

# STATEMENT FROM THE LATINO CAUCUS



March 29, 2022

Honorable Tom Tunney  
Chairman  
Special Committee on the Chicago Casino  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Tunney,

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate effects on communities of color, the Latino Caucus encourages the gaming community and the Special Committee on the Chicago Casino to demand an equity-centric minority participation plan that not only meets, but exceeds the minimum participation provisions set forth in the Illinois Gaming Act.

Although the Latino communities tend to shoulder the brunt of social costs related to multi-billion dollar industries, such as video gambling, online sports wagering, and cannabis legalization, opportunities for meaningful participation by Latinos in management and ownership are virtually non-existent.

As representatives of the largest ethnic racial constituency in Chicago, we encourage the Special Committee to consider the economic windfall this opportunity presents to the licensee and ensure sustainable long-term benefit to the Latino community. This is an opportunity to showcase our community's unique talents within this highly profitable endeavor for decades to come and promote our City as a global entertainment beacon and gaming capital of the Midwest.

The Caucus also calls for equitable Latino representation on the Special Committee on the Chicago Casino, which is not currently commensurate of the city's racial ethnic demographics. This is extremely important because these representatives will form the equitable approach for granting the privilege to operate a casino in our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alderman Gilbert Villegas - 36<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Chairman of the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus

**CORRESPONDANCE FROM THE 78 COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Alderman Tom Tunney  
44th Ward  
3223 N Sheffield Ave, Suite A  
Chicago, IL 60657

Dear Alderman Tunney,

The 78 Community Advisory Council is made up of 13 members who were selected by the Mayor's Office in 2019 after the sale and passage of the megadevelopment PD and TIF. We are reaching out to you in your capacity as the Chairman of the "Special Committee on the Chicago Casino", with grave concerns on some decisions made that are in serious conflict with the voice and desires of the community that we represent.

This communication is in specific regards with The 78 recently being selected to be a finalist bidder to secure the casino development rights within the City of Chicago and recent actions of the City Council which does disservice to ensure the voice of all is heard. We conducted a neighborhood survey with close to 500 responses with **an overwhelming majority opposed** to the development of a casino on the site. We would note that about 80% of respondents said they were somewhat or highly opposed to the casino on the site with 72% highly unsupportive. We are happy to share the survey responses and feedback with the Committee.

We are disappointed that the Special Committee has selected a limited number of members of City Council to participate in this committee. It would be understandable to include those that can provide guidance or perspective to facilitate a successful concept that would benefit the city. However, it would also seem compelling to include and elevate the voice of stakeholders in the process, including the aldermen whose wards in which a casino location is a frontrunner in the conversation. The 78 site currently falls within the 25th Ward, which is represented by Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez. We note that Alderman Sigcho-Lopez is not a member of this Special Committee and we, as stakeholders in the successful development of The 78 are **outraged and are compelled to invoke skepticism** with any decision made by this Special Committee that fails to include the specific voice of the Alderman who would shepard the outcome if The 78 were deemed to be the final selected site for the location of the Casino.

The 78 holds the potential to be a remarkable and additive development to the surrounding neighborhoods and the City of Chicago. Members of the 78 CAC volunteered our time and efforts to the CAC since 2020 have done so in the spirit to see that the development of this 62 acre parcel of land is visionary and draws critical acclaim of what can positively happen when a community collaborates with developers to facilitate urban planning.

Instead, from our perspective, the turn of events for the past six months is shameful and in stark contrast with how the early designs were promoting community involvement with the development of The 78. Given this type of feedback, it is important to have a real and thoughtful community process for each site and that this decision ultimately is not rushed.

Failure to include a representative voice such as the impacted alderperson for the possible casino site in question is a mere confirmation that there is no accountability intended for the process, and our efforts on the CAC were mere illusory and a fool's errand. Please ensure that the voice of the nearby Chinatown, Pilsen and South Loop residents are included in decision making.

Sincerely,  
The 78 Community Advisory Council



**CORRESPONDENCE FROM  
RIVER NORTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**



April 6, 2022

The Honorable Lori E. Lightfoot  
City of Chicago, Office of the Mayor  
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60602

Members of the Special City Council Committee on the Chicago Casino

**RE: Chicago Casino Evaluation Report - Tribune Site / RNRA Response**

Dear Mayor Lightfoot and Members of the Special City Council Committee on the Chicago Casino:

On behalf of the River North Residents Association (RNRA), we respectfully submit our initial response to the assessment of the Bally's Tribune casino bid as reflected in the Casino Evaluation Report of March 22, 2022. RNRA is a longstanding non-profit community organization representing approximately 23,000 area residents. Nearly 11,000 people live in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the Tribune site across the Chicago River.

In RNRA's letter dated December 3, 2021 (copy enclosed), several fundamental concerns were expressed about the potential impact of this development on quality of life in our community. In this context, we evaluated the City's assessment of Proposal 02, Bally's Tribune, as to the suitability of this site for the demands and intensity of the 24/7 uses being proposed – **a 1 million square-foot development including a casino with 4,000 reserved gaming positions, a 3,000-seat theater, an outdoor music venue, up to a 500-room hotel, exhibition space, multiple restaurants, a food hall and a museum** – in an increasingly high-density, predominantly residential area. RNRA's critique reflects three key areas of concern.

***Development Financing & Expertise***

- The report makes clear there are potential challenges with the hedge-fund controlled company's ability to secure financing as it attempts to take Bally's from public to private status. In comparison to the other short-listed bids, the Bally's financing information is vague and includes the caveat that its commitment letters "do not take into account the proposed going-private transaction" as well as the statement that taking Bally's private will create a "more leveraged" company. ***Please provide a more detailed explanation of the financing plan, that addresses how this project will be adequately and sustainably funded, regardless of whether the proposed buyout of Bally's outstanding shares by Standard General is successful.***
- The average population in the 13 cities where Bally's presently operates its 15 casinos is approximately 110,000. Based on its current casino property portfolio, Bally's does not appear to have experience with developing and operating a multi-use project of this magnitude and complexity in a dense urban setting like the Tribune site. ***What gives the approval authorities confidence that this firm will be able to successfully execute and manage a proposed \$1.74 billion development in the third largest city in the U.S.?***

***Transportation Impacts & Development Capacity of Area***

- The report acknowledges the existing traffic congestion on Chicago, Grand and Halsted and references the City's ongoing capital improvement project to reconstruct the Chicago/Halsted viaduct and widen the Chicago Avenue bridge to address *existing infrastructure demands*. In view of the new mixed-use residential developments that are presently approved or under construction fronting Chicago and Halsted, and the added development intensity proposed for the Tribune site, ***has a traffic study been conducted that evaluates the combined area-wide impacts of these projects? If so, will this study be made public?***

**From:** Brian Israel <[bisrael@rnrachicago.org](mailto:bisrael@rnrachicago.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:47 AM  
**To:** Ward44 <[Ward44@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward44@cityofchicago.org)>; Ward28 <[Ward28@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward28@cityofchicago.org)>; Ward27 <[Ward27@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward27@cityofchicago.org)>; Ward02 <[Ward02@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward02@cityofchicago.org)>; [office@ward42chicago.com](mailto:office@ward42chicago.com) <[office@ward42chicago.com](mailto:office@ward42chicago.com)>; [chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org) <[chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org)>; Letterforthemayor <[Letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org)>; Samir Mayekar <[Samir.Mayekar@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Samir.Mayekar@cityofchicago.org)>; Maurice Cox <[Maurice.Cox@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Maurice.Cox@cityofchicago.org)>; Joanna Angarone <[joanna@ward42chicago.com](mailto:joanna@ward42chicago.com)>  
**Subject:** RNRA Bally's Casino Survey Update: 4/19/22

[Warning: External email]

Good morning. On April 6, RNRA launched an online survey to gather public input about the proposed Bally's Tribune Casino.

In less than two weeks, nearly 2,000 people have responded, so we felt that it was time to begin sharing some of the results with city decision makers and the public.

Please [click here](#) to access a new web page containing a summary of survey results through April 19, 2022.

Also attached are two documents, which include all of the unedited, narrative commentary submitted by survey respondents. One is from those who support the proposal, and the other is from those who oppose it. This commentary is being submitted *only* to city officials, and will not be posted publicly.

As new responses are received, RNRA will periodically update the Survey Results web page and also send updated commentary.

Thank you.

Brian Israel  
President  
River North Residents Association



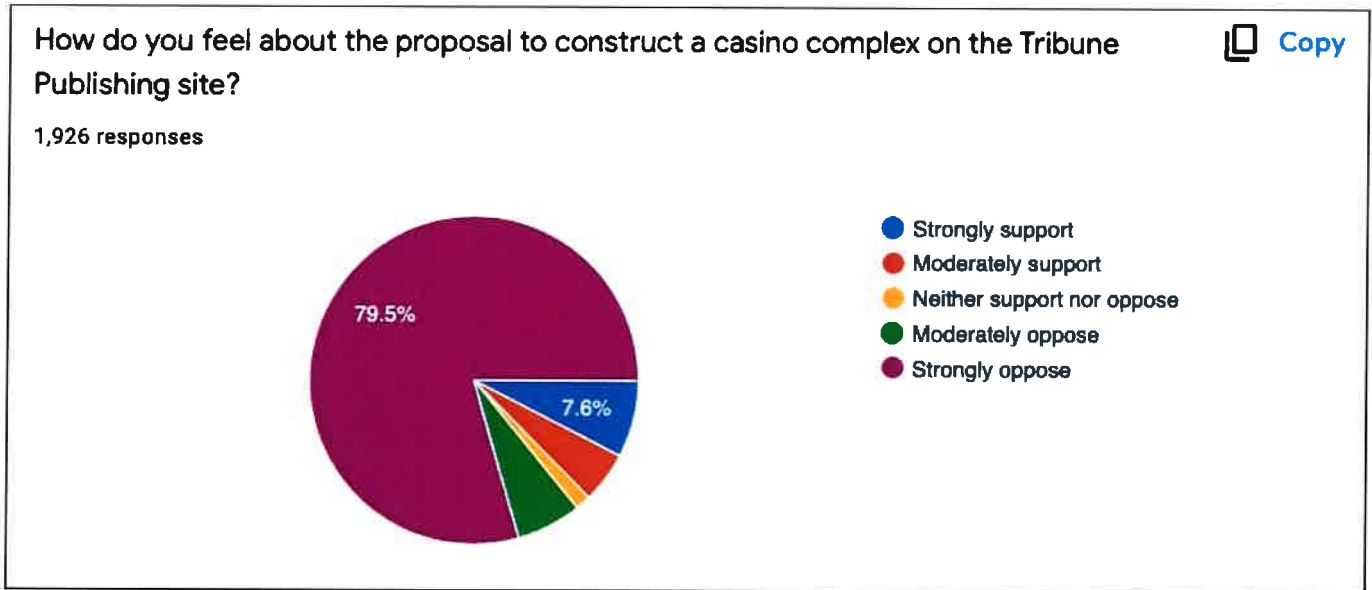
**RNRA**  
 RIVER NORTH  
 RESIDENTS  
 ASSOCIATION  
 RNRACHICAGO.ORG

*Celebrating 25 Years of Community Service: 1997 - 2022*

# Casino Survey Results

On April 6, 2022, RNRA launched a survey to gather public input about the Bally's Casino Complex, proposed to be constructed on the Tribune Publishing site at Chicago Avenue and Halsted Street.

This page will present survey data and will be updated regularly. To participate in the survey, please visit our [main casino page](#).



Results as of: 4/19/22

Total respondents: **1,926**  
 Strongly oppose: **79.5%**  
 Moderately oppose: **6.4%**  
 Strongly support: **7.6%**  
 Moderately support: **5.0%**  
 Neither support nor oppose: **1.5%**

### What are the main reasons for your opposition to the proposal?

- Vehicular traffic: **88.5%**
- Pedestrian traffic: **54.6%**
- Noise: **74.6%**
- Bright lighting: **56.6%**
- Strain on infrastructure: **67.8%**
- Reduced property values: **79.5%**
- Potential for increased crime: **90.9%**
- Regressive economic impact: **53.1%**
- Other: **<1%**

### **What are the main reasons for your support of the proposal?**

- Legal gaming: **37.4%**
- Live entertainment & theater: **73.3%**
- New hotel: **40.7%**
- New restaurants: **72.8%**
- Riverwalk: **77.8%**
- Infrastructure improvements: **79.4%**
- Job creation: **68.3%**
- Economic development: **79%**
- Other: **<1%**

Over 1,000 survey respondents have taken advantage of the option to submit additional narrative commentary, explaining the reasons for their responses. All of this unedited commentary has been forwarded to City of Chicago decision makers including the Mayor's Office and the Members of the Special City Council Committee on Casinos. RNRA is grateful to all survey respondents for their time and input.



## Summary Statement on Bally's Casino Proposal / Tribune Site

Established in 1997, the River North Residents Association is a non-profit community organization working with residents, local businesses, government officials and other partners to protect and enhance the quality of life in the River North Neighborhood. Our membership currently includes 86 properties, representing approximately 23,000 area residents.

The River North Residents Association does not have a reputation for being "anti-development". For 25 years, our organization has worked collaboratively with elected officials and developers to evaluate, and recommend improvements, to dozens of proposed projects in our community. Our objective is always to ensure that developments are designed and constructed in such a way that the surrounding community is enhanced and the short and long-term impact on all stakeholders is appropriately considered.

With respect to large-scale development on the Tribune Publishing site at Halsted and Chicago Avenue, RNRA understands and shares the general goals of job creation, economic development, and infrastructure improvement, particularly as the city emerges from two years of pandemic-induced recession.

The proposed Bally casino complex is simply the wrong project for this location.

On December 3, 2021, RNRA sent a letter to 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, 42nd Ward Alderman Brendan Reilly, and 2nd Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, describing the significant negative impacts that a such a large-scale entertainment complex would have on traffic, public safety and quality of life for thousands of residents in the densely populated surrounding area. Like all large community organizations, RNRA is not a monolithic group, but we have received a great deal of input from members expressing these concerns.

Nearly 6,000 additional living units, 75,000 square feet of commercial space and other mixed-use development has already been approved or is under construction near the Freedom Center site, which will further increase density over the next few years. **Adding a 1 million square-foot development including a casino with 4,000 reserved gaming positions, a 3,000-seat theater, an outdoor music venue, up to a 500-room hotel, exhibition space, multiple restaurants, a food hall and a museum will not improve conditions.** The additional strain on existing infrastructure, noise, bright lighting and traffic congestion, not to mention the probable negative effect on local property values, are completely unreasonable burdens to place on the surrounding residential communities.

The city has prepared a 102-page Evaluation Report, providing a detailed overview of each of the original five casino proposals. RNRA has reviewed the report and questions several of its findings with respect to the assessment of Proposal 02, Bally's Tribune. We respectfully request that the concerns outlined in this critique be addressed publicly and given appropriate consideration in the City's analysis *before* determination of the final site for a Chicago casino.

If the proposed development for this site involved a hotel, condominium buildings or rental apartments with restaurants, office or retail, and green space, RNRA and other neighborhood organizations would likely be eager to work with the city and developers on the project. But the proposed casino complex is ill-conceived, and many residential communities on the near north side will persistently oppose it.

All Casino related statements and information are posted at [RNRACHicago.org/Chicago-Casino-Proposals](https://RNRACHicago.org/Chicago-Casino-Proposals).

### RNRA Board

April 6, 2022



- The report includes a rendering, at the top of page 31, showing three additional large residential towers between the south end of the casino complex and the Grand Avenue bridge. These are labeled "L" (480,000 GSF), "A-1" (668,000 GSF), and "A-2" (448,000 GSF). At present, RNRA has received no detailed information about these developments, which, if constructed, would add considerably to the density and further exacerbate congestion. **Has research been conducted that demonstrates that the planned improvements to existing infrastructure will be sufficient to alleviate current congestion, plus the impacts of all approved, proposed, and potential development? If so, will it be made public?**
- The report does not address the amount, source and availability of public funding needed to complete these improvements. **Is this information available to the public?**
- The report is also silent about whether Bally's will offset all or part of the cost of the taxpayer-funded infrastructure enhancements that will substantially benefit their project. **Will Bally's be required to share in this expense and if so, to what extent?**

#### **Local Financial Impacts**

- The report states that 78% of Bally's projected gaming revenue is estimated to come from local customers, but the revenue analysis does not include any information about the impact on the city if the majority of discretionary spending by Bally's casino customer base will be diverted from existing Chicago area businesses and recreation/entertainment venues. **Are estimates of the net economic impact of this development available?**
- Bally's proposal commits to the interior buildout of just 100 hotel rooms in phase I, with the future buildout of an additional 400 rooms on a "best efforts" basis. According to the proposal, the difference in annual tax revenue between 100 and 500 hotel rooms is projected to be \$15 million by year six. Given this caveat, and the Tribune site's close proximity to many existing hotels, the report's revenue assumptions need further clarification. **What is likelihood that the additional 400 hotel rooms will ever be built out, and when?**
- The evaluation report does not address the fact that the Tribune publishing site is located in Enterprise Zone Four (EZ-4), and the temporary gaming facility is located in the Chicago/Kingsbury Tax Incremental Finance District (C/K TIF). **Will Bally's be seeking any TIF and/or EZ benefits in the course of this development?**
- Casinos often negatively impact nearby residential property values. There are numerous residential buildings, and thousands of units, along the river, Chicago, Superior, Huron and Erie, all within the C/K TIF. **Has any research been conducted on the impact of the proposed casino on real estate values in the surrounding residential communities? If so, please share the results publicly.**

We respectfully request that our concerns be addressed and given appropriate consideration in the City's analysis before determination of the final site for a Chicago casino. All RNRA statements and information concerning the proposed casino may be accessed at [RNRAChicago.org/Chicago-casino-proposals](http://RNRAChicago.org/Chicago-casino-proposals).

On behalf of the RNRA Board of Directors,

*Brian Israel*

Brian Israel, President  
River North Residents Association

Cc: Samir Mayekar, Deputy Mayor, Economic and Neighborhood Development  
Maurice Cox, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

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| That stretch of Chicago Avenue is already severely congested, and this will make it much worse. Also, we already pay some of the highest taxes in this city and deal with crime daily; I don't want it to become worse. If I try to sell my condo, I don't want the property value to go down - no one will want to live around here anymore!!  |
| The casino will bring more traffic and crime to the area, which is residential area. There will be a mass exodus by those living in the area which will hurt the property values. I love this neighborhood but if the casino is approved I will most likely look to sell and move out of the area, which will be a common theme for my neighbors.   |
| I live in the area and do not wish to reside near a casino with the known negative impacts that it will include.  |
| I am not opposed to there being a new development being built at this site. However, I don't believe a casino is the right development for this area.   |
| Why is the city not putting this in a non residential area that would benefit from development  |
| A casino does not belong in a residential area. The congestion will adversely affect the area and overtax the existing infrastructure. We don't need or want millions of strangers and their cars, noise and crime coming into our neighborhood.  |
| The place is already congested and traffic to the area is going to be awful   |
| It should remain a residential neighborhood   |
| Casino's bring all sorts of crime and negative elements to a neighborhood that was just starting to be livable before the pandemic and now we can barely walk outside without being carjacked or robbed. this neighborhood is too residential and this type of complex belongs in the loop or somewhere else not on this site.  |
| We already have increased crime in River North.<br>I cannot see this being made any better by adding a casino to this neighbour hood. It is so moly not the right venue and will not enhance life here but will definitely diminish it. It may well be the reason I finally leave the area, after spending 15 of my retirement years here. Going out for dinner in the late evenings is already too dangerous and uncertain here: a casino will only make things worse. |
| We already have a methadone clinic.   |
| Young kids  |
| It could also fail and become an eye sore like many other casinos. The infrastructure here will not support the traffic and it would be right in the middle of the west town neighborhood which is just now turning over. Poor location. What happened to the park?   |
| I've lived in River North for 24 yrs and will honestly leave if a casino goes up here. The crime has gotten out of control here abd it will only bring on more. The noise, traffic concern me too . This is the wrong place for a casino .  |
| Having a casino in such close proximity to residences and school is a disaster for property value. Crime, traffic, everything that comes with it is horrible.   |
| River North has already experienced increases in crime and noise and traffic with all of the late night bars in our area (Clutch bring one closest to us). This just adds more stress to an already congested area. Families live in this area and it's already difficult to ride bikes and even walk around without fear of being hit by a car.  |
| We don't want to be associated with the being the neighborhood "across from the casino"   |
| Dysfunctional City  |
| In every city that has gambling it has been shown it falls on the backs of the poorest and increases crime.   |
| Completely against the casino and will force us to move out of the neighborhood. No interest in having our family in the same proximity as a casino.  |
| This is primarily a residential area. We already have crime in River North which has not been addressed.  |



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| <p>Chicago Avenue and Halsted Avenue with small bridges over the north branch of the Chicago River simply cannot withstand they traffic. In addition, its proximity to hotels is not good. The Lakefront proposals are far more viable with plentiful existing parking, and public transit access.</p>  |
| <p>A casino in a residential area is not a good criteria for existing residents as well as new residents .<br/>An uptick in crime and violence is the last thing river north residents need</p>   |
| <p>The area is surrounded by residential properties. It is already highly congested and the infrastructure in the area will not support it. This is a really bad location choice for a casino. It will attract people who cannot afford to be there and totally change the flavor of the neighborhood. Why would you want to put a casino there? The city is managing to the lowest common denominator with casinos and cannabis! What does that say about the history of this once beautiful world class city that it is no longer. It is riddled with crime and guns and this will just add to the downfall of the city. Why not put the casino at the old McCormick center that is now vacant. There are no residential areas surrounding it and the infrastructure is already there. I hope the city can rise above these low life ideas and proper in a more cultured and thoughtful way. I say NO to casinos in the city where they are currently proposed. Please listen to the people, the residents and workers in the area who are voters and care about their community!</p> |
| <p>The traffic is terrible in our area, the bridges on Chicago and Grand barely support our neighborhood now. Our neighborhood is still reeling from the past few years of crime and gangs hanging out in Montgomery park and Erie. Still have great concern over safety. Crime and other illegal activities do gravitate to casinos. Let's focus on business that support the residents of River North. This is NOT supportive.</p>  |
| <p>This is a residential and small business area and should be developed in that direction. I'm not opposed to multiple buildings being developed on that site versus one large casino open 24 hours. Ballys touted that as a selling point - reduced number of units. But those units will be similar to our area and not attract thousands of visitors daily and all night long.</p>  |
| <p>Living directly east of the location (other side of the river), we can already hear Chicago Tribune trucks entering/exiting the lot. Since this proposal is for a 24 hour casino, we're worried about the additional noise since much of the area is planned to be outside (courtyard style) instead of indoors like the casino in Rosemont.<br/>Additionally, worried about placing a casino and pedestrian bridge from the casino which leads directly to a child's playground (near Erie Cafe).</p>   |
| <p>River North' &amp; chicago Ave are already very congested. The new lifetime fitness &amp; Whole Foods haven't opened on Chicago Ave and that will cause gridlock. a casino will make it worse. I don't want that or increased crime with the extended nightlife in the area. It's already challenging to get across Halsted.</p>   |
| <p>Increasing crime in River North, decrease in property values &amp; the negative impact of gambling</p>   |
| <p>Much negative impact on the neighborhood</p>   |
| <p>Should not be in a residential neighborhood at all.</p>  |
| <p>Concerned about crime, congestion, etc</p>   |
| <p>the more people the more crime...just that simple</p>  |
| <p>Casinos lead to the deterioration of vibrant neighborhoods with minimal if any economic benefits. This is will documented in economic research. It's a failing strategy for the city.</p>  |
| <p>This is going to have a significant impact on increased crime in a city that is already struggling with crime</p>  |
| <p>There are schools and residential developments around the area this would be disastrous to families that are fighting to hard to stay in the city</p>  |
| <p>traffic and noise particularly at night on weekends; don't want the view over the river to look like las vegas</p>   |

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| Vague about how undeveloped areas would be used, operating hours of casino, and traffic   |
| I live directly across from the project at 500 West Superior. This is a quiet residential area that I chose because it was just that. This project will put our neighborhood in the middle of a tourist-centric circus. At the meeting last night, the Chairman of Ballys repeatedly said it was going to bring 60 million people into the city. There will be concerts and events for theaters that seat 3000 and 5000. It is simply not possible that such an influx of people can be accommodated on Chicago Avenue and the 90/94 circle. Whatever analysis they are using that says this can be handled by a new bridge and traffic lights has to be skewed. We had a traffic advisory just for the community meeting last night. There is out door space for outdoor concerts, it will be loud and disruptive. They are going to connect to our park where our families and residents enjoy time outside. People will come from Michigan Avenue and those hotels through our neighborhoods. And all of this will be on a daily 24/7 basis. The Tribune location is just the wrong spot. It will destroy the tenor of our neighborhood and what makes it special. |
| Will leave Chicago if in the neighborhood   |
| The proposed development is adjacent to a thriving, family friendly neighborhood. The proposal and pictures are lovely but it does not belong here.   |
| Gambling is inconsistent w community development... there is no positive about it and projected tax revenues is entirely offset by the negative impact it has on the surrounding community. I'm patently against gambling of any type.  |
| This casino will destroy River North. Casinos are designed to concentrate and keep all of the business inside of the casino. Surrounding neighborhood businesses will collapse and crime outside of the casino will multiply exponentially. Politicians and greed have put the pension system in the needless down spiral it is in today. and they are willing to make a deal with the devil to keep their pockets fat at the expense of the people who call River North home. Chicago has become a caricature of the once great city it was years ago. The excuse of someone else will develop anyways and the blatant pandering to blacks and other minorities was one of the most disgusting things I've seen from the used car salesman panel Bally's provided. We all see through your smoke and mirrors and especially black Chicagoans that continue to have their intelligence insulted by a group of people salivating to build this communities demise.   |
| Bally's analysis of traffic compares its use to the anticipated use documented in the PD approved in 2018. It is unacceptable to plan a development of this size based on 4-5 year old traffic studies. It is essential to evaluate the existing traffic conditions PLUS the anticipated traffic from the PD approved last year for Goose Island to properly evaluate the traffic impact of Bally's proposal on existing infrastructure.  |
| It's basically a quiet neighborhood over here. That would completely change.  |
| The previous page explains my reasons here they are prioritized 1. Lower property value 2. More crime. 3./4. More vehicle and pedestrian traffic in a residential area 5. More noise  |
| Studies show both increase in crime and decrease in property value. We don't need a casino.   |
| I oppose for all the reasons stated by the association. Having a casino in a highly populated residential area will negatively affect our neighborhood and quality of life. I moved to this area of River North across from the river and Tribune, because it was away from the chaos and traffic of restaurants and businesses in the heart of River North. To put a casino here would completely change the neighborhood vibe and i think drive a lot of people to sell and move. I was already looking to move to the suburbs because of the crime that has not been addressed. We had two shootings two weeks ago. One at 4 pm in the afternoon on a Wednesday and one on Friday at 6 pm. Which I heard loud and clear from my balcony. Perhaps address our current safety issues as opposed to adding to it with a large Casino complex.   |

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| Studies show on average 5% loss in property value in the vicinity of a casino, this equates to Ballys stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from the community  |
| Will not be a children friendly community and I have a daughter  |
| Increased traffic and noise, will disrupt daily living   |
| I am anti-casino   |
| Our neighborhood is already congested and impossible at times to get around. We are a major through way for traffic getting on and off the expressway at Ohio street. This casino would not only impact our neighborhood but will spread across the entire downtown area. Crime is already at a high in Chicago!!! We do not need a casino to increase those crime rates.  |
| As a businessman who has attended an infinite number of pitch presentations, it was shocking how last nights presentation was so woefully prepared and articulated. At no point during the session did they demonstrate that they understood the neighborhood, the severe & detrimental impact on crime and safety, or the harmful strain on our overall community that this casino would cause. This could not be a stronger NO!  |
| the river north community is profoundly residential - many families live here with small children. we are still dealing with the increase in life threatening crimes and now have to contend with a casino one block away - a venue looking to attract thousands on a daily basis? the crime, traffic, noise, aesthetic and our property values will all be negatively impacted - significantly. to put a casino in this hugely residential area is an atrocity - particularly when an overwhelming majority of those of us who live here are vehemently opposed.  |
| I am opposed to casino coming into Chicago in general. Gambling is a vice and should be curtailed as much as possible.   |
| This area does not need any additional traffic bottlenecks. Also, I think it would be naive to believe there will not be an increase in crime. Crime is already out of control. More people and money can only encourage crime.  |
| Casino in a dense urban area with otherwise no exposure to a large scale - impact to existing residents in terms of property values, traffic and congestion, noise and light pollution from operations, no mass transit option , river front impact from construction and operations etc   |
| No need for more chaos in a residential area   |
| This residential area of River North/West Town is chosen by most residents due to it's quiet, residential feel in close proximity to the city. A casino would ruin traffic patterns, cause increased crime, and would strain all of the wonderful parks & walking paths in the area.   |
| As a property manager of 5 buildings in River North, I fear for our residents' safety as we are struggling to keep up with the overall security of the building given the increase in crime. We are dealing with constant carjackings, break-ins, noise from nearby clubs and the list goes on. A casino will not improve the City's current condition. River North is no longer a safe neighborhood. You can no longer walk without fearing your surroundings. There are no consequences to crime at this time and while that's political, this is bound to get worse. A casino is a simple, open invitation to criminals, of any kind. |
| A casino would cheapen the area, my home, and make it extremely difficult to travel on the roads around the area that are already strained. I would strongly consider leaving the area, and the city of Chicago, should this casino be built. In an area where crime is already increasing, I would be concerned for the safety of my family and would avoid patronizing business around that area.  |
| Increased crime and lack of infrastructure to support the addition.  |
| Increased traffic and home devaluation are my main concerns.   |

River North is an historic, attractive residential, family friendly community that supports the city's tax base with thousands of multimillion dollar homes and condominium. The area is home to leading design industry businesses, retail stores, and high end restaurants. We already see the large bars attract drunk crowds, traffic, disregard for street signs as they blow through our stop signs and red light, vandalism, and sidewalks littered with broken glass and vomit that our residents and local businesses need to pay to clean up each week. The parity goes show no consideration to the community. the crowds attract a criminal element with gun shots heard last summer EVERY WEEK on some streets and assault, car jackings, and shootings throughout the neighborhood being common occurrences. On multiple occasion calls to 911 result in no responses, even to gun shots, even when we have video of the shooting from our building security camera, so we no longer waste our time to call 911. A large casino that attracts thousands more people who don't live here to pass through and party here will ruin whatever hope we have of reclaiming our neighborhood.

This would be a devastating change to our neighborhood and will continue to push high tax paying citizens out of Chicago.

Have them build the casino on the south side near mc commick place. Much better location.

Concerned about increase in crime.

I saw the presentation via the live feed on April 6th. While it looks like the plans are impressive, casinos don't historically bring in many well paying jobs and will potentially increase crime given the entertainment nature of the venue.

After attending the Bally meeting, the presenters, along with the City did not do a good enough job articulating the reasons why. The traffic stats were presented never talked about the actual number of vehicles. The city can't seem to control crime. No stats were provided about noise. No stats were provided about impact to property values.

No casino should be built in a heavily residential area. Significant concerns about crime especially given the increased crime over the past years in river north and the impact of an entertainment venue on property values. We already have issues stemming from the bars on the weekends with crime, noise and littering, a casino will only make things worse

I'm in One River Place and decided to stick it out through the pandemic with my young family because our love for this neighborhood. I'd have heavy regret of not bailing sooner should they decide to move forward with the Casino across the River

The city is already in ruins this would cause more destruction

The whole project simply does not fit in this part of town. We know it will result in increased noise, traffic, pollution and crime. This would be a 24/7 operation! This is not an answer to the pension problem as the City already has voted to increase real estate taxes to match I flatiron!

Traffic is already extremely heavy on our main thoroughfares without adding such a large development. And the lights/noise will make life near the complex incredibly difficult.

Chicago Avenue, particularly at the bridge, is virtual gridlock. Grand Avenue will rapidly disappear as an alternate route. It's the equivalent of putting a major venue on a secondary intersection without adequate public transportation or road network.

What is section of Las Vegas to hasn't it been a city that has been benefit by having casinos

We are already dealing with increased crime, do not need to add more in this area as the police coverage is already limited. Also a bridge to go through ward park is a terrible idea, that is a family friendly area well respected by residents and should not be having casino customers tracking through, terrible idea.



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| <p>The current safety issues are reaching a boiling point and I do not believe the city has the resources to police properly nor should it be required to. A private casino entity right downtown is strikingly similar to decisions made in Detroit which had catastrophic results to the downtown resident population. In theory this would bring money, but I cannot see any other benefit. An addition this massive should bring cultural benefits as well.</p>  |
| <p>The growing construction in River North over the last 5 years has already put a strain on the neighborhoods resources. There is not appropriate sewage infrastructure to support the build which is already causing problems. The roads would need to be completely redesigned to support the traffic. Chicago Ave and Halsted would quickly become one of the worst intersections in all of Chicago. As a homeowner, my property value would plummet. There are many other more open and expansive areas in Chicago that are in need of development. This is not one of them.</p>  |
| <p>River North does not have the infrastructure to handle the additional traffic, both foot and vehicular. The casino will be nothing but a strain and blight on the River North neighborhood. PLEASE find some other place to put it.</p>   |
| <p>The casino is proposed directly next to a highly dense, highly residential neighborhood with multiple daycares, a children's park. And they want a land bridge connecting the casino to the children's park?!? That point alone shows how NOT thought through Bally's proposal was and I was horrified by the presentation at the community meeting and the lack of specific details included and inability to directly answer any of the tough questions posed. I've been in this neighborhood for 15 years, a casino is not the right fit and it would cause my family to leave.</p>  |
| <p>I have three small children. We go to the Montgomery Ward park almost every day. I am extremely concerned about the noise level, and more importantly, the crime the casino will bring to our area. Our park is one of the few quieter sanctuaries in the city where we can enjoy time looking at the water or sitting on the grass. The construction of the casino will be an immediate noise and visual obstruction, detracting from the natural beauty we now have along the river and in the park. I will not feel safe bringing my kids to the park anymore. Sadly, we are planning to move after living in the Montgomery Park area for 10 years if this location is decided for the casino. Additionally, we own several units in the surrounding area. Property values will decline if this casino is built. Traffic has already increased with the current construction projects, and this will bring a more permanent, constant congestion to the area.</p> |
| <p>I live at LaSalle and Hubbard and know this neighborhood's club scene will be negatively impacted with increased patronage due to casino proximity. This area is already affected by noise, crime, and traffic congestion, and adding to it will make the weekends (and now possibly weeknights) even more intolerable. Enough! Please!</p>   |
| <p>This neighborhood is heavily residential. A casino would be weird</p>   |
| <p>It is right at the center of two very busy roads already. There is no way this is not going to cause significant congestion that impacts residents way beyond River North.</p>  |
| <p>Our neighborhood currently is safe and quite. If there is a casino it will ruin the grounds.</p>  |
| <p>There are more appropriate sites in Chicago. This site would have a negative impact on the residents in this neighborhood.</p>  |
| <p>Just bought a townhouse in the Groupon building neighborhood 2 years ago, we expected development in the area, but we did not expect Chicago's first casino to be right next to our home. This is a very family oriented neighborhood and a casino isn't what we are looking for in a development.</p>  |
| <p>We do not need to increase crime in an area that already has tremendous amount of car jacking and shootings.</p>  |
| <p>This is a key corridor for residential communities and Ward Park is for families. Not an appropriate place for this type of business.</p>   |
| <p>The infrastructure is incapable of supporting the project. River North lacks the road network to adequately service the Casino without making our neighborhoods unlivable.</p>  |
| <p>Placing a casino in a highly populated, family-oriented, residential location is a terrible idea.</p>   |

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| <p>Much better use for this land in a much more equitable manner for all citizens can be created. Casino will engender criminal element detrimental to safety, also increase economic hardship on those with little disposable income who will be lured to gamble and lose hard earned money.</p>  |
| <p>Too congested there</p>   |
| <p>Chicago avenue at halsted serves as a major artery in and out of the city. Placing a large entertainment venue on that corner will have a devastating impact on traffic.</p>  |
| <p>Casino would be a disaster in our area. It should go to places that need urban development and are underserved like Mckormick place</p>   |
| <p>Escalating crime scene: The River North area has seen an increase in crime since the pandemic. While this is the responsibility of the city to curb the rise, we should oppose any projects that can add fuel to the fire. A Casino, bringing more people with money to the area, would make it impossible for the understaffed city police to keep crime off the area. It would make an already risky situation worse. No one has presented any independent study on the implications of casino and crime around a 5 mile radius of the site.</p> <p>Imploding property value will be a direct outcome of crime. There was no evidence provided on the implications of this project on the project value in the area; or any casino and the property value around it. "I think it will be good for the community" was Sim Koo's statement. I am happy he thinks that way - but I need more evidence than that.</p> <p>Implications if it fails: The picture presented is based on a projected growth in the business. If that does not play out, we will have a massive failing infrastructure ripe for gangs to hang out and change the landscape of residential neighborhood - killing walkability and everything River North represents.</p> <p>The town hall was a total waste of everyone's time. It seems no stakeholder - Bally's, contractors, the city, etc etc - feels the obligation to provide clear evidence to the residents. In God we trust, everyone else bring data!</p> |
| <p>If I were to construct a neighborhood that is diverse, the diversity would not include a casino</p>   |
| <p>Casino developments belong in an area that does not affect current residents</p>  |
| <p>Our property values have been going down in the area due to crime. A casino would exacerbate this issue based on numerous assessments and articles/research conducted elsewhere. This won't help. Putting a casino in the middle of a residential area/neighborhood is not a good solution. Also, the traffic in the area across bridges is already bad and this would only make it worse</p>   |
| <p>The traffic studies are all in comparison to the PD that was approved 5 years ago yet has not been built (and as Bally's stated) there is no other development proposed if the casino is not built. It is misleading to state that traffic will be improved (they couldn't even hold the community meeting without a traffic warning for the neighborhood). Again, this is a residential neighborhood, it is inappropriate to place an entertainment site right in our backyard. Bally's stated that heavy pedestrian traffic would be a good thing, but I doubt they would agree if it meant thousands of tourists walking through their neighborhood every day. The casino business is meant to operate 24/7 and this is an area with young families and children, no matter how much Bally's claims they want to better the community the very act of building a casino in this site goes against that. If the city wants to develop the area, go ahead with the PD. Build literally anything except a casino.</p>   |
| <p>A casino would devalue River North, bring unwanted activity to the neighborhood, and diminish residential quality of life.</p>  |
| <p>The increase in both residential and office developments in the RNRC area have taxed our infrastructure to the hilt. Traffic has become unbearable and noise has definitely increased. And yet property taxes have skyrocketed, while resell values have decreased. More burden on local property owners would be an egregious offense.</p>   |

Traffic in the area is already congested and this will not help. As a property owner In the area, I fear the values will plummet. Across the river is mainly young professionals, retirees, and young families. The demographics of the neighborhood do not fit with those that would benefit from a casino.

This would be huge deterrent to neighborhood.

area is already congested and this would just add too many people in neighborhood plus safety and security issues.

Traffic is already horrible, adding a casino will increase it even more so. The crime will increase bringing in people from all over.

Neighborhood better developed via residential additions vs large commercial

This pocket of River North is one of the most ideal places to live in Chicago. It's an opportunity to be downtown, without the hustle and bustle, the traffic, and the noise. To eliminate such an incredible part of the city with a Casino would be truly disappointing to the city. Please put this Casino in a location that would appreciate the attention. Don't ruin the best pocket of downtown Chicago.

This proposed location is a highly populated and congested area. There are better locations other than this neighborhood with more potential to develop and create jobs for the area such as Roosevelt Road.

I absolutely oppose it due to the very fact that it adds negative congestion to my neighborhood! Young families will not want to raise children around casino and the crowd it will bring in.

This intersection is already so congested. I am skeptical that any adjustment to the infrastructure who be any help. Also, there are too many residences in the area. A casino needs to be more in the central business district where there are no or little residences. Also, poor planning to rely on the casino for city finances.

Not against a casino but it should not be located in a full residential area. Soldier Field or further south is a more appropriate location. I think my property will devalued as others will not want to buy. We can't manage the crime already centered in RN, it will be worse. And the casino can do nothing about the people once they leave so the noise/ruckus. And the invitation for crime will increase.

River North was an oasis of beauty in a big city, in particular the area near Kingsbury park. I initially purchased my property 19 years ago because of the suburb feeling in a big city. The grass, trees and space was so beautiful to me, the proximity to the loop made the commute a dream, the proximity to shopping, incredible food, museums and the lake had me feeling so lucky that all of my hard work had finally paid off. I lived somewhere I loved!

The river near Kingsbury park was my favorite part. It was peaceful and the park offered stillness and beauty right in the heart of a big city. It was a wonderful oasis, a perfect place to lounge outside in peace while enjoying the skyline and marveling in the wonders of progress, the family events such as movie in the park or dog friendly amenities made it such a fun perfect place to live.

I would much rather see extensive development the river to encourage first class recreation, education, nature and stillness than an obnoxious casino. Are you kidding me with this?

Crime has ruined our neighborhood, destroyed our businesses, driven away families and visitors looking for a fun day of shopping, incredible dining, the theater museums and culture or anyone planning wholesome events.

Tax has stripped us of trying to enjoy a day on a budget, the streets are so expensive to park on and our cars get vandalized. Graffiti on the highways and the buildings have destroyed our property and makes everything unsightly. Our police officers have no support from the Mayor and their hands are tied and morale is low. The list just goes on and it's really heart breaking what's happening.

Please, invest in things that preserve wholesome and fun entertainment, not addiction and trashy gambling.

I will move immediately if this passes, because it's yet one more thing that has changed my feelings for River North and sadly most of my neighbors feel the same. This is our community, build and invest in things that we care about.

I don't feel the area is equipped to handle this addition, nor is it needed in this proximity to other casinos

The road system into the area is already strained and the casino would only worsen it. Additionally, crime appears to follow casinos once they are built. Whether it be something as simple as additional litter, to public intoxication, to organized crime.

This will ruin neighborhoods with increase crime, noise and congestions.

Wrong neighborhood for all the reasons above. For job creation, the casino should be in a location that most need jobs. We recently visited Boston and its casino out of curiosity. That casino is not downtown but in an industrial area that needs to be developed. It was not built in an existing neighborhood. We are strongly opposed to increased traffic, noise, pollution, and crime which has greatly increased recently in our neighborhood with little action from the City. It is incomprehensible that the City would choose this location.

We live in a residential neighborhood that is already busy and has too much crime. Casinos are open 24/7' what happens when cars drive into our neighborhood after losing money and they take it out on our neighborhood?

It will crate trouble, traffic issues, devalue homes. We don't have enough police right now to do there jobs right. Thanks alot Lori

I lived thru Detroit's promise of casinos bringing wealth & jobs to the city. The compromise of our safety for \$\$\$ was evident.

This would be HORRIBLE for the neighborhood



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| <p>The proposed site is 2 blocks from my kids daycare. 4 blocks from my house. The traffic on this part of the road is already terrible and this will worsen it. It will also worsen the quality of life, my kids and I take walks on this stretch of the road. This will cause us to leave the city. Please put the casino somewhere else. Prioritize families, not gambling.</p>  |
| <p>This location needs development and growth but a casino would trash it up!! Both aesthetically and from a crime standpoint!</p>  |
| <p>I lived downtown Cleveland 10 years ago when this same exact process happened. A casino came in, promised jobs and all these nice things. For the first two years it was great - clean, expensive, and people went. Then when all the wealthy people got tired of it - the casino had to lower the table stakes from \$20 to \$5 to keep people coming, and it became a hang out for the low income people who bring crime, guns, and trash with them.</p>   |
| <p>Terrible solution to fix the mess this mayor has made. She will further destroy the beautiful city we love and the wonderful River North neighborhood. Bad Decision!</p>   |
| <p>There are sufficient independent studies that show that casinos have negative effects related to the areas of my concerns.</p>   |
| <p>A densely populated residential area in an urban city center is not an appropriate location for a casino for all of the reasons listed in this survey.</p>   |
| <p>Safety is a major issue and this is bound to increase risk. We have children at a school nearby and this will be detrimental and distracting to their educational progress.</p>  |
| <p>This is a residential area with already too much crime. There are children and park need that will be affected and the area will loose families.</p>   |
| <p>This is a family neighborhood with lots of children in a densely populated area. Adding the casino would make it unsafe, overcrowded, and increase traffic congestion.</p>   |
| <p>Reduction of property value</p>  |
| <p>This is our neighborhood, we want to feel safe and be free from MORE noise, traffic and crime. We will definitely move if this casino goes in.</p>   |
| <p>Strongly oppose, will sell and move if this moves forward</p>  |
| <p>Casinos can bring business and traffic and activity to any area, even blighted ones. There is no good reason to bring a casino to an area that is already busy and thriving. It will only add to the increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic in this area. This area is very residential. There is no need for a casino to be added to a residential area. Exiting at Ohio St is already backed up. The casino will only turn away folks looking to visit the other great restaurants and attractions in River North. Not to mention the residents who just want to come home after work. There has to be better locations that need this casino and the activity that follows it. Thanks.</p> |
| <p>The area is too small to absorb the pressures and demands of such a development.</p>   |
| <p>I own a home in this area and I have a 1yr old daughter. I feel like this is the last safe space in Chicago where it feels more like a suburban neighborhood rather than downtown. It's special. We spend time at the ward park, and it's filled with families. This is not the area to introduce a casino that will, without a doubt, introduce more traffic, more crime, more pedestrians, and more out of town visitors who will not respect our neighborhood. Protect our river north families and do not allow this casino at the tribune center. A more commercial area would be more appropriate.</p>   |
| <p>Pick a different site that is not in the middle of a neighborhood. A casino does not fit - plain and simple</p>  |
| <p>River North neighborhood is a residential one. We have day cares, schools and children parks around, a casino is therefore a complete no.</p>  |

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| <p>River North already has issues with bars, night clubs, weed dispensaries etc. I don't want a casino added into that mix. It belongs in a less populated area but in a relatively crime free section of the city, like the museum campus, where people who wish to gamble can do so without worrying about traveling into a high crime area.</p>  |
| <p>A socio-culture disaster in the making and a violation of the community; schools; and churches in the area</p>   |
| <p>I adamantly oppose the Bally's casino because I think it will ultimately deter further economic development in the neighborhood rather than expand it.</p>   |
| <p>No interest in casinos. We live here for easy access to art and culture.</p>   |
| <p>Introducing a massive commercial complex in a residential neighborhood with thousands of residents is detrimental to the entire area and will impact residents and existing businesses negatively.</p>   |
| <p>It doesn't make sense to put the casino there. There is almost no public transportation to get there, so there will be substantially increased vehicular traffic which will put a strain on our infrastructure. Additionally, crime is already out of control and the casino will only make it worse. There is no reason to put the casino there when the other locations are much better (not by residential areas and have public transportation access).</p>  |
| <p>This Casino will change the whole character of the neighborhood. We moved here as it was more quiet, not much retail. The Casino will change everything about this neighborhood, our property values will go down as the crime increases as well. If the casino is built, we will definitely move - I'm sure others feel the same way.</p>   |
| <p>As stated in last checkoff</p>   |
| <p>I believe the casino will increase violence; as a single female, I would not feel safe to have this built in my backyard.</p>  |
| <p>I have ticked all the options that apply-those are my reasons and more.</p>  |
| <p>A casino does not fit in this neighborhood in any way. The negative impacts are FAR greater than any positives.</p>  |
| <p>There is already too much congestion and traffic in the area. Please do not add more people and cars. A casino in the area will reduce property values and increase crime.</p>   |
| <p>This is a residential area and not a place for a casino. Also can't handle the traffic now</p>   |
| <p>Living just across the river from the proposed site makes me very anxious on so many levels for the residential areas right there.already checked in the survey. It will impact our homes.</p>   |
| <p>This is a horrible idea the will ruin all the work that has been done to protect the river front.</p>  |
| <p>Crime in our neighborhood has increased over the past few years as it is. If a casino is built this will bring even more crime to our area, reducing property values and forcing current affluent residents to move. If current residents move, this will also negatively impact the demand for entertainment such as fine dining and luxury stores in our area.</p>   |
| <p>Traffic is already extremely challenging during an extended rush hour. A 24/7 casino will result in 24/7 traffic congestion. There will be no down times when traffic is tolerable.</p>  |
| <p>I marked my reasons in this survey.</p>  |
| <p>This is a residential area with many residents. Introducing a casino will result in an increase of crime and a negative economic impact of this area</p>   |
| <p>I do not believe it is prudent to insert a casino into a residential neighborhood. It would completely obliterate the quality of life in River North for all of the reasons stated on this survey. It would make more sense to place it in the other proposed location where it would be closer to the center of the City and would be more accessible and convenient for transportation. It is apparent the City officials are willing to fast track this development and sacrifice the residents in River North in order to receive the revenue expeditiously because the site is essentially ready for construction. Please consider the residents and the ambiance of the City and do not cheapen either with improper placement of this Casino.</p> |

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| <p>River North is a quiet and safe place to live. If a casino comes into the neighborhood those values will be destroyed. Traffic will become unbearable and crime will increase, making this neighborhood less desirable and forcing longtime residents to move out. A casino in River North is a appalling idea.</p>   |
| <p>Increase traffic and crime</p>  |
| <p>I think that crime and traffic are the main issues</p>  |
| <p>There is already too much entertainment activity, bring crime into this area at night</p>   |
| <p>The area is already strained. infrastructure, crime,density,etc. Negative area economics.</p>   |
| <p>Traffic,crime,reduced property value, parking on residential streets by employees and visitors</p>  |
| <p>Existing infrastructure can't support the proposed casino, also doesn't make sense to have it in a residential area.</p>  |
| <p>The crime is ready at an all time high in this rea, you have public housing boarded up near there and my property values are already decreasing. Can't drive down Chicago avenue very easily as it is.</p>  |
| <p>Although I cannot control the city's entire thoughts on a casino, I think this area is completely wrong for a casino. With rise in crime already taking place, I think this would only increase. The noise, lights, traffic of vehicles and people would decrease the value of our property as well as the great neighborhood feel we have.</p>   |
| <p>I strongly oppose this being built at this location and in the city all together.</p>   |
| <p>Primary concern is the city's ability to control crime associated with increased tourism and large public spaces. Also concerned that increased traffic will negatively impact nearby residents.</p>  |
| <p>There is a lack of infrastructure there with roads and bridges to accommodate this congestion.</p>  |
| <p>We are already experiencing higher safety issues and don't seem to have the resources/infrastructure to support those - let alone adding new risks.</p>   |
| <p>As a neighborhood resident and parent, I feel bringing a casino to River North will considerably impact the health and safety of my family. Additionally, the increased traffic a casino/ entertainment facility would bring will only exacerbate this already congested intersection (Chicago Ave x Halstead St).</p>  |
| <p>The presence of the casino would destroy this neighborhood as we know it.</p>   |
| <p>This will reduce property values by at least 20%</p>  |
| <p>River North is one of the highest, if not the highest tax paying areas of the city. This proposal will inherently devalue prime waterfront properties and will be taking up great waterfront space for a business model aimed at keeping people inside. Crime has already been significantly worse over the last 2 years, and adding a casino would only contribute to this becoming more of an issue. Does the city want to ensure every single person in River North wants to move elsewhere? Because then building this casino would be a great start. This is the dumbest plan of all time.</p> |
| <p>This is not what our neighborhood needs. Our safety and the area are struggling enough without that added element of gambling, drinking and behavior that casinos encourage.</p>  |
| <p>The River North neighborhood is congested on an average day, there is no capacity for additional traffic. Additionally, I am concerned for my personal safety. Walking in the neighborhood is a joy, used to do that all the time, now only during daylight hours for safety reasons. The casino would add a safety concern that would prevent me from walking during the day time. There is no space and this is of not benefit to the River North community.</p>  |
| <p>We live on Erie</p>   |
| <p>This project is not a good fit for the area. The pedestrian bridge would not serve any advantage to our neighborhood. Please relocate Casino to the other location where its impact would not be as destructive to a residential community.</p>   |
| <p>Do not feel safe if this goes through</p>   |
| <p>With already increased traffic and crime in the River North area, there is greater concern and risk for more traffic, crime and violence.</p>   |

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| <p>The Tribune site is not an appropriate location for a casino. I do not support a casino in Chicago period, but especially not in my backyard. This will bring unwanted congestion, noise, and more crime to River North/River West neighborhoods. My property values will suffer and if this goes forward I will have to sell my home. If I am forced to sell, I will relocate to another city. I have a high income and my job is not tied to Chicago.</p>  |
| <p>This location is not suited for development of a high density entertainment zone. The cities initial proposal PD1426 is for high density commercial and residential. There is no evidence provided by Ballys or the city that the Entertainment zone of a casino / theater / concert hall will have no impact on current levels of Traffic, Crime, noise pollution. I grew up in Vegas. All of these will be issues. I generally like Ballys as the company for Chicagos first casino. However this is not the location for it. Their proposal should shift over to the 78 proposal location currently being offered to RSG.</p> |
| <p>Already experiencing terrible noise and crime from Clutch Bar below our condo. It's negatively impacted our lives and ability to sleep. A huge casino project will exacerbate these problems and create many new challenges to enjoying our right to a peaceful existence. We love city living and chose our location but this casino should not build here!</p>   |
| <p>This is a high-end, residential and mixed use area.</p>  |
| <p>I live across the street at 720 N. Larrabee on the top floor and face West looking directly at the site. I would have to deal with all the construction noise and when it was done, I would have to live with seeing signage and loud noise. It would profoundly affect my resale value for the worse. This is a DEFINITE NO for me!!</p>  |
| <p>I moved from the East Loop to get away from all the construction and traffic and bought in River North for the quiet neighborhood feel. Building a casino across from me would ruin this neighborhood and change the whole vibe.<br/><b>PLEASE...I'M BEGGING YOU...DO NOT BUILD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!!</b></p>   |
| <p>I'm a property owner directly across from the proposed site. I see negative impacts of public pedestrian traffic around Ward Park now with large crowds, late night gatherings, even shootings; the proposed bridge inviting more non residents into the area 24 hrs a day sounds like a huge problem.</p>   |
| <p>Residential area</p>   |
| <p>The area is already congested with people and vehicles causing ridiculous traffic. The reduce lane closures for bus and bikes veritabily doesn't help.<br/>Adding a Casino will not only create extremely longer travel times but it will also increase crime as we have needless to say witnessed int he last 2 years.</p>  |
| <p>Too close</p>  |
| <p>Focus on reviving retail and experiential events instead of gambling and adult activities on the Mag mile</p>  |
| <p>Densely populated area does not need even more traffic, pollution, crime, etc. place the casino elsewhere.</p>   |
| <p>This is a congested neighborhood with continuing residential development. Additional burdens on the infrastructure are unwarranted. Lack of confidence that private and government oversight will be attentive to new security challenges and local impact.</p>  |
| <p>If it is so wonderful, why not go to Lincoln Park?</p>   |
| <p>With all the recent development in River North, the infrastructure is already strained. There is more traffic, more snarls, and more angry drivers. Additionally, we have seen an uptick in crime in River North; the addition of a noisy, baudy establishment, such as a casino, would exponentially increase the traffic, noise, and crime.</p>  |
| <p>I live a couple of blocks away and this is a beautiful residential area that will get married by a business that spawns crime and other less savory behavior.</p>  |



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| With recent developments in the area, the strain on infrastructure, traffic, public resources is already showing. Opening a major attraction in already congested area will lead to worsening of the quality and safety of lives in River North. NO to casino construction  |
| The impact on traffic on Chicago Avenue traffic will be detrimental. Especially the bridge.   |
| Casino would bring too much congestion of automobiles and pedestrians to the area. This would bring a mega commercial development into a more eclectic neighborhood....destroying its local vibe.   |
| I have huge concerns about this project being considered near my home and neighborhood.   |
| negative impact on home values, crime and congestion in surrounding neighborhoods   |
| I moved to this area because it was quaint, tight knit with families and professionals, and not noisy. Since Covid, the increased crime in this area is horrific and has caused psychological and economic strain on individuals, families, and the community. This area is not made for a casino. Casinos will bring in a reason for increased crime in which the police cannot even handle the crime we have already that is up 35% in the last year. The people proposing the casino do not live here and will not have to deal with it. I know many individuals who will be removing out of the city if this happens and I maybe one of them. In this area we already have to deal with the riff raf of Cabrini Green area that account for the most crime just two blocks down. If the casino is built, that crime will begin to rise significantly. There are other less populated open areas in the city in which this can be built. |
| I live at 360 W. Illinois. Our neighborhood traffic is already way past capacity with all the new buildings including Wolf Point. I can't imagine it getting any better if the casino opens. Also, as it stands now, I currently do not feel safe in my neighborhood and I feel the Casino will bring more crime to the neighborhood.   |
| The casino will attract crime, which is especially concerning for River North given that crime has trended northward in the city over the last few years. Crime was already unprecedented in River North last year. If a casino exacerbates that problem, residents will leave. What does Chicago think will happen to downtown's recovery if River North residents (who are largely working professionals in the city) flee and no longer commute to downtown offices right across the river? It'll be completely regressive for the entire area, not just River North. This is obviously a horrible location for a casino.  |
| I am very pro Chicago casino, but of all the proposals the Tribune one makes the least sense (mostly due to very close proximity to a quiet residential area). Ways they can save this proposal—1) Commit to security outside the casino like in the park and surrounding streets 2) Adjust outdoor venue to partially indoors with limits on how late music can be played and at what volume 3) Provide local residents some monetary discount as their property values will undoubtedly drop 4) Cater more towards non-gamblers   |
| The proposed casino site is located in the middle of a dense residential neighborhood. The Tribune site is also just a few blocks away from two CPS elementary schools.   |
| It is going to increase crime in the neighborhood as it's proven by previous examples.  |
| The traffic on Chicago Ave is already a nightmare. Please, please, please don't make it worse by putting the casino on the Tribune site.  |
| A casino in this quiet, classy, upscale residential neighborhood would be a NIGHTMARE! Awful idea on all levels!!!  |
| why not put it at McCormick Place.  |
| Living directly across the River from the proposed casino is a strong concern. Increased traffic, bright lights, noise, potential crime increase. Very limiting infrastructure, the current roads are only 2 lanes. There isn't a direct exit or entrance to the freeway. Therefore the congestion on the narrow surface streets will be terrible. Please do not approve this development.  |

Casinos should not be located in high density residential neighborhoods. High traffic (pedestrian and vehicle) in evenings and weekends will have significant negative impact on the safety, security, and access/use of public spaces by families with children. This is especially true for families with little children - and as witnessed by the increased number of pre-schools in the area is a larger and larger number.

Already Way over crowded traffic on Grand and Chicago. Will bring in additional crime to area and devalue property value

A casino is not appropriate in the middle of such a large and dense residential area.

The city is asking residents of the neighborhoods around this side to lose property value for all the reasons noted without any form of compensation. The economic benefit comes at a cost to many citizens nearby.

The infrastructure cannot support this location. Chicago and Grand cannot accommodate the traffic to the site. Connecting the site to Montgomery Park with a pedestrian bridge would only encourage patrons to park and party in the already dense neighborhood east of the river. There is no adequate public transportation to the site.

Traffic Crime

Crime & traffic

As a home owner in this area the big draw is that you are close to the city but it much quieter. That is the reason we moved away from other areas of River North and the city. For that reason I anticipate that this will have an extremely negative impact on our home value because many people buying in this area are looking for similar qualities. During the meeting this was a question that was avoided and not answered which was frustrating. With this size entertainment concept comes the extreme concern for safety. As a women who often is by herself I am always aware of my surroundings but this makes me very nervous for my safety and I hate the anticipation that I might not feel safe walking around in my own neighborhood. It is understood the value that this casino would bring to the City of Chicago but it is disharenting the thought and consideration to this neighborhood that has been neglected by the city. Overall I was not impressed by the selling points that they are trying to make and this development would be a big mistake.

Lack of hotels and shopping in the immediate area portends much traffic activity to access these items resulting in much traffic activity and a bias toward "local" casino participation. This will do nothing to attracting new revenue to the City of Chicago but rather limiting the circulation and velocity of money "internally" vastly reducing ancillary benefit to the River North community and the City of Chicago. THIS PROJECT BELONGS IN AN AREA OF ALREADY EXISTING ACTIVITY (HOTELS, SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT AND EASE OF ACCESS) rather than a quiet, existing, residential high-density neighborhood.

The only benefit for considering this location is solely for the casino enterprise...nothing for the city of Chicago, nothing for merchants, nor the commerce of Chicago but a potential blight on an otherwise quiet, enjoyable neighborhood.

**THE SWELLING OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION FROM THE OHIO INGRESS/EGRESS RAMPS NEEDS TO BE VERY CLEARLY STUDIED AS THAT WILL BE A MOST SERIOUS IMPACT!**

The presenters on 4-6-22 treated the river like an ordinary road. It's a fragile natural resource, part of a blue-green corridor that needs careful attention or it will be destroyed. It should be named a state or national park to protect it from greedy development.

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| <p>The Bally's location is a purely residential &amp; commercial/industrial neighborhood. It makes no sense for a tourist-centric casino hotel.</p>  |
| <p>Also it brings down the River North brand. Now we have high income tourists and the casino crowd is a different demographic.</p>  |
| <p>This casino will absolutely bring a crime element into this neighborhood along with traffic issues, infrastructure issues, etc. This will turn this neighborhood into a ghost town in 10 years</p>  |
| <p>This is not something that would Benefit the neighborhood and would significantly increase potential for crime, drunken driving, traffic etc. In a place where there's many families with kids and a school around the block!</p>   |
| <p>It's very scary walking around the neighborhood today. I've seen and heard shootings across the street. Gambling attracts an element of people that are looking to take advantage of others. I think criminals will see the casino and its patrons as a predatory opportunity</p>   |
| <p>It makes absolutely no sense to put a casino right in the middle of a neighborhood. I live 3 blocks from the site. The traffic is already brutal here and it would get exponentially worse. I would need to learn more about the potential for crime but I don't really think that's a huge issue. But putting a mega development right next to a highly dense residential area would be awful. It would kill property values (who the hell wants to live next to a casino). Pick a spot in the city that already has the traffic infrastructure (or where it can easily be built) that is not as close to residential. Over by McCormick (which already had infrastructure) or the lesser populated 78 area seem to make a ton more sense. This will be catastrophic for the neighborhood.</p>   |
| <p>Look at Atlantic City, nothing good will come from this.</p>  |
| <p>The area immediately east of the proposed development (across the river) is a strong residential community that will be negatively impacted on many fronts if the Bally's project is approved.</p>  |
| <p>The neighborhood is 4 times (if not more) dangerous than when I moved here 20 years Ago. Crime is out of control. Especially armed robberies, assaults and carjackings. . Who feels safe coming out of a casino with money where all this crime is happening? Makes no sense to me and will be the reason I sell my condo. So sad. Wanted to live here forever. :(</p>  |
| <p>A casino in a residential area is crazy for so many reasons. Don't drive out the taxpayers!!</p>  |
| <p>Chicago, specifically river north, has experienced an unprecedented rise in multiple types of violent crimes that threaten our community. I am absolutely certain that this casino placement would worsen crime at all hours of the day. We'd have an increase in drunk drivers and pedestrians at all hours of the day, which would cause an even greater uptake in accidents. The Montgomery Ward Park is a family park for our community to enjoy and instead it would be filled with people coming from gambling, possibly inebriated and possibly upset from losses. I strongly urge the city of Chicago to understand the position it would put river north in through placement of this casino in the Chicago Tribune's place. River north brings a lot of high income and taxpayer dollars, and I am certain that the city would lose that if a casino was built in our backyard. You'd have a mass exodus of families and property value would drastically decline. We love River North and want to stay there but we could not support the city's decision to place a casino in our community. We would move elsewhere and encourage our many neighbors to do the same.</p> |
| <p>The main reason we purchased a condo in this area is the quiet neighborhood, more residential and less retail/commercial. A casino complex would drastically change the neighborhood. Crime has already spiked in River North and Mag Mile, and a casino complex in addition would tax the police department beyond their capabilities.</p>   |

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| <p>Attended the public hearing and the presenting team neglected to provide any factual information regarding how this will truly benefit the neighboring community.</p>   |
| <p>The proposed project being considered is all about money. Money for the city, money for Bally's investor, money in the near term for local contractors, and fails to consider the long-term effect on the neighborhood and highest and best developable use for the tribune site.</p>   |
| <p>Lack of keeping neighborhoods a priority</p>  |
| <p>You will be turning a quiet neighborhood to a loud, busy, overly commercialized community.</p>  |
| <p>A residential neighborhood is not the tight place for this at already terrible intersection. This neighborhood should not have to bear the brunt of unfunded pension liabilities of the whole city. There is no benefit to the neighborhood.</p>  |
| <p>This should not be going into a residential area where there are small children/pets and parks. Please reconsider the location....</p>  |
| <p>Road infrastructure cannot handle the traffic - small Chicago and Grand avenue bridges are already an issue. Noise and crime in River North is already too high and this will only make it worse. There is little to no benefit to the local residents - only downside.</p>   |
| <p>A casino development in an already congested area is a horrible idea. Not only will this bring more car and foot traffic it will also drastically impact the quality of life for those who live near the proposed site. Crime, noise, and light pollution are just the tip of the ice berg regarding issues with having a casino this close to a residential neighborhood. For the amount this area has to pay in property taxes, a casino is NOT a welcomed addition to the neighborhood. Knowing Chicago, you will do this anyway regardless of what your residents think or express.</p> |
| <p>Halsted/Grand and Halsted/Chicago intersections and their surrounding areas cannot accommodate more vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Further development would hamper traffic greatly in and out of the River North and Loop neighborhoods.</p>  |
| <p>Increased traffic to an already crowded area is to be expected.</p>   |
| <p>There's no room for this in our neighborhood</p>  |
| <p>Really oppose this as I selected this neighborhood because of its relative quiet nature and being located away from most activity. I also oppose the Casino ANYWHERE in the city and especially not here. Ahead of entertainment, consider addressing investment in public transit and increased crime rates in the city!</p>   |
| <p>I own a condo in close proximity to the proposed casino. Traffic currently is bad and this would only make things significantly worse!! We also don't need the foot traffic in the area as it is primarily homes and not businesses. Our little quiet niche would not be so quiet anymore.</p>  |
| <p><a href="https://www.chicagomag.com/city-life/june-2011/would-a-chicago-casino-cause-crime/">https://www.chicagomag.com/city-life/june-2011/would-a-chicago-casino-cause-crime/</a></p>   |
| <p>I feel this is a terrible idea for this location</p>  |
| <p>The crime and traffic will increase and the bright lights will destroy the beauty of this city. This will all cause property values to decrease!!</p>   |
| <p>Reduce property value, increase traffic</p>   |



The casino complex would be an extreme drain on transportation in that area, on the already narrow 2 lane traffic; namely the Chicago Ave bridge. The highway is maybe a half mile away, and I cannot imagine getting through that triangle intersection with Milwaukee will be feasible anymore.

The casino itself also does not fit with the advances the River North/West neighborhoods have made in the last 20 odd years - adding parks, expanding river walks, bringing in the Water Taxi, converting loftspace into residences and congregation zones. There is also no hotel nearby to handle casino overflow, thus leading to a significant rise of Airbnb usage (and in turn causing HOA/property tax issues).

Also, the Tribune building is in 2 parts - how the casino complex is constructed will probably negate anyone's ability to cross that intersection again as pedestrians jaywalk across Chicago Ave, which is a very likely outcome.

It just doesn't make sense!!!

CPD 18th District already stretched. Canalized E W traffic tends to overflow to Kinzie (think riot time when other bridges were raised).

This neighborhood is primarily residential, with a good deal of traffic congestion already. Bringing more cars and traffic into the neighborhood will just increase the congestion and inconvenience for the area. Crime, especially gun violence and carjacking have increased in the area, and more people crowded into the area is bound to increase crime in the area. While their projections about safety, property values, tax increases all pointed to the benefits of having the project in this neighborhood, we have had a number of missed "projections" and unfulfilled promises by other developers in the area. It is bad enough to have increase in population, but a transient population of people constantly coming and going seems to me to be an even worse situation

I lived in a city where a casino was the main attraction of the downtown area. I witnessed first hand the negative impact a casino causes on the community. Traffic, loitering, crime, and the general demographic attracted to casinos is not something Chicago should subject itself to. There's a casino near the airport already, no need to congest and worsen downtown.

The Tribune location does not lend itself to a convenient and positive casino experience for either guests or the neighboring area. There are heavy residential zones in and around the Tribune site that would be heavily negatively impacted from such a large draw of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The area also offers little support to a casino compared to a downtown or river walk location that already has stronger infrastructure to support the increases as well as increase potential economic gains from a more robust commercial zone.

This is a neighborhood, congested, definitely NOT THE RIGHT LOCATION!!!

crime is already out of control in Chicago, why add temptation for more unsavory people coming to the area

Quiet quaint river north community. Pretty much the only pocket left like this in this neighborhood. This will absolutely ruin this neighborhood with rift raft

This would be a horrible idea for this area. There is so much potential for renovating the old tribune center to make our area the most desirable in Chicago. The moment you put in a casino you will drastically decrease the value of this area harming all of our residents. No one wants to live in a location next to a casino. Chicago already has a huge turnover problem, and if this goes up in this areas you will see most residents decide to leave! PLEASE do not harm residents who have paid good money to live here for selfish reasons by our politicians. The data is out there, this is a horrible idea. If you want a casino put it somewhere away from where people live.

There is already too much noise with jacked up cars, motorcycles playing extremely loud music and crime. Traffic to and from the site has a strong possibility they will stay at a near by hotel close to me at Superior & LaSalle

I have lived in this neighborhood for 15 yrs ; the neighborhood is quite and i worry about noise

I don't think I need to explain to anyone why building a giant casino in a largely residential area is a bad idea. Honestly, the whole thought of a casino swooping in to save Chicago from its decades of poor governance is pretty pathetic. Don't get me wrong: it's a creative way to offload the consequences of our exorbitant pension debt onto the residents of the community (taking the hit on increased traffic, decreased safety and home values) in exchange for a chance at some quick cash relief. But do you really think the residents will continue to pay this price for long? I certainly don't plan to.

This may seem like a magic solution to increase the city's income, but I think executing this plan would result in a slew of unintended consequences. How could it not?? Does anyone really know what this would do to the city? I don't. And I certainly don't trust the same people that dug us into this financial hole to understand the complex consequences of this plan. The only clear winner in this would be Bally's. I'm sure they'd be pinching themselves at their luck if Chicago ends up being so desperate that we accepted their vague plans and promises and give them our blessing to make a massive amount of money off Chicago residents in the hopes they can save us from ourselves. Unfortunately, you can't fix past mistakes with a newer, bigger, stupider idea. I'm curious what the next magic solution will be to revive the city once this one goes up in flames, but sadly I doubt I'll still be here to find out at that point.

Side note:

If we were to build a casino anywhere why wouldn't we put it next to a convention center?? Convention-goers would be a built in starting audience. They often have evenings free and would be able to bring money into Chicago instead of the Tribune plan which projects that 80% of revenue will come from Chicago's own residents.

As stated before, the city is a mess now, a casino will only make it worse.

Crime fighting would decrease in black and brown communities as police assets would be diverted

Straining police, EMS, infrastructure and small businesses

Like many things that are offered to be built or improved in Chicago, they normally fall short of what they consider positive action. More income is usually the point they bring up but fall short of explaining the security issues, foot and vehicle traffic, etc that cost taxpayers more money at the get-go and in perpetuity. A good example are all the dispensaries that litter, yes litter our city instead of the usual Starbucks cafes. They bring in elements of society we may not want. The casino traditionally brings in income, but it also attracts people who clearly are not in a position to be gambling or spending money foolishly. Yes, its fun, but it comes at a cost, like many fun things in life. While I realize all of this is a life choice, why put tempting and possibly financially straining sites out there?

No casinos in city limits

I could probably write three pages on why I feel strongly against this proposal. While the proposal and plans look exciting and most likely would be beneficial for the city, it would be detrimental to the residents of this neighborhood. The increase in traffic is of course a concern. The traffic issues cannot be resolved by adding a small side street and fixing a few lights, it will become a much larger issue and all surround streets plus the highway ramps will be effected (not just Chicago and Halsted). My bigger concerns are the light pollution and noise. I look straight at the existing building and can't even fathom how much brighter the night sky (which is already quite bright) will become! This project will most likely cause residents to be forced to put in automated blackout blinds (if they enjoy waking with the sun). The neighborhood is currently relatively calm and quiet at night, this will drastically change with the addition of a gigantic entertainment venue and hotel. I could go on and on but will keep this as brief as possible. Thank you.

Terrible location. This is residential with strong property values. This will bring crime, traffic and noise that will deteriorate the neighborhood and property values. We will move out of the city if the casino is built at this site.

My family has lived in the area for 10 years. One of the reasons we love the area is that it had a wholesome, quiet, family feel. The addition of a casino goes against all the reasons we love the area. It will bring many people to the area who do not live there, invites crime, and noise. Not ideal for a family with young children. Not only will the casino cause our family to leave the area, but it will cause other families to avoid moving into the area in the future. Overtime, the property values will decline and then bars/restaurants/other businesses in the area will not be supported as they currently are. The area has potential to decline in wealth, education, etc.

I look directly over the river and the proposed space and the noise, lights, traffic and increase in potential crime is a deal breaker as far as property value and where I would want to live.

I think a larger venue should have been available so everyone that wanted to attend in person could do so. There is obviously interest and concern about this site and you lose the feel of the meeting when remote.

I listened to the presentations that were live streamed and felt it was extremely controlling and not conducive to online viewers to send in questions and voice their feedback. More than 1/3 of the time was taken up by presentations that were repetitive and the speakers appeared as though they were trying to justify a decision that appeared to have been already made for the site. It was all about the economics it would bring to the city and nothing about the negative effect on the quality of life for residents. There is a lot of research on the negative effects of a casino and no one mentioned this. Also, how many of these people or their employees actually live in the neighborhoods surrounding a casino? Probably none.

The women moderator for questions was distracting, insulting and condescending and acted like a prison warden. She stated she had a teaching background and I fear for any students she ever had based on her demeanor. She seemed to forget that the audience was comprised of many professional adults who were probably more educated and experienced than she was. It was totally unnecessary. Perhaps she took this stance because there is obviously a lot of opposition that the presenters don't seem to want to hear. They also did not answer questions throughly and got off track at times using their scripted replies.

I sincerely hope the mayor and casino committee take the feedback seriously.

As indicated in previous page, see no value at all of economic impact other than city collecting the taxes from a facility like this. The crime rate in the city has reached the highest in my lifetime. Focus on building a casino is beyond words given the condition of this beautiful city. NO to a casino in a neighborhood that tax payers work and live - NO to a casino that will bring MORE crime - MORE carjackings - MORE thugs- MORE murders. Watching this city be destroyed over the last 5 years has been heartbreaking. Watching tanks and armed guards in buildings to protect from thugs is something I will never forget. NO to a "project" that will line the pockets of city hall while giving NOTHING to the neighborhood filled with people that pay the HIGHEST TAXES in the United States of America. NO to a joke of promised "economic" impact. What does this bring to the neighborhood - NOTHING - but more of what we have all been dealing with. More thugs walking into walgreens helping themselves to everything and walking out while others stand in line to pay for itmes. NO to this so called "project". We are now Detroit of the past. Clean up the borded up luxury stores, fill the vacant landmark buildings that once showed promise of a beautiful city. Protect the citizens of this city from thugs that should be in jail. Protect those that want to walk to wholefoods without fear that they will be jumped or shot. YES to more police YES to support for the law, YES to the dismissal of all that have turned this city into a fearful place. NO NO NO to your project. 40 years in Hospitality as an executive and trust me. I understand, I am aware and will continue to speak up. I PAY TAXES on Taxes and more taxes. NO

Things have gotten bad in RN, and the advent of a casino will only make it worse given the transient nature of its users/customers.

The area has thankfully become more residential, this proposal move the neighbors hood in the opposite direction and discourages a residential neighborhood city life.

Given the current increase of violence around Cabrini Green lately, I feel this would add to those incidents considering the type of crowd a casino brings in.

Self explanatory reasons

Bally's Amenities are already present, existing and thriving in Chicago. Plus, CASINO is supposed to fund Pension Funds WITHOUT consideration that MORE police needs to be hired (more pension funds needed), therefore \$400M income becomes useless, a wash while crime, loitering etc increases. Potential projected jobs are ALL minimum wage. Bally's seems like a 2-3 star venue (NOT 5). #Chicago is better off getting high paying employees (\$100k+ per year, living downtown) doing cybersecurity If Casino is so good, WHY do many Indiana residents work in Chicago?

The casino would be built in a dense highly populated and congested area and would be detrimental to current residents. Additionally, I believe that the casino would increase crime in the area at a time when we are already dealing with historically high levels of crime. I believe a casino could bring this neighborhood to a breaking point.

Rlver North is already over crowded and the infrastructure is taxed. A huge project will cripple the neighborhood. This is a ridiculous idea.

We are struggling so much with safety and increased criminal activity, please don't destroy the ability for this neighborhood to come back.

Bally's should be asked to pay indefinitely for full time police force 24/7 around the neighboring 1/2-3/4 mile radius. Crime will be controlled inside the casino, but Bally's and the City and the alderman have no plans presented for controlling the already growing crime rate outside of the casino area.

The addition of even just new bars (bounce, headquarters, LIQR) has dramatically introduced noise and commotion and crime into the area. Add drunk people with their pockets lined with cash, and you have a recipe for disaster. river north is already becoming very unsafe as it is



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| <p>Traffic from the Orleans freeway exit is already heavy. Additionally, Grand gets heavily congested and would be intolerable during large events at a casino complex located at this site. This area is heavily residential and a casino complex as proposed would change the entire focus of the neighborhood with loud crowds by car, boat, and on foot.</p>   |
| <p>River North, River West, West Loop are 3 neighborhoods with high property values, families and growing crime issues. Putting a casino there will destroy property values and the integrity of our neighborhood, we CANNOT allow this!</p>   |
| <p>..</p>  |
| <p>who would ever think to build a casino that close to a residential neighborhood. this is such an awful idea and I am extremely opposed. This will ruin this neighborhood.</p>   |
| <p>Sketchy and seedy things happen around casinos and crime is already and issue</p>   |
| <p>This area is already completely congested with vehicular traffic requiring paid traffic mgmt during rush hour. The crime is up with drive by shootings, care jacking, robberies, etc, and the added casino is just an additional opportunity for all of those to increase.</p>  |
| <p>Traffic and crime</p>   |
| <p>To place a casino right smack in the middle of densely populated, already congested neighborhood is utterly ludicrous. River North is home to young families and pet owners who live here because of the greenspace and walkability. To place a casino near a neighborhood full of schools, day care centers, children's parks, and dog parks is the most outrageous urban planning I have heard in my 12 years as a Chicago resident. In recent years, the neighborhood has seen a significant increase in crime due to nightclubs nearby. A casino here would destroy this entire neighborhood.</p>   |
| <p>Putting a Casino at the Freedom Center would diminish surrounding neighborhoods. I don't want to look out from my residence and see a casino everyday. Put it somewhere else.</p>   |
| <p>as stated earlier, Chicago and Halsted traffic is already congested. two new developments are in progress less than mile away. car jackings, shootings, assaults, gang related crimes are already at all time high. this will significantly decrease the property value, quality of life of River North. we do not feel safe walking the dog, letting kids play in the park as it is. the casino would plunge River North's value</p>   |
| <p>The potential traffic and additional people in the area will turn this into an undesirable area for people to live.</p>   |
| <p>This is a family oriented neighborhood. bringing in a casino could bring in bad company and behaviors we don't want our children exposed to. Please have this casino far away from residential neighborhoods.</p>   |
| <p>Don't want increased crime and vices; want this to be for people who live here not others.</p>  |
| <p>A casino should be on the out skirts of the city</p>  |
| <p>Safety is a primary reason I live in River North. If the casino is built I think we'll see an increase in crime and I think you'll see a mass exodus from the neighborhood of people who value safety like myself.</p>  |
| <p>I am concerned about the overall "feel" of a casino in general - granted, I don't patronize them regularly but I visited the one in Des Plaines a few years ago. It was mostly populated by people who didn't appear to be in the highest income bracket, including one in a motorized wheelchair complete with breathing apparatus. Depressing and, as far as I'm concerned, the last people who need to be taking such risks. The TV commercials for these spots paint an entirely different picture of the reality, I think. I've been in a few in Vegas (1977) and one in Phoenix (2012). Certainly the promise of jobs is alluring - particularly for what remains of Cabrini and immediate surrounding area - 6-month training at \$50K salary/benefits? Can't beat that! Bottom line - I live several blocks southeast of the proposed site so not sure it would affect me much.</p> |

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| <p>Pedestrians walking in the neighborhood with a lot of cash entering the casino or departing the casino will be a magnate for crime.</p>  |
| <p>As well as increased vehicular traffic congestion and pollution for the residents of River North.</p>  |
| <p>I'm concerned the bright lights and noise will have a negative impact on the river habitat. The neighborhood traffic is already horrendous due to the number of cars getting on and off the expressway. Traffic frequently backs up on Chicago Ave.</p>  |
| <p>I bought last August because River North is a lovely quiet pocket in the city/ please put it on the South Side where conventions take place NOT in a nice neighborhood!!!! Would hate all the traffic - walking too- drinking - loud- etc!!!! I would want to sell - and my property would go down!</p>  |
| <p>River North is quiet area despite it's density &amp; a casino here would only worsen things</p>  |
| <p>Crime is already NOT under control in this area. I don't see how this development will do anything to decrease the crime which makes the neighborhood less attractive to live in and also will result in poor customer association for the Bally's casino as an organization.</p>  |
| <p>This casino has no place in our neighborhood. This is a family oriented area with high property values that bring in a large amount of property tax revenue to the city.</p>   |
| <p>The economic impact of Bally's Casino coming to River West and affecting River North detrimentally with increased traffic congestion, pollution, increased crime and reducing property values. It is well documented from numerous CNN articles going back to 2013 studying the negative effects of a casino coming to city neighborhoods.</p>   |
| <p>We already have more than enough traffic, sirens, crime, and people. We certainly don't need to add more of any of those. And a casino would totally change the nature of the area—not for the better!</p>   |
| <p>We have enough crime &amp; traffic in the area.</p>  |
| <p>There is already enough traffic, sirens (because of a large level I trauma hospital) and people in the area.</p>   |
| <p>I live across the river from the proposed site and this negatively impacts the quality of life in this neighborhood.</p>   |
| <p>I live at the One River Place building across the river from this site and this directly impacts me.</p>   |
| <p>Being a RN resident myself, and seeing the huge amount of crime and traffic we already have in our neighborhoods, the last thing we need is a casino! Home values will 100% suffer significantly, as I am a real estate agent and hear buyers' huge hesitation with purchasing in RN and surrounding neighborhood because of the potential casino. Tribune site is not the right place for the casino!</p> |

I am a homeowner at City Club Townhomes and have 2 children that attend Sonnets Academy on Erie.

We are very concerned about the pedestrian bridge part of the proposal that would allow easy foot access from the casino into Montgomery Ward Park. Our children play in that park as part of the daycare program and we as a family visit that park often, because it's a safe, family, friendly environment.

We are very concerned about the outdoor music venue that will increase the noise level along the river. Our residential, family friendly neighborhood is quiet at night, which is much appreciated. So will our Ward park movie nights now be competing with the musical acts at the casino?! (just a small example).

We are concerned about traffic in our neighborhood. Chicago Avenue is already completely packed during rush hour and that is before the 2 developments on Chicago Ave are even completed, let alone adding a casino.

We are also very concerned about our property values. We bought in this neighborhood because it is residential and family friendly. If a casino was already present in that location we would not have purchased a home here. Our townhome complex is designed to be family friendly and we will all struggle to attract family buyers if there is a casino 2 blocks away.

With the increase of non residents visiting the casino we are worried about the increase in crime. We are already experiencing an increase in crime. When you bring in more people that do not reside in the area, they have no loyalty or commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment. It's also open 24/7, with alcohol, which also lends itself to an increase in crime.

We are vehemently opposed to this casino location and I appreciate this organization taking an active role in this. Please let us know if there's anything more that we can do as residents to stop this from happening.

Increased tour bus traffic

There is a reason why the Strip in Vegas isn't coming led with a residential area. The commingling of a neighborhood environment with that of a casino draw negative impacts to those in this area.

This is a residential an affluent area - it does not seem advantageous to anyone living nearby

I'm leaving in the building across the river, it will block the opened view I have on the west side and completely devalue the value of my apartment. Without considering the lights and noise we will constantly have in front of our windows. People from this area have kids and we came to this area for this very reason. The casino would completely change the dynamic of this neighborhood and I don't think for the best. On top of this, this will imply a lot of traffic in this area and the road aren't sized to receive that much traffic.

The negative impact to the community, crime, and property values strongly outweigh the small job creation impact and tax revenue.

Due to the nature of this being a residential area east of the planned temporary and permanent space, (not mixed use) there will be more noise and lights. Architectural design shows a huge screen and that alone is concerning. The design does not match the area aesthetics and sticks out like a sore thumb. Whatsoever noise bounces off of buildings here.

This type of project is not meant for a neighborhood. It will absolutely devalue neighborhood, create crime, crush traffic, and change the neighborhood from a quiet desirable place to live to a place we would absolutely move out of.

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| <p>I am a resident with a family and a small child, with a church community that has a strong connection with the neighborhood and the people. We do not want large transient groups of party goers attracting criminal behavior and causing scenes, especially in an area with a population of vulnerable people. In addition, the police have enough on their hands trying to handle the existing crime problem. We need less vice, not more.</p>  |
| <p>Traffic is already extremely congested, and adding casino traffic will only further exacerbate this problem. In addition, this may increase drunk driving incidents as more people gather in one confined area for long periods of time drinking. Property values frequently decline near the building site of a casino, so this is also a huge concern for local residents. We already have an issue with high crime rates in River North and not enough police / law enforcement officers patrolling the area, and I fear this would only take these important persons away from current areas of River North to staff the new casino development area.</p>   |
| <p>This is already a very busy crime-ridden area. We're already afraid to go out of our homes at night.</p>  |
| <p>The neighborhood does not have the infrastructure to support a casino.</p>  |
| <p>Crime is rampant in our city already. Our government is unable to do anything about it as it is. Casinos tend to attract crime and we just cannot afford for that to happen.</p>  |
| <p>It just doesn't feel like a fit. And the potential problems outweigh the benefits like the Riverwalk extension.</p>   |
| <p>A casino that would be open 24/7 is not a good fit for a residential community. In addition, being right across from a densely populated residential community will not be beneficial for the inhabitants. There will be increased traffic, pedestrians, noise, and the lighting from the complex will be obtrusive into our apartments. Also, if the bridge goes in which it should not, casino goers will probably park on our side of the river which will decrease the available parking which is already limited. Furthermore, Ward Park is a big destination for families in the area due to the playground and grass space. It is not suitable for such a complex to be so close to a family based area.</p> |
| <p>This has a negative impact on all of Chicago</p>  |
| <p>Pretty straightforward</p>  |
| <p>The location is terrible. There is only one bridge letting you into and out of river north and it's already horrific. This build would destroy our ability to get around not to mention the other reasons listed.</p>   |
| <p>This is a highly residential, quiet family area, which was a major consideration when I moved here. The city has done everything possible to erode the family friendly, crime free area. I am not in favor of the pot dispensaries, increased crime from political policies and lack of safety for the residents of this area, just to increase taxes for the city to continue to squander. I do not want to see large casino lights and constant traffic, and increased crime to destroy the life we have built here. If you build this casino here, I will have to move away from family and medical care.</p>  |
| <p>The area around the proposed Bally's casino site is much too heavily populated to be considered for a logical location.</p>   |
| <p>As a home owner as I see no benefit in having a casino on the Tribune lot. It's not a well suited business for a quiet / family oriented area of the city. I choose to live in this part of river north because it offers a small bit of peace and quiet next to the park and river away from the hustle and bustle of the city</p>   |
| <p>the Bally's Casino project will add crime to an area that already has had a tremendous surge in crime in over the past 2+ years</p>   |
| <p>I live in the neighborhood. Having a casino would invite all kinds of negative activity: more traffic, more drunks, more noise, more rowdy behavior. Let's find a more positive use for the property.</p>   |
| <p>No good can come to River North via the introduction of a casino</p>  |



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| <p>Casino's have a seedy element. We have plenty of casinos around the Chicagoland area that people can go to already. We do not need to be a Gambling mecca. We have an amazing waterfront and park system that we should enhance - and neighborhoods need more support for shopping and dining and entertainment development. We need crime to be controlled more before we decide to add an element that will just increase criminal activity.</p>  |
| <p>I believe the wrong element would be constantly present</p>   |
| <p>I attended the 4/6 Town Hall meeting. Bally's representatives side-stepped the questions. It was nothing more than a choreographed dog and pony show, with the Bally people reading from a memorized script. The Bally people could care less about the quality and concerns of the neighborhood or its residents.</p>  |
| <p>Increased traffic of people who gamble</p>  |
| <p>I oppose the proposed Casino as this is adjacent to one of the most unique areas in the city. River North has the unique distinction of being a quiet residential area adjacent to a vibrant downtown and yet enjoys upscale restaurants and lounges that make this area highly desirable. The casino has nothing to do with improving the environment or the neighborhood. It has no social or cultural advantage. It's sole purpose is to make money. A very poor use of one of the last build-able vacant land 10 minutes from Chicago's famed Gold Coast. The city should encourage projects that raise the cultural and economic incentives for high paying jobs with upscale venues that attract a return to tourism to the city; not attractions that encourage potential for crime and decrease in property values with will negatively affect the city's residential development and real estate tax base.</p> |
| <p>It's a proven fact that crime will increase around the casino. There should never be a casino in a residential area. Our lives will be severely impacted in a negative way.</p>   |
| <p>I moved to River North to enjoy my peace.<br/>This is so disruptive and we already have enough crime &amp; traffic. We are not Vegas</p>  |
| <p>This will negatively impact my neighborhood in many ways: it will increase noise levels, bright lighting, traffic (vehicle &amp; foot). Additionally, it will create a strain on the existing infrastructure and decrease property values. This is a quiet neighborhood with many families, and having this in our backyards will be devastating.</p>   |
| <p>History will tell you in other Cities what happens in the areas where Casinos are established. Lower property values, crime, traffic, decline in neighborhoods and communities</p>  |
| <p>Increased crime and reduced property values. I have live across from the site on the river fro 15 years.</p>  |
| <p>We have been in this neighborhood for 10 years and recently had a baby. Crime in the area has already increased. A casino will most definitely destroy the family friendly atmosphere of this pocket of river north.</p>  |
| <p>The River North Area has seen increasing violence in the last few years, and I believe that this will bring more of that to the area.</p>   |
| <p>Great increase in unruly persons, a magnet for problems, to say nothing of decreasing property values in a well developed area.</p>   |
| <p>The city has proven woefully unable to manage the increased noise, crime, trash and general disruption of residential areas from the increased clubs and bars in River North. Adding a casino to the already declining situation would be appalling. The fact that the resident association found out about the proposal from news reports is evidence that there is little likelihood the high risk of negative impacts will be addressed. The continuing disregard to the residential areas of River North and their voice and legitimate needs will result in decline of home values, loss of businesses, and eventual exodus of residents from the area</p>   |

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| <p>The current crime in the area has increased greatly. The police are not able to handle the crime in the area. Tourist are prayed upon and this will just bring in more people looking to steal for people visiting. We have heavy traffic and I do not see it being possible to handle more. I do not believe any security the casino would bring in would help once people are a block from the casino.</p>  |
| <p>The money will never be spent where they tell us it will be and the crime will lower the value of our homes even more.</p>  |
| <p>I don't oppose the casinos in concept,, I oppose the fact that they will never build the infrastructure needed to support it to keep the traffic out of our residential neighborhood just across the river. There will always be challenges unless, for example, they pay to replace and widen the Chicago Ave and grand ave bridges and create a direct on/off from the Kennedy on the West.</p>   |
| <p>Most concerned about potential crime, especially in a city where police resources are strained already</p>  |
| <p>I have read many articles on the blight a casino brings into a neighborhood. Chicago already experiences high crime and bringing in more outsiders into the neighborhood will only feed the potential for crime. I see the potential for victims of violent crimes against them, because the assumption they have money to spend to gamble. The value of the homes have already been diminished by the carjacking, robberies, and lotting. The tourists trade for the downtown will not be enhanced by a casino. We have not recovered from the pandemic. I am strongly opposed to this idea.</p> |
| <p>The traffic, noise and crime in this family neighborhood is already terrible. A casino will make it worse.</p>  |
| <p>Duty to shareholders over neighborhood constituents that have turned this area into a thriving, vibrant community over the past 30 years and whose character, safety, and charm do not benefit by the casino project.</p>   |
| <p>Most concerned about increased crime in the immediate &amp; surrounding neighborhoods.</p>  |
| <p>Property values will plummet and it will discourage other forms of revenue for the city by discouraging people who don't want to be around a noisy casino</p>   |
| <p>This is not the character of the city we need to portray</p>  |
| <p>I don't see the positives it would bring to River North. There are other areas of the city that would gain benefits to go along with the negatives of a massive casino development. River North just gets the negatives.</p>  |
| <p>Does not fit into the neighborhood</p>  |
| <p>Having lived within a 1/2 mile of a Site that became a casino and associated hotel. I witnessed firsthand the negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Heavy traffic and added congestion with folks speeding to get to the casino. Casinos are internal facing that's where the action is so it destroys any chance for outside amenities, parks, street life and nature. In short casinos. Are the death blow to the urban context and experience. In addition in reality it provides little employment</p>  |
| <p>We have enough crime and limited police in River North. This could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Please don't invite any more criminals to where I live.</p>   |
| <p>I'm between moderately opposed and strongly opposed but giving benefit of the doubt in choosing moderate.</p>   |
| <p>All the above</p>   |
| <p>Bad for property values</p>   |
| <p>Concern in the ability to manage the influx of traffic and the city funding to serve and protect. How or what resources will be available above what we have now to keep the area safe.</p>   |
| <p>Nothing good ever happens at and around a casino. There is enough crime</p>   |
| <p>Casinos are fine but they don't belong in a residential neighborhood. Too much traffic, noise and crime.</p>  |
| <p>Casinos are never a good idea, come on! What's to explain.</p>  |

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| I own a business in River West. This casino will drive residents from the area and local businesses will suffer.   |
| The neighborhood is quiet, a peaceful combination of residents and businesses. It is the quiet part of river north and should remain so.   |
| There is a reason no one wants this in their back yard. Casinos are not a value added. We will move.   |
| It is too big for the space  |
| Multiple studies have proven that casinos devalue surrounding residential properties. I do not want my condo to decrease in value. The plan includes a pedestrian bridge linked to Ward park. This would be a disaster for the small, family-friendly park.  |
| The infrastructure is not currently conducive to increased vehicular traffic. Altering the infrastructure would reduce neighborhood feeling of nearby neighborhoods as well as make the area even less bike/pedestrian friendly than it currently is. Blue line behavior is already alarming. Even the construction required to redo the Kennedy expressway exit/entrance would be a nightmare. Neighborhood already has loud late night pedestrians and more are not needed. While residential development would be great in the area with businesses to support the additional residents, making the area a "destination" area would ruin a large swath of city. If this goes forward, recommend closing Chicago Ave bridge permanently.   |
| We already have a crime/safety problem in River North, and building a casino will attract A LOT of non-residents to the area, which will likely draw more crime. Not only will that pose more safety issues, but it will also drive down our already decreased real estate values.   |
| The existing infrastructure cannot handle the proposed increased traffic and strain on sewer systems , garbage, etc.   |
| 1) Traffic– streets were narrowed and turn lanes removed in area when Target was and New City complex were built causing traffic issues. A casino will only exacerbate. 2) The streets in area are not maintained– several potholes that will only worsen with more traffic. 3) Our property taxes have increased over 50% in the last 5 years because of assessed property value which will greatly decrease if a casino is built. 4) Casinos are 24/7 with bright lights changing the landscape of the area and, again, driving down property values. 5) A casino invites 2 addictions–both of which can trigger desperation. This desperation can lead to higher crime. 6) Crime– the police are not able to manage the current crime in our area, much less police additional crime. 7) Dangerous driving– currently people consistently blow through the stop signs in area (especially at Kingsbury and Oak) and drive the wrong way down the 1000 block of Kingsbury. 2 dogs have been hit by cars at this corner– 1 killed. More traffic and more unfamiliarity with area will only escalate these incidents. As such, the River Village area is currently a family friendly area, and this will deter families further affecting our property values. |
| The proposed casino will not fit into the fabric of the area. The area has turned to mostly residential. The existing infrastructure will not be able to accommodate.  |
| I have a hard time getting in and out of my building now as it is. Pedestrians and cars make it a difficult place to live. Cars blow the lights at Grand and Kingsbury and are always honking their horns all hour of the night. I can't see how Grand Ave, and the bridge can support this.   |
| I am a property owner for last 18 years and crime keeps on increasing and with casino it will continue to grow. The area can't handle traffic on Chicago or Halsted Aves.  |
| River North has already seen a marked increase in crime. The LAST thing we need is a casino!   |
| Increased crime, poor traffic access, increased traffic, increased pedestrian activity, not the correct use of this wonderful Multi-Family Site.   |
| It seems there would be better locations in Chicago for a casino.  |
| Halsted and Chicago is already very congested plus the development at the Greyhound building is going to add to that issue.  |

The music festival held across the river is a good taste of what life would be like on a nightly basis. Tons of loud drunk people spilling out into the streets. Jammed up traffic. Right now this area is actually a pretty quiet place to live.

The infrastructure in this neighborhood already cannot handle the existing traffic, let alone the additional strain this development would add. In addition this would detract from the family centered neighborhood that currently exists in this area, and will further encourage people to leave the city to live in the suburbs.

It is UNCONSCIONABLE to think this location is actually under consideration. It would destroy the area's residential neighborhood and family community that has taken decades to build.

No. Please, no.

Crime is a problem now, this will only exasperate the issue. The most ludicrous idea.

Does not belong in a residential neighborhood. Noise & light pollution will significantly worsen. Traffic - has no one seen the traffic on the Ohio feeder ramp and the daily gridlock at surrounding intersections? The bogus traffic comparison to a non-existent development didn't fool anyone. Provide a comparison between CURRENT traffic and expected traffic with a casino. Then try and prove that the surrounding area can handle the increase. The city (downtown and surrounding areas) has a well-deserved terrible reputation due to car jackings, violent muggings, mob smash & grabs and other crimes that have been so prevalent the last two years. Since NOTHING is being done to improve this trend, why does anyone think that tourists will choose to come to this area for a fun vacation?

The casino is an awful idea on all accounts. This area already has enough traffic and crime and this will only make it worse.

Casinos bring unwanted traffic and crime to the area.

Doesn't belong in the neighborhood

I would like to not experience the noise, lights and traffic brought to my neighborhood by people who don't live here and don't (or likely will not) appreciate or respect that people do live here. I also perceive we have a good bit of crime happening in River North already; somehow building a casino doesn't strike me as a way to decrease the crime here.

In light of all three proposed sites, 78 seems to be most well planned including educational opportunities for children & technology training. .

This area is full of small children and dogs and young families. It is not the right area for a casino. It changes the neighborhood entirely. Put the casino with other hotels and conference centers - not in a residential community.

I chose this neighborhood to raise my children as it is a mini suburb in the middle of the city. Quiet, light traffic, little transient foot traffic, a serene riverwalk for my children to play/ ride their bike/scooter/skate safely. A Casino will disrupt the residential neighborhood ecosystem.

Living in this neighborhood for 18 years, schools have merged to provide better education and equal opportunities. Casinos have no place in neighborhood where there are families living. Gambling is an addiction and have no place to be close to schools as it send the wrong message for children mental wellbeing.

The Windy City Smoke Out used to be in that area and the music and crowds were so loud. I was happy that was only 3 days a year and even more thankful when they moved it to the United Center. Sometimes I would even leave and go stay at my friends house to avoid the noise. This would be that nightmare every day in our calm and family friendly neighborhood. Most Chicagoans are already upset about the uptick in crime. I don't know why you would want to drive more of your taxpaying citizens out of one of the few more family friendly downtown areas left. I

Traffic is already horrible. There is a park across the river from it as well as homes that will be disturbed by lights and noise.



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| <p>I live across from the Tribune building and would leave every year when the Windy City Smoke Out would be in town because of the excess noise and crowds. I was elated when they moved this out to the UC. This area of river north is one of the few, quiet, family friendly neighborhoods left in the downtown area, and taxpayers in this area value these features over everything else when they choose to live here over other parts of the city. Additionally most Chicagoans are already anxious and aggravated about the increase in crime that has yet to be addressed by our city officials. I don't know why you would want to drive more of your (large) taxpaying citizens out of one of the few more family friendly downtown areas left.</p> |
| <p>I am opposed to this and find it disgusting that the city would find it acceptable that Ballys chose this location. Cabrini Green was once located at this site, there are still many low income housing in this area and multiple studies show, including from Florida Family Policy Council as well as University at Buffalo Research Institute on Addictions (RIA), that very low income households have an almost 100% higher rate of gambling than the general population. Why do you keep oppressing the low income families of Chicago?!?! There is already high crime and violence without any repercussions for offenders - I can not imagine the crime adding a casino would have. Ridiculous.</p>   |
| <p>increased crime in an area that is already unsafe, additional traffic, negative impact on our property value</p>   |
| <p>The proposed casino would have a negative effect on the neighborhood due to increased congestion and a potential increase in crime which in turn would impact property values and the safety for residents.</p>  |
| <p>Ive lived in RN 20 plus years. we keep adding buildings and people but not enough supporting infrastructure to support the people. Increase in crime, garbage, people sleeping on the streets, drugs, etc. reminds me of when we moved here with all of the vacant lots drugs and prostitution. I feel we are regressing vs moving forward. No one wants to come to Chicago - we need to fix what we have before we build more.</p>  |
| <p>This neighborhood is a pocket of quiet in an otherwise bustling River North. That is why we choose to live here close to the river. Having a casino across the river and our quiet gem of a park would completely destroy the character of this area.</p>  |
| <p>There are no positive aspects at all to putting a casino in the middle of River North where crime has already increased recently. Residents will move.</p>   |
| <p>It is a proven fact that casinos do not help local economy. They are a drain on community and have a significant negative impact on property value.</p>  |
| <p>Too many negative impacts for the neighborhood, safety, noise, traffic.</p>  |
| <p>bad influence to the kids</p>  |
| <p>Unsafe for the kids</p>  |
| <p>This is a residential neighborhood: keep the casinos on riverboats in Indiana.</p>   |
| <p>I have particular concern regarding the traffic that a casino attracts: crime, noise, and consequently, quality of life and property values.</p>   |
| <p>Resident in the area</p>   |
| <p>There's enough traffic and congestion in this area. It's also residential.</p>   |
| <p>Our apartment is just facing the Chicago tribune so it will be a great disadvantage to have it built. Noise, light, traffic, property value ...</p>  |
| <p>Casino does not belong near residential area where traffic patterns are already constrained.</p>   |
| <p>The city cannot control crime now. Why overstuff an already chaotic and increasingly dangerous area with more negative element. Noise. Late night crowds. This is a residential area</p>   |
| <p>I have many concerns but decrease of property values is probably at the top</p>  |



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| <p>This is a neighborhood full of families and residential buildings. Seems like an odd location for a casino , no hotels in walking distance , no conference center around , no stadium's...</p> <p>Chicago ave has had a long history of crime that would be worrisome to add casino activity on top of that</p> <p>I find it hard to believe the infrastructure could support the necessary traffic as well</p>   |
| <p>neighborhood resources are already taxed to the extreme. To add a casino and its related traffic, noise, etc would only make things worse. Please please consider the interests of the local individuals who already live here and pay huge taxes and leave us in peace. Thank you</p>  |
| <p>The area is residential and a casino would change the character of the neighborhood. Crime and safety concerns go hand in hand with living in the city, but a casino in the middle of the neighborhood would increase both significantly.and unnecessarily. There is already substantial traffic on Chicago area that often backs up. The street is not wide enough to support a lot more traffic. I also don't think any right minded person wants a casino in the middle of the neighborhood in which she lives</p>   |
| <p>Property values will decrease. Our neighborhood in River North will become less desirable to potential home buyers</p>  |
| <p>Crime, noise and traffic are my 3 concerns</p>  |
| <p>Gambling brings more crime, our property values are already depressed.</p>  |
| <p>A casino was built close to my home when I was a child. I remember increased traffic made my parents' commutes worse and made it harder to move around in the surrounding area quickly. As a child who biked to friends' houses nearby, I was nearly hit by drunk drivers twice in what had been a quiet neighborhood with little through-traffic before. I also remember crime rates increased dramatically in my neighborhood after the casino opened. Some of this was armed robbery and in one case a shooting, none of which had any history in the area around my house prior to the casino being opened. As a result of these changes, I believe a casino does not belong in a residential neighborhood, but would be better suited to an area that is primarily focused on corporate or industrial functions.</p> |
| <p>we can't keep up with the crime now and you want to invite the element into River North so they can go shopping?<br/>Shootings on W. Illinois &amp; Kingsbury like it was duck season</p>   |
| <p>As a River North resident, my quiet pocket in the city I love will be forever negatively impacted based on all of the reasons listed. Not to mention I won't be able to recoup the property value loss.</p>   |
| <p>CRIME</p>   |
| <p>It would cause more traffic, noise and bring down property values</p>   |
| <p>I believe gambling has a negative effect on the most vulnerable, resulting in addiction as well as financial devastation. While I know we need to find sources of revenue, this feels like an icky way to do it.</p>  |
| <p>The traffic is already horrendous. The area lacks the infrastructure to support the casino. Crime is already bad and will get worse</p>   |
| <p>Already so many more apartment complexes going up in the neighborhood that I don't think the neighborhood can support.</p>  |
| <p>There are so many wonderful things are community could use...a casino is not one of them</p>  |
| <p>Makes no sense to put a gambling casino on the internationally known Michigan Ave. Best located on Related 78 just south of Roosevelt.</p>  |
| <p>The area will be way too overcrowded</p>  |
| <p>Will bring too much traffic into the neighborhood.</p>  |

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| <p>We already have enough niggers fucking up this neighborhood and now you're going to build what amounts to a pile of nigger sugar on the picnic blanket that is River North. That's why I'm against it.</p>   |
| <p>I am worried that this neighborhood will be unlivable. I've been to Vegas, I don't want that anywhere around my condo.</p>   |
| <p>While I am not against a large standalone facility where people drive and park, go inside to gamble or eat (I am thinking Rosemont's casino).. and then drive away ...this seems more fitted to a major complex that you see along a suburban highway. This is more like a "campus" with hotel, outdoor concert venue, etc. The already densely populated area will be severely impacted. I think this is more than a case of Not-In-My-Backyard. This is shoehorning a very large structure that anticipates high traffic and destination-type events...and I am strongly opposed to something of this magnitude in that area. The traffic alone, as every night, the Kennedy is already backed up, and Ohio Street, Orleans Street, Grand Avenue, etc. That will only increase and make an already difficult commute for people even more difficult.</p>   |
| <p>The original planned development was meant to stimulate business development and collaboration - the true American dream. Casinos do not bring neighborhoods together. this is not the right place for this project</p>  |
| <p>This is a quiet neighborhood with next to a kids park. This is not an area that has loud clubs. In fact the one club that opened in the neighborhood had to close due to noise and crime. This will be significantly bigger and therefore have a much larger impact that will change the dynamics of the neighborhood from quiet child friendly to drunk loud customers. Additionally casinos lower property values by 10%. Which not only harms me but harms the cities property tax revenue base</p>   |
| <p>The developers report on traffic, I believe, is not accurate. The current infrastructure cannot handle the peak hours. Unless there is significant changes to the streets, I do not believe the experience of living in the area will be pleasant.</p>   |
| <p>The presentation by Bally's and the City of Chicago was disingenuous at best - as illustrated by the comparative 'value' of building a casino versus what could 'potentially be built due to approvals granted for PD #1426. Comparing residential/office/multi use occupants to hotel/casino occupants is laughable. This structure will devalue our property values and only contribute to more residents leaving the City and the state of Illinois.</p>  |
| <p>The activity present with such a complex would break an already strained infrastructure in our neighborhood. The presence of additional traffic, noise, light pollution and police activity would become our everyday/all day environment. This type of operation does not belong in such a densely populated area.</p>  |
| <p>Gambling addictions</p>  |
| <p>My major concern is about the ability of the existing infrastructure, namely Halsted Street and Chicago Avenue, to handle the increased traffic from the casino. Anyone who has travelled to this intersection during rush hour or on the weekends will find themselves stuck behind a ton of cars that are backed up from the Grand Avenue, Halsted and Milwaukee Avenue intersection to the south or Chicago Avenue headed east.</p> <p>In addition, there are no good public transportation options except for 2 bus routes and no good way to connect to Metra and the CTA which means that the most likely way for visitors to get to the casino is by car.</p> <p>Finally, River North and River West is already swamped in crime that is mostly caused by visitors and tourists in the area. The Chicago Police Department can barely handle the crime on Hubbard Street on the weekends. They are under resourced as it is and I doubt their ability to handle the increased crime that will happen if the casino is located on the Tribune site - despite their very best intentions and efforts.</p> |

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| <p>I live across the street from Montgomery Ward park- in a special part of one of the world's great cities. The Bally's proposal will ruin the neighborhood. The infrastructure and traffic problems simply cannot be resolved with a nod, smile and promise of "improvements". A bridge to a casino across the river at Erie would be an absolute nightmare-shattering the character of this locale forever. The other two finalists have much easier access and better transportation infrastructure already in place. Each is a far better fit for creating a massive entertainment district. Building Chicago's casino at the Tribune site will be an utter disaster.<br/>I vehemently oppose it.</p>   |
| <p>This is the worse possible location for a casino. It is basically a residential area, with residential infrastructure, and throughways. The area is completely unfit for any additional traffic as it is already strained under the current load. The risk presented by bringing in an untold number of strangers on a daily basis to an area that already suffers a crime rate that is reprehensible is simply negligent. Expect law suits against the city to abound.</p>   |
| <p>I live a few blocks away from the site. Traffic and crime are already bad and getting worse. I strongly believe the casino would only make both issues worse than they are today.</p>   |
| <p>This neighborhood is already getting gunshots every day we don't need more late night foot traffic from outside the neighbor. I'm scared for my life.</p>   |
| <p>I've seen what casino projects do to a community first hand and it does not belong in River North.</p>  |
| <p>The traffic and infrastructure of the bridges and flow on Halsted is already a significant problem. Additionally I have been to many urban casino complex developments which claim to be better for the area and they are crime ridden and poorly maintained with excessive problems. Our building at 500 West Superior is already contending with 3 different episodes in a year of significant gunfire through our windows that the city has no idea how to address and now they think adding this will be ok??? It's not an entertainment venue corner, period. Additionally, ballys as an operator is not strong and will not execute as they claim. I was privy to their investor proposals and there was nothing professional or promising about their plan and a bad indication of their ability to execute.</p> |
| <p>Main is concern for crime and potential drunk and belligerent people</p>  |
| <p>Worries about crime and unruly people. We have a quiet, residential, family-oriented community, and want to keep it that way.</p>   |
| <p>West River North is quite - the increase in crime recently has already destroyed values and this will draw more crime to the area.</p>  |
| <p>very concerned about traffic and crime as its a huge problem here</p>   |
| <p>i am trying to raise my family in one of the last desirable neighborhoods in the city. if this happens, i am moving out of the state.</p>   |
| <p>I can't think of anything worse for the city and our neighborhood than a casino. The amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic will adversely affect our lives. The crime will UNQUESTIONABLY get worse than it already is. We are having a hard enough time curbing crime in our once safe neighborhood. If we put a casino nearby, our property values will PLUMMET!!!!</p>  |
| <p>Casinos has massive negative externalities. If this casino must be built, build it as far away from a residential area as possible.</p>   |
| <p>This is a terrible idea and doesn't benefit the residents of the area.</p>  |
| <p>Crime is already a concern in the neighborhood. Attracting people from all over the state to come and drink and gamble in excess seems it will only make that problem worse.<br/>Also, this is predominantly a residential area. Bright lights and loud noises are detrimental to residentially zoned areas.</p>  |

River North is an economically robust and continually growing neighborhood with high property values. A casino may have a positive economic impact in a distressed area but not one that is already as desirable as ours. We all live here because we want to be in a prosperous NEIGHBORHOOD. I went through the Bottled Blonde wars, which had a significant negative impact on property values for nearby buildings, and that was a small club. There was so much vandalism, public urination, unbelievable noise, fights, gunfire, drug dealing, drug use, major traffic tie ups, etc., etc., we were afraid to go out to walk our dogs.

River North has enough crime and violence (gun shots going through condo building windows) with the clubs off of Orleans/Hudson/Erie open until 2am

Traffic on Halsted is horrible as it is - a huge casino is going to cause further traffic issues all day and night.

Complete disconnect with the nature of the immediately adjacent residential areas.

The area isn't remotely capable of handling additional traffic and would be a blight on the surrounding neighborhood due to noise and light pollution.

I've lived in River North since 1995, I am a pioneer in the area and have watched every building being constructed in the neighborhood, along with the accompanying congestion. This neighborhood cannot sustain such an explosive expansion.

1. People who go to casinos stay inside a building. It seems to be waste of land along the river to put a casino where gamblers will not take advantage of the river location.
2. Local streets are now jammed during rush hour. This will certainly add more traffic.
3. Access to the location is not good. There is no easy way to get from the highway to the location and I bet the developers will rely upon state and local governments to upgrade infrastructure leading into the casino.
4. There needs to be a way to make a better apples to apples comparison. The developer says that the future alternative use of the site will bring more traffic. But the future use being residential is very different. Residents spend in the local neighborhood. People going to a casino do not spend in the local community. A portion of new residents will take public transit or work from home. Every single person going to the casino will either get there by bus, taxi, Uber, or private vehicle ( unlikely that a % will walk).
5. The experience of Atlantic City should be an example. How much did people who went to the casinos spend money in the neighborhood and what was the associated local economic benefit?
6. The City of Chicago should not put the burden of a casino on the backs of two residential neighborhoods just to reap the tax proceeds that can then be used for any expense the City has but not necessarily to improve conditions in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood is largely residential and family oriented. The existing zoning allowing residential and office on the Tribune site is compatible with what already exists. A casino is not.

Strongly opposed to the traffic, noise, and light pollution. A casino does not fit with a quiet residential neighborhood.

A Casino DOES NOT belong in a residential neighborhood. period. If Mayor Lightfoot insists on having a casino in the city - there are other non-residential areas that should have been considered. I am strongly opposed as this project will negatively impact our quality of life which all of us who live in the surrounding neighborhoods work so hard to protect. This is where we live! and our kids go to school and we walk our dogs.... the negative impact of this development is monumental for all the reasons in the previous question and more. The casino will be operating 24/7 - this is not an event that happens once a year or even several times a year. Our quiet neighborhoods will be bombarded with noise, traffic, a transient population of thousands of visitors, trash, crime, pollution and more. The negative environmental impact to our river and it's banks is also a very major concern.

Traffic impact to Orleans Street and Chicago Avenue. Bright Lights. Noise.



|  |
|--|
| Have owned property there for years and walking in neighborhood has been safe even though uptick in crime recently   |
| The west part of river north is almost entirely residential. Building a casino would be incredibly disruptive to the thousands of residents in the area and destroy property values in the area.   |
| Measures to eliminate or mitigate violent crime, particularly along Chicago Ave have been failures. Adding a casino to the mix is a prescription for disaster. The exodus from River North will cause economic harm to Chicago far exceeding any financial benefit from a casino. Why would anyone believe for one minute that crime. Does City Hall have any clue as to how many people in West Town and River North are already thinking of leaving ?? Control crime first. Then talk about growth in the area. I really don't want to say good bye to an area I love, but this would do it.   |
| Also will there also be development by Bally's/Other on the NE corner of Halsted & Chicago Ave, which will cause further congestion, at a minimum? I do understand these sites will be developed no matter what, but we should always endeavor to minimize congestion/noise and keep the area safe. At the 4/6 Town Hall, Bally's said traffic would be spread out more evenly through the day as opposed to an office building. While this is true to some degree, at least we know the traffic patterns of an office building; the weekend traffic with a casino would be awful, not to mention if popular concerts are held either indoors or outdoors. The boat traffic would increase and I just imagine this becoming a "party zone", not to mention the increased crime/safety issue. This area really is a very family oriented, quiet area of River North—we have a children's park right here! They are not building by a community college, as they referenced in their presentation; to me that was not a good comparison. |
| Casinos obviously promote gambling, and gambling has many negative social impacts such as crime, personal bankruptcy, family problems, etc. The revenue is not worth it!   |
| This is a mixed use but largely a residential neighborhood. Noise will be significant. Traffic is already at capacity and this will cause significant additional problems. Crime is already bad and it will increase. The proposed bridge element will also connect a commercial casino development to a family park and neighborhood, causing the linkage, noise, crime, etc. to be heightened.   |
| It is a very poorly planned project in the wrong area .  |
| This is not the type of development that belongs in a residential neighborhood. The additional traffic – both street and river – will be a nightmare, especially due to the 3-lane limit on the east side of the river on Chicago Ave.   |
| Building an entertainment venue in the midst of an established and prime residential neighborhood is illogical. The appropriate location for this new development is along the lake and close to Soldier Field.  |
| Casino should be nearer the loop so that visitors will be more likely to visit it. I favor the creation of a casino in Chicago, but not in the middle of a residential area . Near McCormick place would be the best location.   |
| We already have more than our fair share of crime....given the existing low rise public housing that seems to have a great deal of gun violence with no action and no proposed solutions. Add gambling....and I fear the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed Bally's site will be almost unlivable.   |
| The area is already bad with all the car jackings and robbery, this will only bring in more criminals.   |
| Going to over populate an already heavy populated area, bring more crime and unwanted people to area.  |
| I strongly oppose a casino at this site. We are mainly a residential area. We are a community that takes pride in our small part of Chicago. A casino does not belong here. Property values will fall for residents. People will not want to live here. Families will not want to live here. Put the casino near McCormick Place where it belongs. Stop disrupting neighborhoods. I do not want a casino here.   |



At best, the benefits of new casinos is mixed. There are many costs, and often they are not offset by the gains.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-06/casinos-create-urban-jobs-but-at-a-price>

<https://dismalscience.journalism.cuny.edu/2014/05/18/casinos-always-gamble-neighboring-home-values/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/08/a-good-way-to-wreck-a-local-economy-build-casinos/375691/>

<https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/bridges/winter-20022003/casinos-and-economic-development-a-look-at-the-issues>

14 Year Resident of the Neighborhood

River North is a residential neighborhood and a casino does not belong here!

I can guarantee this casino will increase crime in the area. We do not need more crime in this area.

I chose my reasons in the previous page.

A casino will have a significant negative impact on property values and increase crime in the area without a doubt. The neighborhood has already experienced the most significant negative impact due the rioting, shootings, etc... in nearly two decades.

Old Town, River North, and River West are some of the most densely residential areas of Chicago. These areas are loved due to their family-friendliness, safety, and culture. Adding a casino to this area will drastically and negatively impact all of these factors. Firstly instead of local Chicagoans, the casino will attract a lot of tourists and a lot of traffic from suburbs and other cities. Traffic in these areas is already very challenging. The local roads in that area will not support the abundance of traffic that will likely be brought. In addition, the casino will attract a bad crowd of individuals who may struggle with alcoholism, gambling addictions, and other criminal or addictive behaviors. Additionally, criminals may surround the area, knowing that there will be people carrying large sums of cash to/Fri the casino. I am particularly concerned for the level of crime in a densely populated area. The casino can be putting a lot of lives at risk. There are other casino locations that are less residential. As a home owner in the area, I am also concerned about the lights, noise, and crime. Moreover, I have large concerns for the loss of property value with a casino so close by. No matter the community involvement, Ballys will never be able to compensate homeowners for the loss of home value/rent brought by the casino. This would affect tens of thousands of people. Additionally, being forced to make community involvement from corporate people who don't have an investment in the community will likely fail. If they are forced to do something to make the project work, they will likely do the bare minimum so that Ballys can make millions at the cost of the Chicago residents. Lastly, a casino would take away the culture of the North side of Chicago. As a Chicagoan for my whole life, I can tell you that we love Chicago because it's a big city but it's so live-able and personable. We have Michigan Avenue and the business sector BUT we also have neighborhoods that feel homey in the midst of a big city. Old Town, River North, and River West are some of those areas. The casino would take away the very essence of what makes our neighborhoods amazing, comfortable, safe, and live able. Please do not hurt thousands of Chicagoans for money. I think this casino will slowly and surely ruin not only these neighborhoods but more surrounding because local Chicagoans will leave and sell their homes. Please don't take away the piece of Chicago that makes it feel like home.

I just bought my home in this neighborhood and had a baby. If I knew about this proposal, I would not have moved here.

Keep it classy- this would not be

Casino's tend to promote destructive habits for the community and it will only lead to worse habits in the area

Not in my backyard

Traffic

It would be a complete disaster, especially for traffic that is already EXTREMELY congested going west on Chicago Avenue. I also cannot imagine adding even MORE crime risk to our already strained neighborhood that used to be safe to walk around in by yourself and is no longer the case. It was also decrease the value of the ENTIRE River North area / properties.

The traffic at the existing site is horrible and infrastructure is in disrepair, no close public transit

1) I understand the city needs to pay for past sins. We are making more with this. The state should NOT be giving them funds to have the privilege of burdening our infrastructure and turning us into a landlocked Atlantic City. If we're doing this for money, we should be getting money, not giving handouts.

2)Orleans near the Ohio St exit and Grand/Kingsbury intersections are already near impassable during the summer at rush hour. It can take 40+ min to go from Huron to Hubbard on Kingsbury due to grand ave intersection, and the same to go from Hubbard to the on ramp on Orleans. Casino traffic would absolutely crush this area.

3)An outdoor concert venue in the middle of a residential neighborhood is ludicrous, especially in the midst of a city with a host of venues, indoor and out. And more under construction and onsideration with Lincoln Yards, Morton Salt and others.

4) A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO FERRY DRUNKS FROM A CASINO TO A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND?? ARE YOU FOR REAL??

We live in a neighborhood we love and would not be willing to stay here if that close to a casino which would totally change our residential neighborhood.

I come from Peoria, Illinois where we saw many deleterious effects of a casino. Primarily organized crime.

Common sense, this is an insult to wealthy tax payers from this neighborhood.

A casino should be placed in a neighborhood filled with nightclubs and restaurants-not here. We are a very residential area; it would affect the entire dynamic of the neighborhood and welcome back crime in what used to be the most dangerous neighborhood in chicago (Cabrini Green). Let us keep the progress we made here and put the casino elsewhere.

I have lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years and have never seen traffic and crime at the rate it is now. This area is already beyond overbuilt, decisions made purely based on selfish financial benefits only seen by the city and not the neighbors, without anyone taking into account the detrimental effects of what that looks like. It would be an incredibly irresponsible decision for the city.

This neighborhood is congested enough.

I have lived in the area for 7 years and, in recent years, have felt increasingly unsafe walking around by myself as a female. A casino will only make this matter worse. River North used to be a quiet pocket of the city filled with young families, children, dogs, strollers, etc. I do not feel confident that the City of Chicago will uphold the safety and appeal of the neighborhood. Please think about the people who are loyal and continue to contribute to the amazing community that is River North. Would you like a casino going up next to your home? I don't think so.

This will destroy one of  
The best neighborhoods in the city

Traffic and congestion would be horrific. Halsted is a two way road and parts of Chicago Avenue are two way (bridge). The bright lights coming from the casino would also be detrimental. The River North area has become very residential and a casino nearby would have a significant impact on the residential vibe of the neighborhood.

I gave my reasons, but let me add that our neighborhood has vastly deteriorated in the last four years. Crime is now a regular feature of living there and everything looks shabby. The last thing we need is a casino and the kind of pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic it will bring. I can no longer even get into the garage in my building due to the massive increase in traffic. Also, I am opposed to the government making money off of citizens' addiction to gambling. Now that they have decided to essentially promote being high (because there is tax revenue in the sale of cannabis), have already got a lottery where poor people send their hard-earned dollars, they want to add a casino. I don't think the government should be in the business of ruining lives. And I don't want the further deterioration of my neighborhood or of the city. Chicago was a great city and now it is a place I want only to leave, as have so many people. If you think a casino will save us, rethink your priorities. Ask yourself why.

Casino will bring riff raff and more possible violence and crime. We don't need any more of this in Chicago. We need more parks and greenery. Not a greed machine

As a homeowner in Old Town/River North only living a few blocks away who walks these streets every day I can tell you that a casino is a horrible idea to put in a residential area. We have at least 3 schools within a few blocks from the Bally's location, these kids are out playing in the streets in neighborhoods. This is not a business sector or a rural area, these are residential neighborhoods with families. This is already an area that has crime, from shootings to auto theft to drug dealings. Bringing in a casino is telling all those criminals that there are now a lot of people carrying cash around the area. This will drastically increase the crime in the area, which is something that everyone in Chicago should want to see decrease and should actively be working to decrease it, not make it worse. Furthermore, as this is a residential area, many of these families are homeowners. Casinos have statistically decreased the property value of surrounding homes from 3 to 10%. Bally's is not going to compensate the homeowners for their lost in property value. So why would anyone want to have a casino put in, it also will make it harder for homeowners to sell because living by a casino is undesirable. The city of Chicago is focusing only on a profit to cover the screw up of the pension funding instead of focusing on the people that live in our city, their safety and their importance. A casino may help economically to the city but put it in the business sector or in south loop not in these residential areas. I do not support Bally's proposal of a casino on Chicago and Halsted.

I think the project will have significant negative effects on our neighborhood and community

I do not want the tourist presence, transient population and traffic in an otherwise very residential neighborhood that is already struggling with crime.

This is a quiet family oriented neighborhood tucked away in River North. We do not want a casino for the reasons indicated but mainly crime, traffic congestion, and an overall strain on this community. There are plenty of other areas within the city limits well suited towards a casino such as "South Works, the 415-acre magnificent property, is Chicago's biggest development opportunity". Casinos should not be built in River North it is far too congested already, it will negatively impact property values, and your proposal will contribute to a horrific increase in crime while putting resident's lives in danger.

Safety is the major concern. The immediate area has a few elementary and middle schools. The potential increase of the crime could be a big threat to these students and their families and will cause the property value to drop dramatically.

That's the result of every casino ever built. Why would placing it in the middle of a neighborhood be a good idea. Why would a governing body want to destroy a viable neighborhood, one that actually works and attracts residents and taxpayers and VOTERS.

Do not like the pedestrian bridge across the river to the park

This is not an entertainment we are looking for in this area. The peaceful walk by the river and area we can just relax will no longer be possible so I am not looking for that in our neighborhood

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| Too crowded in that spot  |
| It is the worse location for a casino, Chicago avenue is already an issue with the complex east of the river - there is absolutely no need to put another complex in there. If this happens I will sell .   |
| McCormick Place is a far better location for a casino. Closer to highways/public transportation, the convention center, sports venues, & hotels.  |
| My main concern is the crime and impact on the local residential area including the impact on property values. Just the other side of the river is highly residential and this project will negatively impact all those people economically and/or socially.  |
| There currently is nothing like this in the area and it cummity based this is not a good place for this at all  |
| The outdoor music venue noise is unacceptable. People will be walking through the neighborhood at all hours. Even Las Vegas does not put casinos in their residential areas.  |
| We have more than enough noise, traffic and crime and the city is unable to handle the problems we have now.  |
| Traffic is already getting congested on Chicago Ave, which will get worse as people move into 1 W Chicago. We don't need to add to that. It will also harm any sense of neighborhood we have and attract more of a crowd that makes it unsafe to walk at night.   |
| This is a very family focused area that has a good balance of nightlife. A casino is the opposite of what our neighborhood needs.   |
| Negative impact on community residents and not an appropriate location for a casino complex.  |
| This is primarily a residential neighborhood area. The few businesses are closed in the evening. The crowds, noise and traffic will destroy this area (quality of living) and negativity impact property value. It's simply not the right area for a casino.  |
| please respect the democracy of the residents of this area; residents are against this proposal and the wish of "the people" should be taken into account when proposing a development "for the people"   |
| Will disrupt the peace and comraderie of the neighborhood   |
| This will destroy the residential River North neighborhood in the Montgomery Park area, increase crime and violent incidence, increase traffic issues, create more parking issues, significantly reduced property value. This will also impact the whole downtown area and diminish Chicago's value as a city. It will take away any value, luxury feel that the casino element will bring.   |
| I moved to this neighborhood to avoid the type of environment this would create (lots of noise and congestion) and am very concerned about a decrease in property value.  |
| I vehemently oppose, please consider the safety aspects and don't choose economic gain over the potential risks.  |
| My biggest worry is the crime that will be associated with this casino and that in turn will cause decreased property values. Until the city gets tough on crime they have no business letting a casino open downtown!  |
| will promote gambling addiction and ultimately lead to more crime   |
| Traffic in the area is already extremely strained. Crime in the neighborhood has continued to get worse and a casino will only continue to foster an environment where crime thrives. I recognize that the casino will have security and cameras on-site, but a development of this size will ripple crime and other ancillary effects for a very large radius in the River North neighborhood. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this development and will consider leaving the City of Chicago, which has been my home for over a decade, if this casino is approved. |
| This location is not conducive to a casino, hotel and entertainment use that will result in traffic and use of local infrastructure at all times to some degree then create massive influx of traffic at random times that the surrounding community can't plan for or reasonably predict. This use is totally different than a more consistent and predictable use that would come from offices and residential development.   |



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| Concern that noise will easily carry across the river and traffic from people coming in will not only cause local congestion but also congestion on the Ohio expressway exit which is already dangerous   |
| It is unquestionable that casinos attract crime. In addition, the increase of drunken and careless individuals will ruin the safety and neighborhood feel of River North, which will cause property values to plummet. Finally, the outdoor concert space will be unbelievably loud and bright, and it will be miserable to live in the area. If the city moves forward with putting a casino in any location, it should be near the museum campus, where residential complexes are limited, instead of within established neighborhoods. Would the mayor want to live next to a casino? I don't think so.  |
| We don't need casinos . We need better money managers of the money we already have!!  |
| I am personally against gambling - period   |
| Concerned about additional<br>Crime and impact on neighborhood and property value   |
| We are concerned about reduced property values and increased crime. We have already seen an increase in crime in the three years we have lived here and definitely do not want to see more. We will be moving out of Chicago if the casino comes to River West.   |
| Traffic is bad in area, people frequently run red lights and stop signs. Around the clock lighting from bus depot is bad enough. Increase in crime, people breaking into our building's garage, and no additional policing from city. Already contemplating leaving, this will force me to leave, likely at a loss.   |
| The boxes checked summarize my rationale.   |
| It is obvious based on the presentation that they put an invisibility cloak over River North as if there is no densely populated community with a large playground , two dog parks, a good school district and three pre schools. why would anyone want to live near that?  |
| We do not need a casino in this area of Chicago. It would have negative impact to property value and will bring crime and traffic to the area. Even more than the increase that is happening all on its own now. There is no positive for local homeowners  |
| this is not it  |
| This will destroy River North   |
| Crime and drunks  |
| We've been residential property owners in River North for 20 years and have watched the quiet & charm of this historic neighborhood be replaced by flashy new construction and most open spaces (including uncovered parking lots) have vanished. The huge influx of rentals has brought a community with little regard for property, property values and no sense of pride in the atmosphere. Furthermore, the city's disregard for the beautiful brick structurally sound buildings that are pulled down rather than re-using makes the numerous architectural tours in this area a farce. Vehicular traffic is a nightmare, the crosswalks & sidewalks are no longer safe. |
| It's hard to feel a sense of calm well-being whilst outdoors. There are many neighborhoods in the city that are under developed and would benefit from an employer moving in. This area is not the answer.  |
| I feel the development will cause the property values to decrease, for who wants to be around increase noise, traffic and congestion. The reason why I like the neighborhood now is because it's quiet, and it's strictly residential. I feel it should be closer to McCormick Place so it can benefit from all the attendees from the major shows that occur there every year without impacting a dense residential area. It seems like an odd spot to me to place the casino there.   |
| This area is mainly residential and makes no sense to put a casino right beside where pedestrians are walking their dogs, carrying home their groceries and taking this kids to the park/walking in stroller. Additionally it will only add more strain to the Ohio street highway exit. I strongly oppose this site as the home of the casino.   |



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| GREED is never attractive; read between the lines.  |
| Casinos are trouble from the get-go. Would you want one in your backyard?   |
| If the casino structures are not properly designed to prevent bird strikes, the complex of buildings with their extensive glass and lighting located directly on the Chicago River will kill thousands of federally protected migratory birds over decades to come. An existing building in this area -500 W. Superior - is documented to kill hundreds of birds every year.  |
| The city needs to reduce expenses instead of finding new revenue sources. Too many people who can afford it the least typically frequent casinos.   |
| This proposal from the mayor is ill thought out, and does not considered long-term consequences to quality of life and the subsequent economic downturn that would result.  |
| Too much crime in the area already. This will bring even more people to the area that may exacerbate the problem. The bridges and roads are congested enough already too.   |
| River North already has a lot of crime for a high-end neighborhood, and the LAST thing we need is to attract the gamblers from all over. This is just degrading the neighborhood!   |
| River North has developed an increase in crime over the past several years. Bringing such a development can only serve to further increase crime, further strain the already nearly invisible police presence, increase traffic (and likely car-jacking crimes) and late-night auto noise.  |
| I bought my unit 19 years and 10 months ago. I was one of the first residents in the 758 N Larrabee (Old Montgomery Ward) Building. I took a HUGE gamble purchasing my 1 bedroom 1.5 bath condo when there were few buildings around and Cabrini highrises were just 0.8 miles north. I have enjoyed city living, but with privacy as my unit faces the Chicago Tribune building. In fact, I lived there for 5 years before I even bought window treatments because who actually would even be able to see into my unit? I have seen much growth to the area in the almost 20 years of my ownership. And while the projects have moved out of the area, there is new crime. A HUGE concern for me is increased amount of crime that will flood the area. Additionally, as I was drawn to the quiet, peacefulness of living 2 stories above the river, that quiet, peacefulness will abruptly come to an end with a new outdoor music venue, neon lights, etc. This is a very poor and unfair choice to the River North residents who have spent SUBSTANTIAL savings to live in a nice area! |
| It's a casino, not much else to say   |
| I do not want a casino in my backyard. The increased noise, lights, traffic congestion and crime will make it impossible to live here. I will have to sell my home.   |
| The city cannot handle this. We don't have enough police today let alone the chaos and negative element a casino would bring. Chicago was a beautiful city. To bring this into an already crowded space is short sighted and pathetically desperate. Elevate your thinking don't grab fast cash without realizing the expenses that come with it or you will immortalize yourselves like the infamous parking meters, traffic cameras and there crux of the problem-pensions  |
| Casinos bring crime, high traffic and a lot problems associated with casinos  |
| I like living in a neighborhood, not Las Vegas!   |
| Not opposed to casino per se just not the right location  |
| This is not a good location for a casino for reasons as stated. It is already too congested and there are better locations for this project in other areas of the city.   |
| Will crowd our area   |

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| <p>River North is a neighborhood. During the Windy City Smoke Out, the uptick in traffic alone was difficult for the neighborhood. Having a casino move in would create log jams. We also have many one way streets in the area that would confuse tourists. We are away from many of the nightlife/hotels on michigan avenue, which would likely lead to attendees drinking and driving. Finally, there is almost always a spike in crime. This is a neighborhood not an entertainment district.</p>   |
| <p>Infrastructure around the site is already overstressed. Planned roadway improvements, in particular those on Halsted and Chicago, simply will not support the demand created by the proposed casino complex.</p>   |
| <p>It is unnecessary. The river north area is beautiful as it is. There is no need to attract 100x the people to this area as it would likely ruin the positive development that has occurred over the last 25 years</p>  |
| <p>Chicago doesn't need a casino. There are already casinos in the suburbs. No one that lives in the city wants this. Chicago already has bad traffic, lots of tourist, and crime (depending on area). We don't need to add to make things more chaotic.</p>  |
| <p>Live in the neighborhood</p>   |
| <p>I am terribly concerned the existing infrastructure of the neighborhood will not accommodate increased traffic flow. I am also concerned a casino will invite more criminal activity compromising my safety in the neighborhood and affecting our property values.</p>   |
| <p>see last comment under Other to opposed</p>  |
| <p>Residents are already moving out of the city for the suburbs with the added congestion and crime in the river north area. Adding a casino will have an adverse impact on several quality of life facets of those living in the river north area. I am strongly opposed to the construction of this casino and would move should this casino be approved.</p>   |
| <p>Halsted and chicago is extremely busy as it is and current infrastructure does not support having additional vehicular traffic. We all know casinos bring more crime to the area. This is a RESIDENTIAL area and not fit for casino site.</p>  |
| <p>Illogical to introduce a casino in an already up and coming area and hinder its development</p>  |
| <p>Halsted is one of the most congested corridors in West Town due to the lack of a major north/south road connecting the North/clybourn/Lincoln Park areas and Fulton Market. Without a plan to significantly expand Halsted into a major thoroughfare like Ashland (including a new bridge by K2) this location (particularly during events) will greatly exacerbate the issue, making the area almost unlivable.</p>   |
| <p>This is area is becoming too over developed without the infrastructure to support the increased traffic. Crime has significantly increased in the 10yrs I've lived in the west loop. The city should focus on addressing current crime problems before bringing in another large development. And last, there has to be other areas within the city limits that can accommodate this: Soldier Field, McCormick Place, south shore of Lake Shore. Or what about near ORD airport. That area already has highway and CTA plus Metra lines.</p> |
| <p>bad impact on the community</p>  |
| <p>We enjoy our safe, quiet and tucked away neighborhood from the hustle bustle of the city and congestion. This would be a horrible strain on us in all capacities mentioned.</p>  |
| <p>The renderings for the project showed a brightly lit building facing the Riverwalk. This is not good for those who live in buildings facing the river south of Chicago Avenue. Although the plan shows three access points, Chicago Avenue would likely experience most of the traffic increase in the area. Chicago Avenue is already congested and can't be expanded beyond what is there already. I watched the presentation on the live stream. The presentation was very good.</p>  |
| <p>In my opinion it could have positive and negative results.</p>   |
| <p>It destroys the lives of poorer families</p>   |

Casinos bring an unsavory element to the city. This casino is right in the middle of an established, quiet, upscale neighborhood. I don't want the property values to decrease due to noise, crime, and traffic. The area already has many condo and apartment buildings and is congested. We don't need further stress on the infrastructure.

This area of the city is already a draw for people who don't live in the area. Choose an area in the city that doesn't already attract a lot of non-residents.

I think there are better property options outside of this area

This is a poor location for a casino. It is not close to transit and is not walkable from the main tourist centers. It is not the right fit for this neighborhood.

I do not agree that any casino anywhere near the already packed area is a good idea. Continuing the upward trend of violence will force more movement out of Chicago very quickly.

Moving from the south loop to the west loop, I am concerned that the casino will bring more crime and decrease property values. I am strongly opposed to the new proposed location near the west loop.

Nothing good ever comes from casinos. There's no reason to place a casino in a residential neighborhood that is already straining to support the existing population.

You could see what the traffic impact would be just from the town hall meeting. There had to be traffic control personnel at intersections down Chicago for just the small event.

The casino development does not belong in an already established neighborhood. Go build it somewhere else that has more land to isolate it from the neighboring community with other development pieces.

We have a newborn son and love this neighborhood as it continues to grow. I don't want to raise a baby or live next to a casino and other future families will not as well. This will destroy property values in this area.

The Chicago and Halsted intersection is one of the worst in the city. There is always bumper to bumper traffic, and it takes multiple cycles to get through the intersection. As one of the only main north-south streets that crosses over the highway and the river it would in effect eliminate being able to get on the north side easily. Also there is no reason that it wouldn't increase crime in an already dense and overly populated area that has had a horrible track record of crime over the past two years. The casino should be put at McCormick as a destination away from where people live. The people who live in the city of Chicago are not going to be the people who are going to the casino. We do not need another reason to leave the city, we have already been given enough to overcome to stay as residents in the city.

Casinos only bring in more crime and it is out of place for the character of the city.

Community input and concern.

our neighborhood currently exists. we are not trying to build a neighborhood and attempting to shoe horn a casino in a location where it does not fit the character of the neighborhood is outrageous especially where nearly no infrastructure for it exists. the presentation Bally's gave was borderline offensive in its transparency as a money grab without any clear benefit to the neighborhood. none. no raw or empirical data was offered but just baseless conclusions. they must think they were speaking to room full of idiots in trying to get us to believe there would be reduced vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic. absurd. they were basing that on the plan if all 9000 apartments would be built and that's only an assumption. there are so many reasons Bally's does not belong in river west it is too numerous to even begin but i have shared my overall opinion which is shared by many. lastly, Ald. Burnett's quote that a silent majority supports the casino is disingenuous. if there is a silent majority where were they to support and where are they now. it is not a silent majority but a ghost majority which does not exist. stop insulting us because i am starting to feel like this ham is already baked.

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| <p>This is not an appropriate site for a casino. It is in the middle of churches, homes and small businesses. There is too much traffic there already, too and not enough wide roads and exit areas.</p>  |
| <p>this would cause a major negative impact on this amazing River north community</p>   |
| <p>This land has potential for an outstanding redevelopment, which fits better into the neighborhood, respects a more natural vision of the Chicago River, and does not cause the noise, congestion, and attract criminal elements to our neighborhood.</p>   |
| <p>i am dead set against it and i am sceptical it will make money at that site. we don't want the casino and certainly not an empty one.</p>  |
| <p>I am shocked and exceptionally disappointed that the proposed Bally's Casino and Entertainment Complex at Chicago Avenue and Halstead Street is actually being considered and a finalist. Simply put my family and I, will leave Chicago if this comes to fruition. The western portion of River North is a residential neighborhood whose charm and livability will be destroyed by such a 24/7 project. The additional noise and increased tourist related river, pedestrian and vehicular traffic will devastate the already dense residential infrastructure. Montgomery Ward Park is already at capacity on the weekends and on all nice weather days. It cannot handle the increased traffic from the proposed pedestrian bridge and outflow from the Casino Complex as concertgoers and gamblers leave the casino at all hours - but especially at night when families are putting their children and babies to bed. The increased crime and decrease in property values will damage the neighborhood. Shame on all of those willing to destroy people's homes and family's sense of comfort and peacefulness for a garish casino, where the vast majority of people lose money, not make money. How overly simplified can an argument be that a casino will only benefit the local economy, when the vast majority of folks lose money when they visit the establishment!</p>  |
| <p>The traffic impact will be horrific. Currently at rush hour, W Grand Ave, Halstead Ave, Kingsbury and Chicago Ave are at gridlock. On the night of April 6th, with just a few hundred attendees at the Tribune Publishing Plant for the related meeting, the traffic on those streets, particularly on W. Chicago Avenue was pure gridlock east of Michigan Avenue extending west to Ogden Avenue. Did any decision makers have staff observing the horrible impact traffic impact of that small meeting. There were several hundred angry commuters honking and creating road rage concerns. This also creates an impossible evacuation corridor from the city. Every single time a resident of River North drives to work, or to a restaurant or to go shopping, the increased time spent in traffic will be a massive life disrupter. It is absurd and insulting that the developers actually claim their project will decrease traffic, with their claim of even up to a 60% decrease at morning rush hour! This lie is following the playbook of the insurrectionists, conspiracy theorists, Putin and the cult of Trump worshipers who use lies to contradict reality and try to influence their followers and non-believers. These gaslighting tactics are infuriating and I certainly hope the city's decision makers don't fall for them because they want a shiny new casino to forever damage the River North residential neighborhood and riverfront. Just based on this lie the project should not be trusted or considered. Would Bally's be willing to shut down their operation if the traffic</p> |
| <p>The streets and interstates in the RiverNorth area are already exhausted past their limits. More traffic would create a drastic downturn in livability and property value.</p>   |
| <p>The area has become primarily and increasingly residential. Traffic already comes to a standstill and bridges over the river can not accommodate more traffic. Noise and much more vehicular and pedestrian traffic will significantly change the neighborhood.</p>  |
| <p>Would be highly disruptive to nearby residents and businesses. Better locations exist elsewhere in the city, e.g. the 78, where all who move there will know what to expect when the casino is an anchor of the community</p>  |
| <p>Live here with my family</p>   |
| <p>I am a real estate broker and attorney and have extensive real estate knowledge. Also own property in River North and South Loop</p>   |



Halsted, Chicago, the intersection of Halsted/Grand/Milwaukee, and Lake Street cannot handle the traffic coming and going from the casino. Increasing vehicular traffic along Lake and Randolph Street via 90/94 ramps will put more pedestrians at risk. The increased traffic will impact small Chicago businesses as people will be less likely to venture outside of their local neighborhoods due to traffic congestion. The casino needs to go into the 78 because the developer can plan all of the infrastructure around it!

It is shortsighted to insert an entertainment center like a CASINO COMPLEX on an area that is and will soon be further surrounded by more residential buildings. Commercial business to create a convenient supply of goods and services for thousands of residents ARE ESSENTIAL.

I pay very high Property taxes and my quality of life is getting lower and lower. Furthermore, my property value will be negatively impacted with a project like this one. My alley has needed urgent repair for many years.

The Mayor and the Aldermen need to be more responsible! Their priorities are not in the right order. We already have more than enough problems with crime, noise, motorcycles running after midnight, undesirable pedestrian traffic is becoming troublesome (i.e. Verilife site in Superior St).

I live in close proximity to the proposed site

Low quality development in an already troubled area.

Too much traffic!

The street of the west loop are already overcrowded. Halsted/Chicago to Randolph can take 30 minutes to drive our streets are constantly littered with excessive garbage that the city does nothing to clean up or stop already. There is no parking already.

I am not against city having casino. However, Bally's proposal is terrible. They did not consult with local residents even River North Association has raised concerns a while back. Their traffic estimation undermine the intelligence of local residents - it compared with another development proposal which we will never validate and indicates little on how much it might be worsen than current ones.

The design is uninspiring . They said the city official asked them to replace low profile design with a high rise. We should invite that city official to our neighborhood as I don't believe anyone ever step their foot in our areas would make such recommendation. I am also very upset that Alderman Reily did not say anything against the bridge to the park before the three sites were announced. He either did not review the proposal until angry residents called him, never visited this park or just does not care about residents who enjoy the park.

Thank you River North Association to make the efforts to bring the awareness to this topic. I am willingly to give Bally's another chance if they agree to start from scratch - design everything based on the input from the residents!

Our neighborhood's value has already been negatively impacted by the pandemic. This will only intensify these issues - increasing crime which is already an extreme issue and decreasing property value even more.

Casinos and drinking go hand-in-hand. People will drive to the casino, then drive back to their homes.

New family just moved to the area with a newborn. Such a complex is counter to a family home. While we are downtown, our area has a significant number of family homes and such a facility would greatly impact the environment we would raise our family in.

We already have enough crime in our area that police cannot handle. We do not need more tourists that are vulnerable targets for crime. The city also has the lowest police force they've had in years. That will limit the help even more for our area. We have a unique neighborhood that is somewhat quiet and an area that has a more family oriented feel. Why ruin this precious piece of River North with a casino. This decision will make residents find new homes away from the noise, chaos, traffic etc.



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| I am getting ready to retire. I specifically purchased my home in a quiet residential area of the city for this reason. My mortgage would be manageable based on my retirement income if I remained here, with close and easy access to medical care. If this goes through, I will be forced to move and start over at the worst possible time for my age. I'm furious about this situation and strongly oppose the Bally's Casino Complex.   |
| See previous response   |
| casinos prey on the poor  |
| Already too congested & need to reduce crime not add to it.   |
| Experience!   |
| This is a residential neighborhood. A casino does not belong here.  |
| Too congested already. Would need a major change to the traffic. Crime is on the upswing already.   |
| The Casino will not have a negative effect on the neighborhood surrounding McCormick Place and the McCormick location will produce the most revenue.  |
| Casinos bring noise and crime. I moved into this neighborhood because it was a little quieter.  |
| All studies I have researched indicate an increase in crime to the adjacent areas around casino development. We already have a significant crime issue (carjackings, shootings, etc) that is uncontrolled. We are already seeing an exodus of community members in light of this. We are already seeing a drop in our property values while other downtown neighborhoods values are holding or increasing. A casino will only tip us over the edge and begin the process of putting the neighborhood back 20+ years before all of this development. I've been in the neighborhood since 2002 and am seeing an obvious decline to the point where I don't feel comfortable anymore walking around after 6 o'clock near my own home. A casino will only make matters worse. I'm from Southern New Jersey and have seen this happen in Atlantic City and, more recently, Philadelphia. |
| Crime is already an issue in RN by adding this type of establishment we will see more crime   |
| Addiction + liquor + desperate to win = outrageous negative impact on river north   |
| No. Residential.  |
| I am a new mother and we chose to live in this part of river north because it is calm, quiet, and residential. I would never have chosen to live in this area if a casino was anywhere near by given the traffic, crime, noise, safety concerns, and general badness it would bring to our area. Me and my family live very nearby and wanted to bring my child to the nearby park and enjoy our neighborhood but we would not hesitate to leave the city all together should this go through. I cannot believe it is even being considered. It is purely a money grab for the city and not something any residents in the area, all of whom pay very high property taxes, would ever want. It is a sad show of what is happening in Chicago. Please, do not allow this to go through, it will destroy our neighborhood.  |
| Too much congestion   |
| This is a terrible location for a casino (heavily-trafficked streets, lots of pedestrians, pre-existing concerns about neighborhood safety)- especially when there are other areas of the city that make a lot more sense / could appreciate the economic benefits of a casino (e.g., near McCormick Place).  |
| I believe the river north infrastructure is already stressed especially with crime and crowd control and this would only further spiral it out of control   |
| Large casino properties attract a bad element. Traffic congestion is Bad now and will get worse.  |
| Reading all the data available, this is not the revenue we want   |
| Increased crime and congestion  |
| Simin Frazer  |
| Negative value for River North! Crime! Decreased property value.  |

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| I would like to learn more about how and if Bally is planning to minimize their environmental footprint, I.e. energy efficiency, avoiding waste generation, no single-use containers. I would like to see more developments that show leadership in this area   |
| The proposal - if realized- in a neighborhood like the one contemplated, would drastically change the general designated use of the area with other entertainment offerings following which clearly is not the way the neighborhood is meant to be used by the public and the people who have been and are living here  |
| There's already significant noise levels at night due the the number of clubs in the area. Cars racing up/down Orleans and Chicago, gun violence, and people yelling. Traffic on Chicago & Halsted would be significantly impacted& cause further congestion in the area.   |
| See previous response   |
| Areas around casinos have historically seen a boost in short term gain but long term impact has been proven to be a large negative impact to residential areas.   |
| I just moved here... I do NOT want my property value to go down   |
| Ohio Street junction is already completely over leveraged. Those of us living in River North can rarely leave by car without planning to sit in substantial traffic. A destination resort requiring Ohio Street junction as its logical access point would bring the neighborhood to a halt.<br>One only needs look at Atlantic City to see what gambling does to an established urban setting (unless LVNV which was built to be a gambling destination from the ground up). River North & West Loop have had a slow long uphill climb. This project would make it all for nothing.                      |
| As a current homeowner across the river from the proposed site, I can see a fairly sizable decrease in property values in the surrounding areas. Personally, if I was a potential buyer, I would steer clear of units for sale in the general vicinity of a casino as that sense of "neighborhood & community" would be vastly reduced. What is now a rare quiet pocket of River North would no longer be feasible to maintain.   |
| Our area across the river is especially valuable because it is removed from all the noise of river north. We currently have a very quiet building which is why I chose this location as a physician with busy work hours. I have very limited times to sleep and could never live in a building where I hear the noise of outside. When the windy city smoke out was at that location, noise carried dramatically to our building. That was tolerable because it was just a weekend. From my understanding, the other options for the casino location would not dramatically change existing quiet areas. |
| Cannot see any POSITIVE/BENEFICAL reasons to put a gambling casino at the old Trib bldg   |
| This is a terrible idea. Violence will just be right around the corner where I live and ruining our district.   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crime will almost certainly increase.</li> <li>2. The current infrastructure already cannot handle the current traffic situation. This will exacerbate the problem.</li> <li>3. One of the best parts of this neighborhood is the neighborly feel of community, kids, and quiet. This will be greatly impacted by lights and loud noises.</li> </ol>  |
| I tend to get carried away if I have easy access to a casino. With Ballys right down the street, I could easily develop a gambling problem  |
| Why increase more crime in this area. Casino goers are not the best type of people to represent coming into a residential district.   |
| This is a densely populated residential neighborhood. A casino has no place in River North, period.   |

I am already frustrated with poor city services including lack of police presence in our neighborhood. We continue to send more and more of our tax dollars to be spent elsewhere while the minimal services we get continue to be substandard. Bally's will claim they will be a good neighbor, they will claim they will provide jobs (not to most of the residents in the area), and they will trot out garbage studies on the lack of crime around casinos. What they won't tell you is how the casino will push crime further into our neighborhood, how a 24/7 operation will negatively impact traffic, pollution, and quality of life for the rest of us.

This will increase crime and bring undesirable people into the neighborhood and cops already have their hands tied behind their backs because of our terrible mayor's policies. How will they be able to stop crime?

The detrimental impact on property brought on by noise, bright lights and expected general commotion from a casino in the expected location will undoubtedly outweigh any real or perceived benefits. Strongly oppose.

The part of River North on the river, just south of Chicago, is a quiet part of River North, and those of us who live here like it this way. I have high concerns of people who have been drinking at the casino wandering (or driving) over into the Ward Park area (and, frankly, loitering there at night). I have high concerns over the volume of an outdoor music venue - I have lived near one in the past and it was horrible. I have high concerns over bright lights. I have high concerns over this destroying property values.

This part of River North is a quiet, family-oriented place. It is where the best children's playground and dog park for miles is - and the idea of putting that so close to a casino is highly concerning.

I have lived in the neighborhood on Kingsbury Street and Oak for 15 years. The reason I choose this neighborhood was it is quiet and secluded. In the years of living here we have seen the neighborhood rise in popularity and real estate increase. I am in favor of adding new business, such as small restaurants or shops, where locals can support. The proposal to add a casino to this neighborhood actually frightens me due to the scale, and what that means in the amount of people, traffic and realistically potential crime. The Chicago/Halsted, Larrabee streets are already main through ways that carry a lot of traffic, adding too that will cause more stress to the area. The reality of more people means more people on the streets and foot traffic to a niche area where people feel comfortable walking and taking their children and dogs out. It will compromise what this neighborhood means for so many. We can't overlook the disturbance, and how this would encourage crime I know one of the proposed sites is near McCormick which feels like an appropriate location, given it's near a large convention arena that would probably be a draw for more companies to hold their meetings. I worry about the affects this casino would create for the residents and business that surround this area.

Every area I've ever been to with a casino is not a nice area to live in. Stop this project before our neighborhood suffers!

No way.

Locate casino near lake, convention center, or the old air field

There has already been an extreme uptick in crime in our neighborhood over the last 2 years, casino will increase this. Alderman said the "silent" majority would support, who is the silent majority? I don't know anyone in our neighborhood who is in support of this casino. Our property value has already dropped for the possibility of it happening. This is a kids neighborhood with park and public outside space.

This area of River North is appealing because of its quietness and friendly residential atmosphere. A casino isn't the right fit for the neighborhood.

I think it is a terrible idea that will bring noise, traffic and bright lights and it is not a good fit for this area/neighborhood of Chicago.

First keep in mind that this is already an extremely congested area for traffic flow in and out of the city at peak times. Any major complex here would only compound that problem.

There seems no benefit (other than the casino itself) in driving more traffic to this area as it does nothing to benefit Chicago as a destination. With other, less dense and more accessible areas closer to hotels and attractions (such as McCormick Place) the traffic flow would be less transient and thus less dense.

Second, the area around Chicago and Halsted is and should continue to be a growing residential area.

In having close, local access to the city, developing a safe residential area should be at the forefront for the city's future. There are few areas close to downtown and River North with so much positive potential for development. Development of this area in the correct way has the ability to bring new 'citizens' and income to the city.

A casino not only has the potential to 'kill' any residential growth in the area due to proximity, it may add to the already dismal crime rates in the area.

It would be good for the city to look to its future growth rather than short-term gains. A badly placed (or indeed correctly placed) casino is not going to save the city. It only has the potential to hinder future positive growth and thus the future of the city itself.

The overall idea of a casino should be to bring in outside dollars into the city and not to tax the current residents either directly, by standard of life or property depreciation. If a casino has to happen it should be close to the area where the prospective out-of-town 'punters' will stay in order to cause minimal disruption. Chicago and Halsted is not that area.

I am a woman who lives alone, the possible and likely increase in crime could threaten my life. Additionally the disruption to daily life, as well as ability to commute could ruin the point of the park being a quiet haven within the city.

The corner at Halsted and Chicago is one of the most congested in the city. Both the Halsted and Chicago buses run so slowly at times, it would be faster to walk. Adding a casino complex to such a high density residential area that already has condos going up all over the place will make this area unlivable for the residents in West Loop, River North, and others. Surely there must be a better site in the city than this!

I'm not opposed to a casino in Chicago. But I am 100% opposed to one in this location.



I am an owner and original resident of 700 N Larrabee St and have lived in the building since it opened in 2006/07. To say that I am appalled at the thought of a casino in my "backyard" would be an understatement. What I also find appalling are the lies and misinformation that the Bally's executives presented at the town hall (which was nothing more than a sales pitch) to the residents of River West, River North, et al. on 4/6/22.

I wholeheartedly support progress and development of a neighborhood. The Hudson (750 N Hudson Ave) and its commercial space were valued added for the community. Current construction at 808 N Cleveland Ave, 751 N Hudson Ave, and 411 W Chicago Ave all of which will have residential and commercial space will add value for the community. The original planned (and approved) development for the Tribune sites (multiple residential/commercial high-rises and green spaces) would add value and safety for the community.

A casino would only add 1) unsustainable vehicular traffic, 2) unwanted pedestrian traffic, 3) drastically increased noise levels (for a relatively quiet neighborhood), and 4) unimaginable new levels of crime (in a city already experiencing a surge of atrocities).

I've lived in high-rises since 1997 (various properties in Chicago since 2001). I understand "downtown" neighborhoods changing to meet future needs of a city. A casino in River West (border of River North) would singlehandedly destroy the safety, property values, and quality of life that we have strived for and taken pride in as residents of these communities.

The Bally's casino project in River West/River North should not,Äîmust not,Äîbe approved.

The area is a neighborhood and this would greatly impact it with traffic, and crime. The area is already being impacted by increasing crime. This project would change the entire area and create issues for residents. A casino doesn't not belong in neighborhoods .

A major portion of my life's earnings is in the condo at 700 N Larrabee. I am retired. I have earned all I will ever earn. It would be a major hit to my retirement security for the property value of my condo to diminish. River North is a well established residential area with young family's playing in the park. People walking their dogs. Going to and from work and play. We are not a tourist destination, nor do we want to be. The Tribune property will become a compatible residential/commercial development within a few years. Please don't put the blight of a casino so close to family residences. I don't think I'm the only one who would have to consider leaving if this project goes forward.

See previous

Casinos attract the wrong kind of people, not to mention the infrastructure cannot support the increase in traffic. The McCormick place casino is a better idea because the infrastructure is already there. Far enough away from tax payers, but close enough to visit.

These types of big projects should be constructed in less developed neighborhoods, not in already built-out and crowded residential areas

noise, traffic . narrow streets halsted and chicago.

I believe the opposition letter from RNRA states everything clearly

Putting a casino in the middle of (or directly adjacent to) a residential area is a terrible idea. Putting a casino on this site would be highly disruptive to our family-oriented community. The casino would bring light pollution/light pouring into our windows at night (we face the lot), noise, traffic, and the high potential for increased crime and other safety concerns.

River north is already congested and has been experiencing an increase violent crimes

The riviera front should be preserved for development that complements the current landscape of the area. A casino will tax an already strained infrastructure of roads, buildings, and commercial venues. The lighting will be obnoxious in an otherwise residential neighborhood. Traffic is already overwhelming; a casino will take this to a whole new level.

A casino is not a the right business for River North.

This casino would significantly worsen safety of what used to be one of the more safe areas of the city. The other proposals would have much less of an impact on neighborhoods in terms of the proximity of condo buildings nearby. River north is already recently struggling with increased crime and this casino would simply amplify that problem. The city of Chicago is going to end up losing a lot of residents because of decisions like these.

Traffic, reduced property values and crime are my biggest concerns. Presently, cars break numerous traffic laws including NEVER respecting pedestrians when they have the right of way versus the cars. A casino at this location will only worsen this problem with increased car and pedestrian traffic. There is little to no police presence in the River North community and increased crime with the addition of a casino would only make an already bad situation much worse. Our community is already overbuilt and too dense to add this casino project. Ballys, you are not welcome at the River North location!

I just bought a condo in the area. I will sell it if a casino get put up and I'll move across the Indiana border.

Virtually no one in this largely residential neighborhood wants more noise, more light pollution, more traffic and what would likely be more crime. When I first heard that this was a proposed casino site, it was such a bad idea that I thought it was a joke. To my horror, I found out that this was something serious people were considering seriously. Chicago is one of the greatest cities in the world but when we do things like this, we look like a laughing stock. Imagine taking a prime piece of residential space in Manhattan and turning it into a casino. That would NEVER happen. Further, the property values will certainly plummet. If this is approved, this will be the easiest decision to move I've ever had in my life.

Our home values in River North plunged in the 2nd quarter of 2020 with the combined punches of the pandemic and the city-wide looting. They have not recovered because we do not show a regular police presence and many home owners are terrified of the smash-n-grab-free-for-all-carjacking culture that has taken hold. Michigan Ave is still struggling and there is not demand for our condos in River North or Gold Coast (other than the occasional high profile sale). Don't let increasing rents fool you - ownership in these markets has not recovered and cannot take ANOTHER hit of traffic, crime, noise, prowlers, after hours joints, etc. that will come along with a casino. Get us back on solid footing and a feeling of safety before you introduce a huge business that comes with lots of undesirable side effects (fact, not my opinion). The old printing site on Halsted? How about a nice, clean semi-conductor factory like Columbus Ohio landed instead of a casino?

The western section of River North is a highly residential area – there are families and kids living there. The immediate west bank of the river is, essentially, therefore, across the street from a residential area. The light pollution from a casino will likely be bad, as will the increased traffic (whether vehicular or pedestrian). If the casino does not expect significantly increased pedestrian traffic, why does the plan show a new bridge over the river from Montgomery Park for pedestrians? The answer is that the casino expects significant pedestrian traffic through River North and through what is a very nice (but small) park. I guarantee the river and the park will also be subject to littering, noise, etc. as people come and go through the park and over the bridge.

This is a quiet neighborhood. A casino would negatively impact the residents quality of life

I refrained from forming my opinion on this issue until I was able to review research, all of which seems to conclusively show that a casino located at the Tribune site would undoubtedly cause problems for our neighborhood and the city. I'm in support of a casino (and the revenue for the city, in particular) in one of the other two locations, both of which are further from downtown and densely populated, residential urban environments, environments where projects like this often fail.

This isn't Las Vegas! We don't want a casino in our family and pet friendly neighborhood. Find somewhere else to locate your terrible idea for this city!

If the city wants a casino, the other proposed locations are seemingly more aligned with the need for vitalization in that regard and have the infrastructure to support large scale businesses of a casino variety. The traffic patterns don't support current car flow alone. The casino business is not fitting with current, calm state of the neighborhood

Adjacent to the largely residential neighborhood of River North, will cause increased noise (particularly at night), potential crime, unsavory behavior, etc. We enjoy walking the neighborhood and this will undoubtedly bring unwanted traffic. As well, property values have remained where they are in part to limiting retail and big entertainment properties.

This is a very quiet residential neighborhood with a children's playground directly across the river from the proposed site. A casino is a terrible fit for the neighborhood.

the existing tribune plant is an eyesore and the apparent inability to develop this site is preventing meaningful improvements of infrastructure in the area, such as the chicago ave bridge. several recent projects have fallen through and it's unclear when another serious developer will come along to improve the site. with all acquisitions, planning, permitting, etc., we're looking at another decade of no changes. perhaps a casino is not the worst option?

i'm still opposed to the idea for personal reasons, but i'm also seeing the potential benefits to the area in the short-term. once the casino loses steam in the late 2030s, another developer will swoop in to make something happen. perhaps we need to create a condo pros/cons list?

any residential development on that site will have its own set of drawbacks. it may be nice to have a more commercial zone on that side of the river rather than more residential high rises.

Police aren't able to patrol our existing area, car jacking and gunshots are regular occurrences - it's only going to get worse

Inappropriate for primarily residential neighborhood; city/district police and police resources are already significantly strained and such strain would only increase upon development and operation of a casino in the neighborhood (e.g., negative and disparate impact on neighborhood crime prevention and protection of residents); would render the River north neighborhood no longer family friendly or a residential neighborhood as a result of promotion, presence and function of casino (i.e., gambling, alcohol and associated vices) and the element said casino establishment attracts; the property/land could be used in several other ways that better serve the River North neighborhood and city community such as development of a school (public/private), library (public/private), shopping/retail (e.g., the New City development in Lincoln Park), condominium complex; safety of the River North area, preservation of the neighborhood and safety/well being of River North residents should be the City's and City Committees' number 1 priority and concern, and development of a casino to replace the Chicago Tribune's former and long-standing presence is completely antithetical to said priority; there is no question that development and operation of a casino will significantly devalue the River North area (especially considering how such property and social/inhabitable value has already been drastically negatively impacted due to businesses and restaurants being forced to close as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and City's/government's response thereto). As a 31-year-old Chicago-native (born and raised in Lincoln Park and River North), I would be incredibly disappointed to see the integrity of River North compromised, if not destroyed, by the City allowing a casino to be developed in one of Chicago's most beautiful and valuable neighborhoods.

It will bring additional and unnecessary added activity that will likely be negative in the community.

I attended the community meeting. I felt that the Bally team did a poor job of answering direct questions from citizens. The city rep was also unconvincing when he makes the claim that the city is moving forward despite the huge loss of residents. This is a money play that preys on people's worst impulses. River North is a residential neighborhood that doesn't need the issues that come with a casino.

River North is a neighborhood where all types of people and families live, work and raise their children. A casino is not conducive to maintaining a family neighborhood. The intersection of Halsted and Chicago is busy enough. There is no way both the vehicular and pedestrian traffic generated by a casino would not be extremely disruptive to this family neighborhood. An erosion of housing values will surely follow as no one would choose to live next door to a casino. Crime will surely follow along with home owner flight. Chicago already has a serious problem with tax payers leaving the city to get away from crime, traffic, etc. The residents of River North within a 2 mile radius will begin exiting not only the neighborhood but, the city of Chicago. Michigan Avenue is already seeing the exodus of both homeowners and shoppers. Also, I do not think a casino complements the goal of the urban planners to revitalize of the Cabrini Green area. If the Tribune site is the final choice of the city power brokers I can assure you I will sell my condo and exit the city before the casino is completed. Don't ruin a neighborhood and continue the decline of the city just to meet pension shortfalls and line the pockets of power brokers. Enough is enough. Do the right thing for once.

The area immediately to the East is residential. A casino operating 24/7 would strain the roadways, increase potential for crime, create unwanted light pollution and diminish the value of all adjacent properties. The Chicago Avenue bridge is already a traffic and safety nightmare.

I don't want the crowd casinos attract

A casino should not be placed in the center of a residential area when there are other places to consider.

See other response.



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| <p>This is a residential area, not an entertainment district. There are so many issues placing a casino right next to people's homes! The noise will affect the nearby residential buildings that are directly across the river. The traffic will be a nightmare...the traffic today is already awful. Potential disruption from intoxicated patrons leaving the casino or concert venue. River North/River West is NOT the right area for a casino.</p>   |
| <p>RN is a family friendly neighborhood which is already being driven out. A casino adds no value to the neighborhood or the city.</p>   |
| <p>The area is very residential and it will have a negative impact on the neighborhood, residents, and business owners in the area.</p>  |
| <p>Casino will create a bad image for Chicago where culture and art dominate. Generally, casinos should not be located in or near residential areas! They bring only chaos, loudness, traffics, and lower quality of life for people!</p>  |
| <p>Casino is incompatible with the family oriented nature of River North. River North is a quiet and safe enclave of the city. Any casino project will change the nature of the neighborhood for all the reasons cited in the previous page of questions.</p>  |
| <p>River North, and the proposed Bally's Casino Complex at Chicago Avenue &amp; Halsted Street, is not a location that requires significant economic development. The intersection at Chicago Avenue &amp; Halsted Street is already notoriously terrible (making a left-hand turn from Halsted onto Chicago is nearly impossible), and adding this development will only exacerbate that. Similarly, River North has experienced a spike in crime over the past 18 months which will only be exacerbated by the presence of this casino development. River North does not require additional vehicular or pedestrian traffic for the purposes of economic development, and the casino should be placed in a location that would benefit from the robust economic advantages that it would bring (i.e., a currently underdeveloped / underutilized site). River North is predominately a residential neighborhood and a massive casino development would fundamentally change the character of that. Additionally, placing a casino on the banks of the Chicago River will contribute to the pollution of that waterway, and destroy the tranquility and peacefulness of the northern branch river walk. The casino should not be placed at this site, and another, more suitable location, should be found.</p> |
| <p>Crime is already bad enough.</p>  |
| <p>we can do better, Chicago. we are in the midst of an economic change. none of us know how the story will write the next chapter. focus on doing valuable things vs. encouraging people to gamble. how disappointing this is even a conversation right now?</p>  |
| <p>Disastrous for already overcrowded, crime ridden community!</p>   |
| <p>Casinos don't bring affluence and decent people to the area. Crime always surges and the locals lose their paychecks gambling. Does not help the local citizens.</p>  |
| <p>It will remove the neighborhood feel with all the negative externalities that comes with. A casino</p>  |
| <p>We have enough problems in RN already</p>   |
| <p>It's too much traffic, noise and will negatively impact the area's quality of life for residents!</p>   |
| <p>Traffic is already a nightmare. This would make it even worse.</p>  |
| <p>This is a calm, family friendly neighborhood. I don't understand why you would want to put a casino into a family neighborhood, especially one that pays a significant amount of property tax for the city. We will all move if you put this here. No educated female wants to live next to a casino.</p>   |
| <p>Space restrictions, crime</p>   |
| <p>Crime</p>   |

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| <p>The neighborhood is already over stressed with traffic and crime. It is too dangerous to go outside at night now, the criminal element this would attract would only serve to exacerbate the issue straining resources already overburdened and putting the residents of river north in even more peril. Additional, the neighborhood is already stressed with traffic - there are times when we can't get out of the garage, much less to the expressway now - adding any additional traffic trying to get to/from the expressway would be too much and would only serve to compound the issue. The neighborhood would no longer be a neighborhood, but would rather have the feel of a highway.</p> |
| <p>What a total scam this entire proposal is. How about we focus on fixing our 3rd like infrastructure instead. State street sidewalks may be worse than 3rd world at this point. Lets finish up 90/94. Lets fix our bridges. The walkways on the bridges are 3rd world. It's beyond ludacris and a slap in the face to tax payers and residents. NO ONE WANTS A CASINO IN DT CHICAGO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>  |
| <p>Increase in crime, drugs</p>  |
| <p>Casino should be placed far from concentrated populations; crime and noise increases translate into lower property values.</p>  |
| <p>The Bally's proposal was not well thought out, and the effects on the surrounding community were not seriously considered.</p>  |
| <p>My initial thought on this idea was no, I took the time to listen to their proposal, and my final thought is now absolutely no. We will be moving out of Chicago if the Tribune site is selected.</p>   |
| <p>The traffic and density in this area is already overwhelming to the residents and infrastructure. There are so many other neighborhoods in the city that could benefit from a project like this, and the mayor/a committee is proposing to place a casino in possibly the worst location. Clearly no one involved in the proposal process is using basic critical thinking or lives in the general area. Help develop other under serviced neighborhoods instead of driving hard working Chicagoan's out of their homes, which will displace funds, lower property values, taxes, etc. Everyone needs to wake up.</p>   |
| <p>I oppose casinos in the city.</p>   |
| <p>It does not belong in/near a residential area. Will it be a LEED and WELL certified facility?</p>   |
| <p>A Casino has never never seen positive results in any community.</p>  |
| <p>This is a purely residential area</p>   |
| <p>There are better options within the city that need economic development and do not disrupt quality of life for residents.</p>   |
| <p>I am at 200 W Grand, and had a terrible experience with Bottled Blonde, a half block south on Wells Ave., and fear this will be much worse, for square footage and alcohol and other patron issues.</p>   |
| <p>For all of the reasons cited in the last question</p>   |
| <p>The city can't control crime currently. A casino will only exponentially exacerbate the situation.</p>  |
| <p>This proposal will bring increase traffic, crime, noise, overloading of infrastructure and be detrimental to the quality and character of River North as a neighborhood to live and have a family. We will move out if the casino is approved at this location.</p>   |
| <p>Take care of crime problem in the city first, more possibility of crime in River North. Enough.</p>   |
| <p>This is horrible and will ruin the residential neighborhood and Montgomery Ward Park.</p>   |

I pay higher taxes to live in what should be a relatively safe, quiet, clean upscale neighborhood. The Navy Pier complex already draws a large number of visitors from the region that do not enhance the neighborhood or add to property values. This project will bracket River North with similar congestion. Put the project in a neighborhood that needs economic alternatives to property tax dollars.

A casino at this location would bring thousands of people into a location that already is too dense with poor surrounding infrastructure to support it. The traffic in the area is already great. Further as a resident of river north already dealing with increases in violent crime, this is incredibly worrisome. I believe the casino will bring in more crime, drugs, and riff raff. Put the casino in a different location for the sake of our community.

Trashy establishments bring trashy people go south of the Eisenhower with this shit

The infrastructure in the area is already under immense strain. During heavy rains, toxic waste is diverted from the areas sewers into the river. The proposed development will only exasperate the problem. Further, the city streets and public transportation is not in a condition to support the projected increase in visitors to the area. Additionally, Chicago Ave, Grand Ave, and Halsted are already nearly gridlocked during peak commute hours. Finally, the location along the riverfront should be reserved for community use and open green space. An outdoor music venue is inappropriate in this location, across the river from residential properties.

Additionally, tourists won't be coming here to gamble. They come to watch sports, go to museums, eat out, take River/lake tours. A casino will only attract those who do not have the disposable income to gamble. Just like everywhere else in America where casinos open. The myth of well dressed fit attractively dressed gamblers with excellent white toothy smiles is just that: A Myth. Poor people gamble away what little they have in hopes of a big win. It is a set up by the casinos. Why welcome an easy addiction to our beautiful Chicago?! It is catering to one's worst instincts. If casinos..Hey let's give away free bottles of Tequila & bags of cocaine at all L stops at 8 am...? Why not? Same thing in a different package.. Catering to the worst instincts of the people who can least afford it. Yes you can publish this. With my name if you like. S.J.Baker

While casinos increase visitor traffic, this is not the culture we should be building in this community. Casinos are a predatory institution and will only exacerbate the existing issues within the community. Keep this away from us. Go visit the rosemont and Indiana casinos and tell me if you'd want to live near that.

Casinos should be outside the city

This area cannot support the number of people/cars coming into this area. The infrastructure is not suitable for this type of facility along with the fact of bringing increased criminal elements to the area. This is a residential area and a casino would impact property values.

There is NO need for a casino within the city limits. Any revenue it would generate for the city would most likely be misused and not benefit the taxpayers. There are plenty of casinos in surrounding areas/states.

The sheer density in the River North area is approaching reasonable capacity. The traffic congestion would be absolutely overwhelming and would bleed over (literally) into residential neighborhoods with an inescapable amount of "unintended consequences". The city already has a major problem with inebriated patrons coming out of bars late into the night and causing major quality of life problems for residents with an increased threat to public safety. There has been an unbelievable increase in shootings and stabbings in the River North area with one incident alone in the 500 block of North Kingsbury leaving 36 shell casings on the street about a year ago. The car chase and shootings on North Milwaukee and Grand Ave from last summer left 5 innocent bystanders on the street with bullet wounds. Alderman Wally Burnett says, against monstrous push back from the neighborhood, that there's a "silent majority" of people who support the plan and love to gamble, but have not spoken up. I say that Wally has a severe case of "optical rectumitis" (his head is up his ass) in saying this. The only people that would be silent on this proposal would tend to be the aged and the poor who mostly live on a fixed income and would only be encouraged to waste their limited monies on a fruitless and naïve belief that they could better their fortunes by wagering their limited resources in the hope of beating "the house".

Everyone involved just needs to take a deep breath and then ask this question, What could go wrong with the Tribune site? The list of problems would far out pace the potential good. And keep in mind, the city can still have their gambling house, but put it in a neighborhood that could take advantage of the community development and jobs. My point is, that is just NOT the River North neighborhood!!!

Crime and traffic already out of control

Wrong location - especially when I watched the rivers/78 which was the best option since casino is part of a larger planned neighborhood and the site is proposing so much more than a casino .

Casinos are an extremely short sighted revenue generator

The residential pocket of River North that hugs the eastern border of the Chicago river is a quiet neighborhood that wants to remain that way. The addition of a casino would ruin the community that so many people have sought out for its quiet, residential, and family-focused nature. The noise, traffic, and commercialization of the area would hurt the residential community and most likely cause people to move out. Additionally, car traffic would certainly increase to unbearable levels with no L or Metra stations near the proposed casino site.

I live in this area because it is quiet and void of tourists and excess overall pedestrian and car traffic. This casino would change all of that!



The proposed Casino will be likely be open 24 hours and will bring to the area all the negative consequences along with it to the residential areas in the area. The community had hopes for extending the River Walk our way with emphasis on pedestrians enjoying the quiet, supporting wildlife and nature walks. Instead, there will be a casino drawing people at all hours of the day spending their money inside the casino instead of the lovely small restaurants with outdoor terraces that would have benefit from extending the River Walk. The river has just started to clean up and has been increasingly enjoyable for families and nature loving people to get a respite from city life. This is one of the reasons tourists love Chicago and why I am especially proud to take visitors down to the area of the River Walk with it's attraction of restaurants, people watching, outdoor venues, loud music, party boaters and yachts - and then, when we've had enough, to continue to walk following along the North branch of the River as much as possible, including walkways (not defined as "River Walk" but past Wolf Point) in front of residential buildings and peaceful parks, and back up to the street just past The old Montgomery Ward and Company Complex and home. People love that Chicago has this excellent mix of city life and, yet, areas of quiet tree-lined streets with song birds and a cacophony of seagulls and geese right along the river as well. Putting a casino in that area will destroy that scenario. What is embarrassing is the amount of trash that litters the area! It's everywhere. People that visit a casino are prepared to spend a lot of money in the casino. It's not unfair to state that the majority of people leaving the casino do not win their money back. The majority of people leaving the casino have either been gambling and lost and/or drinking heavily. They won't be considerate of the residents sleeping in their homes, how loud they are or where they throw their garbage. They may even be bolder, more desperate and, more times than not, crime will increase. We've already lost a number of our neighbors; moving to the suburbs and citing safety concerns and no end in sight. A casino will provide a logarithmic jump in the crime rate and destroy the residential community. I'm not against gambling and its potential to provide much needed revenue to the city but put a casino some place where there customers are not spilling out into residential communities. Moreover, I might mention the effect of noise in that area. At times, the abandoned parking lot of the Tribune site hosts a Country Western event with admission, bands, drinking, dancing. The sound travels across the River and rebounds off the tall buildings and it's both wonderful and terrible. Terrible because it is so loud but wonderful because it's both nice to see people are having fun and to know that the speakers will be turned off and the people on their way home before 11:00 PM! Chicagoans appreciate what the city is doing to improve the health of the River,

The strain that normal rush-hour traffic puts on the Halstead/Chicago intersection, and the Chicago bridge is enormous, even with the reduced traffic flow due to office closures. I can't imagine the impact of thousands of new vehicles a day and more on the weekends. I also can't imagine there will be an economic or ecological offset of those impacts.

We live in a friendly neighborhood and a casino I feel would change the dynamics of our neighborhood

This is a great neighborhood filled with small children, expensive homes and great proximity to restaurants, Michigan Avenue, the Loop with it's cultural attractions. Yet it is away from all the festivals that draw thousands of people. If the residents of this neighborhood were interested in crowds, noise, more traffic and more people, they (we) would not have chosen to live here. We enjoy our small park by the river that is filled with toddlers looking for the ducks on the river, small children at the playground and people having picnics on the lawn when the weather is nice Please do not ruin our neighborhood

Home owner

I believe that putting the casino there will tank property values and have a strongly negative economic impact on the area. I'm also concerned about a spike in crime

The existence of a casino in our neighborhood would not be of any value, and could potentially have a severely negative impact on our property values, and peaceful living environment.

I oppose having a casino in a residential neighborhood.

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| The casino will not attract the people desired in the River North and Gold Coast area. Late night crime is already unacceptable  |
| I think bringing a casino to Chicago will have good economic impact. However of the three sites the Tribune site is not the right location. The infrastructure is not there and the traffic will only get worse than it already is. The city should strive for better urban design. We shouldn't be trying to shove a square peg into a round hole.  |
| The casino is a terrible fit for this area. This is primarily a neighborhood and design district. We already have plenty of places in RN where people can drunkenly party which has been causing increased crime, noise, and terrible traffic for some time now. The city Council has also approved at least three cannabis locations in River North. This, too, has caused increased traffic and lines impeding the sidewalk. The ambiance of River North is becoming seedier and seedier with shootings and gang graffiti increasing by the week. Ward Park opposite Tribune has become a gang hangout in the summer. Please don't take the last shred of peace and safety from our neighborhood by adding a casino to this sad mix. And please don't damage my property values. |
| Crime, operating hours and a economic regression in an area that was riddled with public housing - are they preying on the lower socio-economic citizens? Simply ridiculous.   |
| Casinos bring crime and our property will be devalued.   |
| Casinos never positively impact the surrounding community. The Chicago/Halsted community will be devastated as a growing residential neighborhood.   |
| With the recent addition of a large residential tower on Grand between Orleans and Kingsbury, the traffic on that section of the street has become more congested and complex, creating challenges for local residents and pedestrians. Traffic to and from a Casino and entertainment complex would only exacerbate that situation  |
| Traffic on Chicago Ave and Halsted is already so congested this will make it even worse. And the crime especially concerned when walking from work   |
| Casino does not have a desirable effect to any city  |
| This is one of the stupidest ideas I have ever heard in my life.   |
| Unsure of any positive impact this would have on the residential area  |
| No positive impact on residential area   |
| See additional information provided above under "other"  |
| Not fair for the residence to have to deal with the rise of crime traffic and noise  |
| We can not afford any more crime. Our property values are already plummeting.  |
| I'm concerned about safety of an area that's already having issues & then to have a 24/7 casino where people can drink 24/7 and also be a target for crime since people will be walking around with \$\$ from gambling   |
| The intersection of Chicago and Halsted is not adequate for the traffic if currently experiences. Traffic flow is worse not that Halsted is only one lane since the addition of the bike lane. Traffic is typically jammed and congested from Division to Grand. We need two north south lanes in each direction not a casino. The bus lanes on Chicago have made congestion worse west of the river. We need two lanes in each direction and better traffic light coordination, not a casino.   |
| My family and I live in one of the last remaining residential neighborhoods in River North that actually includes families with kids of all ages. Our neighborhood, and it's park, lies directly across from the proposed site. Amongst the numerous reasons provided to NOT build this casino, placing it in this neighborhood would entirely destroy the family-centered nature of this neighborhood and would drive many families out of the city at a time when you need families to choose staying here and serve as an anchor for the future stability of this city.   |
| Nothing good every comes from a casino.  |
| It doesn't belong in a residential community. Stay in Vegas!   |

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| The river north neighborhood has regressed so much over the last 3 years. It's already unsafe to walk or even drive a nice car at certain times of the day. It has never been this bad in the 25 years I have lived here and I do not think it wise to add even more chaos to this situation.   |
| nothing good will come out from gambling  |
| There will inevitably be more gang activity and other criminal occurrences in our neighborhood. The traffic will be intolerable and so will the randomness of people visiting with nothing vested in this community   |
| This is a quite neighborhood and any high traffic establishment will harm the serenity of the place and reduce property values.   |
| It doesn't fit well in this area, which is very residential to the south and east and west.   |
| Ridiculous concept. Residents live here. Enough with noise traffic crime as it is. Moving out I'm done  |
| Proven to lower property tax. Proven to increase crime and bad behavior in residential areas  |
| Most casinos places in large cities become blighted areas due to congestion, crime, garbage and constant foot traffic   |
| I'm opposed to the volume of people and potential for crime in this residential area. Very concerned with the impact it will have on the value of my home.  |
| No. 1: Increased traffic in a congested area that has NO ROOM for expansion.<br>No. 2: This is a quiet residential area with no tourist attractions. A casino makes ZERO SENSE here.<br>No. 3: Crime is already rampant in the city in all areas, and this would make it another target for looting and criminal activity which cannot be controlled.<br>No. 4: Noise and bright lights in a residential, non -tourist area would be a DETRIMENT to property values.  |
| 1) High rate of acquisitions since buying name in 2018; Fast moving massive amounts of money seems suspicious. Buying in many states simultaneously. Intention on going private hedge fund indicates the intention for less govt reporting/oversite.2) Presentation made was very skewed. Clearly wants Ald. Burnett ward to vote for it. Statistics show 83% of the people who go to the casinos are from surrounding area. Preying on the poor and hopeful who do not understand it is a biz "the odds are in favor of the house". "You can buy into the company for \$250" never mentioning how many chares that is in today's market or what happens when it goes private 3)Bally's stated 3000 gamblers a day and 3000 car parking garage. Where do people ark in the peak hours that over flow the parking garage. No one is walking there Dec-April. Where do the employees park? No shuttle from Blue Line mentioned. Streets cannot handle that traffic. Changing the timing on lights is not going to help substantially. Did not hear any revamp of known nightmare intersection of Ogden/Chicago/Milwaukee as was done at Damen/Fullerton/Elston. 4) A 24 hour biz means criminals waiting for prey 24 hours. 5) Although they propose less development footage than PD1426 allows, it will happen all at once (a shock to the neighborhood and immediate area) and not over 10 years as likely the natural progression. Lastly, I did not hear anyone say we would get more police coverage for increased traffic and criminal activity. |
| I do NOT like the proposed location. It should be farther out on the perimeter of the city somewhere.   |
| This is a highly residential (primarily affluent) area and we do not need more crime than we already have. STRONGLY oppose!   |
| This is a residential neighborhood, not a tourist one!  |
| It would impose danger to my family   |
| safety, crime, noise, negative impact on property value   |
| The infrastructure in the area cannot support the resulting traffic. This area is becoming more residential, and the increased crime would be very unwelcome.   |

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| I live just across the river from the proposed site and do not want this type of development in my neighborhood. Thank you.  |
| South side locations will have a greater impact  |
| This proposed casino is the middle of a residential area. This casino is much more suited downtown near McCormick. Takes advantage of the people coming in from the suburbs and for conventions and make that an Entertainment District. The middle of West Town and River North is not an Entertainment District.   |
| It is intuitive that thousands more cars and people will be come into the area if a casino is built. That is logical and mathematically indisputable. Bally's and some aldermen say the casino-related incoming vehicular traffic will be less than other development already authorized for the area. So? I'd be equally opposed to any major influx of traffic.  |
| Bally's will have more open space than the previously-authorized development for the area. So? The MORE densely-populated use of the "less" space (casino, theater and parking garage) removes the advantage of "less" developed land. By the way, Bally's has presented -0- information for the likely number of cars; it hasn't even provided that information to its traffic study people.  |
| Mr. Doron gave a great presentation about rerouting a street and improving intersections. What he never said is something he, being an honest man, could not claim: There is no way to widen Chicago Avenue or Grand Avenue. Those are the big problems. No chance a casino does not make those issues MUCH worse. Please, do you really think people living here can't see that? Heck, the traffic was bad preceding the meeting last week - and that was WITHOUT a casino! |
| As for crime, there is already a lot of crime in the area - committed by criminals who live here (unrelated to a casino) and bad people who associate with them or come to harm them in gang disputes and other disputes (unrelated to a casino). What do you think will happen if criminals realize that people are coming to the casino with money or departing the casino with money (VERY related to a casino)? Crime will worsen.                                       |
| Bally's is a sincere, honest company. Your plans for minority involvement and trying to be a good neighbor are all laudable. Just not here. The near-Soldier Field site is infinitely better; why don't you folks partner with Hard Rock for a more appropriately-locate facility?   |
| This current location is deemed as a family place with the park, dog park, river and restaurants close by, therefore adding a casino would shift the entire environment. In addition, the crime rate would increase heavily leaving the location as undesirable.   |
| This casino would substantially lower the quality of life for residents.   |
| Access to hospitals would be impaired by all traffic around Casino   |
| Owner of condo at 900 n Kingsbury  |
| It would destroy our neighborhood.   |
| Concerned about crime, especially at night taking my dog out   |
| This area is residential with some of the most original landmarks the city offers on the river. It is peaceful.  |
| Casinos should not be in residential areas. The problems already stated are innumerable. Among the top problems are wear and tear it will put on our already aged and problematic infrastructure. The thought and possibility of the amount of crime is overwhelming. I do not see a casino in this area as a plus.  |
| Feel our community is historic part of ChicGo that will be devalued with Casino. Concerned about property value.   |
| The location is bad as too residential, an industrial location would be better.  |



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| I chose to live in this area because I feel safe. It is not full of bars or tourist attractions. I liked it because it was families and has grass and fields to enjoy. Its also quite! I can sleep with my door and windows open and not be woken up from people and cars  |
| I resent it they are forcing this on us. WE DO NOT WAN IT  |
| Someone walking or driving looks like a casino winner,loser or just pedestrian - we are already in a high crime city with an abundance of car carjacking and street holdups. Why invite more. And public intoxication will increase. Again both pedestrian and vehicular. Building a neighborhood does not include a casino. It should have public places like parks restaurants and retail businesses. People should feel safe to walk and visit and know neighbors. Not fearful of the other person on the street.   |
| I believe there could be many pros from a casino for the City, however this site and the plan is bad for the obvious reasons listed in the literature. Why doesn't the city propose the casino in the South Works that was once a closed Steel Mill, that area has 600+ acres of land and is not near a residential district.  |
| No parking more crime noise open 24/7  |
| The area is busy enough & crime is on the rise already.  |
| When concerns about the impacts of Ballys were brought forth at the community meeting, casino officials appeared unable or unwilling to provide metrics/evidence backing up their promises that home values near casinos don't go down, crime doesn't go up and the few changes to traffic signals to this area in particular will be enough to avoid serious congestion. It seems they took the time to learn a few talking points but did not study the area or the impact their casinos would have on it. Traffic is a particular concern- the presented plan and comments did not seem even close to enough to mitigate influx of traffic, especially on nights with special events. |
| No need to explain. This is a community of residences. Not a commercial entertainment area.  |
| Casinos and gambling attract crime and criminal elements.  |
| There is already enough crime right here in River North, we don't need more people in the area, at all hours, loitering and spilling over into this area. I'm concerned about my safety, depreciating home value, and increased traffic and congestion, delinquency in the area.   |
| The proponents position that traffic will be reduced is totally flawed. The analysis was done in 2018 prior to COVID with the assumption that some morning and evening rush hour traffic pattern will exist. With the shift to 'work from home' or a hybrid model typical rush hour patterns no longer exist.  |
| I live in River North  |
| NA   |
| Neighborhood is already overly congested with new residential units  |
| The Casino would be right across the River from a park with kids. An influx of crime in our neighborhood. Less parking for residents. Also more tourist traffic. I live over here away from downtown because it's not a tourist area. This would bring tons of tourists. There also aren't a lot of turn lane signals and most streets are one ways. We would need major lane changes and more construction would just disrupt life further. This is a horrible idea. We need parks and activities for kids not more casinos. It's quiet over here and I would like it to stay that way.   |
| This is a residential area with a neighborhood feel that would be completely ruined if a loud, bright casino were built right across the street.   |
| Unless demonstrated otherwise, casinos have deleterious economic and social impact. The proposal here would need to substantially address why this casino won't be like all others, and so far it's offered nothing but generic arguments which are really refuted.  |

Our real estate value will absolutely go down the drain. This will just bring crime in to an already crime ridden area. This casino needs to be put in some off beat out of the way location. We will no longer be able to walk around safely or drive to the grocery store without being in traffic jams.

As a recent homeowner that lives very close to the Tribune sight AND a victim of mugging right outside my home, I strongly oppose the casino development on this site. River North is already very congested and due to the demographics of the people that live in this area, it has become a hot spot for theft, carjackings, and other violent crimes. The city should be focusing on protecting its residents and solving the existing problems we are facing rather than creating just another - albeit lucrative - tourist attraction that will exacerbate the issues in this area.

This is an area that is meant for family's and people who want some peace and quiet. Live near the lake without all the mess and crime of the gold coast. No way do I want this in my neighborhood. I will move if it is approved

The reason I moved into this area of the city was for the safety, quiet, and lack of congestion in this neighborhood. The addition of a flagship casino right across the river would undoubtedly lead to a significant increase in the traffic volume and detrimentally impact the tranquility and overall safety of the neighborhood.

all of the concerns I already listed. Primarily safety and property value.

Crime is already at an unacceptable rate in this area and this is one of the last family downtown neighborhoods with an active Children's park. There is no need to put a Casino in this neighborhood. I pay too much in taxes with little to no benefit now. This will destroy the city neighborhood.

This casino would attract the wrong type of clientele for River North

This would destroy River North, one of the most prestigious neighborhoods left in the city. Many of us have recently spent millions on new homes in this area and have paid incredibly high property taxes as a result which shouldn't be ignored as part of this process!

The impact on the existing infrastructure, increased traffic and guaranteed increase in crime would destroy property values in this area!

The location will severely strain east west traffic which is already limited to only a few street ( Chicago Ave, Division, and Grand).

I live in the neighborhood and strongly oppose this. This is a residential neighborhood that will be disrupted and greatly negatively impacted by a casino.

It will bring traffic to an area of many pedestrians and bicyclists. Potential for crime.

Limited Ease of access causing heightened ingress/egress fallout on surrounding neighborhoods.

I live in the neighborhood in close proximity

Don't need more congestion with potentially rowdy people encouraging a harmful source of entertainment.

The multiple negative impacts selected speak for themselves

This is a densely populated area and the casino will strain that even more while bringing in a negative impact of crime as can be seen in other cities where casinos were brought in.

Noise, traffic, potential crime and type of audience drawn to casinos would impact real estate and businesses in River North. Strongly opposing this

protect the safety of the area and raising kids downtown will be impossible

This will cheapen the entire area and exacerbate the current horrific crime problem.

This will exacerbate crime and increase noise and population levels beyond what this area in the city can support. I as a resident would no longer feel safe.

The location is ill-suited to deliver high volumes of traffic to the casino efficiently. There's no great public transit route, and many of the streets that will serve as feeders to the property are already heavily trafficked.

The increase in heavyweight traffic that will accompany the construction and the operation of the casino will strain roads, bridges, and other pieces of infrastructure that are already overdue for upgrades or replacement.

#### BAD FOR THE COMMUNITY

This will increase every bad metric that the city is already having issues with

This is a residential community. We do not want a casino here.

This is not a heavy foot traffic area. It's a family neighborhood that's very close to a school. The closest public transport to it is a 20 min walk so I don't even understand why they would want it there.

I want my kids to grow in the neighborhood and casino will increase crime and make the area inhabitable. Look at what happened to the cleaveland downtown as an example

The site is not large enough among other reasons stated - the Roosevelt site is more than twice as large and not near residential property

More people more crime, more garbage, more chaos, inconvenience to residents

The area has enough problems like most of the city but we pay the highest taxes

This will create a venue for more crime, will not increase the clientele River North is looking to have come to the City and will have negative press on an daily basis. If this location is selected, I will be moving out of one of the best neighborhoods in the world, River North Chicago.

Various published surveys on impact of Casinos to residential properties within close proximity of subject

The area is a nice quiet place to live on the outskirts of the city. If a casino is built that will disappear. I'm concerned about my safety and peace of mind, that I currently am not worried about. The area is already very congested traffic wise and this would make it even worse.

The traffic is already an issue with the Chicago Ave bridge being 1 lane.

We have problems with cars idling and revving their engines late into the night.

Chicago Avenue and Halsted Street are both 2 lane streets with excessive amounts of traffic. The bridge infrastructure was not built to hold that much traffic. This is a highly residential neighborhood. While McCormick place was developed for entertainment and mass traffic. The casino at the McCormick Place site already draws tourists and will allow for further economic development. South Loop retail may thrive again with a new casino close by the convention center and sports centers in the area. There are already hotels waiting for further entertainment by McCormick Place.

That part of the city cannot handle the massive influx of traffic it would bring. Let alone. The noise and light pollution would ruin an already quiet area of the city. Driving property value down and long time residents to leave.  
Horrible location for a Casino!

We have beautiful urban river setting this would change the direction I thought this neighborhood was going - work, live, community

We have seen the negative effects of disruptive night clubs on our neighborhood... violence, criminal activity, blatant disregard for our property, increased traffic, noise pollution, etc. A casino would bring more of this to our neighborhood and decrease property values.

I have been a homeowner in River North for 14 years. I fought to get rid of a bar at the end of Erie and Orleans that was raising hell all night long. Putting a Casino in River North will be FAR WORSE. THIS WILL DESTROY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. We do not need a casino. We do not want a casino.

This is a FAMILY and PET neighborhood - and it is not suited for an entertainment venue of ANY sort.

Susan Germaine  
435 West Erie  
Apt 1901

Costs to neighborhood, including increased street crime and vandalism to property caused by patrons of bars large bars, is already a problem. People who don't live in River North clearly don't respect our neighborhood or the residents. We residents pay for heightened security systems, maintenance staff to clean broken glass, garbage, and vomit from our sidewalks and doorways, and to repair damages landscaping and property. We are targets of carjackings, assaults, and shootings all of which have increased dramatically in recent years. Add to this hundreds or thousands of more people who would pass through River North to another entertainment destination and the neighborhood becomes unlivable. It already is for many who have already moved away and the better retailers, art galleries, design resources, and restaurants that have moved to the west loop or simply closed. This is not the Las Vegas strip. Also, the traffic would be worse, not better. Unbelievable that Bally's would deny this. Not one reputable study shows this patrons will abandon their cars or that traffic congestion will lessen because of improved roads and public transportation to travel to a casino in River North. Just look at the traffic nightmare that already exists in our neighborhood on weekends, despite the convenience of numerous el stations and bus stops, practically on every block. Add to this all of this the increased costs for addiction counseling, as well as enhanced police and justice system costs to address the increase in crime, shown to increase even more 3-5 years after urban casinos open. According to reputable research, these costs would be greater than the projected revenue received by the city.

This article includes many useful references to research on the impact of casinos.

<https://thecrimereport.org/2009/12/21/do-casinos-cause-crime/>

This is a quiet residential area with already over burdened streets and hard-to-find parking. There is no other tourism in this area, so people would left to be wandering a quiet neighborhood after leaving the casino. It's the worst possible place you could put this. Why does Chicago need a casino anyway?

The area in question is a beautiful, rare, and quiet pocket in the amazing city of Chicago. A casino is not a good fit for this particular area. The casino would be better suited in an area that already has that Chi-city vibe.





December 3, 2021

The Honorable Walter Burnett, Jr.  
Alderman, Ward 27  
City of Chicago  
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 300, Office 38  
Chicago, IL 60602

The Honorable Brendan Reilly  
Alderman, Ward 42  
City of Chicago  
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 200, Office 6  
Chicago, IL 60602

The Honorable Brian Hopkins  
Alderman, Ward 2  
City of Chicago  
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60602

**RE: Casino Proposal / Freedom Center Site**

Dear Alderman Burnett, Alderman Reilly, and Alderman Hopkins:

River North Residents Association (RNRA) was surprised to learn of the Bally's casino proposal for the Freedom Center site from news reporting. Given the site's direct proximity to the western portion of the River North neighborhood, we are providing our organization's early feedback regarding this location for the proposed development of a casino. We have concerns about the appropriateness of potentially siting a casino and high-rise hotel development at the Freedom Center location.

As you know, RNRA has been a responsible and thoughtful partner in providing feedback related to the continuing development of the River North area. To date, as an organization, we have been supportive of new development projects that are compatible with the neighborhood. However, we have concerns regarding the Freedom Center site as a location for the casino development project given its direct proximity across the Chicago River from the long-established residential neighborhood to the east.

Our concerns include, but are not limited to, the impact on the adjacent residential community and nearby businesses, of a 24/7, destination-oriented, gambling, entertainment, and hotel complex.

- River North is a high-density community. For example, 2020 data for just one River North census tract (adjacent to the Freedom Center site) – 17031081800 – reveals a population of 11,373 and total housing units of 8,096. Density continues to increase with multiple high-rise, mixed-use developments approved or under construction in close

proximity to the Freedom Center site, including the following projects for a combined increase, to date, of over 5,700 residential units, 75,000 s.f. of commercial space, and other mixed-use development.

- The recently approved Halsted Pointe project, located near the intersection of Chicago and Halsted, will include multiple high-rise mixed-use towers, ranging in height from 30- to 46-stories, comprising over 2,600 residential units, and a 300-room hotel tower, among other uses on this site.
  - The 808 N. Cleveland mixed-use residential development at the corner of Cleveland and Chicago is under construction and will add 200 new residential units and 27,000 s.f. of commercial space.
  - The HUGO development at 411 W. Chicago and 751 N. Hudson will be breaking ground shortly. This combined mixed-use residential development will include 227 residential units and over 18,000 s.f. of commercial space.
  - The recently approved zoning changes allowing for the redevelopment of several Moody Bible Institute sites between Chicago and North Avenues along Wells Street to accommodate over 2,600 residential units and 30,000 s.f. of commercial space.
- Thousands of residential units in the neighborhood will experience additional noise impacts from increased tourist-oriented river traffic combined with casino visitors traversing the riverfront promenade, and any outdoor activities.
  - Traffic congestion is already a challenge for the River North community, particularly in the western portion. Illinois Department of Transportation data show the average annual daily traffic volumes for the major streets adjacent and near to the Freedom Center site:
    - Chicago Avenue (from the Chicago River to Halsted) – 24,600
    - Chicago Avenue (from Halsted to Peoria) – 21,700
    - Halsted Street (north of Chicago) – 15,700
    - Halsted Street (south of Chicago) – 15,000
    - Grand Avenue (Orleans to Des Plaines) – 17,100
    - Grand Avenue (Des Plaines to Halsted) – 19,200
    - Ohio feeder ramp (east direction) – 91,200

Traffic congestion on these roadways will be further exacerbated by the impacts from the many high-density residential and mixed-use developments approved or under construction in the vicinity of Chicago Avenue and Halsted Street. Additionally, the scheduled permanent replacement of the Chicago Avenue bridge will disrupt traffic for many months during construction.

- The location of a large-scale, entertainment complex in an already high-density area will make it more challenging from a public safety standpoint for the adjacent neighborhoods. Chicago Police Department 18<sup>th</sup> District crime data show existing challenges, which may be further exacerbated by a major 24/7 entertainment complex located nearby.
- Negative impacts on home values for residential properties immediately adjacent to the casino site is a likely outcome due to increased noise, traffic, lighting and other impacts resulting from a large-scale casino complex. Studies such as the National Realtor's Association 2013 "Economic Impacts of Casinos on Home Prices Literature Survey and Issue Analysis" (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/151429358/NAR-casino-research>) have explored this impact in other locations.
- Casino-oriented crowds traversing the proposed pedestrian bridge connection across the river is likely to adversely impact to Ward Park and its heavily used playlot.
- Neon and other lighting will directly face hundreds of residential units fronting the Chicago River across from the casino site.
- A large-scale casino development at this site is likely to have a negative impact on local businesses.

While RNRA is supportive of public-oriented riverfront improvements, and compatible development of the Freedom Center site, a destination-oriented, 24/7, large-scale casino development presents a host of land use and quality of life challenges for the residential neighborhoods in River North and beyond. The area adjacent to the proposed development is home to thousands of residents and is a stable and family-oriented neighborhood.

As the City reviews the various casino proposals, on behalf of our 22,000 members, we ask that our earnest concerns be taken into consideration and that a more suitable alternate site be pursued for this large-scale, destination-oriented use.

On behalf of the RNRA Board of Directors,

*Mike Riordan*

Mike Riordan, President  
River North Residents Association

Cc: Samir Mayekar, Deputy Mayor, Economic and Neighborhood Development  
Maurice Cox, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

CORRESPONDENCE FROM INDIVIDUAL  
RESIDENTS OF CHICAGO



## Letter against Casino in South Loop

Valentina <vaflusha13@gmail.com>

Mon 4/18/2022 5:59 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hi,

My name is Valentina Verkhovykh. My family and I have been living in South loop since 2013. It is nice neighborhood with a lot of families with kids including my sister kids and we are planning to have a child. We have schools, colleges and University near by. I would like you to know my opinion on having casino built near by. Main argument why city needs to have casino is the money. To me it needs crime rate to go down and be more safe and family oriented, which is not happening and currently driving families away. Building casino is quite the opposite, it most certainly will increase crime rate and will bring gambling people into the neighborhood. I am voting against having casino built near the South loop area and anywhere in Chicago.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valentina

**From:** Webb, Greg [<mailto:Webb@adm.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2022 2:48 PM  
**To:** Ward44 <[Ward44@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward44@cityofchicago.org)>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Hard Rock casino proposal

[Warning: External email]

Alderman Tunney,

I am writing to express my disapproval for consideration of the Hard Rock Casino as the choice for Chicago. Of the three finalists, it is my opinion it is the worst choice because the other two structures being presented for consideration look to fit with the footprint of space they are planned. This is absolutely not the case with the Hard Rock, mostly because there is a narrow strip of land between Lake Shore Drive and already established neighborhoods of the South Loop this structure is trying to be shoehorned into a space. The enormity of the building makes no attempt to fit into the neighborhood, but rather, is a grotesque, monstrous, and unfit structure. The South Loop is a very livable and inviting place to be, where if this became the choice would forever bear a scar of what constitutes thoughtful urban planning and be seen as a white elephant and bad decision making by City Hall in the generations that follow.

I have clipped a piece of the video Hard Rock illustrated on April 5 that demonstrates the enormity of the casino contrasted to the surrounding landscape. It is a panoramic view of the casino with the Harbor View Condominium in most of the views, where just at the end of the clip, you will view the substantial impairment to residents on the first 8-10 floors, where they look buried by the platform and what would be put on it, as well as the enormity of the scale of the tower as it dwarfs the building in every way.

[https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxJn7KRMrHFFDv0MpY4tX\\_jn8DTpNZouEl](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxJn7KRMrHFFDv0MpY4tX_jn8DTpNZouEl)

A strong underlying current of residents in the South Loop is the pontification with an arrogant disregard of how we feel treated by Landmark management. In the clip illustrating the egregious proposed footprint of Hard Rock is the not so subliminal message of the lurking One Central project of a colossal proportion that is hard to comprehend. With March 2022 vacancy rates recently announced in downtown eclipsing 21%, the One Central magnitude remind us how unnecessary this project is.

We urge your rejection of selecting Hard Rock as the casino location.

Respectfully,

Greg Webb

Resident – South Loop

## Letter against Casino near South Loop

Olya V <olikin@gmail.com>

Mon 4/18/2022 7:06 AM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Thomas M. Tunney,

My name is Olga Vislavskiy. My family and I have been living in South loop since 2013. It is nice neighborhood with a lot of families with kids including mine. We have schools, colleges and University near by. I would like you to know my opinion on having casino built near by. Main argument why city needs to have casino is the money. To me it needs crime rate to go down and be more safe and family oriented, which is not happening and currently driving families away. Building casino is quite the opposite, it most certainly will increase crime rate and will bring gambling people into the neighborhood. I am voting against having casino built near the South loop area and anywhere in Chicago.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Casino Bid

Bianca W <bianca.wright011@gmail.com>

Thu 4/14/2022 7:18 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Alderman Ward,

I object to the casino being placed at the Chicago Tribune location. The river west neighborhood has had crime dramatically increase and putting a casino in our community will further increase crime while in turn decrease property value.



## Casino site

Randall Landsberg <rhlandsberg@gmail.com>

Thu 4/14/2022 9:43 AM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Alderman Tunney,

I am writing to express the opposition of myself and my neighbors to the 78 as a location for the proposed casino.

As a scientist, I feel it will have a terrible impact on the DPI technology park, the planned K-12 and community outreach.

thanks

Randall Landsberg, MS  
1444 S. Federal Unit F

## [River West] Concerns about Bally's Casino Proposal

Tom Xu <c.tom.xu@gmail.com>

Mon 4/11/2022 8:01 AM

To: Walter Burnett <Walter.Burnett@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Letterforthemayor <Letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org>; Ward27 <Ward27@cityofchicago.org>; Reginald Stewart <Reginald.Stewart@cityofchicago.org>; Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Alderman Burnett,

Hope you're having a great start to the week.

I wanted to personally write a note of concern about the Bally's Casino Proposal for a casino on the Chicago Tribune location. Building a casino in this neighborhood is not a good idea for the residents nor the community here.

- The casino will create traffic issues for the residents.
- The casino will increase crime in the area, where we already struggle with attempted break-ins and car jackings.
- The casino will lower the property value of homes.
- The casino will exacerbate problem gambling.

There seems to be a perception that there are silent supporters of the proposal; I'd love to see some data as I wasn't sure if a survey was sent out. Most of my neighbors are avidly against the proposal.

I appreciate your time and consideration in listening to my concerns.

Best,

Tom, resident of 664 N Peoria

## Re: New submission from Contact Form

Shane Misztal <smisztal90@gmail.com>

Fri 4/8/2022 10:59 AM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>; Bennett Lawson <Bennett.Lawson@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Good morning,

I would like to continue to state my opposition to the Chicago casino on the Tribune Publishing Site (Bally's), following this week's casino community meetings. I do not believe it is wise to build a development of this type adjacent to two major bus routes, CTA 8 (Halsted) and CTA 66 (Chicago). The city historically has had issues with traveling east-west due to its lack of rail lines that travel east-west. Building a casino here would do just that to the CTA 66 bus that brings in residents living out west to and from the downtown area, where access to the CTA blue, brown, and red lines can be found along this route. In addition, the CTA 8 bus also serves as an additional lifeline for connecting the north and south sides together. It is slightly west of the train lines that feed into the loop and allows additional access to parts of the city that are not easy to get to without a personal vehicle.

I know a preliminary traffic report has been produced for the site. I heard the developer at that meeting say regarding traffic, "should result in less traffic in the weekday morning, similar traffic levels in the weekday evenings, and additional traffic during weekend evenings." Traffic in the morning when more people than ever are commuting from home doesn't make a big impact. The statement saying similar traffic levels in the weekday evening means "traffic in the PM is already bad, this casino will make traffic conditions worse, but because traffic conditions are already bad then our impact doesn't have as large an impact." Also, weekend evening traffic would make this area worse and congested, on a regular basis. Wait until concerts and events are hosted on the weekend and weekday evenings. It's a chokepoint connecting a heavily populated northside and westside to the southside and downtown.

I don't buy this traffic report at face value. If there is going to be parking provided on-site or nearby, then it is an absolute guarantee that traffic will be added to these roadways making traffic that much worse. More parking available more people will drive. What if this report isn't 100% accurate on the traffic effects and that it underestimated the impact? It's not worth the risk to take the study of a developer who has everything to gain if it paints their development in a favorable light. Not fair to the people nearby and not fair to the people who commute through this area. I'm fine with high-density residential development on this site but not a giant traffic generator like a casino. Since the developers decided to bring it up in the meeting, we should be able to see the traffic report and their assumptions. **I would like to request a copy of this traffic report.**

This site should be removed from consideration. Just looking at a map of the sites around Chicago it just seems out of place to be so far away from the Loop and the economic hub of Chicago. As I stated previously, I would rather see it go in the 78 plot of land. It can be serviced by a non-roadway-dependent form of public transit, the CTA Red Line, and it is close to the Loop which is serviced by all CTA rail lines. Another positive with this site or the Hard Rock development is that it is located in a less-trafficked area that is more accommodating and adaptable to an influx of traffic, as well as it is

situated south of downtown providing jobs and economic growth to a region that has faced far less than its northern counterparts.

Please let me know the next stages in this timeline for the casino site selection. Could you please provide any documents related to the developments and their traffic (traffic report), that would be appreciated.

Thanks,

--

Shane Misztal

On Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 12:42 PM Ward44 <[Ward44@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward44@cityofchicago.org)> wrote:

Thank you for your email regarding the casino proposals. Your comments will be shared with the Committee. Alderman Tunney has been selected as Chairman of the Special Casino Committee, Alderman Jason Ervin will serve as Vice-Chair and the Committee members will consist of all Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen.

There are three scheduled Community Forums scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> (see below). These events are both in person and live-stream. All Chicago residents are encouraged to attend any of these forums. There is also a specific email (below) for questions regarding the Casino proposals. Please direct all questions or comments to: [chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org](mailto:chicagocasino@cityofchicago.org).

Denise

Alderman Tunney's Office

The Mayor's Office of Community Engagement is hosting Casino Town Hall meetings, inviting local residents to provide feedback and input regarding the bid for the Chicago casino license. Please share with your ward to ensure those nearby are able to participate.

Registrations for each event are below:

**April 5:**

Hard Rock Chicago  
Harold Washington Library (400 S. State Street)

6-8pm

Register: <https://chicagocasinohardrock.eventbrite.com>

**April 6:**



Misztal

**Address**

801 W Oakdale Ave  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Email Address**

[smisztal90@gmail.com](mailto:smisztal90@gmail.com)

**Preferred Contact Method**

Email

**Questions or Comments**

I see that Tom Tunney is the lead for the casino selection committee of Chicago. I would like to say that if a casino is going to be constructed in Chicago from the possible three options that I am for the 78 site to be the location of the casino. With access right on the river and a connection to the Chicago Red Line, the 78 would be the best option of the three available. I am against the River West site because the traffic generated by the casino will negatively impact the Halsted and Chicago bus where the location for that proposal is located. This area is already heavily traveled and it would create already more traffic issues. The One Central proposals aren't preferred because there isn't even a guarantee that the development is happening. Also, that location isn't as accessible as the 78 that is served by the CTA bus and rail.

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Hello Alderman,

I recently saw you at the HW Library introduced as a key committee leader on the development of the Casino (etc) under discussion.

Gone are the days of local architectural firms submitting RFP to the City for re-developing smaller sections of space in existing loop structures. I recall attending an event at the Chicago Theatre under Mayor Emmanuel's tenure with this specific topic discussed years ago.

Today's planning is extremely large in comparison which implies risks to say least. The city's pension problems are clearly reflected. This said, please understand that the Hard Rock Plan has environmental consequences which were not addressed satisfactorily at the public meeting and many locals are extremely concerned for wild life, plants, green spaces, healthier water ways.

Under Rahm's planning RFP guidelines, casino proposals involved an expansion of our urban community with families, children being emphasized with lots of open spaces as the grand plan, per plans presented by architectural firms. The casino planning under Rahm was more or less a "test case" recreation concept not this force of domination which today's business models reflect... regardless of the bells, whistles and tinsel.

We need more discussion of the specific crimes associated with gaming at this level specifically to residents vs. the annual revenues generated.

Where are plans to provide supports like such as Gambler's Anonymous services or social services specific to the dark sides of this business model?

Great to see & hear all the highlights, but environment and social concerns for vulnerable are critically important to confront in front of the unleashing of this new force.

Your expertise/education is in food services with impressive credentials say least, but as important are social services and unbiased environmental studies in lock step with the project.

(One solution i think about fairly often is with regard to the mass exodus of Chicago's population to warmer climate states which essentially enjoys the pension and retirement money of our former Chicago citizens, why not create a plan for the Florida's or Texas, for instance, to pony up some of that money spent in southern states back up north to our pension coffers since this is the money flow (naturally). The creativity and intellectual capacity of our best minds available are able to critically think of policies and potential idea's to re-direct some funds up north to help stabilize the outflow of our population drain. Human's nature aside.

I return to Mayor Rahm's answer to the casino probe years ago.... smaller solution initially on the site of an underutilized local asset ... possibly a test case without a tremendous impact to residents, nature, environment, etc.

Please discourage the Hard Rock Project and squash the One Central Development altogether.

The Bally's location on the River is a better bet given all the concerns expressed.

Finally the project off Roosevelt is the better pick possibly less harmful environmentally (?) This potentially gives folks a chance to see it's actual contribution to all aspects of the planning with less overall harm.

Thank you for reading this. Thank you for your trusted good ongoing service.

## Casino

Dianne Witkowski <dcwitkowski@sbcglobal.net>

Wed 4/6/2022 5:40 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hi Tom, I do not like the idea of a casino in Chicago. I imagine I might be in the majority.

But I know it is coming, so my question is about money. How will the city spend the profits? I hope it goes to education, especially for younger children in low income, high crime areas.

Good luck tonight!


Dianne

## Concerns and One-Page Info Sheet Regarding Casino

Zach Savella Stallard <zach@stoppredatorygambling.org>

Mon 4/4/2022 4:06 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>;Ward28 <Ward28@cityofchicago.org>

 1 attachments (106 KB)

casino info page.pdf;

[Warning: External email]

Dear Ald. Tunney and Ald. Ervin,

As your committee considers the proposed Chicago casino locations, I encourage you to continue to keep in mind the well-being of our communities and the hidden costs of gambling. I have attached an info sheet and would be glad to help provide further information you may desire. If you would be willing, I would like to meet with you regarding this topic.

I'm volunteering with Stop Predatory Gambling Illinois ([www.stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org](http://www.stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org)) and I am a Chicago resident. I am deeply concerned about the impact of a casino, especially for locations (like the 78) near residential communities experiencing poverty. New casinos increase problem gambling, and problem gambling leads to more debt, divorce, depression, illegal activity to sustain addiction, and suicide.

Promised revenues will be coming at the cost of lost revenues from taxes on other businesses, as casinos draw customers away and hurt those other businesses. They are specifically engineered to keep addicts and others inside for as long as possible and extract as much wealth as possible. This is not a sustainable model for an anchor institution that benefits the surrounding community.

Something that harms people and families and local businesses isn't a solution for our revenue problems. Increases in problem gambling come with increased costs for the city, counteracting the increased revenue. Even more important, the harm done to those who experience addiction - people in your community - cannot be justified by any amount of increased revenue.

Sincerely,

Zach Savella Stallard  
Organizer (Volunteer)  
(872) 228-1551  
[stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org](http://stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org)  
Twitter: [@spgillinois](https://twitter.com/spgillinois)  
Instagram: [@stoppredatorygamblingillinois](https://www.instagram.com/stoppredatorygamblingillinois)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/spgillinois](https://www.facebook.com/spgillinois)

# NEW CASINOS INCREASE PROBLEM GAMBLING AND ADDICTION<sup>1</sup>

## Casinos intentionally prey on addicted people<sup>2</sup>

Casinos intentionally prey on addicted people with VIP treatment:

- targeted advertising
- complimentary alcohol
- trips, rooms, and gifts

Casinos offer games carefully designed to exploit addicted people as well as ATMs and cash advances allowing unlimited losses.<sup>3</sup>



## Problem gambling is devastating for individuals and families

Gambling addiction has a high correlation with depression and the highest suicide rate among any kind of addiction.<sup>4</sup>

In a survey of Gamblers Anonymous members:

- 57 percent admitted stealing to finance their gambling
- 47 percent had a definite plan to kill themselves<sup>5</sup>

Pathological gamblers' divorce rates are 3 times normal rates.<sup>6</sup>

Gambling disproportionately impacts lower-income people.<sup>7</sup>

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Illinois has more locations to place a bet than Nevada<sup>12</sup>

There are an estimated 300,000 problem gamblers in Illinois<sup>13</sup>

## SIGN THE PETITION

[www.stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org/take-action](http://www.stoppredatorygamblingillinois.org/take-action)

## New casinos harm local businesses, economies, and governments

Projected gambling revenues usually fall short and leave governments scrambling.<sup>8</sup>

New casinos hurt local economies when placed in communities where there are already significant existing local businesses.<sup>9</sup>

Casinos actually cause more revenue loss than gain due to social and economic impacts.<sup>10</sup>

Each additional pathological gambler results in about \$9,000 of annual costs to local governments and economies.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Philander, "Regional Impacts of Casino Availability on Gambling Problems: Evidence from the Canadian Community Health Survey." Tourism Management

<sup>2</sup> Schull, "Addiction by Design", Princeton University Press

<sup>3</sup> Rosengren, "How Casinos Enable Gambling Addicts", The Atlantic

<sup>4</sup> "Recovering Addict Considers Social Impact Of Gambling Expansion", WGLT, interviewed Dr. Cindy Kerbe

<sup>5</sup> National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report

<sup>6</sup> National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report

<sup>7</sup> National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report

<sup>8</sup> Weider, "Gambling Revenue Promises Rarely Met", Pew Trusts

<sup>9</sup> Marionneau and Nikkinen, "Does Gambling Harm or Benefit Other Industries? A Systematic Review", Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

<sup>10</sup> Walker and Jackson, "The Effect of Legalized Gambling on State Government Revenue," Contemporary Economic Policy

<sup>11</sup> Grinols, "The Hidden Social Costs of Gambling", Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University

<sup>12</sup> Grotto, Kambhampati, Mihalopoulos, "How Illinois Bet on Video Gambling and Lost", ProPublica and WBEZ

<sup>13</sup> Problem Gamblers Look For Help as Illinois Increases Gaming, De Paul's Center for Journalism Integrity & Excellence and WTTW



## 78 casino

Ken GAines <kengaines5@gmail.com>

Mon 4/4/2022 2:39 PM

To: Ward25 <Ward25@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

As a leader in the community where 78 I highly support your position to stop the casino there. I have not always agreed with your position but I strongly agree with you here and will do anything to help you stop this nonsense to give the casino to a Lori friend and contributor.

I personally have had enough of Lori's hypocrisy and taking care of friends. Like Tunney being allowed to serve food in his restaurant in the midst of a pandemic and only getting a slap on the wrist. He should have lost his license. But he is a Lori sycophant and that is why he is the chairman of Lori's rubber stamp committee.

Good luck to you in your future endeavors and battle stopping her buddy Bluhm from getting a casino at the 78.

## Concerned resident - Bally's casino proposal

Mike Staffeldt <mike.staffeldt@gmail.com>

Thu 3/31/2022 5:25 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello Alderman Tunney,

I am currently living downtown, but I lived in our ward from 2012 through 2020, and I admire all that you've done for the Lakeview neighborhood. I much appreciated your advocacy and support of livability in the Wrigleyville area. You've fought for noise protections, rationalized traffic flows, safety, and for the protection of a family friendly atmosphere. For that reason, I welcome your leadership in the task force that is considering the future site of the Chicago casino. I'm comforted by our prior advocacy, but also troubled by the overall city effort to push the casino without adequate protections for the neighborhood.

The casino affects my current neighborhood on the near north side. I live on the east side of the river, directly adjacent the proposed site of the Bally's casino. My current alderman, Brendan Reilly, has not taken a strong stand against the casino, and I am communicating with him as well. I am also contacting you, reminding you of the good work you've done in Lakeview, and calling on some of the same consideration for other city neighborhoods.

To be clear, I do not support the casino at all – not here, not anywhere, but I do reluctantly accept the decision of city. I would ask for the same protections for city residents and neighborhoods for any of the remaining sites. Certainly my own neighborhood seems to have the most to lose. The other proposed sites have less nearby housing, and they are already more effected by the business of tourism. Despite our proximity to River North, the north branch of the river has some calm streets and a neighborhood feel which is at risk.

The Bally's proposal for an outdoor music venue, along with all the other crowds and traffic, is enough to jeopardize our peace and quiet. We have existing concerns about pedestrian safety, congestion, noise, and lawlessness from vehicles of all shapes and sizes. We have an industrial / post-industrial vibe in the neighborhood which would be transformed by a glitzy casino site. We have an opportunity for future river front development to bring a sense of nature to the neighborhood, and the proposal stands in contrast to that. Even our popular Montgomery Ward Park would suffer from a pedestrian footbridge bringing tourists and party-goers across the river. Finally, the predatory nature of casino operators is a risk to vulnerable residents who are still numerous in our neighborhood. There are many concerns and the are not adequately mitigated by the Bally's proposal.

I am disappointed, and I know that other residents feel the same way. I fear for my particular neighborhood and the effects of the Bally's proposal. But no matter which site is selected, I am asking you to consider our city residents and livability concerns for those people living closest to the future casino. Stand up for those residents just as strongly as you have done in your own ward.

Thank you, and best regards.

Mike Staffeldt

773-724=0068

## A New Casino Is Proposed for Chicago's Lakefront. It Would Be Deadly for Thousands of Birds.

louis gauci <lgauc8@gmail.com>

Wed 3/30/2022 4:58 PM

To: Lori Lightfoot <Lori.Lightfoot@cityofchicago.org>; Ward01 <Ward01@cityofchicago.org>; Ward02 <Ward02@cityofchicago.org>; Ward03 <Ward03@cityofchicago.org>; Ward04@cityofchicago.org <Ward04@cityofchicago.org>; Ward05 <Ward05@cityofchicago.org>; Ward06 <Ward06@cityofchicago.org>; Ward07 <Ward07@cityofchicago.org>; Ward08 <Ward08@cityofchicago.org>; Ward09 <Ward09@cityofchicago.org>; Ward10 <Ward10@cityofchicago.org>; Ward11 <Ward11@cityofchicago.org>; Ward12 <Ward12@cityofchicago.org>; Ward13 <Ward13@cityofchicago.org>; Ward14 <Ward14@cityofchicago.org>; WARD15 <WARD15@cityofchicago.org>; WARD16 <WARD16@cityofchicago.org>; Ward17 <Ward17@cityofchicago.org>; Ward18 <Ward18@cityofchicago.org>; Ward19 <Ward19@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Council Member,

It is estimated that one billion birds **die** every year from flying into buildings. You read that right – **one billion annually**. However, a recent study found that many of these deaths could be avoided by turning off the bright lights in buildings, which lure birds in and possibly to their demise. Despite this promising news, a proposed casino in Chicago poses massive threats to migratory bird species. **In fact, the casino might even be built on the very location where this bird life-or-death study was conducted.**



**We demand to protect birds by not allowing this casino to be built at McCormick Place Lakefront Center!**

Although Chicago is a common migratory bird destination, the city has a complicated relationship with bird migration, and some of its buildings are well known to be bird killers. McCormick Place – where the casino might be built – **is one of the deadliest buildings for birds in the entire country.**

Each spring, hundreds of birds migrate from the south to the north, stopping in the Windy City along the way. Up to 200 of those birds **die** every single night by crashing into McCormick Place's windows, which are brightly lit, attracting many birds to them. That's the equivalent of **72,000 dead birds** per year from one building alone. **If Commissioner Cox allows a bright**

**casino at the McCormick Place Lakefront Center, it would create an even worse bloodbath on the lakefront.** It's important to note that casinos leave their blaring lights on even later than regular buildings, meaning more deaths to our beloved migratory birds.

Why would local officials knowingly put a casino in a spot that will be so devastating to wildlife? There are other options with locations that would be less detrimental to birds! **Conservation advocates have been documenting the harm done by McCormick Place for decades -- there is no excuse for these officials not to act accordingly.**

The McCormick Place Lakefront Center is already responsible for the deaths of thousands of birds each year. If the facility becomes bigger, brighter, and open later, we know that more and more migratory birds will die.

**We are urging the Council and the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, to reject the proposal to put a casino in this location. If Chicago cares about the health and safety of birds, it must show it now!**

**Thank you for your attention,**

**Louis**



**RE: Weekly News from the 44th Ward - March 24, 2022**

jon.boyd@comcast.net <jon.boyd@comcast.net>

Mon 3/28/2022 12:00 PM

To: Ward44 <Ward44@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

I strongly **Oppose** the Tribune Site.

It would be an even greater traffic nightmare.  
Halstead in that area is already a nightmare.

The other two sites are much more appropriate.

Jon Boyd  
(Retired Architect)

Dear Alderman Tunney,

We used to see you at the Ann Sather on Belmont and loved how pro-business you are. Our family moved from Lakeview to Southloop when our family grew and we needed more space. Our window now looks right at 78 and we do not want a casino there for several reasons. Most importantly, the area to the east of 78 has been residential with lots of families. We want the families to stay and the crime to be low. There has already been an exodus from the city because of the crime which causes more crime as well in a vicious cycle. Redline is increasingly filled with people who are not real passengers, which I still take everyday to work with high alertness. Many neighbors are talking about leaving if a casino comes in. A vibrant city needs families and residents. A casino will not help. Moreover, we are close to a large Chinese community, whose male elderly have a propensity to gamble. I watch them waiting in Chinatown everyday for the casino buses. A close-by casino will only wreck more families with gambling issues. I plead for you to consider this carefully and choose a location that is farthest away from residential areas. Thank you!

Frances Lee

A mother of three and a professor of economics

I see that Tom Tunney is the lead for the casino selection committee of Chicago. I would like to say that if a casino is going to be constructed in Chicago from the possible three options that I am for the 78 site to be the location of the casino. With access right on the river and a connection to the Chicago Red Line, the 78 would be the best option of the three available. I am against the River West site because the traffic generated by the casino will negatively impact the Halsted and Chicago bus where the location for that proposal is located. This area is already heavily traveled and it would create already more traffic issues. The One Central proposals aren't preferred because there isn't even a guarantee that the development is happening. Also, that location isn't as accessible as the 78 that is served by the CTA bus and rail.

932 W.  
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**Email Address**

[kevin.dolan@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.dolan@gmail.com)

**Phone Number**

(312) 339-5291

**Preferred Contact Method**

Email

**Questions or Comments**

Dear Alderman Tunney,

Thank you for your continued leadership of the 44th Ward.

I would strongly recommend not investing in casino development in Chicago. I appreciate that it can bring some jobs to different regions of the city, and fund our underfunded police and fire pensions, but I feel like it would represent the city "selling out". I'd far prefer to find other ways to attract new revenue, and also see that revenue deployed in ways that pays for the future, not the past decisions made to commit to unreasonable pension obligations.

I don't understand why we could not allow the Lucas museum on the lakeshore but somehow we would entertain a casino?

I have many thoughts, but will not be a supportive voter. There are many other ways to grow the tax base and attract companies inside the city limits. Let's look for additional ways to grow our employment base in the city without cheapening the place.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss and problem-solve with the appropriate members of your staff.

Thank you,  
Kevin Dolan