

Mayor of Providence
Vincent A. Cianci, Jr

April 9, 1998

Mr. Michael Clement
City Clerk
Providence City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Pursuant to Sections 302(f) and 412 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, I hereby disapprove and veto the attached resolution, in which the City Council endorses and urges passage by the General Assembly of Senate Bill 98-2598, relating to the extension of gambling facilities in the City of Providence.

I take this action because almost none of the specifics of this proposal have been disclosed to date. Before the City of Providence could consider becoming the "host community" for a major casino, there would have to be thorough public disclosure.

At present, we know only that a "Narragansett Indian Tribal gambling facility" would be located in the City of Providence, and that the state proceeds would be paid directly "to the host city and the other cities and towns of the state of Rhode Island to reduce property taxes and improve education."

The list of what we do not know is long, indeed. No public hearings have been held at the local level for the purpose of obtaining answers to the many questions. At present, we do not know who would own the property, who would operate the facility, how the profits would be distributed, or what payments would be made to Providence and the other communities.

We also do not know where the facility would be located; how many employees it would have; whether it would include a hotel, restaurants, nightclubs or structured parking; how traffic would flow to and from the site; and what impact the casino would have on neighboring properties.

We do not know whether the proposed facility would strengthen or weaken existing businesses in the city.

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We also do not know the impact that a Providence casino would have on the state lottery and state-sanctioned gambling facilities.

The Governor projects that legalized gambling will contribute almost \$110 million to the state budget next year. This is twice as much revenue as the State collected just five years ago.

As Mayor of Providence, I have another important concern: It is not clear what legal authority the host community would have to negotiate the many important issues I have identified.

A major casino could have at least as much impact on the city as the Providence Place shopping mall. Imagine giving our support to Providence Place, knowing as little about the mall as we know about the casino today.

At this time, I cannot convey to the legislature my support for a proposal of such great magnitude, knowing almost nothing of its impact on the city.

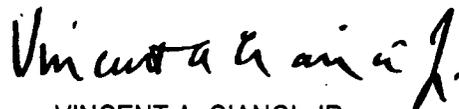
There is more public support for a gambling casino today than in the past. The public-opinion poll that I commissioned, and recently made public, indicates as much. However, it is also clear that the support is not so much for casino gambling, as it is for "property tax relief" and "education." The same opinion poll indicated that Rhode Islanders, by wide margins, believe their property taxes are much too high. People throughout the state are also dissatisfied with the quality of the public schools, and believe that many school systems are inadequately funded, especially in the cities.

I have been an outspoken advocate of property tax relief and educational reform for a number of years. We must provide significant, and lasting, property tax relief in every community of this state. We must make an unwavering commitment to educational quality in our public schools. And we must provide equal opportunity for every child, rich or poor.

I have been heartened by a growing willingness on the part of the state's leadership to resolve these difficult issues. The General Assembly is restructuring the school-aid formula to improve educational equity. There are a number of proposals to provide property tax relief. The cities have also formed an Urban Alliance that is working to bring about change. Considering that state revenues from legalized gambling have grown by more than \$50 million since 1994, it is appropriate to ask whether revenues from this existing source should be dedicated to the municipalities.

In vetoing this resolution for the expansion of gambling, I am confident that the state leadership will respond to the public demand for property tax relief and improved public schools.

Sincerely,



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor of Providence

VAC

FILED

APR 9 2 59 PM '98

DEPT. OF CITY CLERK
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

Approved

RESOLVED, That the City Council endorses and urges passage by the General Assembly of Senate Bill 98-2598, relating to Sports, Racing and Athletic - Establishment and Extension of Gambling Activities, in substantially the form attached; provided however, that said legislation shall not require but only enable the City of Providence by resolution of the City Council to submit any question regarding the establishment of a gambling facility in the City of Providence to the qualified electors of the City of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 2 1998
READ AND PASSED, AS AMENDED.

Evelyn V. Jargnoli
PRES.
Jean M. Prochone
CLERK

*I hereby
disapprove and veto
this resolution
message attached*

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 16 1998
READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Michael R. Clement
CLERK
Jma

W. Monte Cannon
may
April 8, 1998

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

98-S 2598

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 1998

A N A C T

RELATING TO SPORTS, RACING, AND ATHLETICS -- ESTABLISHMENT AND
EXTENSION OF GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

98-S 2598

Introduced By: Senators Ruggiero, Badeau, Walton,
Celona, Polisena et al

Date Introduced: February 5, 1998

Referred To: Senate Committee on Special Legislation

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 41-9 of the General Laws entitled "Establishment and Extension of
 2 Gambling Activities and Other Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following
 3 section:
- 4 **41-9-7. A Narragansett Indian Tribal Gambling Facility in the Host Community of**
 5 **Providence. — Notwithstanding the provisions contained in section 41-9-4:**
- 6 **(a) Before a Narragansett Indian Tribal Gambling Facility shall be established in the host**
 7 **community of Providence, the City Council shall pose, by adopting a resolution to be placed on**
 8 **the ballot at the next general election to be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of**
 9 **Providence and to the qualified electors of the state, the following question: "Shall a**
 10 **Narragansett Indian Tribal gambling facility be located in the City of Providence and shall the**
 11 **state proceeds from said facility be paid directly to the host city and the other cities and towns of**
 12 **the state of Rhode Island to reduce property taxes and improve education?"**
- 13 **(b) The question shall be submitted by the local Board of Canvassers to the electors of**
 14 **the City of Providence and the results of the elections shall be certified to the secretary of state;**
- 15 **(c) The question shall be submitted by the secretary of state to the qualified electors of**
 16 **the state of the same general election and the secretary of state shall certify the election results;**
- 17 **(d) The affirmative vote of the City of Providence and the electors of the state shall be**
 18 **necessary for approval of the question and if consent be thus given, all further regulations shall**

98-S 2598

1 rest with the Ethics Commission.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC01732
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

AN ACT
RELATING TO SPORTS, RACING, AND ATHLETICS -- ESTABLISHMENT AND
EXTENSION OF GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

1 *This act would allow the voters throughout the state to approve a gambling facility for*
2 *the Narragansett Indians in Providence.*

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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