



7 Cedar St., Suite A
Summit, NJ 07901
Phone: 908-273-9368
Fax: 908-273-9222
Email: info@njgasp.org
www.njgasp.org

Karen Blumenfeld, Director
Tobacco Control Policy and Legal Resource Center
Karen.Blumenfeld@verizon.net (908) 377-3900

October 6, 2009

Dear Mayor Langford, Atlantic City Council President Marsh, and Council Members:

In preparation for your Revenue and Finance Committee's review and recommendation on the city's ordinance on casino smoking, and your consideration of that recommendation, Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP) would like to share with you new information since November 2008, that is pertinent to the secondhand smoke situation on the Atlantic City gaming floors.

Below is new information on smokefree gaming, since October 27, 2008 when Ordinance #95 took effect. Please contact our office if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these materials.

1. Gaming Industry Observer's September 28, 2009 front page story. "Operational trends ... Smokefree gaming spreads through states, countries; poor economy tempers trend", by Karen Blumenfeld and Ruth Boorujy, GASP.

Article at <http://njgasp.org/GIO%20vol%2014%20no%2015.pdf>

Updated list of 100% smokefree gaming jurisdictions at
http://njgasp.org/i_leg_jurisdictions_global_alpha.pdf

2. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released their report in May 2009, finding lung carcinogens from secondhand smoke, in nonsmoking casino dealers at three Las Vegas casinos (Caesars Palace, Bally's and Paris). NIOSH recommends a 100% ban on smoking in casinos.

GASP one-page summary at <http://www.njgasp.org/LIST%20mailing%20NIOSH%202009.pdf>

NIOSH summary at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>

NIOSH full report at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2005-0201-3080.pdf>

Press of Atlantic City's May 7, 2009 article

<http://www.njgasp.org/Vegas%20study%20says%20prohibit%20smoking%20in%20all%20casinos.pdf>

3. The National Council of Legislators from Gaming States overwhelmingly voted in favor of their resolution to support and encourage 100% smokefree gaming venues. This resolution was the culmination of a two-year process, promulgated by a presentation on smokefree gaming by GASP in June 2007.

NCLGS resolution at <http://www.njgasp.org/NCLGS%20Resolution%20January%202009.pdf>

NCLGS press release at <http://www.njgasp.org/NCLGS%20Press%20Release%20January%202009.pdf>

4. Atlantic City casino revenue comparisons for smokefree month (Oct 15 - Nov 15, 2008). Table games and slot revenues dropped more in September and December when smoking was permitted, vs. October and November when smoking not permitted. Monthly revenue loss was less in October and November, than September and December, compared with monthly revenues from 2007. Go to

<http://www.njgasp.org/AC%20casino%20monthly%20revs%202008.pdf> to see a summary of 2008 monthly casino revenue, as reported by NJ Casino Control Commission. In addition, Atlantic City casino dealers reported anecdotally that their tokens (tips) were higher during the smokefree month, vs. before/after.

5. 100% smokefree Dover Downs is faring better during the recession than Atlantic City and Las Vegas casinos.

6. 100% smokefree Yonkers Raceway is the #1 highest-grossing racino in the country, even with nearby smoking-permitted competition from New York tribal casinos and Pennsylvania slot casinos. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS171565+21-Jan-2009+PRN20090121>