



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

November 23, 2015

Gambling Alert



Reasons to Oppose a Chicago-owned Casino

Forbes published an excellent article about Mayor Rahm Emanuel's quest for a city-owned casino in Chicago.

While on paper the idea of a city-owned casino in Chicago may sound like a good idea, it is very, very bad. *Forbes* counts the ways.

First, casino revenues are falling all over the country due to a saturation of the gaming market, including Illinois where, despite/because of a 27% increase in table games from 2007 to 2014, total gaming revenue fell from nearly \$2 billion to \$1.4 billion.

Second, bureaucrats who project earnings for this hypothetical government-owned casino use privately-owned casinos as the basis for their calculations. They have to use privately-owned casinos to make their forecasts because there are no wholly government owned casinos in the United States: **What is being proposed for Chicago would be unprecedented.**

Third, whatever revenues a government-owned casino in downtown Chicago would bring would be offset by construction and operating costs (which would run into the tens of millions easily) **and the displacement and/or destruction of existing businesses in that space.**

... **More casinos will not mean substantially more tax revenue.** That's the principle of nonlinearity. But **a government-owned casino would mean more government corruption. That's the nature of Chicago.** [Read more](#)

Rookie Chicago alderman wants video gaming; mayor says NO

Alderman Lopez wants to allow individual wards to "opt out" of video gaming, just as they can declare moratoriums on new liquor licenses. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Contact your [State Senator](#) and your [State Representative](#)** in their District Offices and share the reasons to OPPOSE a city-owned casino in Chicago. NO MORE GAMBLING!
2. **Write a Letter to the Editor**
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

Underage Gambling at video gambling establishments

... Anita Bedell says it's highly unlikely the only underage people who have gambled at a bar are in Mundelein. She points to underage drinking fines the Illinois Liquor Control Commission has handed out to bars that have machines as evidence the gambling industry needs more scrutiny. [Read more](#)

IOUs are reminder state, pols no prize

The Illinois Lottery bought full-page color newspaper ads to thank its players and apologize for its inability to pay its big prizes until the budget crisis is resolved in Springfield. [Read more](#)

Man gets life in prison for killing his parents - Officials say \$100K in gambling debts motive for murder [Read more](#)

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