



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - December, 2021



Chicago Mayor denies flip-flop on sports betting

Lightfoot said she would never do anything that would meaningfully compromise casino revenue, which is dedicated to shore up police and fire pension funds now dangerously close to insolvency — and there is no evidence that casino revenue losses to sports betting would be severe.

Lightfoot noted sports betting has been legal in Illinois since the General Assembly authorized it in 2019. She expects an amended ordinance lifting the Chicago ban to be approved by the City Council in December. [Read](#)

South Side religious leader calls for Lightfoot to drop casino bidder tied to problematic housing complex

“The potential owner of the city’s first casino has this slum landlord thing over his head, then why would the city applaud him to be one of the final candidates?” Trotter said, referring to the president of the company, Curt Bailey.

Related, a real estate and development firm, has partnered with Chicago-based Rush Street Gaming in a bid to build a casino in Chicago.

A statement sent by a Lightfoot spokesman . . . said the bid review process was “extremely robust and thorough” and will include a series of community engagement meetings. **A bidder presentation will be held Dec. 16 at the UIC Forum and will be available to watch via [livestream](#). [Read](#)**

Waukegan casino delay

The Potawatomis originally filed their federal lawsuit in 2019,

contending they were intentionally left out of the process when their bid was rejected by city officials. The tribe . . . has doubled-down and has contended in recent filings, according to a Nov. 18 News-Sun story by Dan Petrella, that the entire process allegedly was “rigged” to favor the group led by Bond. That’s a serious charge.

The parties apparently now are involved in federal court mediation which is set to begin Nov. 30. The gaming board’s next session is Dec. 8. (In Chicago Tribune, November 24th,2021)

America’s Gambling Addiction Is Metastasizing

Once there was Las Vegas; now there’s a Las Vegas in every phone. [Read more](#)

N.J. gamblers get to bet on game after it ended

. . . the 86 New Jersey gamblers who thought they were beating the system had their bets on a British soccer game voided, and the two betting companies involved got fined.

The mishap was revealed in documents made public earlier this month by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, which has fined the Malta-based sports betting technology company Kambi Group and **Chicago-based Rush Street Interactive** \$1,000 apiece. [Read](#)

In 10-15 years the esports betting market will become as large as traditional sports gambling [Read](#)

NOTE: ESports is competitive, video game tournaments comprised of teams of middle school, high school or college teams playing video games like Fortnite, League of Legends.

Congress should reject H.R. 1619's dangerous anywhere, any place casino precedent

H.R. 1619, which the Senate recently **added** for consideration to the National Defense Authorization Act as an amendment, is a special interests’ special interest bill. If passed, it would represent the first time Congress ever approved an off-reservation casinos. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Send The Atlantic article “America’s Gambling Addiction is Metastasizing” to your [State Senator](#) and [Representative](#) with a note asking them to oppose the legalization of online casino gambling.
2. Call Illinois Senators Dick Durbin ((202) 224-2152) and Tammy Duckworth (202) 224-2854 and ask them to oppose H.R. 1619.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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