stone so they're right in line across the state. In a 24 square mile town such as East Greenbush that is proof the town is not economically depressed. Also, as you've heard, East Greenbush has an affluence ranking of #40 in New York State where as the other applicants are much lower on the list such as Rensselaer which is ranked as #437. in conclusion I would like to say as much as Mayor Kathy Sheehan support her sudden interest in East Greenbush is swell. We have enough problems in East Greenbush with our own elected officials, we don't need Albany's elected officials. In addition we will take care of our own elected officials and our own corruption in East Greenbush next November when they're up. Albany good luck with yours but keep her over there. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Okay and now to the list of people who registered today. Melvin Carlisle.

---

Melvin Carlisle: Gentleman, I'm not on any boards or any panels, and I only have one statistic to give to you. Because of its hiring and screening practices \_\_\_\_ Green properties have been voted the best casino since opening it. My name is Melvin Carlisle and I'm an engines control officer for the River's Casino in Pittsburgh. I have worked for many different companies over the past 45+ years prior to signing on with the River's Casino. Let's repeat that. I have worked for many different companies over the past 45+ years prior to signing on with the River's Casino. Verizon was where I spent over 34 years before retiring in 2008. Verizon is a very solid company offering it's employees good benefits and competitive incomes. I have been working for the River's Casino since 2011 and I must say this company is by far the best employer I have ever come across within my working career. At the River's casino I'm responsible for meeting and greeting our guests as they enter the casino and preventing underage access to the gambling floor. To date, we are approaching 400 consecutive days without underage access to the gaming floor. This is a difficult task given the proficiency of those providing fake ID's to underagers. In 2012, I was voted employee of the year by my peers out of over 1800 employees. The River's Casino hires employees with integrity, treats its employees with respect and offers competitive rates of pay and excellent benefits. Yep I am extremely proud and pleased to be part of the River's Casino team. River's Casino, Rush Street Properties have been voted best casino for the past 5 years and that's because of it's team members. I urge you to look at the success of other Rush Street Gaming Properties and surrounding communities as you render your decision. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next is Giuseppe Veglio.

Giuseppe Veglio: Thank you and I feel for you. I've been here since 9:00 and you've been here since 8:00 so. I had more spunk this morning but here goes. Well good evening at this point and thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion towards a casino in the proposed Alco site in Schenectady. My name is Dr. Guiseppe Veglio. I am a business owner and have been a resident of Schenectady since 1966. that is when my parents came from Naples, Italy like many others with a dream of economic growth and security. They picked Schenectady because it was the electric city, home of General Electric. I grew up with the same dream and then during the years, Schenectady took another direction, because as we all know General Electric laid off many and moved most of its operations outside the state. It was very sad to see this happen but to date I have never lost hope, and believed that with the right leadership and investors things would turn around for Schenectady economically. I earned my MD in Milan, Italy and came back to Schenectady in 1992. for years I worked at Ellis Hospital and lived in the Mount Pleasant area and just saw it deteriorate day by day. To the point where our downtown was a ghost town. In medical terms the nucleus of our cell was dying. In 2009 my brother approached me to co-own a Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School. At first the idea of putting it in Schenectady was very limited because it looked like a ghost town like I said. As we were searching for a location outside Schenectady my brother had the pleasure of meeting the CEO, Dave Buicko of the Galesi Group. He was excited and ran to me with a vision of a new Schenectady. I was also excited but I am a very conscious person. I want to make sure. I was excited and I did my homework and networked we were all involved in the rebuilding of

---

Schenectady. I saw great leadership among the city, the Galesi Group, Metroplex, the Chamber and other entities. I know from experience that when people work together like they do success is bound to happen. They put people first and that is why they have had so much success in Schenectady to date. Look at Schenectady in 2009 and in 2014 5 years later, many great projects have been accomplished. In 2010 my brother and I opened the Paul Mitchell School right in the heart of downtown Schenectady across the street from Proctors. Another great attraction that we have. We invested just over \$2 million because we believed in the vision of economic growth and himself John Paul Dejoria came and actually saw Schenectady, saw there wasn't a lot of places, we were the third business coming down. It was still boarded up. He saw the vision, he saw Proctors and he said, "You know what, you have my blessing." And he personally did that. We thank the Mayor, Galesi Group, Metroplex and the city for their help. To date we have educated just over 400 students and have successfully place 86% in Schenectady and surrounding cities and towns. Now that we have been granted title 4 from the United State Department of Education, we project to double our student body and to date many jobs have been created. when we heard that a casino could become a reality in the city of Schenectady I was thrilled because we know that it would be the catalyst needed to further the economic growth that Schenectady is seeing right now. A few months ago I was approved by River's Casino, a month ago I men, because they would like me to put a Paul Mitchell Spa, day Spa in there. I was very happy because that would just create more jobs for many of my graduating students. In fact this morning, I don't know if you saw in the back, we brought some of the students here but they had to leave and we asked them to just, its on your own, you're not forced to come, if you believe in this then come and I believe 15 or 20 showed up. And there was no school today so they came on their own. I also believe that many graduating students from Schenectady County Community College will also have great opportunities for job placement and so will also my students graduating because we're going to run that around the clock so we'll have many more jobs available for them. I am here today to ask you to please consider the proposal to give Schenectady the catalyst it needs for then it can further grow and rebuild itself to the city it once was. I also want to let you know I am a resident of Schenectady. I reside about ¼-mile right from the site and the Paul Mitchell School is only ½ a mile from the site. The proposed Alco site is an excellent choice and it is close to the Amtrak bus station. The harbor...

Kevin Law: Sir your time is up.

Giuseppe Veglio: Amtrak, the bus station and the harbor is a nice touch, logistically it looks great. I ask you to please consider the River's Casino for Schenectady and help us further to grow and I thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next is Christina Drew. Is Christina here? Christina Drew is not here. So Ed Gilbert. Alright. 5 minutes

Ed Gilbert: Members of Gaming Facility and Location Board. I'm the Deputy Supervisor for the Town of East Greenbush and I'm pleased to voice my support for the Capital View Casino and Resort proposal. I am compelled to address a vocal minority opposed to this proposal, a group that has made it a priority to consistently oppose economic development opportunities to



---

the community. I'd like to point out that this familiar group of activists has a long history of challenging develop projects from FedEx to Home Depot. I'm reminded of their efforts every time I drive the intersection of Route 4 and 43 the vacant overgrown desolate properties that once had promise of economic vitality and prosperity. For more evidence of their blind and destructive opposition look no further than 30 miles away at the Luther Forest Technology Campus in Saratoga County, home to Global Foundries Chip Fabrication facility. The positive effect of the chip facility is staggering, creating thousands of jobs and increasing revenue to the town and county. It's hard to believe it has been 15 years since the invitation to host the nucleus of this semi-conductor industry that would transform our local economy was rejected by a group of uninformed dissidents in the neighboring North Greenbush. So it did not come as a surprise when this same group decided to declare the Capital View Casino and Resort proposal their next rival. Our focus should not be on deterring new business and growth based on the age old "not in my backyard" philosophy. Rather, we should seek to realize the potential benefits of Capital View Casino and Resort and ensure sustainable economic growth for future generations. Conveniently the opposition has stated their strict moral opposition to gambling and casinos. However when asked by a reporter, the leader of the group stated publicly they have no problem wit a casino stated anywhere besides East Greenbush. The proposal is too important to stand by idle and let full-time activists and those that have enlisted from other communities to lay or derail another economic project in East Greenbush. I speak to residents on a daily basis throughout East Greenbush and why there are valid concerns about the impact on things such as traffic; the overwhelming majority still welcomes the promise of reducing their devastating property tax bills and an increase in revenue to a fiscally strapped town. The hyperbole used by this small group...

Kevin Law: Let him finish please.

Ed Gilbert: ...is astounding and it's used over and over again with the claims they make when discussing the issue. We have been told time and again that the casino will be next door to a Girl Scout Camp and the Montessori School, and within walking distance to our high school. The casino is not next to any of these areas. It's strained credibility to claim that it is and only points out the desperate nature of this small group. A quick search of Google Map shows the proximity to all of these areas and you can plainly see that to claim the Girl Scout's camp or Montessori School is next to or that the high school is within walking distance of the casino is just patently false, as are many of their other claims. My children have gone through the school district and as any Board of Education member can tell you, I've been a lifelong protector of the East Greenbush Central School system. If I thought for one moment that this casino would negatively impact our children, I would be joining forces with those that are against the casino. But the truth is the casino will have a positive impact on our school system. East Greenbush, like so may other school systems in the state has had to deal with the state's imposition of a tax cap and the annual cutting of revenues from the budget. For more years I can remember, we've had to cut vital services in order to make ends meet. The impact of the revenue for the school district from property taxes will be a welcome relief to the East Greenbush taxpayer. We have heard ad nauseam from those that oppose this casino that they, in the words of Malcolm X, were took, hoodwinked, bamboozled and led astray. My only response to this is hogwash. The first vote

---

taken on this was at a normally scheduled town hall meeting. From that point on we had several public meetings for the public. To say that they were not informed is just not accurate. The fact is this well organized group doesn't like the way things turned. It doesn't mean they weren't heard, they were heard, the leadership is trying to do what's best for the town not just those in the vicinity of the casino. Our residents are hard working people and we value our community. A development of this scale is an unprecedented opportunity to create jobs, increase revenue for our schools and provide much needed property tax relief for East Greenbush and Rensselaer. We couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to partner with two such outstanding businesses that have had the tradition of community involvement integrity. Please do not allow the around the clock activists and their new found friends from around the state to hijack yet another economic development project that will benefit the residents of this town as a whole.

Dennis Glazer: Ed question for you. It was suggested to us earlier that the best way to find out the feelings of the community would be to take a referendum of the community but that the town did not want to go forward with a referendum. Was that discussed and rejected as an idea, and if so, why?

Ed Gilbert: The idea of the referendum was discussed, there was 2 things that, first we weren't sure legally whether we could hold a referendum in the short amount of time that we had, and number 2 was the cost of actually doing it.

Kevin Law: Okay thank you. Next Robert Smith. Guys let's have decorum in the room please. Is Robert Smith here? Not hearing Robert. Harsha Wyjesuria. Did I get that right Harsha?

Harsha Wyjesuria: Close.

Kevin Law: Thank you and you're on.

Harsha Wyjesuria: Good evening, thank you to the committee for taking the time to listen to the public opinion on what stands to be a monumental decision for the future of the Capital District. My name is Harsha Wyjesuria and I'm currently a Casino and Gaming Management Student at Schenectady County Community College. I'm also the Vice President of the Casino Gaming Student Association there as well as a member of President Asselin's President's list. I would like to start by saying myself and my fellow students are excited that the gaming industry is expanding in this area and offering an economic boost that we so desperately need. The program launched at SCC last August and attracted a diverse age range and background range through the doors and you said it was too late for you to go back to college, we have a 65 year old gentleman that is in the program right now currently and it really rejuvenated my want to go back to school after 10 years of being away to just learn and grow with this exciting industry. With the expansion exists the great opportunity for our program at the College to set up a strong relation with the selected location. Therefore with its proximity to the campus, I feel the best site is the River's Casino and Resort project at Mohawk Harbor. Not only would it make a great tool for the students to learn the industry thoroughly, yet in return offer the River's Casino a wonderful outlet to add local talent to their staff. The relationship has the possibility to be much more

---

expansive than just the casino operation segment. Currently, Schenectady County Community College hosts one of the best culinary programs not only in New York State but in the country as well as a fantastic hotel and tourism program. Opening up the perfect opportunity to segway students into the jobs locally which keeps the money local as well. I often hear the argument that students have been leaving the area. This relationship can only allow the local workforce a great avenue and plenty of optimism to building their future here in the area. Furthermore, you couple the local savvy of a local developer like the Galesi Group with the extremely reputable casino developer like Rush Street and it leads to create a powerhouse operation. This gives further opportunity for our students to work within the Rush Street Family Casinos which has been acclaimed, as you've heard all evening long as one of the top casino developers in the industry. So, once again, I thank you for your time. I know 12 hours of sitting here through comments is tough but I appreciate the opportunity to let me speak. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Harsha. Harsha was that part of your act. What did somebody just lean on a switch or something? I need your helmet so I could read my notes. I need your light. Does that come off? Okay. Alright. Trevor Benyak. Is Trevor here?

Trevor Benyak: Hi, my name is Trevor Benyak, I'm an employee of River's Casino in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a Rush Street gaming owned property. Rush Street Gaming is a company that makes promises to communities that they have no intention of keeping and Pittsburgh is a shining example. They said they're create good jobs for our city but instead delivered below industry standard wages, benefits and policy practices. Even the Pittsburgh City Council passed a resolution last year asking Rivers to "keeps its promise of good jobs for our community". I don't think they're a company to be trusted and I'm here today to share my own personal experiences of how Rush Street Gaming really treats its employees. I was hired a part-time bar tender at Rivers in April 2013. However from my first day on the job until very recently I worked 40 hours per week by picking up extra shifts a practice that was not only accepted but told it as a perk for new employees during our new hire orientation. They boasted that any employee full or part-time who worked an average of 32 hours per week in any 90-day period was eligible for the company's health insurance and other benefits the full-time workers were entitled. I worked as much as I could and was able to sign up for healthcare right at my first 90 days with the company. Many of my coworkers did the same thing. But then this June all of a sudden, and without warning, River's changed its policy. During a preshift meeting my manager told me and my coworkers that part-time employees could no longer work over 30 hours. He said that giving insurance to the employees who would newly be eligible for healthcare would be too costly for the company and that by limiting healthcare eligibility to full-time employees; the company would save approximately \$650,000. It was really hard to stand there and listen to him tell me the Rush Street Gaming was taking away the healthcare I had worked so hard for. It's been equally as hard trying to adjust to losing a significant portion of my income over \$600 a month just so Rush Street Gaming could put more money in their pockets. We had no time to adjust to the new policy. Last week for instance, I was only scheduled for 22 hours. For most of us it meant that we would need to find second part-time jobs. It had a huge impact on my life. My car needs several repairs that I can't afford, I've had to cancel vacations that I've had planned for over a year, I have to consistently turn down

---

requests from friends to hang out with them because I can't afford. I can't even imagine what my coworkers who have families to support are going through. They could have given us the option of becoming full-time employees since we've been working full-time hours anyway, but no, they didn't and rather than letting us pick up extra shifts like we used to, they're hiring more part-time workers, more people who aren't eligible for the company's health plan. At the very least they could have at least given us a few months warning so we could figure out how to make up for the loss in pay, but they didn't and here I am as well are my other coworkers scrambling to make ends meet. In addition to the cut income and revocation of healthcare benefits there are the daily inconsistencies in the execution and enforcement of policies. Our work schedules change constantly making it hard to plan a life outside of the casino. Even to be able to be here today I had to switch my scheduled twice after it was posted because they kept changing it. Another example is their constant lack of support to bartenders who want to stop serving intoxicated guests. In the State of Pennsylvania it's illegal to serve guests who appear intoxicated. But River's doesn't care. I was specifically told by my supervisor to keep serving a clearly intoxicated guest because that guest had spent a lot of money on a banquet there earlier in the night. My supervisor said that it would be on the casino if something happened to him, not me. I'm glad I didn't listen to him that night to find out. Employee turnover is ridiculously high at the casino. Just this past week 3 bartenders were fired, morale is low and I see people come and go so quickly that it's hard to keep track of it all. It really undermines our ability to do our jobs well. Would turnover be so high if it really was the best place to work? And speaking of that title, we were ordered to fill out the job survey by being offered cash giveaways and gift cards for full disclose. I did win a gift card. We haven't been told the matrix for the contest nor the competitors involved, so it's a title I would take with a grain of salt. As a bartender with over 8 years experience in the profession, never have I felt more expendable and less valued than I have at Rivers. I'm an employee that scores extremely high on our internal reviews, consistently earning scores of 100 or in the high 90s. I have no performance write-ups and have been told by management that they considered me to be a strong bartender. I'm doing everything right and yet Rush Street Gaming doesn't care about how they've affected my life. All Rush Street Gaming cares about is lining their pockets and they're willing to make empty promises of good jobs to the community and its new and future employees to do it. Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Trevor before you go, a couple of questions for you. You live in the Pittsburgh area?

Trevor Benyak: I do. I've lived there for 12 years.

Dennis Glazer: How did you come here today, did you fly or drive?

Trevor Benyak: I was flown in.

Dennis Glazer: And who paid your way?

Trevor Benyak: The Local 57 Unite here.

---

Dennis Glazer: Are you a member of the union?

Trevor Benyak: We are currently in the process of fitting for a fair process so I'm not under union contract right now.

Dennis Glazer: But you hope to be?

Trevor Benyak: Yes, certainly.

Dennis Glazer: We've heard obviously different things, management employees tell us that things are good with the employees and we've now had 3 employees tell us otherwise. Can you tell us what's going on, on the union issues and be as honest as you can. You're not an advocate, I want some honest answers.

Trevor Benyak: I actually prepared a small section that I cut earlier. Would you mind if I read it?

Dennis Glazer: I would just like you to answer my question actually instead of reading what somebody else wrote. I really want to hear.

Trevor Benyak: No, I wrote that whole speech by the way. I spent all last night actually working on it. We're the casino constantly has shown that they are willing to violate the law to continue to harass and coerce us in our efforts to organize to stand up for our rights. Some people ask why we don't have elections, they've been found guilty of coercing and harassing employees in those elections and they have violated over 20 some unfair labor practices and we've had signs posted all throughout the casino saying that they won't do that again hopefully.

Dennis Glazer: Are there unions at the casino already?

Trevor Benyak: No, we're in the process of organizing right now.

Dennis Glazer: So not just your specialty but...

Trevor Benyak: All the hourly employees except security and dealers, they won't be included under a union contract if we have one.

Dennis Glazer: Thanks for your answers.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Joe Diguilio. Is Joe here? John Torino?

John Torino: Thank you Board for having me. My name is John Torino, I'm a longtime resident of East Greenbush and I support Capital View Casino and Resort. I support Capital View for many reasons you have already heard today. They are a trusted local owner and operator, their proposal will create thousands of jobs and provide guaranteed annual revenue to both the town

---

and the county. Despite what you've heard from a small but dedicated army of activists who are well known for their opposition to every economic development proposal in the town, their proposal site is a perfect location for Capital View Casino. I am here to do my part to save East Greenbush from the group that calls themselves "Save East Greenbush" or as some of us call them "The same old, against virtually everything." The same old story every time no matter what comes up. There's always them people that have something to say about it. There's 10 to 12 homes, the residents up on Thompson Hill where they live, but they're in the middle of the mess of everything. They have a Wal-Mart, Target, they're in the commercial corridor Home Depot is there. Like people have said earlier, there's 25 other stores there so it's really not an impact, I mean a little bit but traffic is there, it's going to be there no matter what. The people that, I don't want to call them, "Not in my backyard" protestors but no matter what we bring, want to bring to the town it's not going to work for them no matter what it is. We could bring anything. We could bring a new McDonald's into town, it's going to be a problem. I don't know if anybody, they've actually taken a look where the Capital View Casino is going to go, but the woman earlier from the Girl Scouts, Ms. Buzowski I think her name is, she was on the news last week and I mean the site that Capital View is going to put in is more than 3200 square feet or 2/3 of a mile away from her camp. She should walk the property. She walked it with the news guy last week but I don't think she went through the woods because there's a mountain, there's a hill, there's wooded area, even when they do build it if it does come to East Greenbush, even from her camp you won't even see it because it sits down inside a big valley. So she could stand right on her tree line, her back, they still won't see it. We have a lot of opposition here today from the town of East Greenbush and someone had early asked where the funding was coming from for their signs. I mean this is nothing, they have billboards. Billboards cost money, I know, I'm a contractor in the town. I had a billboard once it cost me \$3200 for the month. I mean they have billboards, they have, me personally I can't figure it out but if I can get somebody to back me, to back the casino which they don't need my money, I would do it 100% because I have 2 little kids. I've been paying school taxes in the town of East Greenbush for over 16 years and have not had children in the schools. My daughter just started first grade, my son's 4 he will be starting kindergarten next year so I want to take advantage of the past 16 years that I've been paying school taxes to use the schools. I don't want to leave East Greenbush and I think a casino in East Greenbush would be great for everything. For my kids, I'll stay there to raise my kids there. I'm not going to run away because there's a casino. There's no crime. I frequently visit Saratoga Racing, I frequently visit Turning Stone, Atlantic City. You go up the casino in Saratoga, you drive through their neighborhoods, there's no crime there, there's nobody standing in the streets. There's nobody selling drugs on the corner where you pull in. the place is clean, the neighborhood is clean the only time there's traffic up there is when there's a big event at SPAC. That's basically it. So I mean, I said my peace, thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next is Stephanie Cash, Stephanie Cash. Greg Burns. Joseph Nicola. Greg or Joseph? Joseph you're on deck if you're here.

Greg Burns: Good evening my name's Gregory Scott Burns. I live in Saratoga Springs. I'm here to speak of the positive relationship that can exist between a casino or gambling institution and the local community. I've been coaching rec soccer for the city for the better part of a

---

decade or more and we had the good Racino that offers the land to the city for the rec soccer program. It's been a positive, it's been a win-win. So it is possible that there is a benefit. It's not all negative. I am here just to discuss the possibility of a positive win-win.

Dennis Glazer: For any casino or one specific one.

Greg Burns: Specifically East Greenbush has some trouble with the Girls Scouts, I'm sure other towns have problems as well. But there are positive opportunities if we look for them.

Kevin Law: Thanks for sharing.

Greg Burns: Thanks you enjoy your evening.

Kevin Law: Joseph Nicola.

Joseph Nicola: Right here. Sonny Bonnacio is going to join me if that's okay.

Kevin Law: As long as you're sharing your time.

Joseph Nicola: Yes. My name is Joe Nicola and I'm the President of Columbia Development and here today to support River's Casino. And I have to tell you I've know Dave Buicko, the Galesi Group and those folks for a very, very long time, 25 years to be exact and one of the things that we've done as a company and we recognize them as a company is that we take on very tough, very challenging, very transformational projects. Some of you may know that we've done the Wellington Project or 677 and projects like that, that are very hard, very difficult very challenging. They're union projects. This is the same type of project that David is taking on. It's very hard, it's very transformational. It's a union project. And when you look at these lands they're fallow. They have nothing to do. If this, then what. If not this then what? So we really need to look at this project as being one of those projects where you sit back and you say you have a company with unbelievable integrity, unbelievable wherewithal, every time they complete something they complete it on time. David has been my partner, my competitor and I look at him as one of the foremost people in this region and the folks that they've hooked up with to be their partner in the casino this is again, if not this then what? And this is a transformational project that will be union that will unbelievably help this county.

Dennis Glazer: Can I just ask, what type of development does Columbia do? What type of development do you do?

Joseph Nicola: I am a commercial developer. We own about 7 million square feet of commercial real estate.

Dennis Glazer: Office, retail?

Joseph Nicola: Office, retail, industrial.

---

Kevin Law: Okay thank you. And who's your colleague?

Sonny Bonnacio: Hi, Sonny Bonnacio, Bonnacio Construction of Saratoga Springs. I wanted to echo some of the things that Joe had said. We have done a lot of transformational projects in Saratoga, we've done about a million square feet in Saratoga and I've worked with the CFO of Galesi Dave Buicko on a couple of projects that were tremendously difficult that we couldn't get pulled off but once we pulled him in, his creativity, we were able to bring an urban infill project the theater and also the grocery store with the residential components. All the components that the Galesi Group is used to doing in doing these urban transformational projects. They're difficult. He has a phenomenal team. Teaming up with Rush, they've got a team that has done this before. Neil has done over \$50 billion worth of projects in the country. Dave is, I would say the foremost developer in the Capital District. They shake your hand, they do what they say they're going to do. We've done \$120 million projects both partnering and for Dave recently completely an \$18 million project which was housing for homeless veterans in Schenectady on Broadway. It was done as Joe had said. We work completely with the unions on all the construction aspects of it. I was born and raised in Saratoga. I watched what, if a community supports gambling, what it can actually do for a community. And I think that Schenectady is that community. I think that Alco is ready for that project and I would hope that you guys would issue them the gambling license. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Joseph and Sonny. Now for our last group of folks who pre-registered is Joanne Recter here?

Joanne Recter: Hi, my name is Joanne Recter and I am an East Greenbush resident. I'd like to first thank you for operating such a professionally run venue for us in which to speak and to let you know that this is the very first time that the East Greenbush citizens have been treated with respect. I was going to give you the gift of 4 1/2 minutes but hearing Ed Gilbert speak, I can't do that. Ed Gilbert is living, he's created like this fairytale story of what's taking place in East Greenbush. It is not based in reality. They talk about the fact that we're a small faction and they talk about the silent majority that has never shown up. They've never been to the town hall meetings in more than a handful of speakers. We, who were never politically engaged before, are taking time away from soccer games with our kids and time with our family and friends to appear at these events even though we're stuffed into town hall venues in which we don't have seating. People are stuffed out in the halls, they're not allowed to speak, they're spilling out on the streets. The elderly people drive past because they can't even find a space to park. This is the way we've been treated throughout this process. It's like Dorothy's spinning house in the Wizard of Oz. on April 14<sup>th</sup> a casino plan landed thud right on the top of beautiful Thompson Hill and we've been trying to play catch up ever since because of this deception, this process in which we were purposely kept in the dark. When people asked Supervisor Langley how he could vote so quickly on the most important proposal that this town has ever seen, he said, "Well he had only just found out about it and that the gaming commissions timeline was so tight that he just had to put forth this vote quickly." Well we smelled a rat and we foiled and we asked around and low and behold, lose lip town employees and friends told us they had known months



---

before but they were sworn to secrecy to keep us in the dark. Foil notes backed up this strategy, really a dirty way to treat the citizens of the town. He's talking about the fact that we have some financial source of money where we're putting up billboards all over the place and throwing money around. He doesn't know what he's talking about. We had a billboard up for 3 weeks and we passed the hat. I put in \$50 somebody else put in \$125. We'd buy lawn signs. I bought them one time somebody else buys them another time. We didn't know each other. There was a small core group of people that watched the town board for years and they did it because of the fiscal mismanagement and the shenanigans that had been taking place. I had heard about it and I though, you know, what can they do to this town? I know that there's been people writing checks for overtime when they're paid salary employees and those kind of things, change out of this board member and such that they haven't produced an audit since 2009, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. They can't even manage a hot dog stand let alone a project of this scope that requires oversight. And they don't care about oversight. They're in it. We don't know the specifics, but we're there. We're there. We didn't know each other before. We've come together, they're going to get voted out. Even one of the town board members even said that, we know we're not going to get reelected, and they shouldn't. So I was going to give you 4 1/2 minutes but I had to step up and.

Kevin Law: You gave us 30 seconds.

Joanne Recter: I gave you 30 seconds, so thank you. Thank you for your respect.

Kevin Law: And Joanne I want to actually thank you and your group because I know we've been educated here today that it's a very important issue in your community and emotions are running high and you've all acted professionally and rationally and sincere with us too. So thank you. Next is Judith McGuire.

Judith McGuire: What a great lead in from Joanne. Thank you very much. And she is right it's grassroots. I didn't know any, well 2 of these folks I knew starting in April. I didn't know any of the rest of them and we've come together for a common cause. I live in East Greenbush 1 1/2 miles from Thompson Hill the proposed site of Capital View Casino and Resort. I strongly disagree that a casino should be built anywhere in this town but particularly not on that hill, the quiet area zoned residential buffer serving as a transition between the commercial activities along Route 4 and more rural activities on the hill. I don't believe a casino sitting in the middle of this suburban area would deliver anything but disorder. The proposed site is entirely inappropriate for our community. I believe a casino would be a permanent blight on our quality of life and bring with it crime, a decline in property values and a diminished peace of mind. I have a nightmared vision of traffic congestion on Route 4 heading in and out of that site which I believe would be noisy all the time. Noise is not a neighbor, it's an enemy of community life. What offends me most is East Greenbush residents had no say in its town board's unanimous vote in April to approve the Casino proposal. You've heard all of this. No one in the community knew this proposal and its approval were coming. All the public hearings occurred after the proposal had been approved behind closed doors. Public hearings that eventually took place resulted in overwhelming disapproval of the casino. At every opportunity when the public

---

voiced its opinions the results was majority disapproval of the proposal. It should be clear that the majority of residents of East Greenbush do not want a casino. The town board's actions on the proposal should not be taken into account because they do not represent the wishes of the residents. Now here's something to think about, on November 3, 2015 there will be a town election. If the casino proposal is still alive it will most likely be a major campaign issue. Given the strong opposition it is highly likely that a least 1 or 2 casino supporters will be replaced by the opponents. In January 2016 when they take office they will likely reverse support for a casino. If this happens, the state gaming commission will have to start the siting process all over and that's another nightmare. Instead of building a casino, our town board should be continuing to seek ways to build up businesses in this area, some of which has already been done, which I believe would be irreparably harmed by a casino taking away their customers and services. Thank you for listening and please visit Thompson Hill to see what we're talking about. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Joseph Mulharen. Joseph. Quinton Curtis. Is this Quinton?

Quinton Curtis: Hello, my name is Quinton Curtis. I'm not a professional speaker so I hope you guys give me a little leeway here.

Kevin Law: We'll give you a lot of leeway not extra time.

Quinton Curtis: Thank you. A lot of people I've heard speaking of why they don't want this casino in East Greenbush and I agree with them. People feel that they have been tricked. We have. I mean Albany had the chance for a casino, they turned it down. They said it wasn't right for Albany. But you have the Mayor here today saying East Greenbush is going to be a perfect place for a casino because it's going to bring jobs for Albany. It's going to bring money into Albany. But they did they vote it down in the first place. If Albany is a depressed place, they should have voted for it. They didn't. When the casino came to East Greenbush they said, we're going to create jobs for East Greenbush you are a depressed place. You need the casino for the money. I'm sorry I lived in a depressed place, I lived on First Street between Henry Johnson Boulevard and Lexington Avenue. I grew up there. That is a depressed place. East Greenbush is not a depressed place. We have a great school, it's a blue ribbon great school in that depressed area. What is a blue ribbon school you ask? That's for education, excellence in education. When exams come out they're usually in the top 3 in the Capital District for their test and stuff. I'm sorry if it was a depressed area how come those kids are doing so well in the school? I ask you, it's not a depressed place. I think they say we're a little over 3% on unemployment. The people of East Greenbush should have the choice whether a casino goes into the town. Not Albany, not Schodack, no the people from Nassau, not the people from Saratoga. But the residents of East Greenbush should have the final say. We have not had the say. We found out one of the board members that voted it through with no problem, she had to recuse herself because her brother owns property up there. It took her almost 4 months to find out that her brother owned property? She should have never voted in the first place. We had another board member state, "Well I was lied to so I'm not going to vote for it." So now we have 3 members that are voting for it. We have been lied to. They said all the jobs were going to be for East

---

Greenbush because we needed them. Now they made the deal 25% of the jobs have to come from Albany. We are now giving Albany \$11 million over 10 years. That's a lot. The casino is going to start our 300 room bedrooms, it's now down to 100. The entertainment center that they were supposed to have, world-class entertainment is going to be half the size. Every time we turn around it changes again and again and again. I'm sorry. There's other areas that want the casino, the people back it. You can see them here, they want the casino. East Greenbush is here, they don't want it. It should be up to the people, not special interest groups, not even the politicians, because the politicians are not listening to the people of East Greenbush. It's up to the people. These people here want the casino, they should have it whether it's going to work or not, that's up to see. What it says, not really. Casinos are in the down climb. You look in Atlantic City closing. Across the country down 30%. Is it going to work out? I don't know but it should be only up to the residents of those towns to decide and the politicians should do their wish not of the special interest groups. I see my time's getting short and I appreciate for you to listen to me and it's nice that somebody is eventually listening to us and I hope you people make the right decision. There's other communities that want it, they should get the casino if they want it. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Quinton, you fooled us, you did a very good job. Elizabeth Chinery or Chinery. Okay that's it for the registered and now back to the other list. Noah Carson Nelson.

Noah Carson Nelson: Hello. My name is Noah Carson Nelson like you just said. I work at River's Casino in Des Plaines but I'm from upstate. And it's really important to me that my home region has good jobs and that's why I'm here today. I'm here to tell you what its like to work for Rush Street Casino much like others have today but like I said, I'm a server. I work in the buffet at Rivers Des Plaines outside of Chicago and as a server, tips are the majority part of my total pay. In our industry as I'm sure you know, customers often get free drinks or meals to encourage them to stick around or if something happened with guest service. These comped meals are a big part of the meals I serve, sometimes up to 65% of my day. But guess what, guests who are comped rarely leave a tip. I guess, I think if their meal is paid for by the company they assume the service is as well. And that's often how it is, but that's not the way it is at River's. at most casinos and high end hotel companies those tips are comped on meals because otherwise the comps are like a pay cut for servers, like I said, not where I work. We don't get compensated by the company for those. So, I noticed this and for a few weeks the other services and I tracked the trend for comped meals and calculated what we were making daily from losing from those tips what we might have been making. And over half of us realized that we were losing at least \$100 each week. One of those weeks I discovered myself that I was losing over \$200. when we asked our managers very politely and all that why the company didn't pay on comps like many other companies like ours do, they told us that we should be grateful for the comps because otherwise there wouldn't be any business at all. I was confused as to how we were supposed to be grateful to serving comped meals when we were basically doing it for free and sometimes being taxed on money that we were in fact not making. This is the kind of disrespect that has motivated me to be organizing at my casino for a fair process to gain respect at the job. Other examples of reasons I'm organizing are many instances of

---

humiliation from management and including human resources because I'm a queer person. Like I said these are the kinds of disrespect that I experience daily and why I'm organizing at Rivers.

Dennis Glazer: If you're successful in your organization efforts, do you think the problems that you and some of the other works have been describing would be resolved?

Noah Carson Nelson: From what I know, yes. I haven't done this before but I have mentors who have. I have met with a lot of people who have organized their casinos for a fair process to gain respect at the job before and the working environment has changed for those people. It has become a respectful environment where you don't feel like your tiptoeing around all the time.

Dennis Glazer: Because I guess one of the issues for us to consider is that because of the New York process, there is an agreement in advanced that the workers would be organized, so...

Noah Carson Nelson: I don't know too much about that. I've heard a little. I do know what it's like to work for a Rush Street Gaming Company and that's what I can share and like I said it's important for me to know that there are good jobs in my home region. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thanks Noah. Okay so we have, we've got about 35 minutes, we've got several more speakers who want to speak and to the extent you want to bring something new that we maybe haven't heard today that would be great because we have heard a lot of you loud and clear throughout the day. We have no doubt that Schoharie wants... So to the extent any of you are still left to sign up and you want to seed your time to us that would be great. We've heard you loud and clear. Same thing we've heard from the East Greenbush Community and we've heard you loud and clear as well. So, as I call out your names, certainly from Schenectady as well, I'm just saying the predominant ones of the day. So as I go through the remainder of the list of you want to seed your time because we've heard you that would be terrific. And so I will now go through the rest of the list. Jacob Rosner. And if you're not here that's even better. Andrew, oh Jacob sorry. I take that back you are here.

Dennis Glazer: You know what they say Jacob, be funny, be brief and be seated.

Jacob Rosner: Well thank you folks. My name is Jacob Rosner. I am the host of River's Casino in Des Plaines just outside of Chicago. I've been there for almost 2 ½ years. I started there at the Canopy buffet as a host and I've now hosted for almost 2 years at the Hugo's Frog Barn Chop House. It's the fine dining steakhouse in the casino in Des Plaines. Each year our work performance is graded in a 5 point scale at Rivers. 1 is the lowest grade you can get, 5 is the highest. At my first annual review I was told I was performing very well, extraordinarily well even but my grade was only a 3 out of 5 and I was told that this did not qualify me for a good raise. For that, I would have had to get a 4 or higher. So I asked my manager, what would I have had to do to get a 4? How can I be better at my job? In no uncertain terms, my manager at the time told me that if I wanted to get a 4, I would have to come in on my off day, not clocked in and scrub the walls. Why should I have to do that? I work hard at my job as a host and I do my job well. It is extremely disrespectful to tell someone that they have to come in on their off

---

day, not clocked in to earn a good grade on the annual review. That's why I am organizing with my coworkers for a fair process so we can put an end to the disrespect.

Kevin Law: Thank you Jacob. Andrew Beresch.

Andrew Beresch: thank you guys for giving me the opportunity to speak this evening. As it's been said, my name is Andrew Beresch, I work at Reform Architecture in Schenectady. We're working on the Mohawk Harbor proposal which the River's Edge Casino is a part of. So a few months ago I graduated college and I was starting my first job, looking for an apartment and I decided I wanted to live in Schenectady. Just commuting through Schenectady every day I realized there was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and excitement about downtown and specifically the Stockade which is where I now live. I walk through downtown every day on my way to the office and I walk through downtown on my way home everyday. I live about 1/3 of a mile from the Alco location where the casino is proposed and I know I'm still new to the area and maybe there's a lot of nuance I haven't picked up on yet but I see only benefits to a casino on Alco. There's been a tremendous amount of investment and time and energy committed to revitalizing Schenectady. It was once a great city and it's on the right track back to being a great city. I wouldn't have chosen to live there if I didn't feel that way. I wouldn't have chosen to work there if I didn't feel that way. And I think the River's Casino at Mohawk Harbor is a major piece of that puzzle to bringing Schenectady back to the electric city, the great city it once was. And the Galesi Group and Rush Street Gaming I think they're the right people to do it and I was fortunate enough to graduate and have a job upon graduation. A lot of my friends and classmates were not so fortunate. A lot of other people my age not so fortunate. So, by granting a license to put a casino in Schenectady you're helping people my age find a job and you're investing in the next generation of citizens in this city and in this area and helping to pass the torch and leave a good legacy for those who follow after you. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Great. Thank you Andrew. Job well done. Doug Sales or Salis.

Doug Salis: I appreciate your time. I wonder how much you can stand of this but I'll try to be brief if not funny. My family has been in Schenectady since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both my grandfather's were Schenectady cops, my dad was Assistance Superintendent of Schools. You heard a lot today about the issues with the school system. I've been working on redevelopment of Schenectady for the last 15 years and as a matter of fact my part-time job is really to give people tours of Schenectady to show how much it's changed over the period of time since we've been working on this. Something I don't think people realize is that over a million people come a year to attend events in Schenectady. 650,000 at Proctors, over 200,000 at the movie theater and probably another 150 and change come to Schenectady Light Opera and Pacific Player. So we are a major regional draw already. We've drawn demographic maps of where the people who visit Proctors come from and it's from hours away. It goes from Utica up to Glens Falls, south to Poughkeepsie and is a major event center for major shows. We actually drawn the Times Union Center from that standpoint. The rebirth of downtown is really a history of the partnerships between the different people that are loving this city and continue to love this city. We've had partnerships with the community college, the Capital District YMCA. You heard

---

Dave Brown speak earlier, the public schools actually have their pool operated by the YMCA. So one thing we know how to do is use private public partnerships to leverage whatever type of funds that are available to us. We're the one county in the whole state that actually has a public authority that reinvests county sales tax dollars back in the downtown and it's been a major, major benefit in terms of us making good use of the properties that we've redeveloped. As far as the Mohawk goes and I think this is the key thing is our area is actually called the Western Gateway. This was the last navigable part of the Mohawk River and where this casino is to be sited is actually at that location. So I closing I just want to say that my family loves the city. My son has come back, he's 24 years old, he's come back, he's opened a cross fit business in the city and we're bullish on Schenectady, we're bullish on the casino and we believe that we can make excellent use of the opportunity we're provided by having the casino located in Schenectady. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Susan McGuyver.

Susan McGuyver: Hello again, and thank you. First I'd just like to say how proud I am today to be from Schoharie County and to be for Howe Caverns Casino. And I can't be any prouder of our fire departments that are here today as well. Also the support that we've had today from Montgomery County and from other people in the room. I just can say thank you and thank you to you all for sitting there all day long and for listening to all of us again. I don't think I can say it any clearer to you that our entire county needs this, we want this and we have a heart so big, look at us please, listen to us. I believe that this gentleman is on the list to talk as well, Don Massey. Because if so, I'd like to give the rest of my time to him.

Don Massey: Thank you Susan. I appreciate this opportunity as well. My name is Don Massey, I've lived and work both in Schoharie County and Montgomery County for over 20 years. I've been involved in this process with Susan. I was able to be in the audience when I saw the presentation 2 weeks ago and I think the key for me and I've heard it spoken even tonight here is transformational. This is a transformational process. Just as the folks from East Greenbush are here together on common cause, this is transformational, the people here the rally yesterday at Howe Caverns on a beautiful September afternoon over a thousand people, this has made a difference already in Schoharie County. It's positive impacts in terms of the jobs, in terms of the funding for local government, schools, highways, first responders as we have here, the tax relief for towns, villages and counties. It's an economic engine that would synergize the existing areas already that we have here in tourism, local businesses. There's a trickle down effect. I heard earlier one of the presenters talked about the hard rock in terms of placement and where it has the biggest impact. Not in the middle of nowhere. Well these folks are not from the middle of nowhere and in fact this will have an impact over an enormous region including Montgomery County, Schoharie County, Otsego County at a minimum. Lastly, the ACRC came as well. They're experienced, they have a proven track record, along with Mr. Amo Galaso who has already proven himself for decades in Cobleskill and Schoharie County. Therefore in closing, I just want to say it is our time.

Dennis Glazer: I was just wondering what's going to happen if a fire breaks out back home?

---

Kevin Law: Okay. Thank you Susan and Don. Next up pair Steve Ackerknecht and Brian Kaiser.

Steve Ackerknecht: Thank you gentleman, Steve Ackerknecht and I serve as Vice President of the State University of New York at Cobleskill and I'm here today representing SUNY Cobleskill which is an outstanding college in Schoharie Valley we're all very proud of. As a proud town supporter and community partner, SUNY Cobleskill is confident that the Howe Caverns Resort and Casino projects economic and recreational impact will contribute to the overall quality of life in beautiful Schoharie County. As a partner the college is poised to build upon its current expertise to develop educational programs, certifications, workshops and associate and bachelor degrees to benefit the gaming industry. In addition the Howe Caverns Resort and Casino would serve as an internship site for our students and our existing business administration and culinary arts management programs. Because the college focuses on applied education and career preparation, resort and casino is a natural setting for students to pursue internships and since internships often turn into jobs, students may choose to remain in this area and raise their families. Such career opportunities provide one more reason for our graduates to see Schoharie County and New York State as their permanent home. Once again, on behalf of SUNY Cobleskill, our students, staff, faculty and over 3000 individuals, we thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Howe Caverns Resort and Casino project. I look forward to the opportunities for the partnership that this magnificent project will bring. Also, as a 28 year resident of Schoharie County and community member and leader I personally am excited about this project as well. The proposal, the casino is an ideal location that will serve as a distinctive destination resort for the northeast, an entity that will provide a significant a number of jobs for local and regional residents. Clearly the Howe Caverns location has excellent access to major New York State highway system, a qualified workforce, a beautiful location and a very safe, and I can't stress the issue of safety in a rural community that you often won't have in inner cities or metropolitan areas and it's truly, truly an area that's a welcome community that will benefit it's visitors in a true resort experience. Truly it's our time. Schoharie County's time, so please take time to consider this proposal, see it from it's complete perspective and see everything we have to offer. We would appreciate that very much. Thank you very much.

Brian Kaiser: My name is Brian Kaiser and I'm the President of the Cobleskill Partnership, a not-for-profit organization that represents roughly 65 residents and small businesses in Cobleskill and I'm here tonight in support of this project. Largely on their behalf but also as a resident of the county for the last 21 years. I have to be honest I've seen a steady decline in the economic conditions of Schoharie County to an alarming state. We've had some successful but frankly the floods of a few years ago devastated Schoharie County. This isn't a matter of want this because it's clear that we want this. This is a matter that we need this. Schoharie County needs a shot in the arm. This in my opinion is the best shot we've had in a very long time and I urge you to grant us that opportunity. We'll do you proud. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Dale Noonaman.

---

Dale Noonaman: I just want to say one thing, you talk about the firemen. These firemen are here but there's a whole bunch of firemen that couldn't be here because of what they had to do to cover. We need shot, this is what East Greenbush is saying, they don't want it. We want it. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Dale. Thank you Dale. Len Welcome.

Len Welcome: Evening, yes, my name is Leonard Welcome, I'm a Rensselaer County Legislator from District 1 the City of Troy. I'm speaking in support of the City of Rensselaer's proposal for a casino. There are 2 main reasons for this: number one is its location. It's by far the best location of all proposals. Rensselaer is directly across the river from the State capital and just south of the city of Troy which is the largest city in Rensselaer County. It has a first class train station right next to the site. It's only 3 miles from the international miles. It has easy access to major highways north, south, east and west and also has access from the Hudson River. The second reason I love this proposal is its entertainment product. The Hard Rock Café is a first class international internment business. The Hard Rock will draw people from all over even if the gambling economy slows down at times, the Hard Rock will definitely keep it going. I understand whatever site you chose will create jobs and will help the local community however I believe the Hard Rock can keep this gaming and entertainment casino going for the long haul. I encourage this Board to consider city of Rensselaer. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Kristen Diot. Kristen? Larry Novik. Christy Fretcio. Diana Jackson. A lot of people told us earlier that their neighbors made the same points they were going to make and they were leaving. So I guess these were some of them. Sara Blood. Jim Connell or Connell. John DeFrancisco. They must have all been on that same bus. John DeFrancisco coming up.

John DeFrancisco: My name is John DeFrancisco, I represent the third ward and sit on the Common Council in the City of Rensselaer. In my time on the council we have passed two budgets staying under the 2% cap. In doing so we have raised fees, reduced manpower and services to comply with this and other mandates along with the cost operating our city. Rensselaer has 66% of nontaxable income in our city. This is an unfair burden to the residents of Rensselaer as our costs go up. Our citizens are the breaking point. Any increase is forcing those on low to moderate income, fixed income and our senior citizens to abandoning their homes and dreams by way of foreclosure or sale. This is not what they thought would happen to them when they made their investment. The pride of ownership is disappearing in Rensselaer because they can no longer afford the cost of their home. This does not mean they buy a new smaller house in another community but are forced to face the rest or the end of their life living in uncertain terms to survive not as they had planned, because they can no longer afford to pay for their house, taxes, utilities, medical and prescriptions, food, gas, insurance and transportation along with every other increase we face. Many have to make the tough decision of what they can live without to continue. It is heartbreaking talking to residents who cannot afford to pay or have to cut everything they can and are struggling to make it. They're on the verge of being forced in their life as they know it and planned because of the cost of ownership is more than they can now afford. The city is an old one and our infrastructure is collapsing beneath us. The cost of repairs



---

along with the cost to operate our city will only go up as everything else does. The city did not get to this point from mismanagement. Our city and the people have reached the saturating point and can absorb no more. We have demonstrated the need and support to bring a casino to our city. We will face different challenges if selected but believe we can stay on top of them. The road we are on now is consuming our city's residents. We were once the middle class, now we see our demise and are going the way of the dinosaur. Our city needs help. Please make Rensselaer a destination the state can be proud of not residents forced to move out of. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you John. Patricia Beatle. Patricia. Bobby Reno or Reno. Joanne Conway. Joanne.

Joanne Conway: Anyway my name is Joanne Conway I've lived in East Greenbush for 26 years. My husband I raised 2 beautiful boys in this beautiful community. I don't want a casino in East Greenbush. I just have 2 really quick points. The Mayor's of Rensselaer and Schenectady have spoken. Legislators from the Howe Caverns area have spoken. Where is East Greenbush Supervisor Keith Langley? 2 weeks ago he sat with the developers at their public meeting so why isn't he here to stand with the residents? He isn't here because he knows the residents do not want the casino. Mr. Langley is looking out for the interest of the developers not the residents of East Greenbush. Second, the \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor who spoke earlier is not elected. He was appointed. He is not the voice of the community. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Charles Moore. Charles Moore. I'm sorry. Scott Gordon. Guys we've done great all day, let's not ruin it now. Scott Gordon. Alan Rosenberg. Maurison de Absalom. Reverend Philip Grisby. Ronald Quartaman. Almost there folks. Lisa Walters. Art Barelle.

Art Barelle: Thank you very much for this opportunity. My name is Art Barelle and I am a third generation small family business owner in Cobleskill. I've lived there my entire life. I'm also a member of the Cobleskill Planning Board. I believe that we have the most shovel ready site in the entire process. We already have an approved functioning PDD. The water park is already approved with municipal water and sewer. We only have to tweak the seeker in completing minor subdivision and that's it, we're going to be done. Our board is very supportive in the project and we look forward to completing this project in a timely fashion. We have a project that meets the Governor's Mandate wonderfully and I think it's been pretty well expressed here that we do. We have tremendous public and political support as you can see in here. And our revenue projections are competitive with the least harm placed upon a Racino in our neighboring county of Saratoga. Our development team are experienced and well founded and funded and we have I believe our casino operator is here somewhere, there he is. Jim. I just want to publicly thank you for giving us an opportunity because we haven't had that many. We don't have Proctors, we don't have the Times Union Center, we don't have a flat track, we have 30,000 people. We've been through floods and everything else and being in the Planning Board I've watched this for the past 12 years and there's hardly even a subdivision or a lot line adjustment. They talk about Lowe's and Home Depots and Big Boxes, we lost our Lowes. We didn't get a

---

Lowe, 2006 came and we had Lehman Brothers and we had the housing bubble and the downturn hurt us and then on top of that we get hit by a flood and people like Susan saved us. She kept her business going and kept these people employed. And I remember how she did that and it was great and she inspires me to keep going with my small business that's faltering. So Schoharie County has the greatest need in my opinion and please make it our time, please. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Rich, Rich and Rita McLean. Is Rich and Rita here? Coming up.

Rita McLean: Hi, my name is Rita McLean I live in East Greenbush for over 30 years. I am here to support the casino. Not only will it help East Greenbush, it will help the surrounding communities. I don't know what the Saving Greenbush Group is trying to save. We hardly have any businesses, 9 and 20 is like a ghost town. Our town park the water is polluted. Hampton Manor Lake is polluted. The town needs some businesses now to help with our taxes and I do believe the majority of the people in East Greenbush support the casino.

Rich McLean: Hi, my name's Rich McLean. I've been a resident of East Greenbush for 57 years cause my family has lived there forever. I help pass out a lot of signs in East Greenbush and I also pass out a lot of signs in Cohoes, Waterford, Green Island, Troy, I worked in a local black op plant and all my customers and everybody of my residence, all that I talk to, and I've also got like 400 signatures for the casino and everybody I deal with all think that East Greenbush is the best location. And I want to thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you John, I mean Rich. Thank you Rich. Next is Nasa Molesky. Niser or Nasa?

Nisa Molesky: Okay my name is Nisa Molesky and I've been a resident of Rensselaer County for almost 59 years next month is my birthday in case anybody's writing this down. And I was born and raised in East Greenbush. 5 years ago we moved to Castleton and if you bring the casino to East Greenbush the taxes they say will go down and if that happens I'll move back to East Greenbush. So I ask you to bring the casino to East Greenbush. If you go up and down 9 and 20 like Rich and Rita just said it's like a ghost town. Most people don't like change, but ask yourself why not help our town. Bring the casino to East Greenbush. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Nisa. Richard Kline.

Richard Kline: Good evening my name is Richard Kline and I've been a resident of East Greenbush for 55 years makes some of the other people like newcomers. I want to address a couple of facts. Number 1 they talk about how we're being funded, Save East Greenbush, I'll tell you exactly how we're being funded. My wife and I have given \$175 along with all the other people, \$50, 75 because we believe the cause is worth it. And to let you know it is not tax deductible so that is not a motivation at all. Basically what I was going to do was come up here and tell you that we don't want it and we don't need it and give you all the reasons, but I think you heard that before haven't you?

---

Kevin Law: A little bit.

Richard Kline: So I took 1 minute that's all I need. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Richard our last speaker is scheduled Lynn Schultis. Is Lynn here? Well Lynn's not here you come up and be the last speaker. And then I'll have some of our closing comments to make about process going forward.

Oh thank you so much.

Kevin Law: Can you state your name for the record please?

Mora Ryan: Yes Mora Ryan and I'm a resident of East Greenbush and have been since 1989 and I have already shortened my comments because I had listened to you all day, I couldn't get here earlier. I'll shorten them even more but I want to thank you for letting me still get up and speak because I've never been politically or a political activist, not paid, I have been kind of watching my town but have not been actively engaged. I have never opposed development in our town so I want to thank all of my new found friends that I didn't know before this all happened because they went out there and they took notice from the startling news from our town board. They did their research. They found one another and they passionately came together and started talking about this and learning and getting intelligent information. So that was one thing that I really wanted to point out and then I'm going off script here now so I apologize for that but I have to address the fact that when Ed Gilbert got up here and Mr. Torino and the other people who are opposed, they are really mischaracterizing all of us, not paid, all self done. We have never known each other before. We are very concerned and compassionate about our town. We see growth. We know there's growth. We're concerned about the town board. I think that it's misinformation that they're giving you about the distance. I didn't know how exactly close it was until Capital View said it's 3200 feet away or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away and it's merely invisible, but those are killers for me. I mean I can walk to the casino from my house and I live next to Eric. So  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile is nothing. And nearly invisible, that wouldn't work for me, if I had a daughter I wouldn't send her there either. And I'll finish on this note, the last speakers who are in favor of the casino said, "What are we trying to save our town from?" We're trying to save it from mismanagement and outside disingenuous private developer who is not local and on trusted. And oh alright I lied, one more. The 9 and 20 business owners probably would be offended by some of the characterizations of that as well. And all of us in the town we try to at least the ones that are sitting here in opposition of this casino we do patronize those towns and so we do go to Sweater Venture and we do go to the book store and we do go to the Hoffman's and we go there. It is a thoroughfare it was poorly developed from the get-go which makes it hard for them, but it's not a ghost town and there is development and we're against the casino. Thank you gentleman so much for your endurance.

Kevin Law: Mora thank you. Alright. Folks. What's the deal guys. I know we're closing at 8:00. But you signed up, where did you sign up? How come I don't have your names on the

---

list? I'm going to suggest something work with me here guys, we've just gone through 142 speakers. Thank you and we try to treat everybody professionally and with respect and I told you we all need to travel now to Poughkeepsie because we've got to do this for 12 hours again tomorrow and remember we've volunteers which is great, which is great we love the spirit. So in law school I was taught a lesson that when you've made your case sit down. And don't try to, so unless you guys have something that we haven't heard, we've heard you, we've heard you today and we respect and we appreciate. But so if there's a point that you haven't made and you signed up to speak we'll let you speak.

Male: I think I have a very interesting perspective on the issue being a student in the local area.

Kevin Law: Okay we're going to take you and the gentleman who did say he signed up with one of the men over here right? And are you from East Greenbush and are you going to say anything that we haven't heard since 8:00 this morning on that project? Alright we've got 3. we're going to take one from Schoharie, one from East Greenbush and where are you from sir? East Greenbush too. Alright you guys could split it. Come up first son, or sir.

Austin Trakowski: Hello there, my name is Austin Trakowski. I'm a resident of Schoharie County as well as a student. Currently I'm a senior on Cobleskill-Richmondville High School. I think I have a very interesting perspective to bring to the table today. You've heard from the adults and I'd like to bring the perspective of the youth here. So thank you. So as you know 2007 the financial crash hits. My family gets hit the hardest. My family used to own Superior Flooring the business. We used to go around, we were contractors and we would go from house to house making money. That stopped in 2007. You see we went from a full house to 2 rooms, 2 years later we had 4 rooms, 3 years later I got my own room. You see economic opportunity in Schoharie seems to be a thing of the past if you happen to be somebody that lives there. Looking past the numbers and figures, seeing old boarded up shops and houses, you can see our economy has gone through a decline. Now as a student here, I can say that the economic development of Schoharie is reflected in our academic performance. Test scores are down. My text books are held together with tape and glue. We don't have the money to keep any of our programs, sports, clubs and every activity that you can think of is on the chopping block. Now I used to be opposed to this for moral reasons, but after seeing the numbers, and additional 40% to school growth here in our budget, there's no reason that I could possibly ever want to opposed something that would give the students exactly what we need in our county area. We are a hard working people in Schoharie and I can personally attest to this. My family has been a strong one of laborers and people that work very hard for their daily bread. We went from people opposing any sort, we never took handouts, never anything like that. We started having to go to food banks. We started having to go to all kinds of charities, we never thought we would have to go to, and used to give to, but we had to fall back on our principles in the face of necessity. I think that this proposal to put a casino in our community would be the perfect opportunity that Schoharie would be very happy to see as you can see from our numbers here today, to create our own economic opportunity for our region which we have been deprived of for my entire lifetime. I have lived here 17 years and never before have I been so supportive of a measure outside of my own self interests. I've only been in politics for about 2 ½ weeks. But let me tell you here

---

today, this proposal to put this casino and resort inside of our community is exactly what we need and I don't think anybody here in these yellow shirts our in our county can actively oppose this for any reason beyond that of moral opposition of anything of that nature. This is the most important thing that I have spoken for in my entire life and I have MC'd a spelling bee. This is the relief Schoharie County needs. This is what I came here, took my time off, I'm going to be up until 1:00 in the morning doing my homework tonight, but you know what, moving forward I would love to keep my family here. This is what we need. I don't think there's anyway anybody could say anything to the opposite effect. And I thank you for your time listening to me here today and letting us all speak in front of you.

Dennis Glazer: Austin. Enjoy law school.

Kevin Law: Okay. Very good. Actually you know hearing Austin and hearing a young man who moved to Schenectady and got a job in Schenectady and wants to stay there and hearing that young woman Samantha before, I feel good about the future of Upstate New York. How about you both do 2.

Frank Copper: I'm Frank Copper from East Greenbush and I think you've heard a lot from people like me who oppose the casino but it's interesting and I hadn't expected the people here from other venues, Schenectady, Schoharie, Rensselaer and I think the casino might be for a variety of different reasons a good fit for those areas but I don't believe it is for East Greenbush. I also think just to go back and maybe correct a little bit of a misconception regarding the referendum because you did ask someone who is affiliated with the town why there wasn't a referendum regarding the casino. And I was unsure of what the answer was in that regard. But most individuals in East Greenbush I think would agree that a referendum formal or informal would have shown heavy opposition for the casino. And I don't think there's that much doubt in that, but obviously a lot of stories are going back and forth. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. State your name for the record.

Les Apple: Hi, my name is Les Apple. I've been a business lawyer in the Capital region my entire career. I live about a mile from the site. And yes I'm opposed to the casino but for a number of different reasons. I've been a champion of economic development. The purpose of this constitutional amendment and your gentleman's job is not to confuse economic development with really saving desperate politicians and we have resources in this state that have been so underutilized for so long. We've got a beautiful bucolic area, already a destination resort in Schoharie County. You have two beautiful rivers in Schenectady and in Rensselaer. Okay, these are resources and so underutilized in New York State and a wonderful opportunity. Not to take a bulldozer through a bucolic neighborhood which is insulated unto itself with beautiful woods. So I urge you really to fulfill the mandate of economic development not to just to try to cater to politicians who've made their side deals with slick lobbyists. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Alright. So folks on behalf of the panel, I want to thank you all for coming out. An individual I think it was reported earlier today asked me, "Well are these things is this public

---

hearing valuable?” And I said, “Absolutely, tremendous” because we’ve learned a lot today and so to the extent you’re wondering was it worth coming down here. I would go home saying indeed it was because you educated us on a lot of issues, pros and cons, and we heard a lot of interesting things on a lot of different proposals. As I mentioned, we’re going to be doing this again tomorrow for the lower Hudson Valley proposals. And then on Wednesday we’ll be in Ithaca for the southern tier proposals and as you all know, we’re allowed to appoint up to 4. there are 16 so if we do 4 that means 12 don’t get one. And so we have a lot of work to do and it’s not going to be easy because we’ve heard a lot of great stuff today and we’re going to hear a lot of great stuff tomorrow I’m sure, and we’ll hear some great stuff on Wednesday. Our game plan is like I said at the end of the presentations in Albany still is we’re gearing up to make decisions in October, in the month of October. We’ve got a lot of number crunching and additional due diligence to do. We have staff and consultants helping us. And so to the extent we are able to, that’s what we’ll do. To the extent it gets pushed off a couple of days or a couple of weeks, you know, so be it. The important thing is for us to do our homework. And so that’s where we are, so the public hearings will continue for the next 2 days and then once we decide the position that we’re in to make a decision, we’ll be as transparent as we were I think today and you’ll know when everybody else knows. So again, on behalf of all of us, we thank you for the respect you showed up and we wish you all well.