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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - July 27, 2021



Gambling companies have wanted to open a casino in Chicago for years. Now, those companies are complaining about the high taxes-- which were lowered from 72% to 40%--and the amount of money they will have to spend for the hotels, shopping, etc.

Gambling interests exaggerate the amount of revenue for the state/City, and do not include the costs of addiction, bankruptcy, crime, and suicide from gambling.

Neil Bluhm and his gambling company lobbied to pass the 2019 massive expansion bill, which included a casino for Chicago and sports gambling. The Chicago Tribune editorial board supports Bluhm and incentives for the gambling company.

These companies do not need incentives nor should they get them. The costs are at least \$3 for every \$1 in revenue. Gambling promoters promise more than they can deliver, then change the law for their benefit. The state, city, and taxpayers will foot the bill for all social costs, get less revenue than anticipated, and wind up losers in this gambling scheme.

Gambling Operators say Chicago Casino a Costly Bet

Chicago's request for proposals is detailed: a 500-room, five-star hotel; an "iconic outdoor public space"; up to 60,000 square feet of meeting space; and spaces for restaurants, entertainment, shops and museums that involve Chicago-made brands and local artists and suppliers, all designed with Chicago's history in mind and with innovative architecture. **The casino would open by 2025.**

Proposals are due Aug. 23 and developers would present plans to the public in late September. The applicants are being asked to propose the site for the project.

... City leaders want a Chicago casino to capture dollars lost from gamblers who cross the state line to Indiana to gamble there. Tax revenues of about \$200 million a year to the city would go toward the city's police and fire pension funds.

[Read more](#)

Chicago casino too risky for some industry players

Some analysts **believe Rush Street will propose a casino for the development site downtown known as The 78.** It covers 62 vacant acres southwest of Roosevelt Road and Clark Street. Rush Street has formed a partnership with Related Midwest, the developer of The 78.

The property provides ample room for a casino and ancillary uses the city wants, and development could occur in phases. But any casino site could provoke opposition over traffic and other zoning concerns. [Read more](#)

Chicago Tribune Editorial: How to save the Chicago casino
Gambling, of course, comes at a social cost and the ambivalence over the casino felt by many is understandable. One of the existential flaws of this state's 30-year involvement in the industry is its insistence on using casinos as tools of urban renewal, which means they have been far more convenient to visit for lower-income Illinoisans than those with plenty of disposable cash. This has been a colossal mistake. **Casinos should be targeted toward those with money to spare; their benefits can then accrue to Illinoisans who need them the most.**

Rivers, for example, is convenient both to O'Hare International Airport and to higher income communities. And, as casinos go, it offers a relatively refined ambience with some retro glamour. This is an Illinois casino that works, not least for **its owners, Churchill Downs Inc. and Neil Bluhm's Rush Street Gaming. It's a useful model for Chicago, especially if Rush Street gets involved.** [Read more](#)

As layoff notices go out, Arlington Park also plans to bring on temps to work final Million Day

Arlington Park officials said Tuesday their notice to some 300 employees of upcoming layoffs was done to be in compliance with state and federal laws.

... And while some have held out hope that Arlington might still apply for 2022 race dates by the Illinois Racing Board's Friday deadline, Petrillo said as of Tuesday afternoon, an application hadn't been completed. He said the plan remains for this to be the final year of racing at the historic oval. [Read](#)

Can a Hawthorne 'Racino' Keep Horse Racing Alive in Chicago?

Hawthorne is promising to revive horse racing in Chicago. The track is spending \$400 million to turn the grandstand into a racetrack/casino, with slots, table games and sports betting to supplement the horse

racing—a racino, in the industry lingo. It's scheduled to open by the end of 2022. [Read more](#)

Officer gets prison time for gambling ring tied to Casey Urlacher [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- If you live in the Chicago, call your [Alderman](#) and ask him/her not to give tax incentives to casino companies.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems

1132 West Jefferson,
Springfield, IL 62702
217-546-6871

[Contact Us](#)

