



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

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July 14, 2008

Rep. Dwight Evans
7174 Ogontz Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19138

Rep. Evans,

I would first like to commend you for your leadership in working to pass Pennsylvania's State Budget. Your efforts on behalf of Philadelphia are particularly laudable and I am very much appreciative of the resulting resources that will inure to the city's benefit.

I am contacting you today in an effort to shed further light on the issue of resident sentiment vis-à-vis casinos in Philadelphia. In most publicized reports, citizen opposition to casino placement along Delaware Avenue is heavily emphasized. However, there are a substantial number of residents in my district who support the Sugarhouse Casino in particular, and believe its completion will be a benefit to the community.

Since September of 2007 ongoing negotiations between several neighborhood organizations and the Sugarhouse Casino have been taking place. The Fishtown Action (FACT), New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC), and the Olde Richmond Civic Association (ORCA) have been working diligently with casino leadership in an extremely cooperative manner. It is my understanding that a community agreement, including a number of unprecedented benefits, is very close to being solidified.

The purpose of this letter is not to pass judgment on any particular location, or to weigh in on the moral implications of gambling activity. I do, however, believe it is important that all viewpoints on the issue are recognized and adequately considered. In this regard, I would like to provide an opportunity for participating community organizations to brief you on their progress. I will be contacting your office in the coming weeks to arrange such a briefing at your earliest convenience. I am certain this dialogue will help to facilitate a more balanced discussion regarding this most important issue.

As always, your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

Darrell L. Clarke
Councilman 5th District