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County Board
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COUNTY OF LAKE)

COUNTY BOARD, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADJOURNED REGULAR SEPTEMBER A.D. 2006 SESSION

APRIL 10, A.D., 2007

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD:

Your Financial & Administrative Committee presents herewith a Resolution supporting the city of Waukegan and their economic development mission to promote redevelopment in Waukegan including the development of a casino, and requests its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

	Aye	Nay
_____ Chairman	_____	_____
_____ Vice-Chairman	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Financial and Administrative Committee

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board supports well planned economic development throughout Lake County as adopted in the Lake County Strategic Plan goal that states 'Promote economic development within the County to diversify the tax base', and

WHEREAS, the city of Waukegan is the seat of County government where a major portion of County operations are located in downtown Waukegan, and

WHEREAS, the Waukegan Downtown Lakefront Redevelopment Plan of 2004 envisions the development and redevelopment of the City's downtown and lakefront districts, and

WHEREAS, the City has lost 30,000 jobs in 30 years, they have an unemployment level of 25 percent higher than the Chicago area and 50% higher than Lake County as a whole, with 12,000 residents living at or below the poverty level, and

WHEREAS, the Waukegan Downtown Lakefront Redevelopment Plan envisions the revitalization of the City's 1400 acre downtown and lakefront through private sector investment, redevelopment and job creation, and

WHEREAS, the city continues to work with a nationally recognized organization that owns and operates casinos across the country and wishes to build and operate a casino in the city of Waukegan, and

WHEREAS, the a casino can further spirit a revitalization in northeast Illinois providing career job opportunities by creating 1,500 construction jobs and 2,000 permanent jobs for depressed under-employed residents, and

WHEREAS, the most recent proposal included plans to create a local community fund providing an additional revenue source to local communities such as the city of Waukegan, villages of Beach Park, Zion, North Chicago, Park City and Lake County for use in community projects, and

WHEREAS, recent casino proposals planned to contribute portions of the local community funds to the Lake County school systems of North Chicago, Waukegan, Zion, Beach Park, Park City and Round Lake-area school districts benefiting countless Lake County children, and

WHEREAS, Lake County recognizes that additional revenue is needed to support many initiatives in the current state budget; and

WHEREAS, there is an indication from the state of Illinois that they intend to consider increasing the number of casino licenses to raise new state revenues to financially support a capital budget and other state initiatives making it probable that additional casino gaming licenses will be granted as part of the state budget, and

WHEREAS, the city of Waukegan is a front runner to receive one of the new gaming license as Waukegan meets the criteria of the Illinois Riverboat Gambling Act which states that, 'in granting all licenses, the Board may give favorable consideration to economically depressed areas of the State, to applications presenting plans which provide for significant economic development over a large geographic area', and

WHEREAS, if Waukegan is successful in garnering a casino license, Lake County wishes to support additional local and County community programs through an associated increase of not less than 1% of total gross receipts of revenue generated by the Casino for the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if Waukegan is receives a gaming license, the County Board of Lake County, Illinois, supports the city in their endeavor to fulfill the Waukegan Downtown Lakefront Redevelopment Plan.

DATED, at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, on this 10th day of April A.D., 2007.