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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - April 20, 2022



City aldermen speak out against proposed casino sites

With Chicago's three proposed casino sites getting a torrent of opposition from neighbors, alderpersons are increasingly critical of plans in or near their wards. The latest to weigh in on a casino site was Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd), who Monday issued a statement opposing the Hard Rock casino proposed as part of the One Central development near Soldier Field. Dowell said that while Chicago needs the revenue from a casino, "The devil is in the details" and the One Central site doesn't make the grade.

Dowell, Mayor Lori Lightfoot's handpicked chairperson of the City Council's Budget Committee, said the Hard Rock plan "would be dropped into an existing, well-established family community in the Prairie District of Chicago's South Loop." She said her concerns include density, public safety and the financial projections that underpin the project. "A casino in Chicago is needed and warranted. Just not at One Central," she said in her statement.

Casino developer hears resident gripes about traffic, crime — and looming 'millstone'

Dowell joins alderpersons who have raised objections to the other casino sites, the Bally's development at the Chicago Tribune printing plant, 777 W. Chicago Ave.; and the Rush Street Gaming plan with Related Midwest for The 78, at Roosevelt Road and Clark Street. Each site had its own community hearing in the first week of April, and each got an onslaught of criticism from people who didn't want gambling close to their

homes. "There are a lot of residents near Bally's that are against it, but there are some silent majorities for it.

Alderman says residents are leery of a casino in their region of the city

Sigcho-Lopez noted that Lightfoot has received more than \$200,000 in campaign contributions from casino magnate Neil Bluhm's daughter Leslie and her sister, Meredith Bluhm-Wolf. Neil Bluhm, head of Rush Street Gaming, is behind the proposal at The 78. [Read](#)

Gambling hotline calls rise in wake of legal sports betting

The **Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling** is getting flooded with phone calls. "They're saying that they've gotten into trouble faster than they thought they would ever get into trouble," Executive Director Diana Goode said, referring to what many callers are saying.

Connecticut started online gambling and sports betting in October. Since that time, calls to the gambling problem hotline have skyrocketed by **126%**, Goode said. And it is a younger crowd that is calling for help with addiction. [Read](#)

'This is going to hurt': Video gaming fees are set to rise for Peoria tavern owners

PEORIA – A recent law change in Springfield had members of the Peoria City Council worried the effect it will have on bars and taverns, saying that it punishes the "little guy." The change to the state's **video gaming licensing rules** means local businesses will pay a bigger share of the fees to obtain video poker machines and the like – and people like Councilmembers Beth Jensen and Sid Ruckriegel said it wasn't fair during last week's council meeting. [Read](#)

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