

TO: CITY MANAGER 2004 May 6

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING FILE: 47000 20

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMALGAMATION AND RELOCATION OF TWO CASINOS WITHIN CITY OF VANCOUVER

PURPOSE: To provide information on any potential impacts on Burnaby of the proposed amalgamation and relocation of two casinos in Vancouver, and the introduction of slot machines into the new facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Syd Baxter, City Clerk for the City of Vancouver, be advised in writing that Burnaby does not believe it would be “materially affected” by the proposed amalgamation and relocation of two casinos within Vancouver, and the introduction of slot machines into the new gaming facility.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby has received correspondence from the City of Vancouver, dated 2004 April, 23, inquiring as to whether Burnaby believes it would be “materially affected” by a proposal to:

- relocate the Grand Casino, currently located at 725 S.E. Marine Drive in Vancouver, to 760 Pacific Boulevard in Vancouver (in the Plaza of Nations);
- relocate the Royal Diamond Casino, currently located at 750 Pacific Boulevard¹, to 760 Pacific Boulevard and amalgamate it with the Grand Casino; and
- introduce 600 slot machines into the newly-created gaming facility.

The proposed new casino would include up to 60 gaming tables; the two existing casinos offer a total of 57 gaming tables between them. Neither of the existing casinos offer slot machines.

Under British Columbia’s Gaming Control Act, the British Columbia Lottery Corporation cannot establish, relocate, or substantially change the type or extent of games at a gaming facility unless it is satisfied that the host municipality has consulted each adjacent municipality or First Nation as to whether it believes it will be “materially affected” by the proposal. Section 11(2) of the Gaming Control Regulation defines “materially affected” as follows:

“For the purposes of the Act “materially affected”, in relation to a municipality, regional district or first nation, includes that, as a result of the proposal proceeding, the municipality, regional district or first nation can demonstrate a likelihood that it will:

¹ The Royal Diamond Casino has not been in operation since July 2001.

- a) incur significant new infrastructure or policing costs
- b) experience increased traffic with a significant impact on its highways, or
- c) experience a significant adverse impact on the amenities and character of one or more of its neighbourhoods.”

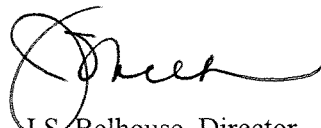
In order to fulfill Provincial requirements and to enable development to proceed in a timely fashion, Vancouver has requested a response from Burnaby concerning the casino proposal by 2004 June 3.

2.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE CHANGES ON BURNABY

Staff from the Planning and Engineering Departments, as well as representatives from the Burnaby Detachment of the RCMP, have reviewed the Vancouver proposal. Staff note that the new facility has the potential to attract residents from Burnaby and other municipalities in the region. However, given the presence of casinos in Coquitlam, New Westminster, Burnaby and Richmond, all of which are approved for slot machines, gaming patrons have a wide range of choices with regards to gaming venues. Staff believe, therefore, that the proposed new facility in Vancouver will not generate significantly increased traffic in and through Burnaby. Moreover, staff do not foresee any other potential impacts from the Vancouver proposal which could be considered “material” under the definition provided by the Province.

3.0 CONCLUSION

It is the view of staff that the relocation and amalgamation of two casinos in Vancouver and the introduction of slot machines into the new gaming facility will not cause Burnaby to incur significant new infrastructure or policing costs, to experience significantly increased traffic, or to experience significant adverse impacts on the amenities or character of any Burnaby neighbourhoods. It is recommended that Syd Baxter, City Clerk for the City of Vancouver, be advised of this opinion.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JS/sla

cc: Director Engineering
OIC, Burnaby RCMP

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