



The Honourable
Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor of Edmonton

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Reference No.: 444418379-001

Gary Peck, Vice President, Regulatory Services
Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis
St. Albert Office
50 Corriveau Avenue
St. Albert, AB T8N 3T5
Email: gary.peck@aglc.ca

Re: Application for the Relocation of Camrose Casino

Dear Mr. Peck,

I am writing on behalf of Edmonton City Council in response to the letter from Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) addressed to City Manager, Andre Corbould dated July 21, 2022 regarding the application for the relocation of the Camrose Casino to Edmonton.

City Council has identified concerns on this matter that we wish to share with the AGLC Board as it undertakes the review process of the application. In respect to the proposed relocation, on August 17, 2022 City Council passed the following motion:

- That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, write a letter to AGLC outlining concerns with the AGLC consultation process for the casino application, the transfer of licence restrictions under AGLC and the impact of the licence transfer on charitable organizations in Edmonton.
- That Council make the letter publicly available once submitted to the AGLC.

AGLC Restrictions on Licence Transfer and Impact on Edmonton Community Organizations

If the relocation were to be approved by AGLC, the casino would retain its rural licence and this would prevent Edmonton charities from sharing in gaming revenue from a facility located in Edmonton.

Approving the move of a casino to our jurisdiction without an urban licence does not provide benefit to our community organizations and, in fact, is likely to result in a net loss in existing revenue to Edmonton charities as more casinos are competing in the same market area. An outcome whereby Edmonton community organizations do not benefit from revenue generated in our jurisdiction or experience a net loss in revenue to carry out their work is not acceptable to City Council.

The AGLC Casino Terms and Conditions and Operating Guidelines require the review of any potential relocation to take into consideration factors such as “cannibalization of gaming revenues in the proposed new market area and surrounding areas” and “financial impacts to local charities.”

City Council is of the view that such factors and our concerns noted above should be determinative in AGLC’s decision about the merit of this relocation.

Consultation Process

While City Council appreciates that there was an opportunity to provide feedback, and that this opportunity was within the requirements of the regulation, the deadline provided fell during Council break and did not provide sufficient time for City Council to review, solicit input from residents, and reflect on the impacts of the proposed relocation. Consideration of changes to the engagement process would be in the best interest of all parties to ensure maximum transparency and effective input from the public and affected municipalities.

Residents of Edmonton were left with a very narrow window following public notice in a local newspaper to respond to the opportunity for feedback. This left many residents unaware or unable to participate in the given timeframe. Adjustments to the public participation process are recommended to ensure that the notice is more widely shared and that additional time is available to residents and community organizations to adequately review and provide feedback.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter. We look forward to your consideration of our concerns in your deliberation.

Sincerely,



Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor

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