

TO: CITY MANAGER 2004 June 2

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.812

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RELOCATION OF A DESTINATION CASINO WITHIN CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

PURPOSE: To provide information on any potential impacts on Burnaby of the proposed relocation of a destination casino in New Westminister.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Robyn Anderson, Assistant Director of Legislative and Information Services for the City of New Westminister, be advised in writing that Burnaby does not believe it would be “materially affected” by the proposed relocation of a destination casino within New Westminister.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby has received correspondence from the City of New Westminister, dated 2004 May 20, inquiring as to whether Burnaby believes it would be “materially affected” by a proposal to:

- relocate the Royal City Star Riverboat Destination Casino, currently located at 788 Quayside Drive, to 350 Gifford Street in the western end of Queensborough, and
- amalgamate the Gateway Royal Towers Casino, currently located at 140 6th Street, with the new destination casino proposed for Queensborough.

The 100,000 square foot proposed new casino would offer 600 slot machines at commencement of operation, while the two existing casinos offer a total of 469 slot machines between them. The proposed new destination casino represents one component of a larger project intended to include a restaurant, a sports bar, two eleven storey apartment/hotel buildings, and business, professional and personal service establishments. It is expected that the casino and restaurant will be open for operation by 2005, with the remaining components of the project being developed over a six year period.

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:

- 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."

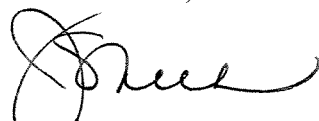
In order to fulfill Provincial requirements and to enable development to proceed in a timely fashion, New Westminster has requested a response from Burnaby concerning the casino proposal by 2004 June 8.

2.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE CHANGES ON BURNABY

Staff from the Planning and Engineering Departments, as well a representatives from the Burnaby Detachment of the RCMP have reviewed the New Westminster 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, Burnaby, Richmond and Vancouver, gaming patrons have a wide range of choices with regards to gaming venues. Staff believe, therefore, that the proposed new facility in New Westminster will not generate significantly increased traffic in and through Burnaby. Moreover, staff do not foresee any other potential impacts from the New Westminster 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 of a destination casino in New Westminster 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 Robyn Anderson, Assistant Director of Legislative and Information Services, be advised of this opinion.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JS/sa

cc: Director Engineering
Burnaby RCMP