

News from

Councilman Frank DiCicco

1st District

For Immediate Release

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Councilman Frank DiCicco announced that he intends to file an appeal after the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's announced that SugarHouse and Foxwoods Casinos would be issued gaming licenses.

The lawsuit will challenge the issuance of a license to Foxwoods and will explore how and why the PGCB made their final determination.

"There were a lot of concerns raised over this proposal. Concerns not just from community activists, but from engineers, city officials and politicians." DiCicco said. "I find it difficult to believe that the Board ignored these concerns and I'd like to know why they did."

In his written testimony in June, DiCicco raised several concerns regarding Foxwoods' proposal including increased traffic congestion and its proximity to a residential neighborhood. In the same statement, DiCicco was less critical of SugarHouse but did express reservations about the site's proximity to near neighbors.

Last week, DiCicco had asked the PGCB to delay their announcement for six weeks to address the problems created if two facilities were built on the River. In addition, he believes that a delay would allow the waterfront planning process to be completed in order to provide the Board with specific recommendations.

"Not surprisingly, the Board ignored my constituents and me when they came to this decision," DiCicco continued, "I think it's a horrible decision. I will do everything I can to delay construction of the facilities until some of these serious concerns are addressed."

Regardless of the result of the lawsuit, concerns will still exist over the near neighbors' quality-of-life. DiCicco pledges to work with the communities and the developers to address these issues and has stated that he will delay zoning approval until agreements can be reached.

Four of the five gaming proposals were located in DiCicco's district and the Councilman has established himself as a leader on the issue. His efforts include providing written and oral testimony before the PGCB, sponsoring the City's casino zoning classification, fighting and winning the retention of the City's zoning rights, calling on the PGCB to delay its decision and sponsoring several resolutions.

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