



Gambling Alert - December 3, 2020



Interested Casino Developers want Chicago's Casino Downtown:

Eleven firms are interested in building or operating a casino in Chicago - and eight told Mayor Lori Lightfoot that it should be downtown, according to a limited summary of the proposals submitted by firms released by the mayor's office on Wednesday.

A site for the casino will be selected after "a robust community engagement process," that includes public meetings, officials said.

... **Six firms indicated they were open to operating a temporary casino during the two to three years it will take to build a permanent gaming palace**, while two did not express an opinion, according to the city. [Read more](#)

City releases summary of possible casino operators' responses

As for the pandemic, the city's summary says "All respondents believe (hope) that the current COVID-19 pandemic will have no or a minimal impact on the casino facility given the timing for selection and licensing of the casino operator and construction of the casino complex (respondents estimate construction timeline of 24 to 36 months)."

Among the respondents were four casino operators: Hard Rock International, MGM Resorts International, Wynn Resorts and a partnership between Rush Street Gaming - an affiliate of Rivers Casino - and developer Related Midwest.

Real estate developers D3 Realty, Development Management Associates, JDL and R2 Companies also responded to this initial step from the Lightfoot administration to assess interest before putting out a request for proposals next year. [Read more](#)

Chicago casino developers want downtown location

She [Mayor Lightfoot] has kept the door open to a downtown location that **convention and tourism industry leaders oppose, but which a state-hired gaming consultant insists is the best bet to maximize tax revenue earmarked for the city's depleted police and firefighter pension funds.**

... Among the key factors in selecting a permanent site, according to the respondents, are adequate parking, "premier visibility," proximity to city amenities, the

"ability to leverage the Chicago riverfront," "neighborhood acceptance" and economic development - though that shouldn't be the "key driver of location."

. . .The casino developers said they'd **need between 10 and 25 acres to build a complex that would include a hotel, food and beverage outlets, event space, stores and parking.** [Read more](#)

[Summary of responses from casino operators](#)

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