



CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

Statement

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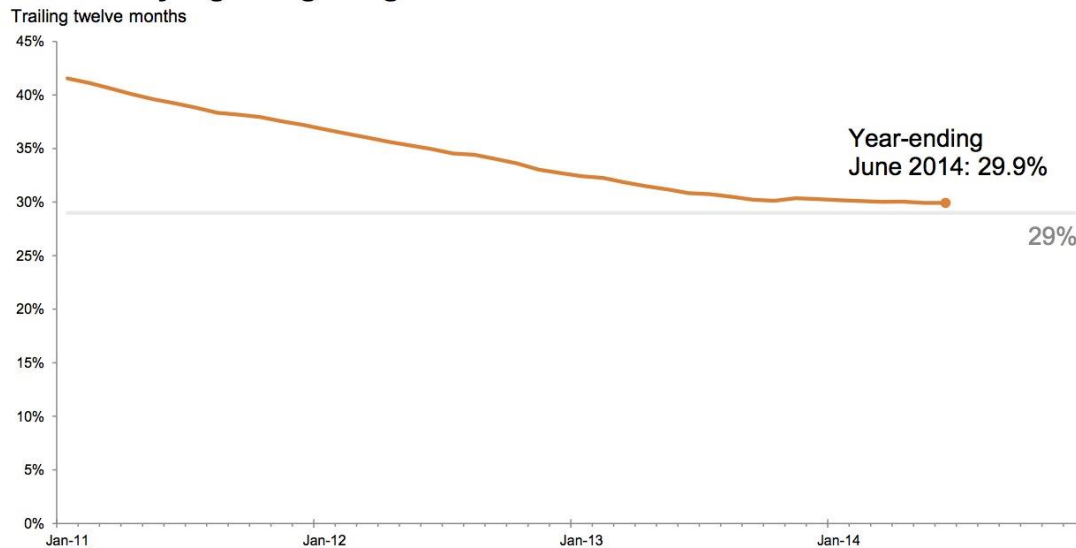
Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian Releases a Statement on Expansion of Casino Gambling

(Atlantic City, NJ) – Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian said Monday afternoon, “As Mayor of Atlantic City, I am 100% against expanding casino gambling outside of Atlantic City. I believe that expanding gambling outside of Atlantic City is not only devastating for Atlantic City, but it will be devastating for every single resident of New Jersey. And here’s why...the market is already over saturated with too many casinos. There are currently 19 casinos surrounding New Jersey and four more proposed. There is simply no more room for more casinos.

In 1978, Atlantic City opened the first casino gambling floor on the East Coast. The grand opening of Resorts with all its glamour and excitement gave the impression of unending prosperity of casino gambling in Atlantic City. However, that was short lived. Within months of becoming Mayor of Atlantic City in 2014, four casinos abruptly closed and I witnessed firsthand the devastation of broken promises not fulfilled by the expansion of casino gambling and oversaturation of the market. At the end of 2014, over 8,000 New Jersey residents had lost their jobs and had to go on unemployment for the first time in their lives. And the ripple effects were even more devastating. Whole families lost their only source of income after being “Day One” employees at the casinos that they had invested their whole lives in. Auxiliary services that depended on the thriving casinos died a slow death as each casino went dark and no longer needed their services. The cab industry suffered because of the loss of additional customers around the city. Dentists, lawyers, teachers, bankers, real estate agents, restaurant owners, and just about everyone who made a living in Atlantic City and the surrounding areas felt the terrible effects of broken promises from expanded casino gambling and oversaturation of the market.

Currently, the long list of casino gambling competition includes: Pennsylvania’s SugarHouse, Harrah’s Philadelphia, Parx Casino, Valley Forge, Sands Bethlehem, Mount Airy, Mogeohan Sun Pocono Downs, Hollywood Casino at Penn National and another proposed casino site in Philadelphia; New York’s Resorts World, Empire City, Monticello, and another proposed casino site in Orange County; Connecticut’s Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods; Delaware’s Delaware Park, Harrington, and Dover Downs; and Maryland’s Maryland Live!, Hollywood Perryville, Ocean Downs and proposed casino sites at Horseshoe Baltimore and MGM National Harbor.

Atlantic City regional gaming market share



Note: Atlantic City share of regional market, including all casinos in CT and DE, and selected casinos in MD, NY, and PA. Gaming revenue is net slot and table revenue.
 Source: Gaming regulatory agencies in each state; Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Tourism Economics

Allowing another casino to be built outside of Atlantic City is like putting a Dunkin Donuts on every street corner at a four way intersection. It will be impossible for all four businesses to survive. Sure you can say that each Dunkin Donut store is more than 100 feet away from each other, but that doesn’t negate the fact that it is an oversaturation of Dunkin Donuts at that intersection. The same goes for casino gambling in North Jersey.

As the Fairleigh Dickson poll in June indicated, 56% of 913 New Jersey residents agreed that expanding casino gambling outside of Atlantic City is a bad idea. The negative effects of expanding casino gambling outside of Atlantic City will result in over 14,000 jobs being lost, over \$230 million lost in employee wages (with no income tax being paid on these lost wages), and a crippling effect on the State’s room tax, luxury tax, and parking tax. If casino gambling is allowed to be expanded outside of Atlantic City, there will be no winners.

Casino gambling is known worldwide for its lures and enticements on individuals, but the same could be said for governments. I can appreciate the fact that allowing two casinos outside of

Atlantic City with revenue being dedicated back to my city sounds like a good idea. However, what happens if those glamorous promises do not come true? I am probably one of the most reasonable mayors you will find around. I'm a realist. And the reality is that the market is oversaturated, and New Jersey cannot afford to build two more casinos. I fear that instead of Atlantic City, the entire State of New Jersey will once again be left holding the bag full of broken promises not fulfilled by the expansion of casino gambling, but this time in an already oversaturated market."