



Washington Police Department

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TO: Mayor Gary Manier and the Committee of the Whole
FROM: Chief of Police Michael D. McCoy and MSgt. Jeff Stevens
RE: Discussion of Video Gaming Licensing Options

Mayor and Aldermen,

In order to facilitate the Committee's discussion of gaming options during this moratorium on gaming licensing, we, along with City Clerk Pat Brown, have discussed potential ordinance mechanisms to preserve the character of the city while promoting a positive business and family climate and social opportunities in the community. We will present some of those options here.

We begin with a belief based in the city's history of licensing gaming, specifically that the presence of a virtual casino is not consistent with the character and aims of the City of Washington. The City recognizes that responsible gaming in the proper context can promote legitimate social and business climate ends where it takes place in an appropriate context as a part of an overall entertainment and social package. In this context, a gaming café does not contribute to the fabric of the City.

In order to keep gaming in an appropriate social and business context, we suggest the Council consider amendments to Chapter 136 of the Code of Ordinances. Potential areas of amendment include requirements that businesses operating gaming terminals exhibit those identifiable traits associated with social opportunities, contexts, and extents that promote and preserve positive social fabric of the City. Some areas for discussion are:

- Limitation of the number of licensed gaming establishments; the City currently licenses 9 businesses, all of which operate with a bona fide full bar as required by ordinance and provide other social, fraternal, recreational, or significant food services.
- Limitation of the number of gaming terminals; the City currently licenses 39 terminals. The number of terminals and the extent of the space dedicated to gaming in an establishment can affect the atmosphere of the establishment.
- Requirement that a business establish a presence in and positive impact on the community prior to obtaining a new license; a business that operates in the City for a continuous period of two years prior to application for a gaming license and which can establish that it has generated at least 80% of its revenue from the sale of food and beverages or can establish that it is a not-for-profit club with a significant charitable purpose and local impact may be benchmarks of such establishment.
- Requirement that an established licensed facility obtain at least 60% of its total revenue from the sale of food and beverages, which may similarly show continued purpose and utility beyond gaming.
- Requirement that a facility obtain prior approval for site and design, including examination of the layout, a customer seating rate for gaming of no more than 10% of total seating and a public floor space ratio of no less than 5 non-gaming to 1 gaming.
- Consideration of the number of employee hours generated by the business and the functions those employees serve.
- Provision of responsible gaming policies including employee education and training programs, self-exclusion policies, and procedures to promote responsible gaming, with demonstrable execution of such policies by established facilities.