

Dear Mayor Nutter,

October 24, 2008

Yesterday, from your campaign office, you sent many of us an email urging us to phone bank for Barack Obama on November 1st. Many of us would like nothing better – but we can't, because the City is railroading the process of approving Foxwoods for the heart of our city. As you know, City Council is holding a special hearing on the morning of Saturday, November 1, 2008. Like you, we want to participate in the presidential campaigns and we also might want to spend a morning at home with our kids after a night of trick-or-treating. But we can't, because you are not allowing us.

Therefore, we would like you to do one of two things: (1) call publicly for a postponement of the hearing scheduled for Saturday, November 1st; or, (2) attend the entire hearing in person.

You are part and parcel of this expedited process. Moments after Councilman DiCicco introduced this zoning legislation, you stood next to him and told the media that you supported this rushed schedule. There is no legitimate reason to push this so fast. Our supporters are too experienced to buy into the line that the City fears Supreme Court intervention at a time when Foxwoods doesn't even have a state gaming license for this site.

Whenever it occurs, this hearing will contain many good witnesses providing significant information and it's important for you to see this testimony firsthand. The citizens of Philadelphia deserve to have their Mayor hear their voices on this issue. Already, so many are disappointed that you have not found time to attend any of the neighborhood meetings attended by Councilman DiCicco and Representative O'Brien, where residents have provided so much outrage and passionate feedback.

Putting a slots parlor so close to residential neighborhoods (and not fighting harder on trying to move SugarHouse) will be one of your most profound negative legacies having lasting impact on tens of thousands of families – why are you not at these meetings?

In general, we intend to persuade you to at least stand by your campaign promises to keep slot parlors more than 1,500 feet away from residences, schools, playgrounds and houses of worship. As a reminder we enclose one of our flyers documenting your promises. We want Candidate Nutter back.

To a larger degree, over the next weeks and months, we also hope to provide you with information demonstrating the heavy costs that the City would bear if a slots parlor were to be located in the heart of Philadelphia. Never before has a predatory business of this magnitude been located so close to so many people. Indeed, this is not just a matter of the surrounding residential neighborhoods because Foxwoods also seeks to draw people from all the office buildings on Market Street, including municipal workers at 1234 Market Street and even from City Hall, among other places. Is this how you want City workers to spend their paychecks? You are abandoning all of your principles by trying to make it so convenient for workers to visit a slots parlor during their lunch hour, during a coffee break or on their way

to or from their place of business. The cost of this predation would be borne even among those who never set foot in a slots parlor.

Please call publicly for a postponement of the November 1st hearing or be there in person to hear from the people. Feel free to bring the Governor with you.

Casino-Free Philadelphia

Encl. (Candidate Nutter on Casinos)

cc: City Council President Anna Verna
Media