

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL  
STEPHEN J. MURPHY  
PRESIDENT

May 15, 2013

Mr. Dan Conley  
P.O. Box 365517  
Boston, MA 02136

Dear District Attorney Conley,

Thank you for letter dated May 14, 2013 regarding a referendum vote on an East Boston casino. I have read your letter and could not disagree more with your positions.

First, the issue of casinos in Massachusetts was decided by the General Court of the Commonwealth two years ago. I am aware of a small, but vocal number of casino opponents who are trying to use the process as a way to stop casinos in a community-by-community setting.

Secondly, A community benefits/mitigation package is currently being negotiated by the City and the Suffolk Downs developer. It would be premature to schedule a vote on who is being impacted before we know the terms of the agreement.

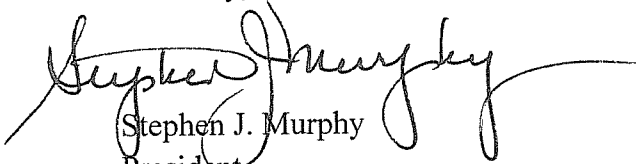
Thirdly, the East Boston Community is geographically separate from the rest of the city by tunnel or bridge. To suggest that I and my Hyde Park neighbors or you and your West Roxbury neighbors would be impacted by the development that is twelve miles from your house and fifteen miles from mine is ludicrous. We would both certainly be impacted more by the casino site in Foxboro or the Mashpee site in Taunton.

Fourthly, many of the members of the City Council are viewing this project as a development project located in District 1. Most of the district members do not want voters who reside in a district other than their own to have approval powers over development decisions in neighboring or far away districts.

Finally, to your point about the Constitutionality of the process, we have been advised by attorneys that the process has been ruled as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in decisions such as Lockport v. Citizens for Community Action 430 U.S. 259 (1977) and Holt Civic Club v. City of Tuscaloosa 430 U.S. 60 (1978).

For the above reasons, I believe that the ward only vote that was proscribed by the legislature is the best option for Boston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Murphy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen J. Murphy  
President

Boston City Council