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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - August 19, 2021



Which Companies Are—And Aren't—Making A Play For The Chicago Casino License

Now let's discuss a pair of companies we know have a small desire to operate a Chicago casino—Hard Rock Florid and Rush Street Gaming . . . The Chicago Cubs were recently given approval by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks to build a two-story DraftKings sportsbook at Wrigley Field.

There is a chance the other three venues, Soldier Field (Chicago Bears), Guaranteed Rate Field (Chicago White Sox), and the United Center (Chicago Bulls & Chicago Blackhawks), will do the same. **Read**

Pressure from Bluhm [Rush Street Gaming]

. . . But the [Chicago] City Council hasn't approved stadium-based wagering yet. Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th, whose ward includes the United Center, got the ball rolling last month when he introduced an ordinance allowing betting at stadiums. City Hall sources say people in Bluhm's camp argued against the bill, which has been sidelined in the rules committee.

Bluhm confirms that he opposes the stadium-betting bill. He warns that stadium-based sportsbooks would generate little money for the city beyond a licensing fee of \$50,000 for the first year and \$25,000 per year following, while cutting into the action at a Chicago casino that city leaders hope will generate about \$200 million in tax revenue annually to shore up sagging municipal pensions. **Read**

Column: Lawmakers want gaming board to award

license for south suburban casino

Five south suburban lawmakers recently signed a letter urging Gov. J.B. Pritzker to use his power to compel the Illinois Gaming Board to award a license for a south suburban casino. [Read](#)

Mayor: Arlington Park sale announcement

A public announcement on a selected Arlington Park redevelopment proposal could come in the next one to two months, and the local regulatory approvals process could begin before the end of the year, Arlington Heights' mayor said.

... "They're so focused on casino gambling. They're putting all their resources and money into an expansion at (Rivers Casino in Des Plaines) and other things." [Read](#)

'My husband took his life after a free bet bonus sparked a gambling spiral during lockdown'

Luke, a recovering gambling addict, was thrown off kilter by a "free bet" offer from a betting app last November. ... the bonus allowed him to place a bet without depositing any money. The win sparked a relapse for Luke, who had previously kept his addiction at bay for almost two years. ... Now, the grieving primary school teacher is fighting to introduce Luke's Law, banning all "free bet" offers to "protect my son and the next generation". Her [parliamentary petition](#) has received nearly 11,000 signatures to date.

... UK and international research has found that **4 to 11 per cent of suicides are related to gambling, the equivalent of 250 to 650 deaths per year in the UK.** Research from Sweden found that people addicted to gambling are 15 times more likely to take their own lives than the general population. Mrs. Ashton believes outlawing "free bets" could prevent others from being hooked and facing the same tragedy experienced by her family.

... "A bombardment of aggressive marketing across all channels combined with predatory inducements such as 'free bets' is a disaster for a generation where everyone has a casino in their pockets on their smartphones.

"Gambling products are designed to be addictive and the majority of gambling industry profits come from a small amount of addicted customers and this so often leads to tragedy." [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- Share the article about the husband who took his life after a free bet with your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#). Ask them to oppose Internet gambling, expansion of Internet Lottery, and "free bets" for sports gambling.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.

- Forward to 10 others.

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