



# PA House of Representatives Republican Policy Committee

414, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 260-6144

**Rep. Joshua D. Kail**  
Chairman

## **PA House Republican Policy Committee Hearing “The Positive Impacts of Casinos in Pennsylvania”**

**May 1, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Republican Caucus Room  
Room 418, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA**

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

### **Industry Perspectives Panel**

9:35 a.m.

Eric Hausler  
*CEO, Parx Casino*

Robert W. Green  
*Chairman, Parx Casino*

9:40 a.m.

Ioana Douglas  
*Director of Environmental Services, Parx Casino*

9:45 a.m.

Gerald Fretz  
*Director of Security, Parx Casino*

9:50 a.m.

Questions for the Industry Perspectives Panel

### **Community Perspectives Panel**

10:15 a.m.

Robert Bair  
*President, Pennsylvania Building & Construction Trades Council*

10:20 a.m.

Jeff Darwak  
*Executive Director, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks*

10:25 a.m.

Brittany Nugent  
*Contract Manager, ABC Construction Co., Inc.*

10:30 a.m.

Questions for the Community Perspectives Panel

10:55 a.m.

**Closing Comments**



## Testifier Biographies

### PA House of Representatives Policy Committee Hearing *"The Positive Impacts of Casinos in Pennsylvania"*



#### **Robert W. Green** **Chairman, Parx Casino**

Robert "Bob" Green is founder and Chairman of Parx Casino, the principal racing and gaming company in the Commonwealth.

Prior to this, Bob was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the William Hill Organization ("William Hill") a division of Grand Metropolitan PLC (now Diageo), based in London. Hill was one of the largest wagering operators in the world, with its primary operations in the United Kingdom and Europe. He was also the joint Chairman of Gamebell PLC, then the United Kingdom's largest casino operator, which operated such prestigious casinos as the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs in London and The Carlton in Cannes.

Mr. Green was also the founder and first Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Satellite Information Services Ltd. ("SIS") a company established by him in 1985. SIS developed a system to broadcast global horseracing by satellite transmission to OTB facilities throughout Europe.

During his tenure in Pennsylvania, Bob has created over 2,500 new jobs and his companies have invested over \$600M in capital construction projects. He has lived in Philadelphia for over 30 years and still resides here with his wife and family.

#### **Eric Hausler** **CEO, Parx Casino**

Eric Hausler currently serves as the CEO of Greenwood Racing, Inc.

With over twenty years of gaming expertise and business acumen, Eric's previous roles include overseeing new acquisitions and strategic initiatives for Isle of Capri Casinos, where he held multiple roles from 2009 to 2020, including vice president of strategic initiatives, chief financial officer, and chief executive officer.



Prior to joining Isle of Capri, Eric led development initiatives at Trump Entertainment Resorts where he identified and evaluated possible acquisitions, new developments, asset divestitures, and joint ventures from 2006 until 2009.

A graduate of both Binghamton University with a bachelor's degree and New Jersey Institute of Technology with a master's degree, Eric is a devoted family man who enjoys spending time with his family.



**Ioana Douglas**  
**Director of Environmental Services, Parx Casino**

Ioana Douglas has over 30 years of domestic and international experience in the hospitality industry. She has been working for Parx Casino and Racing in Bensalem, Pennsylvania for 13 years where she currently holds the role of Director for Environmental Services (EVS).

Prior to working at Parx, Ioana worked at the Venetian and Palazzo in Vegas. She also worked for Wyndham, Westin, and Sheraton.

Ioana is the Vice Chairman of Women's Leadership Resource Group and active member of the People of Color Business Resource group at Parx Casino. Ioana is also an active volunteer for Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way, Caring for Friends, and many other community serving organizations.

**Gerald Fretz**  
**Director of Security, Parx Casino**

Gerald (Jerry) Fretz is a seasoned security professional with a distinguished career spanning over three decades in law enforcement, military service, and private sector security operations.

Currently serving as the Director of Security at Parx Casino since August 2008, Jerry leads a team responsible for safeguarding customers, employees, and assets, while ensuring compliance with gaming regulations and implementing emergency procedures.

In addition to his role at Parx Casino, Jerry served as President of Intelligent Security Resources, Inc., where he utilized his extensive expertise across various sectors including entertainment, professional sports, and criminal investigations.

Before his tenure in the private sector, Jerry dedicated over 32 years to the U.S. Navy, holding key leadership positions such as Commander of the NCIS Field Office in Norfolk, VA, where he spearheaded efforts to combat criminal, terrorist, and foreign intelligence threats to the Navy and Marine Corps.

Jerry's illustrious career also includes a distinguished service as Captain in the Philadelphia Police Department, where he managed critical public safety incidents and led a team of over 275 police officers and civilian employees.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Saint Joseph's University, Jerry holds a certification from the FBI National Academy.





**Robert Bair**  
**President, Pennsylvania Building & Construction Trades Council**

Rob Bair serves as the President of the Pennsylvania Building & Construction Trades Council.

The Pennsylvania State Building & Construction Trades Council is made up of 16 Regional Councils and more than 115 local unions from 15 International Building Trades Unions.

The Pennsylvania State Building & Construction Trades Council and its affiliated members support and provide training to their members in order to provide the best and safest workforce.

**Jeff Darwak**  
**Executive Director, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks**

Jeff Darwak serves as the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks. In his role, Jeff works with small businesses, private developers, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to identify, secure, and manage incentive opportunities for a variety of community and economic development projects.



Jeff has a proven track record in establishing successful public-private partnerships, leveraging millions of dollars in both public and private sector funding for impactful projects throughout Bucks County. His leadership has been influential in developing and managing local blight abatement programs, leading to the successful revitalization of vacant blighted properties throughout Bucks County.

A life-long resident of Bucks County, Jeff graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and resides in Richboro with his family.



**Brittany Nugent**  
**Contract Manager, ABC Construction Co., Inc.**

Brittany Nugent currently serves as the contract manager for ABC Construction Co., Inc. A certified woman-owned small business, ABC first began in March of 1995 as a trucking firm and has evolved into a competitive, full service general and site contractor in the greater Philadelphia area.

Brittany has also served as the operations manager for Rising Phoenix Film Works, where she played a pivotal role in managing accounts, coordinating production logistics, and contributing to the company's branding and startup initiatives.

Brittany holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Holy Family University.

Good afternoon. My name is Ioana Douglas, and I am the Director of Environmental Services at Parx Casino located in Bensalem Township, Bucks County.

I am grateful for the opportunity to talk with you today about my job and the wonderful people I am blessed to work with.

I started at Parx in 2010 and am one of the longest tenured employees at the Casino.

Allow me to state up front – and I might repeat this 2-3 times – that I love my job. Absolutely love it.

Parx Casino is my second home and the people I work with are family. In fact, my daughter works at Parx. She is a graduate of Penn State where she majored in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She is now working in our Security Department. And she also loves her job.

I would like to share just a little bit about my responsibilities, our department, and, most importantly, the many ways that Parx encourages employees to get engaged in helping families, non-profits, and community groups. This company is dedicated to Bensalem, to Bucks County and to the region.

Again, I am the Director of Environmental Services. I manage 110 employees and we are responsible for keeping every inch of our facility clean. Every one of the employees in my department are full-time, paid a living wage, entitled to vacation and sick time, and offered company medical benefits. The average employee tenure in my department is over 6 years. I mentioned that the casino is like a second home to me – and I meant it. I know and my staff knows that customers expect a safe and clean facility. And we make sure they have that experience.

As Director, I am responsible for annual reviews, setting our budget, developing training programs, establishing cleaning protocols, and helping to manage and prepare for special events. Prior to joining Parx, I worked across the United State in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Florida, and Georgia. I also worked in Macau. Parx has allowed me to continue to grow as a manager and as the leader of a team. Parx really is unique.

I am from Romania originally and I have colleagues who come from fourteen different countries. This diversity is an asset for Parx Casino and every employee. We all understand that we need to support one another – across different nationalities, cultures and across various departments at the casino.

Parx provides every opportunity for every employee to grow in their current role or into a new job or department entirely. I have many colleagues who have changed departments to become managers; or have moved from working off the floor to become dealers. Parx also offers its employees career development services such as tuition reimbursement.

Finally, I would like to thank Parx for giving me and every employee the opportunity to give back to the community; to volunteer and feel like I am making a difference for a family in need or a senior citizen who needs food. I know that each of you is in public service, and you are all familiar with the challenges that some of our friends and neighbors – even family – can confront. I was raised to try and give back whenever possible, and this company gives me every opportunity to step up. They are right beside me.

I cannot list all the beneficiaries, but I would like to highlight several that demonstrate our commitment: The United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Caring for Friends, the Special Olympics, and Susan G. Komen, the world's largest nonprofit source of funding for the fight against breast cancer.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to meet with you today.

My name is Jerry Fretz. I am the Director of Security at Parx Casino in Bensalem.

I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify today, about my responsibilities at Parx and, as important, Parx Casino's commitment to veterans, non-profits, charities, and families in need across the region. Since opening, Parx has committed more than \$160 million to charitable causes.

Parx is a special place to work, and I am proud to be a part of this organization. My entire professional career has been in public safety, starting as a Police Officer in Philadelphia (31 years), as a Commander in the United States Navy (32 years) and for the last 16 years in my current role at Parx.

Again, I am looking forward to discussing Parx's commitment to non-profits and veterans, because it is a critical part of the type of company we are. But I welcome any and all questions regarding our investment and our focus on security.

Parx Casino invests heavily in security. Our job is to make sure that every patron, visitor, and employee is safe from the moment they step on the property until they leave.

- At Parx, we have 105 Security Officers and 59 Surveillance Agents.
- We have PGCB oversight; eye in the sky technology so we can monitor every square inch of gaming space.
- Security patrols our parking lots.
- At Bensalem, we have a PA State Police presence in the facility. We work closely with local police.
- We check the IDs of every patron under 30 years of age, and we ensure that intoxicated individuals are not allowed to enter our facility or depart without a sober party or cab ride home.

Our investment, like that of every other casino, stands in stark contrast to skill games being operated in bars, gas stations, laundromats, and beauty salons. Again, my entire career has been dedicated to public safety – and that includes Parx Casino. In January 2024, a Philadelphia Police Officer was shot and wounded inside a corner store that sells food, candy, cigarettes, soda, and cold beer by an assailant that was playing skill games.

In 1977, at 21 years of age, I joined the Philadelphia Police Department and worked for the department for 30 plus years. I worked in the Highway Patrol as a motorcycle officer, the Detective Division and SWAT team. I retired in 2008 having achieved the rank of Captain. I was honored to have received decorations for Valor and 25 meritorious commendations.

I joined the Navy Reserve in 1986 and was assigned to the USS Clark as a Master-at-Arms. I was privileged to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Katrina Relief efforts, among many other roles.

From 2006 until 2008, I was mobilized to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in Bagdad, Iraq and again in 2012 to support Operation Enduring Freedom and was assigned to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan in Kabul.



When I was called back to active duty in 2012 and serving in Afghanistan, I received Care Packages from Parx Casino team members. My family and I received financial support from the Casino as well.

I am especially proud of Parx's dedication to the Bucks County Tour of Honor. The Tour of Honor is an annual event dedicated to all service men and women in Tri-County area.

With the support of Parx Casino, we are able to take hundreds of veterans from Bensalem to Washington D.C. where we pay our respects and honor the service of veterans by laying wreaths at the Vietnam, Korea, World War II and Marine Corps Memorials and at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Tour is led by Police Motorcycle Escort and is greeted along the route by cheering families, veterans and supporters who crowd overpasses to show their respect and gratitude. We have been honored with visits at Arlington National Cemetery with former United States Secretary of State Colin Powell and other dignitaries.

I cannot tell how moving it is to see veterans praying at these memorials and shedding tears for lost comrades. The Tour is just one of the many activities that Parx Casino supports for veterans in our region.

Parx has also established Business Resource Groups to help identify opportunities to provide support for veterans and many other groups and charities. These include:

- Feed the Homeless
- Habitat for Humanity
- Caring for Friends (a program for serving people in need)

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about Parx's commitment to the community and to ensuring the safety of our employees and the 4 million visitors we welcome to our facility each year.





# **Pennsylvania State Building and Construction Trades Council** AFL-CIO

904 N. Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-3119  
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pa.bldg@verizon.net

## **Testimony Before the Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Hearing on The Positive Impacts of Casinos in Pennsylvania**

**TESTIMONY BY: Robert S. Bair-President  
Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council**

Chairman Kail and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify today on what is certainly a priority for the building trades. As you are all well aware, the casino industry supports 33,000 total jobs across our Commonwealth with 15,000 Pennsylvanian's employed directly by the industry. The Commonwealth's 17 casinos have supported tens of thousands of jobs for our members across the state during construction, and thousands of jobs on a continuing basis to maintain and add capacity to these facilities.

I can tell you that we have had a long and successful partnership with Parx Casino. All Parx construction has been done with union labor. That includes building six Turf Clubs in and around Philadelphia, renovation of the racetrack, conversion of the racetrack to a slots parlor while we built the main casino and then the ongoing additions to Parx, the Xcite center, which is the casino's entertainment venue, the beer garden, and the restaurants at Parx. The total cost of construction at Parx is well over half a billion dollars – all done with union labor.

In short, Pennsylvania's land-based casinos have invested billions of dollars in our Commonwealth and have provided thousands of jobs for our members in the building trades.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully,

Robert S. Bair  
President

## **Testimony**

**Jeff Darwak, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks**

**May 1, 2024**

Good Morning Representatives,

My name is Jeff Darwak and I am the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks. I have been with the Redevelopment Authority for over 17 years.

The Redevelopment Authority, as a redevelopment authority in a County of the Second Class A, is authorized under the Pennsylvania Gaming Act, to receive one (1%) percent of the gross terminal revenue from Parx Casino and Racetrack in Bensalem Township.

In accordance with the Gaming Act, the Redevelopment Authority is responsible for distributing municipal grants to the eligible municipalities specified in the Gaming Act, and we oversee the administration of what we call the “Municipal Grant Program” wherein the eligible municipalities can apply to the Redevelopment Authority for grant funding sourced from the Local Share Revenues. The Municipal Grant Program, along with the application process, is available by the Redevelopment Authority on an annual basis.

In Bucks County, the municipalities that are eligible to apply for the Municipal Grant Program each year include the municipality in which the gaming facility is located, the county in which the licensed facility is located and the municipalities that are contiguous to the municipality in which the gaming facility is located or are wholly within the boundaries of a contiguous municipality. Therefore, there are a total of ten (10) eligible municipalities or applicants:

- The Township of Bensalem
- The County of Bucks
- The Borough of Bristol
- The Township of Bristol
- The Borough of Hulmeville
- The Borough of Langhorne
- The Borough of Langhorne Manor
- The Township of Lower Southampton
- The Township of Middletown
- The Borough of Penndel

Municipal grants from Local Share Revenues are used to fund the costs of human services, infrastructure improvements, facilities, emergency services and health and public safety expenses associated with the licensed facility operations. Each year, grant requests for such projects are submitted by the eligible municipalities to the Redevelopment Authority. The project requests are evaluated, and municipal grants are ultimately authorized by the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Authority.

Today, I can confidently affirm that the distribution of Local Share Revenues generated at Parx to eligible municipalities in Bucks County has bolstered the safety, vitality, and well-being of our communities. These funds have been instrumental in facilitating infrastructure enhancements,

supporting impactful health and human safety initiatives, and ensuring that our police departments, firefighters, and emergency services responders are adequately equipped to serve and protect.

And it is here I would like to recognize that the Municipal Grant Program was initially established and launched in 2008 under the Gaming Act from language introduced by then Senator Robert M. “Tommy” Tomlinson. Since that time, the Redevelopment Authority has awarded over \$60 million in Local Share Revenues to the eligible municipalities to fund hundreds of project requests.

The Redevelopment Authority is extremely proud of the Municipal Grant Program’s success. Most of all because these grants allocate funding to projects prioritized by the eligible municipalities, alleviating the financial strain on local taxpayers within the predominantly blue-collar, working-class communities of Lower Bucks County, many of which already have a high tax burden.

These grants have facilitated the acquisition of police, fire, and emergency responder vehicles, the enhancement of equipment and training facilities for first responders, compliance with federal mandates for improved emergency responder radios, upgrades and improvements to roads and signalized intersections, and the modernization of existing municipal, fire, police and emergency services facilities. These projects significantly or completely mitigated any potential adverse effects that many initially thought would accompany the introduction of casino gaming. I believe it is worth noting, however, that many of the predictions related to adverse impacts never materialized. I credit this to the proactive steps taken by our communities, facilitated by the forward-thinking of state legislators who crafted the gaming legislation allowing for the creation and utilization of these municipal grants.

Indeed, Parx has been an economic driver, providing thousands of jobs in Bucks County, contributing millions in taxes annually and underpinning the County’s flourishing tourism industry. According to an economic impact report commissioned by Visit Bucks County, in 2022, 7.97 million visitors experienced Bucks County generating \$1.2 billion in visitor spending. According to the report, Bensalem Township, which hosts Parx was the top destination for visitors – by a very wide margin - attracting 18.6% of all visitors, followed by the next closest township at 9.6%. I mention this to emphasize the profound impact of Parx on Bucks County's tourism and hospitality sector, and to spotlight our utilization of Local Share Revenues at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. These funds enabled us to establish emergency funding programs, assisting over 100 tourism and hospitality sector-businesses and non-profit organizations in weathering the pandemic and impacts from the subsequent shutdown.

While we’ve funded hundreds of projects over the years, I wanted to point out one consistent beneficiary of the Municipal Grant Program. It is a multi-municipal collaborative endeavor known as Towns Against Graffiti, or TAG. Established in 1997, TAG's main objective is the removal of graffiti and litter from buildings, structures and main roadways across Lower Bucks County. All Municipal Grant Program-eligible municipalities partake in and endorse the TAG program. Supported by funding from Local Share Revenues through the Municipal Grant Program, this initiative swiftly removes graffiti within 24-48 hours of notification. Approximately 600 sites are cleaned annually, totaling around 18,000 sites cleaned since 1997. The TAG program ensures Bucks County remains clean and welcoming for visitors.

The Municipal Grant Program has served as a much-needed funding source for our numerous volunteer firefighters and emergency service responders in Lower Bucks County. The Pennsylvania Senate Resolution 6 – Final Report of 2018, stated that “Fire and EMS are in crisis right now”. The decline in volunteerism is a national, state and local trend. The number of volunteer first responders in the 1970’s was 300,000. Today the number of volunteer first responders is 37,000. The Report goes on to emphasize:

“Simply stated, fewer people are volunteering, and staffing performance is less than needed in many cases, straining the entire first responder system. This is recruitment of personnel and retention of personnel problem. Failure to address the problem immediately will ultimately result in expansion of paid staffing and related tax increases to the population of the Commonwealth.”

The Municipal Grant Program has allocated millions of dollars to aid our volunteer emergency responders in Lower Bucks County. Local Share Revenues have played a crucial role in assisting these organizations, ensuring they possess up-to-date personal protective equipment, reliable apparatus, compliant communications equipment, training and modern facilities. Funding through the Municipal Grant Program is essential for our volunteer organizations to recruit and retain volunteers, particularly in these challenging times.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Representative Tomlinson and the members of the Committee for inviting me to testify before you today regarding the impact and importance of Local Share Revenues through the Municipal Grant Program we administer in Bucks County. The program stands as a notable success for Bucks County, providing tens of millions of dollars used locally to support investments in infrastructure improvements, facilities, health and public safety, human services and equipment for law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency responders which has ultimately saved money for the hard-working taxpayers of Lower Bucks County.

## **Testimony**

**Brittany Nugent-Madera**

**May 1, 2024**

My name is Brittany Nugent-Madera. I'm representing our family business ABC Construction Co, Inc. in Bensalem. We are a woman-owned small construction business. I want to thank the Committee for inviting me to testify here today. It really is an honor to be here to highlight the profound impact that Parx Casino has on our business and our community.

We have been doing business with Parx Casino since 2014. Our work, principally, is helping maintain their facilities. We do about \$1 million in business a year with Parx. Our work with Parx Casino helps us to feed the families of our 50-70 employees.

It is a significant part of our revenue. As important, we know that working for Parx has made our team feel like an integral part of helping the broader Bensalem community to prosper and grow. Parx is a major economic driver for our hometown and the region.

We are enormously proud of the part we are able to play. Parx Casino's commitment to working with small, local businesses like ours -- especially a woman-owned business -- stands as a testament to their will and want to drive this community forward.

Parx recognizes the invaluable contributions that small and local businesses make to our economy. Through various initiatives and partnerships, Parx Casino has provided opportunities for local enterprises to thrive and that fosters a culture of collaboration and growth across the entire region.

Parx Casino's direct contribution is key, obviously, but the ripple effect it creates is a gamechanger. By employing local talent and investing in our community, we can continue to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and elevate the quality of life for everyone in Bensalem.

Our company and our employees need the work Park Casino provides to continue to thrive. Many people I know in Bensalem are Parx employees who are grateful that they are paying their bills and providing a future for their families – and for the next generation.

I have a lot of friends and neighbors who enjoy Parx for a night out for a concert or dinner. They visit Parx for the games, the amenities and the food! But they also know that Parx is safe! That is not the case in locations that host skill games.

Safety is just one concern I want to raise in regard to skill games.

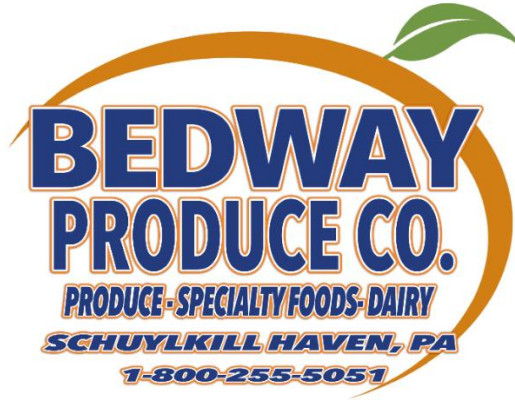
The simple fact is that allowing these unregulated skill machines jeopardizes the ongoing investment that Parx is making in our community. The unchecked proliferation of these machines jeopardizes the growth and prosperity we are witnessing in our community.

I'm also a mother. I have heard from several mothers how it appalls them to walk into a gas station with their children and see people just sitting and playing these skill machines.

As mothers we would like gambling to stay in a casino where it is regulated and supervised. Parx Casino is safe. I have never heard anything positive about these machines being in our community. We all know that these machines attract crime and are an open invitation to minors to gamble.

Gambling should take place in a casino, like Parx, not at convenience stores and gas stations.

Parx Casino's partnership with ABC Construction Co, Inc, isn't just about business transactions; it's about building relationships and fostering prosperity for our community. Together, we embody the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that defines our community. We cannot allow these unregulated machines to affect all of this good effort.



April 29, 2024

To The House Republican Policy Committee,

Bedway Produce Company has been doing business with Penn Entertainment since the year 2017. Their sales with our company are approximately Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) a year. These sales allow us to employ multiple employees and purchase trucks and fuel along with products from local farmers. This provides employment opportunities not only for our company but also the surrounding local farmers and trucking companies. It is a great addition to our local economy, and we value their business. They are an outstanding company to work with and we look forward to continuing our business with them for years to come.

Thank you,

Jeff Bedway

President



# Steratore Sanitary, Inc.

Phone: 724-223-0266

Fax: 724-223-0233

P.O. Box 16  
Washington, PA 15301

DATE: April 29, 2024

To: The House Republican Policy Committee

My name is Gene Steratore. I am the co-owner of Steratore Sanitary Supply, Inc., located in Washington Pennsylvania. My company has been very fortunate to be a supplier of many of the paper and janitorial products for The Meadows Casino, in Meadowlands, Pa since the grand opening in 2007. I am a local small business owner, and the opportunity to be a supplier of the Casino has provided my company the ability to grow and flourish in the community. We have been very fortunate to be an active partner, participating in local events held on the casino grounds, along with many other community activities. I have lived within a few miles of the casino location for over 30 years, and have enjoyed watching the surrounding area thrive commercially and personally as a direct result of the facility being built. Countless new food establishments, hotels, shopping locations, along with many other amenities have been created as a result.

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I have the opportunity to say "Thank You!", to all those who represent Penn Entertainment and The Meadows Casino!

With great appreciation,

Gene Steratore     Vice President: Steratore Sanitary, Inc



April 26, 2024

Honorable Joshua D. Kail  
PA House Republican Policy Committee  
Room 414, Main Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 202015  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2015

RE: Hollywood Casino Partnership

Dear Chairman Kail:

Please accept this letter as Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's appreciation and support of its long-standing partnership with Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, Hollywood Casino York, and Hollywood Casino Morgantown (collectively "Hollywood Casino"). Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (CPFB) is a Pennsylvania charitable organization founded in 1982 and committed to ending hunger in 27 counties across central Pennsylvania. By working with more than 1,100 local agencies and programs, over 15,000 volunteers, and thousands of individual, business, and organization donors, we serve more than 200,000 people in need each month. Every \$1 donated helps CPFB provide 4 nutritious meals.

Over the years, Hollywood Casino has donated over \$100,000 directly to CPFB as well as over \$7,100 in in-kind food donations. In addition, Hollywood Casino has directly supported our local food security partners, contributing an aggregate of over \$100,000 in funding and over \$30,000 in in-kind donations to Grantville Food Pantry, York County Food Bank, and Honey Brook Food Pantry. Further, Hollywood Casino has graciously featured CPFB and its partner agencies in its casinos by allowing patrons to donate the value of their leftover/unused slot tickets to our mission. Finally, it is our understanding that in the last five years, a time of historically high levels of food insecurity, the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to local food security organizations from its Local Share Assessment funds.

We are proud of our collaboration with Hollywood Casino and the Gaming Advisory Board. These are important public/private partnerships that enable CPFB and our food security network to adequately serve our central Pennsylvania neighbors in need.

Thank you for considering this letter of support, and if you have any questions, I can be reached at: [jarthur@centralpafoodbank.org](mailto:jarthur@centralpafoodbank.org) or at my direct line: 717.724.3180.

Yours in service,

Joe Arthur, CEO

[www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org)

3908 Corey Road **Harrisburg**, PA 17109-5929 Phone: (717) 564.1700 Fax: (717) 561.4636  
3301 Wahoo Drive **Williamsport**, PA 17701-9205 Phone: (570) 321.8023 Fax: (570) 321.8024

*The official registration and financial information of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*



Finding a cure now...  
so our daughters won't have to.

*Pat Halpin-Murphy  
President & Founder*

April 26, 2024

Honorable Joshua D. Kail  
PA House Republican Policy Committee  
Room 414, Main Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 202015  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2015

RE: Hollywood Casino Partnership

Dear Chairman Kail:

Please accept this letter as a summation of the PA Breast Cancer Coalition's (PBCC) appreciation and support of its long-standing partnership with Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, Hollywood Casino York, and Hollywood Casino Morgantown (collectively "Hollywood Casino").

The PBCC, founded in 1993, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the breast cancer epidemic through education, outreach and advocacy. We represent patients, survivors, families, medical professionals, and government, labor and business leaders who are committed to finding a cure for breast cancer. Each year approximately 14,000 Pennsylvania women are diagnosed with breast cancer, and close to 2,100 lose their lives to the disease. The PBCC serves as a resource to support women facing breast cancer. In 2023 alone, the PBCC sent 1,386 Friends Like Me care packages to newly diagnosed women, contributed over \$400,000 directly to breast cancer research in Pennsylvania and assisted over 293 women with patient advocacy issues.

Over the years Hollywood Casino has donated over \$90,000 directly to the PBCC. Hollywood Casino has highlighted our cause and message through "Pink Out" days where all team members wore pink shirts with the PBCC's logo and a "Pink Out" race during which all jockeys and horses wore pink silks. Furthermore, Hollywood Casino has allowed patrons to donate the value of their leftover/unused slot tickets to the PBCC to further our cause. Through all these actions, they have been a wonderful partner in our mission.

In conclusion, Hollywood Casino has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to being a community partner, and the Local Share Assessment funds from the regulated and taxed gaming industry have paid dividends throughout the community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pensinger  
Executive Director



15 Portland Road • P.O. Box 673  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

PH (610) 825-1060  
FX (610) 825-2117

April 29, 2024

The House Republican Policy Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

We are a small certified disadvantaged business owned company. We appreciate the fact that our woman owned status has value to the Hollywood organization. As a woman owned company, Hollywood is contributing to the growth and success of underrepresented communities in the business world.

We initially started doing business at the Grantville location. As time progressed, we were given additional locations to service. This has allowed us to reach a wider customer base and tap into new markets within those local communities, taking us into locations that we would not have considered before.

Hollywood has become an integral part of our business success, and we can't express enough our thanks for Hollywood's continued support.

This support has allowed us to hire additional employees that in turn required us to lease another truck. This is a significant milestone for us. This support has also allowed us to purchase in larger quantities, making us considerably more competitive. This allows us to maximize our purchasing power and become more competitive within our industry.

The support from Hollywood is a testament to the value they see in our woman-owned business, and it's exciting to see the positive impact it has on our growth and success.

Hollywood's support has been crucial for our company's success and growth. Their demand for our products and services has significantly contributed to our current position in the market.

Hollywood is a major consumer of our products and services. Hollywood's consistent purchases have not only brought substantial revenue to our company but also helped us establish a strong reputation within the industry. The continued support from Hollywood has allowed us to expand our business operations, invest in research and development, and maintain a high level of innovation.

In conclusion, Hollywood's support is essential for our company's success. Their status as our most important customer has provided us with consistent revenue, enhanced our brand image, and expanded our market reach. Without their valuable partnership, we would not be in the favorable position we are in today.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Duke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nelson" and the last name "Duke" clearly distinguishable.

Herron Duke  
Contract Cleaners Supply

# Jackson Welding Supply Co. Inc.

1421 W CARSON ST, PITTSBURGH, PA 15219. 412-391-4500. FAX 412-281-2299. Jackson.welding@verizon.net

[www.jacksonweldingsup.com](http://www.jacksonweldingsup.com)

April 29, 2024

The House Republican Policy Committee

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hollywood Casino at the Meadows has been a highly valued customer of ours since 2007. We make weekly deliveries of carbon dioxide for their food and beverage department, along with propane and other gases that they require for maintenance. It has been an important and long-lasting relationship.

Hollywood Casino at the Meadows is key to supporting our small business and the employees who work here, as our products and reliability are important in providing the Casino with the ability to serve food and beverages to their customers, power their forklifts, and make repairs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Mazziotti  
Vice-President



April 30, 2024

The Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee  
Rep. Josh Kail, Chairman

**Re: May 1, 2024 Hearing regarding the Casino Gaming Industry**

Dear Committee Members,

US Foods, Inc. provides food distribution services for PENN Entertainment ("PENN"), an American entertainment company and operator of integrated entertainment, sports content, and casino gambling. PENN is an important national customer of US Foods.

US Foods provides approximately \$5,000,000 in food and supplies to PENN's foodservice operations annually. PENN is both a key customer of US Foods, generally, and US Foods' Commonwealth operations, specifically.

Additionally, from sales staff, drivers, and office support staff, we have approximately 15 associates in our Allentown, Swedesboro, and Greensburg distribution centers who support PENN's business day in and day out, with an additional significant number of warehouse staff who support the distribution centers' operations each day.

We value our relationship with PENN and appreciate the opportunity to support PENN as it, likewise, supports US Foods by entrusting us with its business.

Regards,

Kevin Hogue  
VP National Chains and Regional Concepts