

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	September 22, 2008
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Slot Machine Gambling in the State of Maryland
Background	<p>On November 4, 2008, Marylanders will vote on a State wide referendum to amend the State constitution to allow slot machine gambling. If approved by voters, 15,000 slot machines would be placed at venues in Anne Arundel County, Cecil County, Worcester County, Allegheny County, and Baltimore City.</p> <p>Councilmember Wright has requested that the City Council consider a resolution opposing the expansion of slot machine gambling in Maryland. His draft resolution is attached.</p>
Policy	The City Council may take positions on local, state, national and international issues of concern to Takoma Park residents.
Fiscal Impact	N/A
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Slot Machine Gambling in the State of Maryland • Wording of the Constitutional Amendment Referendum • Former Attorney General Curran’s Report on the Impact of Casino Gaming on Crime: “The House Never Loses and Maryland Cannot Win: Why Casino Gaming is a Bad Idea”
Recommendation	Council to consider the resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced by: Councilmember

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution 2008-

**OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF SLOT MACHINE GAMBLING
IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008 Marylanders will vote on a state-wide referendum to amend the State Constitution to allow slot machine gambling, putting 15,000 slot machines at venues in Anne Arundel County, Cecil County, Worcester County, Allegheny County, and Baltimore City; **AND**

WHEREAS, almost every dollar that goes into a slot machine would have been spent on another more productive activity. Gambling draws spending away from legitimate businesses like restaurants, shops, and other attractions; resulting in no real economic gain; **AND**

WHEREAS, far from providing tax relief, slots are unlikely to provide a net revenue gain to the State, any revenue will be off set by increased costs for crime fighting, crime prevention, and the social services necessary to address the negative impacts of legalized gambling; **AND**

WHEREAS, the State will not receive revenue from slots for two years, which will not help with the immediate and pressing budget short falls; **AND**

WHEREAS, the combination of casino wealth and the regulatory power of government can lead to extraordinary influence-peddling and, at its worst, to political corruption; **AND**

WHEREAS, this extraordinary influence-peddling by the gambling industry will lead to increased pressure on the state legislator and citizens to authorize additional slot machines and other forms of gambling, which will likely result in additional gambling authorization; **AND**

WHEREAS, former Maryland Attorney General Joseph Curran report on casinos finds that “casinos would bring a *substantial* increase in crime to our State. There would be more violent crime, more crimes against property, more insurance fraud, more white collar crime, more juvenile crime, more drug and alcohol-related crime, more domestic violence and child abuse, and more organized crime”; **AND**

WHEREAS, gambling is a regressive tax paid primarily by the poor; **AND**

WHEREAS, bankruptcies, divorces and suicides increase wherever casino and slots gambling is allowed to prey on a community; **AND**

WHEREAS, gambling is the fastest growing form of addiction among U.S. teens, women and senior citizens; **AND**

WHEREAS, casinos and slots facilities are a convenient front for organized crime to launder money from other activities such as drugs and prostitution; **AND**

WHEREAS, our citizens want proactive leadership at the State level that seeks to grow our economy and tax base through encouraging innovation and creates good paying jobs in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency technology, high tech, and bio-tech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park opposes passage of Question 2 on the November 4, 2008, that would amend the Maryland State constitution to allow slot machine gambling in Maryland, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council encourages all residents of Maryland to vote no on question # 2.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of September, 2008.