

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17-812

SUBJECT: BURNABY-BASED GAMING FACILITY PROPOSALS

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information as to the status of gaming facility proposals submitted to the Province under the recent Request for Proposals (RFP).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1998 January 12, Council requested clarification on the status of Burnaby-based proposals for new gaming facilities. The media had reported that three new Burnaby-based gaming facilities had been approved by the Province. However, Council had previously been advised by the Province that municipalities would be invited to participate in evaluating proposals within their boundaries before Provincial approval was given.

This report responds to Council's request for clarification.

2.0 STATUS OF THE PROVINCE'S APPROVAL PROCESS

The Chair of the Province's Lotteries Advisory Committee (LAC) has faxed information to the City in an attempt to clear up the misunderstanding generated by the media reports. As part of that information he notes that "No new additional gaming facilities have been approved at this point in Burnaby or anywhere else in the province."

Since the close of the RFP on 1997 November 28, staff at the LAC have been reviewing all applications received. Those proposed for municipalities which submitted a "No" resolution and those which were, for other reasons, ineligible for consideration, were screened out. The remaining applications, including three for Burnaby, will proceed to the next stage of the evaluation process. They have not been approved; in fact, the faxed information from the LAC notes that "it is highly unlikely that they will all ultimately be approved."

The next stage of the evaluation process will be rigorous. As the faxed information notes,

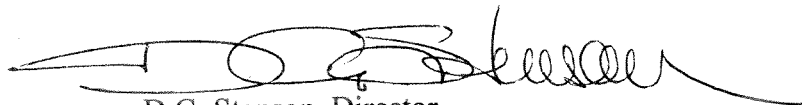
“In addition to municipal support, new gaming facilities, before being approved, will require a viable business plan, which must consider infrastructure needs (eg. water, sewer and parking).....Furthermore, proposals must comply with valid municipal zoning.”

During the next stage of the evaluation process, LAC staff will liaise with City staff regarding any municipal concerns and requirements. Two of the three applications for Burnaby are for sites which are already zoned for gaming facilities. Therefore, provincial-municipal discussions will likely focus primarily on the third site, which the media reported to be the North Burnaby Inn (this location has not been officially confirmed by the LAC). Regardless of the location of the third site, rezoning would be required before a gaming facility could be approved. As Council’s resolution to the Province stipulated that Burnaby would consider one additional charitable casino and one charitable bingo hall, the provincial-municipal discussions will also likely focus on which two of the three applications should receive Provincial approval.

The faxed information from the LAC notes that the provincial-municipal discussions will take place over the next several months. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the LAC will make recommendations to Cabinet, which will make the final decisions.

3.0 SUMMARY

The Province has not yet approved any new gaming facilities proposed under the recent RFP process. Three applications for facilities in Burnaby are under consideration, and will be discussed with the City. Final approvals are expected in several months.



D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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cc: Deputy City Managers
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Solicitor
OIC - Burnaby RCMP