



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To General Purposes - Feb 29, 2006

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Date: February 1, 2006
File: 08-4040-00

Re: Horse Racing Teletheatre at the River Rock Casino Resort - 8811 River Road

Staff Recommendation

That Full Service Gaming Policy 5040 be amended to state:

"It is Council policy that:

1. *Richmond supports:
One Full Service community gaming casino in Richmond which includes slot machines, table games, poker tables and a horse racing teletheatre as permitted by Provincial Gaming Legislation and Government Policy."*; and

That the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch be advised that the City of Richmond approves the location of a horse racing teletheatre at the River Rock Casino Resort, 8811 River Road.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
(4139)

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Great Canadian Gaming Corporation would like to establish a horse racing teletheatre in the Tug's Sports Bar at the River Rock Casino Resort (see **Attachment 1**).

According to Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the applicant must:

“Provide written confirmation of the approval of the host local government (municipality, regional district or First Nation), or its representative, that has authority over land use planning at the location”.

Findings Of Fact

Full Service Gaming Policy 5040

City Council originally adopted Full Service Gaming Policy 5040 on May 29, 2002. At that time:

- there was considerable public input on whether or not the City should allow a full service community gaming facility in Richmond;
- the Great Canadian Casino was limited to a maximum of 30 gaming tables, 6 poker tables and 300 slot machines; and
- a process of public consultation was required and imbedded into the Policy in accordance with the new Gaming Control Act.

This Policy was subsequently amended by Council on June 9, 2003 (see **Attachment 2**). Specifically:

- the Policy was amended to permit *“one Full Service community gaming casino in Richmond which includes slot machines, table games and poker tables as permitted by Provincial Gaming Legislation and Government Policy”*;
- the need to consult with the public prior to a change in gaming policy type or procedure was left in the amended Policy;
- the intent of the Policy still was to be consistent with the revised Provincial regulations and policies regarding gaming facilities; and
- there was not as much public input on the Policy amendment.

Zoning and Development Bylaw 5300

The Zoning Bylaw does not specifically define **“casino”**, which is only permitted in Comprehensive Development District (CD/87) that only applies to the River Rock Casino Resort site.

The City's Law Department has confirmed that a horse racing teletheatre can be interpreted as falling within the undefined meaning of a casino.

However, in order to avoid too broad a definition of casino, the Law Department has also suggested that the Zoning and Development Bylaw be amended to specifically define what a casino means.

Staff offered this suggestion to the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation but they declined to initiate a zoning text amendment because of timing concerns.

Therefore instead, it is proposed to include the need for a definition of casino in the new Zoning Bylaw which is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Analysis

Staff are recommending that Council endorse this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) The six (6) pari-mutuel horse wagering machines are a complementary addition to the Tug's Sports Bar which already has 28 high definition LCD televisions and over 175 seats.
- 2) According to the Gaming Control Act, Regulation and Policies, a "**gaming facility**" includes a horse racing teletheatre, which does not require community input or other consultation unless the teletheatre is located in a stand-alone facility.
- 3) The intent of Full Service Gaming Policy 5040 is to be consistent with these Provincial standards/requirements.
- 4) There is no intention or opportunity to open other horse racing teletheatre facilities elsewhere in Richmond.

Financial Impact

Although the City will not directly obtain any revenues from the proposed horse racing teletheatre, the addition of this facility will help River Rock Casino Resort to sustain and retain its competitive advantage and the gaming revenues from which the City does benefit.

Conclusion

Great Canadian Gaming Corporation would like to establish a horse racing teletheatre at the River Rock Casino Resort.

In order to do so, the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch requires written confirmation of approval from the City of Richmond.

This approval should come from Council under an amendment to Full Service Gaming Policy 5040.



Holger Burke, MCIP
Development Coordinator
(4164)
HB:blg



GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION

January 25, 2006

**DELIVERED AND
VIA EMAIL: jerceg@richmond.ca**

Mr. Joe Erceg
General Manager, Urban Development Division
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mr. Erceg:

**Teletheatre to be located at the River Rock Casino Resort - 8811 River Road,
Richmond, B.C. (the "Property")**

We understand that TBC Teletheatre has requested a licence from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch ("GPEB") to operate a teletheatre within the existing improvements to the Property. Specifically, within the existing casino structure. We confirm that, subject to GPEB and City of Richmond approval, it is Great Canadian's desire to allow for the operation of such teletheatre. Changes to the Provincial policy regarding the establishment of a teletheatre came into effect on January 13, 2006, which would permit the installation of teletheatre lounges within British Columbia casinos, such as the Property. These teletheatre lounges will provide casinos with the opportunity to engage in pari-mutuel horse wagering and thus provide yet another entertainment option for guests on the Property.

The history of horseracing is as lengthy as it is storied. The sport is a global pastime and events such as the Royal Ascot and Kentucky Derby ensure that modern horseracing retains an aura of both sophistication and class. A teletheatre lounge allows players to join in on this excitement, for a taste of betting on races as far abroad as Hong Kong's Sha Tin and Happy Valley Racecourses. I am confident that the complimentary benefit provided by a teletheatre lounge would draw a new demographic of patrons to the Property, and ultimately prove beneficial for both the facility and the City of Richmond. Like the River Rock Show Theatre, which has exceeded expectations since its opening in September, the teletheatre lounge would also serve to attract patrons towards the casino floor.

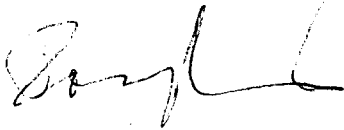
I understand that the current City of Richmond Council Gaming Policy does not specifically include the concept of the operation of a teletheatre.

Accordingly, and with regard to the above rationale, I request that City of Richmond Council amend its Gaming Policy and approve both the installation and use of teletheatre lounges at the Property. In this regard, we attach the GPEB policy regarding teletheatre "process and requirements", which came into effect on January 13, 2006. We draw your attention to the distinction made between a teletheatre that is a "stand alone" and a teletheatre that is encapsulated within an existing casino facility. In the latter case, the only requirement from GPEB is written confirmation of approval of the local municipal government. GPEB does not require a Council Resolution associated with a teletheatre within an existing casino.

We look forward to the continuance of our mutually beneficial relationship.

Yours very truly,

GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION



Ross J. McLeod
Chairman and C.E.O.

cc: *Lang Michener LLP*
Attn: Des Balakrishnan



ESTABLISHING, RELOCATING OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGING A TELETHEATRE

- These requirements are established under the authority of the *Gaming Control Act* and Gaming Control Regulation, and are effective January 13, 2006.
- Under section 46 of the *Act*, the General Manager, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, issues horse racing licences for the operation of both race tracks and horse racing teletheatres.
- Approval for the establishment, relocation or substantial change of a horse racing facility (racetrack or horse racing teletheatre) is granted by the General Manager, as part of the licensing process.
- It is a condition of the licence that the licensee fully complies with all other enactments and bylaws, and has and maintains all other permits and/or licenses that may be required.

Process and Requirements

An applicant wishing to establish, relocate or substantially change a teletheatre must:

1. Apply in writing and include such information and documentation that the General Manager considers relevant to the request, including but not limited to:
 - a) The address of the proposed teletheatre;
 - b) The proposed commencement date; and
 - c) The nature and scope of horse racing wagering proposed to take place at the facility.
2. Satisfy the Branch's registration requirements, if any, including the requirements for proposed gaming services providers or gaming workers.
3. Provide written confirmation of the approval of the host local government (municipality, regional district or First Nation), or its representative, that has authority over land use planning at the location.

If a stand-alone facility is being established, relocated or substantially changed, the information in 3 above must include:

- a) A resolution in writing from the host local government approving the location, relocation or substantial change;
- b) Evidence that it has sought and considered adequate community input; and
- c) Evidence that it has consulted with all potentially affected local governments within a five kilometre radius of the facility, including a summary of that consultation and copies of any correspondence from those potentially affected local governments in favour of or opposing the proposal.

Within 30 days of the completion of all relevant requirements, the General Manager will decide whether to approve the establishment, relocation or substantial change of the teletheatre, and if approved, will issue (or re-issue) a licence upon such terms and conditions as the General Manager deems appropriate. Changes to the scope or nature of the teletheatre beyond what is licensed will require further approval by the General Manager.*

* Licences issued after the effective date of this Policy will confirm maximum thresholds as to the size or scope of the teletheatre, if any. Expansion or modifications beyond those limits must be referred to the Branch for consideration and approval.

**City of Richmond****Policy Manual**

Page 1 of 2

Adopted by Council: May 29/02

POLICY 5040

Amended by Council: June 9/2003

File Ref: 4040-04

FULL SERVICE GAMING POLICY**POLICY 5040:**

It is Council policy that:

1. Richmond supports:

One Full Service community gaming casino in Richmond which includes slot machines, table games, and poker tables as permitted by Provincial Gaming Legislation and Government Policy.

2. Gaming Review Procedures

That the following gaming review procedures be adopted:

(1) In Richmond

- a) Prior to a change in gaming policy type or procedure, Council will seek public input regarding any changes.
- b) Council will specify the type of consultation at the time.
- c) The following factors will be considered
 - social
 - economic/financial
 - land use
 - transportation
 - servicing
 - environmental
 - other, as necessary.

(2) Referrals From Adjacent Municipalities

When Richmond receives a request for comments regarding casino proposals in adjacent municipalities, Council:

- a) may seek public input and specify the type of consultation at the time.
- b) will consider the following factors when commenting.
 - social
 - economic/financial
 - land use
 - transportation
 - servicing
 - environmental
 - other, as necessary

3. Zoning

Casino proposals will be considered on a site specific basis and may be managed by CD zoning.



Page 2 of 2

Adopted by Council: May 29/02

POLICY 5040

Amended by Council: June 9/2003

File Ref: 4040-04

FULL SERVICE GAMING POLICY

4. Monitoring

The Province be requested to continue to provide and pay for an ongoing gaming impact monitoring program in Richmond to ensure that the Province and City have adequate information to manage gaming over time.

5. Problem Gaming Prevention and Treatment:

The Province be requested to continue to maintain, improve and pay for programs to prevent and treat problem gaming.

6. Crime Prevention and Enforcement:

The Province be requested to continue to maintain, improve and pay for gaming crime prevention and enforcement programs.