



7 Cedar Street, Suite A
Summit, New Jersey 07901
908 273-9368
Fax 908 273-9222
www.njgasp.org
E-mail info@njgasp.org

October 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media inquiries contact:

Karen Blumenfeld, Esq. Executive Director - 908.377.3900 (cell)
Karen.blumenfeld@verizon.net

PRESS CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 15, 2008 @ 2pm, UAW HALL

**SMOKEFREE CASINO GAMING FLOORS ORDINANCE
TAKES EFFECT ON OCTOBER 15, 2008 IN ATLANTIC CITY**

**CASINO WORKERS, POLICYMAKERS AND HEALTH ADVOCATES
CELEBRATE THIS HISTORIC MILESTONE**

On October 15, 2008 at 12:01 am, a historic milestone in casino workplace conditions in Atlantic City took place: gaming floors became 100% smoke-free where gaming employees work at all Atlantic City casinos, as required by Ordinance #27. The ordinance allows casinos to construct separately enclosed and ventilated non-staffed smoking lounges for their patrons.

"We firmly believe that this ordinance will remain in effect. The casino workers have waited a lifetime for a healthier environment to work in, and there is no turning back," states Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director, and Director of the Policy & Legal Resource Center, NJ GASP. "Smokefree gaming is now a full-fledged reality in Atlantic City."

The 2006 New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act exempted Atlantic City casinos, and allowed smoking to continue on the gaming floors. This carve-out resulted in casino workers and patrons continuing to be exposed to secondhand smoke on the gaming floors. A year later in 2007, the City Council attempted to resolve the problem by permitting casinos to allocate up to 25% of their gaming floors as smoking-permitted.

However, the secondhand smoke permeated the nonsmoking gaming areas, putting workers and patrons at risk. On April 23, 2008, City Council unanimously amended last year's ordinance, and mandated smokefree gaming floors where casino gaming employees work. Casinos are permitted to construct separately enclosed and ventilated non-staffed smoking lounges for their patrons. Atlantic City Mayor Scott Evans signed Ordinance #27 on April 30, 2008, and Ordinance #27 took effect on October 15, 2008 at 12:01 am.

Atlantic City joins New Jersey's three racetrack facilities, and Favorite's simulcast facilities in Vineland, Woodbridge, and Toms River, all smokefree by State law. More than a dozen U.S. state and local jurisdictions require smokefree gaming, and fourteen more states have smokefree bingo.

WHERE: United Auto Workers Union Hall, 470 Albany Avenue, Atlantic City, N.J. 08401
phone: 609-340-0006.

#