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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - June 24, 2021



Parkway Gardens is a prime spot for Chicago casino

Owner Related Midwest put the South Side complex on the market, then pulled it off amid code violations and as it presses its case for a casino license in the South Loop.

Related Midwest showed its hand when it joined last year with [Neil Blumh's Rush Street Gaming](#) to answer the city's call for ideas and interest in a casino. Since then, Related Midwest President Curt Bailey has been talking up the property as **accessible to downtown crowds but with ample room for the hotel, restaurants, shops, parking and other things big casinos require.** [Read](#)

Rivers Casino with 62% Ownership by Churchill Downs announces "Official Casino of the Chicago Bears"

The Chicago Bears, Rush Street Interactive, Inc. a Chicago-based gaming company that operates BetRivers.com, and Rivers Casino, announced June 22, 2021 that the businesses have agreed to a multi-year exclusive partnership.

Rivers Casino is jointly owned by Rush Street Gaming and Churchill Downs Incorporated. Churchill Downs Inc., which owned the nearby Arlington Park racetrack, purchased a 62 percent stake in the casino from Neil Bluhm and his partners for \$407 million in 2019.

As part of the partnership, BetRivers and Rivers Casino will receive a mix of prominent in-stadium signage, and digital, social and print assets. Additionally, BetRivers will be the Title Partner of the team's customized Free to Play Game on the Chicago Bears Official App. [Read](#)

Chicago Bears' offer to move to Arlington Heights is serious says Mayor

As owner of the site, Churchill Downs gets to choose who it will sell to,

which will determine what gets proposed for development. But the village can set parameters for what can go on the site. On Monday, the village board voted unanimously to require any developer to propose a comprehensive master plan for the site. [Read](#)

Residents speak, Commission denies VG parlor request

Noah Cunningham, 11, who will be in the sixth grade this fall, was in attendance at Tuesday's Quincy Plan Commission meeting to urge members to deny a special use request for a video gaming parlor at 1905 Jefferson. "You can't disrupt the peace and harmony that is in our neighborhood," Cunningham said. [Read](#)

Lincolnwood reconsidering ban on video gambling

The Lincolnwood Plan Commission is due to take up the issue [of marijuana] at its **July 7 meeting, along with further discussion of allowing video gambling within the village.** [Read](#)

With Waukegan casino coming, group warns about problem gamblers

As the city waits on the gaming board, Thielen said she recognizes there is already video gaming in Waukegan. A casino will likely exacerbate the situation. There are 37 bars, restaurants or gaming parlors in town with a total of 212 machines, according to a May report from the board.

"If and when a casino comes, we want to make sure people are mobilized and prepared to help those who need it," she said "When there is a new casino, there is an increase in problem gambling. [Read](#)

Need for self-exclusion for video gambling and sports gambling

Actually removing someone's ability to place a wager is obviously more effective than simply posting signage about the dangers of a gambling addiction. Self-exclusion programs should be mandatory in each state, with penalties attached to companies that allow users to reactivate their

accounts before the exclusion period terminates. States should promote and enforce 'self-exclusion' policies for those struggling with gambling addiction. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Stay vigilant, talk with local officials about opposing video gambling.
2. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) in their district office or talk with them at local events to tell them about the problems and harm of more gambling. Ask their position on Internet casino gambling, keno, betting on IL colleges, etc.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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