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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



LANSING CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO APPROVE CASINO; TRIBE TO CONDUCT VOTE IN MID-APRIL, FACES OPPOSITION

This week, the Lansing City Council voted in favor of advancing the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' ("Tribe") plan to create a \$245M gaming facility in downtown Lansing with the capacity for up to 3,000 slot machines and 48 table games. The project is also supported by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, who has cited that the facility could substantially contribute to the state and city's tax base and provide a scholarship fund for local students.

The Kewadin Lansing proposal passed the City Council by a vote of 7-1. According to the *Lansing State Journal*, this allows the city to sell property to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and approves agreements that would govern the project.

Tribal Vote

Notably, on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, the Tribe announced that it plans to circulate a voter referendum to registered Sault Tribe voters regarding the approval of the proposed Lansing casino project. Ballots will be mailed to all registered tribal voters on April 12, 2012.

According to the Tribe, the referendum petition regarding Resolution 2012-11: Approval of Comprehensive Development Agreement with the City of Lansing, Michigan; Authorization to purchase land in Lansing, Michigan using income from the Land Settlement Trust Settlement Trust Fund; Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Lansing, was accepted by the board March 13, 2012.

"This is an extremely significant vote," stated Sault Tribe Chairman Joe

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Eitrem. “This could be the source of funds we so desperately need to fully fund and restore membership programs that we have had to cut, to replenish the Self Sufficiency Fund, to pay down our debt, and to bring more services to members.”

For more information regarding the Lansing Kewadin Casino project, please visit: <http://lansingkewadin.wordpress.com/>

The City and Tribe have stated that their legal teams have reviewed the proposed plan and found that it is consistent with federal and state legal provisions. In addition, both the City and Tribe have stated that the casino project would create approximately 1,500 permanent jobs, provide local revenue sharing payments to the City and related units of government, and draw increased tourism to the area.

If the project moves forward, the Tribe must file the necessary documentation and applications for an off-reservation gaming expansion with the Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior would then need to take the land in downtown Lansing into trust for the benefit of the tribe after determining that the Tribe would be eligible to open a casino at the location.

Opposition

On February 7, 2012, Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette issued a joint letter to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and the Tribe stating the Governor’s opposition to the tribal casino that has been proposed for the City .

The letter outlines the state’s position regarding the legal basis for the potential casino announced by the Tribe and City in late January and can be read by [clicking here](#).

The state has indicated that the proposed casino could possibly conflict with existing Tribal gaming compacts entered into with Native American Tribes in the state.

The letter concludes by stating that the state “will take whatever steps are necessary to prevent the opening of the proposed casino, and if the City persists in these efforts, it does so at its own risk.”

Recent Poll Findings

On March 16, 2012, the Mellman Group, Inc. concluded its survey analysis of 600 likely 2012 general election voters, which revealed little support for expanded gaming in Michigan. The study was performed for Protect MI Vote, an opposition coalition representing, among other groups, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, MGM Grand Detroit and Greektown Casino-Hotel.

The poll was released Monday and found 60% of voters are opposed to more casinos, with 34% saying the state is just right with the current number of casinos. It also found that 26% say there are already too many casinos. Only 12% say there should be more casinos in the state.

A majority of voters – 56% - oppose allowing expanded Native American gaming in the state, while 26% were in favor.

The poll surveyed 600 likely voters from January 21-25, 2012. The margin of error is +/-4 percent.

For a copy of the report, please click [here](#).

CURRENT JOB LISTINGS: CASINO CAREERS GAMING INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE

Casino Careers has been the gaming industry's leading staffing resource since 1998. Over the past 13 years, Beth Deighan, President of Casino Careers, LLC, and her staff have developed an extensive network of professionals, managers and executives, many of whom visit the web site on a regular basis to remain apprised of industry opportunities.

In the past year, Casino Careers has been featured in U.S. News, Yahoo Finance and CBS Money Watch. Past accolades include recognition as one of the top 50 best employment sites and one of the industry’s 20 most innovative new gaming concepts.

Below are two current gaming industry job openings in the mid-Michigan area.

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Employer: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe,

Positions Available: Associate General Counsel and Associate Judge

Requirements: Passage of the State Bar of Michigan

For more information regarding the open positions, please visit the following:

Associate Judge:

<http://www.casinocareers.com/jobdetails.cfm?jobid=28389>

Associate General Counsel:

<http://www.casinocareers.com/jobdetails.cfm?jobid=28388>

Job Seekers Services

Job Seekers may utilize Casino Careers by posting a resume for free in a confidential or open access format, may purchase resume rewrite services, or elect to upgrade a basic resume to an enhanced format, which provides a contemporary layout, with color, formatting, as well as a cover letter and photo

With an average of over 150 new resumes posted daily and 5,500 new visitors per day to their web site, the staff receives hundreds of inquiries from candidates seeking employment each day. Every inquiry receives a response.

Job seekers can post a resume for free, learn myriad career tips to enhance their resume or cover-letter and fine-tune their interviewing skills. They can apply directly to employers through specific job listings on the web site.

Employer Services

For Employers, the company provides a menu of sourcing strategies which range from the cost-effective Job Board, to more aggressive recruitment programs such as a Resume Database search to identify multiple professionals for one job title, or Executive Search, which is tiered to enable the client to select the level of service they need to cost-effectively identify senior managers and executives for difficult-to-fill specialized positions or key executive roles in their organizations.

Job Posting publicizes posted career opportunities to over 120,000 candidates in the Casino Careers resume database, as well as through numerous job boards, educational institutions, trade schools, professional organizations/associations and social networks.

“Employers are inundated with applicants who often do not possess the qualifications they are seeking,” noted Ms. Deighan. “Our staff understands the industries we serve and personally take the time to communicate with our clients to ensure their job descriptions specify the qualifications a candidate must possess to be successful in the position. And then we communicate the opportunity to candidates with matching skills,” she explained.

The company has staff of HR, Marketing and IT professionals who assist employers with all facets of the talent acquisition process – from the development and posting of the job description to:

- assessment of the compensation package
- creation of core skills questionnaires, pre-screening interview questions, and executive employment agreements
- design of an online company application and
- development of short-term goals and objectives to ensure the success of the selected candidate
- identifying the right firm to conduct entry-level service to management leadership development training.

For additional information on Casino Careers services, please visit: www.casinocareers.com.

DEVELOPMENT GROUP PROPOSES FIFTH OHIO COMMERCIAL CASINO

On Wednesday, March 21, 2012, the Mahoning Valley Development Group, LLC (“MVDG”) announced its plans to build a fifth casino in Ohio, to be located in the Mahoning Valley area (near Youngstown, Ohio). To be named the “Mahoning Valley Casino & Resort”, the proposed \$450 Million development would include a casino facility, a five star resort

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and hotel, spa, championship golf course and a live entertainment and theater area. Before the development could move forward, however, an amendment to the Ohio constitution, which only allows for four commercial casino facilities, would be needed.

According to a press release, the MVDG will submit a constitutional amendment to the Attorney General of Ohio for approval in the near future. Once the proposed amendment language is approved, the group must then collect approximately 350,000 signatures of registered Ohio voters to place the issue on the November ballot. “The exciting aspect of this issue is that the voters will decide. The voters will have the power to decide whether they want a world class, full scale casino resort or a second tier, slot house at a horse racetrack,” said Rick Lertzman of MVDG. “At this point we believe we will can place this issue on the ballot on November 6, 2012. If not, we look toward the Spring 2013 primaries.”

The MVDG had previously planned to build a horse racetrack facility that featured video lottery terminals in the Youngstown, Ohio area.

Notably, the leaders of the MVDG, Mr. Lertzman and Dr. Brandon Pressman, have been involved with three prior gaming expansion ballot initiatives in Ohio, including most recently, a 2008 effort in Clinton County, located in southwest Ohio. None of these prior gaming expansion attempts proved successful.