



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

June 30, 2015

Gambling Action Alert



There is still no balanced budget, and the fiscal year for the State of Illinois ends today. Please continue the calls, petitions, and prayers (See below).

Mayor taking a gamble on casino revenue

Emanuel has pushed for a casino since he was elected, first as a source of funding for school modernization, then as a tool for economic development, now as way to meet payments on police and fire pensions.

Economists at Northern Illinois University say **a casino is not likely to boost tourism, and that any casino spending will be diverted from the city's restaurants, theaters, nightclubs, and museums.**

... And while poaching patrons from Indiana is one justification given for a Chicago casino, that prospect is limited: **Hammond will remain more accessible than downtown Chicago to a wide swath of the South Side.**

... According to economist Richard Florida: **"Virtually every serious study that has ever been done of the economic impacts of casinos shows that their costs far exceed their benefits and that they are a poor use of precious downtown land."** Read more: <http://chicagoreporter.com/mayor-taking-a-gamble-on-casino-revenue/>

Horse Racing

The Illinois Racing Board June 23, amid warnings the state's racing industry is at "death's door," narrowly refused to let Arlington International Racecourse trim its daily programs to fewer than eight races.

The board did, however, approve Arlington's request for more flexibility in carding races—a step horsemen said will hurt breeders, owners, and trainers. [Read more:](#)

Video 'Gambling malls' may be coming near you

A developer is apparently hoping to launch a unique concept, a sort of casino mall, in strip malls in Crestwood and Hometown. The idea would be to lease storefronts to multiple owners of gambling cafes, with up to five video machines in each.

Crestwood Mayor Lou Presta and Hometown Mayor Kevin Casey said they were eager to embrace such an enterprise, while noting that the Illinois Gaming Board will ultimately decide whether it complies with the state's video gambling law. [Read more](#)

Video gambling within Discount Tobacco Ware House

Lucky's Landing **features a player service switch, which allows customers to request service without leaving their seat.**

"Next to each of our machines we have a service switch that players can flip if they need anything at all," a Lucky Landing's news release said. **"One of our friendly attendants will get our pampered players a free slice of pizza, free cookie, free soda or alcohol beverage available for purchase."** <http://www.galesburg.com/article/20150623/NEWS/150629902>

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. [Circulate and sign petitions](#) to the Governor for NO MORE GAMBLING.
2. Talk to your Legislators at 4th of July Parades and events, asking them to take a stand for NO MORE GAMBLING.
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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