



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## August 4, 2015

### Video Gambling Alert

### Communities considering overturning BANS



Many new Mayors, Village Trustees, and Aldermen were elected in April. Now bar owners and gambling interests are asking that local bans on video gambling be overturned in St. Charles, Forest Park, Plainfield, Sleepy Hollow, Mount Prospect, and Mahomet.

#### **St. Charles officials to continue discussion of video gambling**

A year after it refused to entertain the idea, the St. Charles City Council is re-opening the debate on whether it should allow video gaming in the city.

The residents who made their case at Monday night's council committee meeting fell into two camps: those who thought video gaming would invite a host of social ills and doesn't fit with St. Charles' image, and business owners and fraternal lodge members who thought that a few machines would provide a helpful financial boost. [Read more](#)

#### **The aldermen decided in favor of getting more information and continuing the discussion on Aug. 17. [Read more](#)**

#### **Editorial: Municipalities wise not to rely on gambling revenue**

When the Grand Victoria Casino opened 21 years ago, the Elgin City Council was firm in its conviction that any money it made in taxes on gambling would be funneled to one-time expenses: public works projects; beautification; new streetlights. And the city would never spend a dime on ongoing expenses for things like the police and fire departments.

The city of **Elgin took in \$29.5 million in casino taxes in 2001.** But then the slide began, with the opening of Rivers Casino in nearby Des Plaines, and the mini gambling parlors popping up all over the place. The city of **Elgin expects to receive just \$10.8 million during 2015.**

Consider everything you get from gambling as gravy. . . . Don't pay your staff with it. Because **when the suburbs finally reach a saturation point with the one-armed bandits, that revenue will begin to wither.** And then you won't be able to afford as many of those people you hired. And the last thing any of us wants to see is essential

services curtailed. [Read more](#)

### **\$18K in Alton gaming money held**

With no new state budget in place yet, **the governor halted video gaming revenue (VGR) payments to municipalities** this week, including a \$18,081.30 reimbursement - so far - to Alton.

"We'll be OK for a couple months, but if the budget doesn't get settled in September, Alton could see some financial difficulty," said Alton City Treasurer Cindy Roth. **Payments run two months after the fact.** . . . [Read more](#)

### **Local governments hope to recoup withheld gambling revenue**

Bloomington's 54 gambling establishments raked in \$164 million last year. [Mayor] Renner said **as profitable as those machines are, the establishments could easily pay more to help the city out of its budget deficit. "I think the people making profits off these video poker machines should bear more of the cost burden than the average taxpayer in this city."** [Read more](#)

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. If **you live in St. Charles, Plainfield, Forest Park, Mount Prospect, Sleep Hollow, Mahomet or any other community considering overturning a ban on video gambling, call the Mayor and Aldermen to let them know you Support the BAN on video gambling.**
2. **Write a letter to the editor using these [talking points](#).**
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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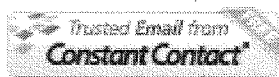
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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems | 1132 West Jefferson | Springfield | IL | 62702