

November 15, 2017

Mr. Trevor Armstrong
Vice-President, Operations
Hard Rock Ottawa

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

We are writing to express our disappointment at your application for a minor variance to increase to thirty-five the number of allowable gaming tables at 4837 Albion Road. We are formally requesting that you withdraw your application before the Committee of Adjustment. We interpret the application as an exercise in bad faith given that Ottawa City Council's 2013 decision to participate in the Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation's Request for Proposal host city process explicitly tied that approval to the *current allocation of 1250 slots and the approved expansion for 21 gaming tables*.

Moreover, as you are aware, on September 13, 2017, Council provided approval for your gaming site, as required by Ontario Regulation 81/12, based on the current zoning by-law. At no time before or during Council's deliberation did you provide any public indication of your intention to seek to change that number through the Committee of Adjustment approval process.

We believe any requested increase to your gaming operations should be subject to the rigour of a regular re-zoning application, including the statutory public comment period, staff advice and recommendation as well as Planning Committee and City Council deliberation and decision-making. In fact, the City of Ottawa staff report to Council related to Ontario Regulation 81/12 specifically referenced your intention to do so as part of your future expansion plans, a fact on which City Councillors relied. Your attempt to seek to increase your gaming operation in the meantime through a minor variance diminishes the public's trust.

Should you proceed with your minor variance, and should it be granted, we believe Ottawa City Council's September 15th 2017 vote – tied to 21 gaming tables as it was - would no longer satisfy the requirements of Ontario Regulation 81/12 for municipal council approval.

We hope you will withdraw your application in the interest of maintaining a constructive, cooperative and honest relationship between your enterprise and the residents of Ottawa.

Sincerely,



Councillor Tobi Nussbaum



Councillor Catherine McKenney



Councillor Jeff Leiper



Councillor Diane Deans



Councillor David Chernushenko



Councillor Mathieu Fleury

Cc Jack Stirling, President, the Stirling Group
Stephen Rigby, CEO and President, Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG)
Josh Cogan, Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations, OLG
Hon. Charles Sousa, Ontario Minister of Finance & MPP Mississauga South
Steve Kanellakos, Ottawa City Manager
Martin Vervoot, Chair of the Rural Panel of the Committee of Adjustment
Murray Chown, Director Planning and Development, Novatech Engineers
Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa
Richard Gardner, CFO, Hard Rock Ottawa; and Secretary Treasurer, Rideau Carleton Raceway
Alex Lawryk, Consultant, Rideau Carleton Raceway & Hard Rock Ottawa

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