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INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION

STATE OF INDIANA)
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COUNTY OF LAKE)

BEFORE THE INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION

November 22, 1995

BE IT REMEMBERED that the following proceedings were had before me, KAREN M. PRICE, Registered Professional Reporter, Indiana CSR No. 93-R-1000, commencing at the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 22, 1995, at the Intergenerational Center, 14023 East Chicago Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of the Indiana Gaming Commission:

3 ANN MARIE BOCHNOWSKI, Vice-Chair

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1 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: If I could have everybody
2 seated, please. Can I have everybody sit down, please.
3 Okay. Has everybody said hello?
4 Out of respect for all of our speakers, I would
5 appreciate it if any conversations you may feel the
6 need to have, should be out in the hallway. I -- these
7 proceedings are being taped and we don't want to have
8 any interference with that.
9 My name is Ann Bochnowski and I'm the
10 Vice-Chairman of the Gaming Commission. Most of you
11 are aware of what our situation is and why we have to
12 conduct these proceedings the way we do. The
13 proceedings are being taped, so that all of the
14 commissioners who cannot be here today will be able to
15 view them in their homes before we make our decisions.
16 So everything that is being said here will be seen by
17 all of the commissioners, even though I'm the only one
18 here.
19 I'm happy that so many of you could come again on
20 short notice. I appreciate your making these
21 presentations to the Commission. I want you to know
22 that the public comment is an extremely important part
23 of our hearings. So what you say is taken very
24 seriously, and for the most part, I will not ask
25 questions. We'll simply take your commentary and move

1 to the next person. If, however, something requires
2 amplification or clarification, I will be the one to
3 ask the questions.
4 Again, thank you all for coming. I will call your
5 names in order. If it's necessary, to change the order
6 a little bit, I think I'm aware of all of those
7 situations and that will be done. And I believe we'll
8 go ahead and get started. Again, please no
9 conversations.
10 Oh, also one other thing. If you can state your
11 name, and where you're from, who you are representing
12 in your speaking, please do so. Thank you.
13 The first speaker will be Reverend James Hunter,
14 and Dr. Vincent McCutchem. Also, you will see -- you
15 have -- most of you have five minutes. You will see a
16 yellow card when you're getting close to the end of
17 your speech, and a red card means that you're out of
18 time.
19 Okay. Can we have Reverend Hunter and Dr.
20 McCutchem, please.
21 REV. JAMES HUNTER: My name is Reverend James
22 Hunter, I am President of the United Citizens
23 Organization of East Chicago, Indiana, and I'm here on
24 their behalf.
25 For some time, the United Citizens Organization

1 did have some questions relating to the economic
2 development of Showboat. We met with some
3 representatives of Showboat, and those needs was met.
4 Mainly it concerned about the employment and that the
5 East Chicago hiring ordinance be considered. And then
6 concerning the representation on the boards that will
7 determine how the funds come to the City will be
8 allocated.
9 We met, and we were satisfied with the commitment
10 made by the Showboat people. And we are here today to
11 pledge our support to the economic development of the
12 Showboat proposal.
13 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: I'd like to ask some
14 questions. We have to make sure the mike is on and
15 that's why it takes a minute here.
16 My question is this, Reverend Hunter: Early on in
17 this process, the United Citizens Organization was very
18 concerned about the lack of competition in East
19 Chicago. And demonstrated that fact quite visibly.
20 Can you explain why you would have changed your
21 position?
22 REV. JAMES HUNTER: We were concerned; of
23 course as you know, we made trips to Indianapolis to
24 meetings to express that. And following through the
25 various discussions on time and various petitions

1 we decided that the inevitable was that we wanted to
2 make sure that the people of East Chicago got a fair
3 shake in the jobs and the spending of the money
4 allocated for education and community development.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: And you feel confident that
6 that is going to happen?
7 REV. JAMES HUNTER: Yes, we do.
8 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you. Is that the end
9 of your--
10 REV. JAMES HUNTER: That's the end of it.
11 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Does Dr. McCutchem
12 have anything to say?
13 And please state your name, also.
14 DR. VINCENT McCUTCHEM: I'm Reverend Vincent
15 McCutchem, Pastor of Evanelical Baptist Church of
16 East Chicago for 18 years. Also a member of the
17 United Citizen Organization and Chairman of the
18 Pastor's Caucus for the United Citizen Organization.
19 And like Reverend Hunter, I simply want to emphasize
20 how important economic development is for the City of
21 East Chicago. And this is very much needed. And it is
22 the opportunity that we have been kind of looking
23 forward to, so that people could find some form of
24 employment.
25 One of the gauges that I use at the annual church

about economic conditions in the City is how many calls I get for help. And I was trying to figure out this morning, I think the calls that I receive may be up around 15 percent from last year and the previous years in terms of people who actually call in for food or some other kinds of assistance. We try to provide that for them. But the point that I'm making is that things are not as well as they appear to be, in East Chicago, and I certainly think that the economic package offered by Showboat will provide a number of jobs for people that will increase the economic empowerment for the people of the City of East Chicago.

And so, for that reason, I endorse the package, I endorse the economic development for Showboat.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Next, is Lonnie Randolph here? No, Lonnie Randolph isn't here.

Okay. We have Speros Batistatos. Am I saying that right?

MR. SPEROS BATISTATOS: Yes.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: State your name and your title, please.

MR. SPEROS BATISTATOS: My name is Speros Batistatos, I'm the Executive Director of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Vice-Chairman

1 Bochnowski, I thank you for allowing us to be here
2 today.
3 Also I'm going to make some comments for Bill
4 Wellman who is on your list, you can cross him off. He
5 continues to be out bear hunting, and has asked me to
6 condense our two comments basically together.
7 Many of you may know that tourism is Lake County's
8 third largest industry, it generates more than 250
9 million dollars for our local economy each and every
10 year. It employs more than 10,000 people currently,
11 bringing home solid, stable paychecks for the many
12 people who live in all the cities of Lake County.
13 But Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau has
14 been critically involved with the issue of gaming since
15 it first started in the City of Gary seven years ago.
16 We became interested for the simple reasons that you'll
17 hear a lot of today. Economic development as well as
18 increasing hotel/motel occupancy. For that, we endorse
19 gaming and have actively worked with the communities to
20 see that we could all be here today.
21 Hotel/motel occupancy has increased on the average
22 of 20 percent in every community that has had a
23 riverboat come to it. We've studied this issue
24 extensively and focused on neighbors that are most
25 likely comparable to Lake County; those would be the

1 Joliet and Elgin.

2 Showboat is an excellent corporate neighbor; we've
3 met with them just to discuss some marketing and
4 packaging should they be issued a certificate of
5 suitability. And they are very interested in working
6 together with the Convention Bureau with the other
7 certificate holders in generating an entire image
8 campaign for Lake County.

9 As we had a chance to speak earlier, you will note
10 that the Chicago Tribune would think that we're a
11 place that we should all have three eyes on our heads
12 and an abundance of extra limbs given the area's water
13 quality, and all of us here know that that's not the
14 case. Showboat is willing to work with us to make sure
15 that the word gets out that Lake County is a safe, fun,
16 and family oriented destination.

17 The Showboat riverboat project would also be the
18 northernmost anchor, pardon the pun, in a proposed
19 development that many of you heard about, and that
20 being Planet Park.

21 As you look at this two and a half mile proposed
22 corridor with the Showboat on the north end, Donald
23 Trump and Donald Barton's boats next, and then a half a
24 billion dollar investment that stretches the better
25 part of two miles, it is an excellent time to make sure

1 that all of the private-sector partners can be put
2 together and can have a coordinated approach to
3 planning the infrastructure and the investment of this
4 extremely exciting project.
5 In order to maximize this spending, in order to
6 maximize this investment and planning, we urge the
7 speedy assignment of a certificate of suitability to
8 the Showboat Marina Partnership. Thank you.
9 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. We
10 have Luis Aguilera -- and I'm sorry I'm doing this to
11 your names -- and Dave Padilla.
12 Again, if you can, could you just state your names
13 and your titles.
14 MR. LUIS AGUILERA: Good morning. My name is
15 Luis Aguilera and I'm the President of the East Chicago
16 Evening Lions Club. Also, I am retired from Inland
17 Steel after 43 years as crane operator.
18 And now on behalf of the East Chicago Evening
19 Lions Club, I'll introduce to you our past president,
20 Chairman of the Board, Lion David Padilla.
21 MR. DAVID PADILLA: My name is David Padilla.
22 I am past president and Chairman of the Board of the
23 East Chicago Evening Lions Club. I'm employed at St.
24 Catherine's Hospital as Senior Director of Diagnostic
25 Services. And that includes radiology, cardiology,

1 occupational health, and several other departments.
2 I was raised here in East Chicago. I graduated
3 from the School City of East Chicago, and I am actively
4 involved as Lion Luis is in the community of East
5 Chicago. Our club is probably one of the most active
6 clubs, service clubs in the City of East Chicago.
7 Helping the needy in our community, and serving those
8 in need.
9 The membership varies vastly. We have some
10 members that are teachers, actively working and retired
11 steelworkers, small businessmen, firemen, and we even
12 have undertakers.
13 Most of the members of our club grew up in the
14 City of East Chicago. And this was during the time
15 when there was 64,000 plus people that lived in our
16 City. The steel mills were booming, railroad cars were
17 being built right behind this building, and oil
18 products were being produced. And this was our biggest
19 employers. Over a hundred thousand people traveled
20 through the City of East Chicago each day.
21 With the changing times in our world, it has had
22 an effect on our City. Our employment base has greatly
23 changed. This in turn has reduced our tax base. We
24 feel, like the reverends do, that jobs are needed.
25 One of our City's greatest assets is our location.

1 With access to Lake Michigan. And our proximity to
2 downtown Chicago. Development of our lakeshore will be
3 beneficial to our community, bringing visitors to our
4 City.
5 The Showboat project is supported by the entire
6 membership of the East Chicago Evening Lions Club. A
7 unanimous vote of the endorsement was made on September
8 6th, 1995 at our meeting. The membership had discussed
9 the riverboat project at a number of meetings, in which
10 we brought up issues, environment, taxes, and jobs. We
11 realized that the Showboat project is not the complete
12 answer to our -- to stimulate the unemployment in our
13 City. But our City needs a shot in the arm. Casino
14 approval will help us.
15 We hope that this development will lead to greater
16 things for our City, our County, and our State.
17 Wouldn't it be great if the Chicago Bears became the
18 next business to be established in Northwest Indiana?
19 On behalf of the members of the East Chicago
20 Evening Lions Club, we thank you for the opportunity to
21 address your committee, and we endorse the Showboat
22 project. We look forward -- we look forward to this
23 project as a partnership with our City to improve the
24 quality of life for our citizens. Thank you.
25 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Next

1 is Blythe Cozza.

2 MS. BLYTHE COZZA: Good morning. My name is
3 Blythe Cozza. I'm the President of Corporate
4 Engineering an environmental consulting firm to
5 industry. I also am the Vice-Chairman of the Board of
6 PAHLS, People Against Hazardous Landfill Sites. I'm a
7 former member of UCO in East Chicago. I'm a member of
8 the Grand Cal Task Force, I chair the environmental
9 committee of the local Emergency Planning Commission.
10 I'm a certified environmental inspector, and I belong
11 to the NCCEM, which is the National Coordinating
12 Council on Emergency Management. So that kind of gives
13 you an idea that I'm somewhat interested in the
14 environment and in planning.

15 Some years ago, probably within the last four
16 years, PAHLS had issued or published a good study on
17 Northwest Indiana. From the time that the Indians
18 walked the area, until the present time. We looked at
19 things like infrastructure, we looked at energy needs,
20 transportation, and generally, the environment business
21 and economic development.

22 One of the reasons for that study was to try and
23 effect change, you know, policy change. And the way
24 things are looked at in Northwest Indiana. We don't
25 need people from Chicago to tell us that we have had a

1 problem with our environment over a number of years.
2 But in the last 10 to 15 years, great strides have been
3 made in improving that environment. And one of the
4 things that I also happen to ascribe to is the concept
5 of total quality management. Those of you who are in
6 industry, understand that total quality management
7 concepts or precepts as presented by DeMing, give a
8 very interesting short way, a program to follow for
9 quality management and industry.
10 John Dilling recently edited a new book called
11 Environmental Total Quality Management for Industry.
12 The concept is using a lot of DeMing's, pronouncements,
13 and then including that, or extrapolating that material
14 for environmental issues.
15 One of the big things that they look at is clean
16 development. Basically for those of you who aren't
17 into total quality management concepts, what they're
18 saying is if you don't make a waste, you don't have to
19 deal with it. It's much more cost-effective for
20 management to have prevention, pollution prevention.
21 Looking at that on a larger scale for the County,
22 what we need is clean industry. What we need is
23 business development in such a way that we're not going
24 to be creating new cancers, new higher birth defects,
25 or any other way berating our environment.

1 So, this is the type of program that the Showboat
2 allows us to bring into this community. Clean
3 industry. A lot of jobs. We need those jobs. We
4 don't need get-rich-quick schemes from carpet baggers
5 who come in here to spoil our environment.
6 Now, when I can say that, you can just say, "Well,
7 what does Blythe Cozza have the right saying this?"
8 Well, I was born here in East Chicago. My parents were
9 born in East Chicago. Before the Newberry addition was
10 put in, I played in those prairies and those inner dune
11 land hills. And I'm very, very familiar with the
12 geology of this area, having a number of clients here.
13 My grandparents came to East Chicago in 1910 when they
14 moved here from Wilmette. So I think I have a stake in
15 this area. I love this area. And I think that those
16 of us who are currently residing on the south side of
17 the County, we need to understand, and Indianapolis,
18 and everyone needs to understand, that without East
19 Chicago, Hammond, and Gary, as the lynchpin, nothing
20 much is going to be happening in this entire County.
21 So I would certainly encourage the Commission to
22 give us that opportunity for clean development, that
23 will not be impacting the environment. It will be
24 providing jobs that are desperately needed for this
25 area. Thank you.

1 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Next
2 we have George Weems, Treasurer, East Chicago NAACP.
3 MR. GEORGE WEEMS: Vice-Chairman Bochnowski,
4 my name is George Weems, Vice-President of National
5 City Bank of Indiana and Treasurer of the East Chicago
6 National Association for the Advancement of Colored
7 People, NAACP. I've been a resident of this City for
8 the past 28 years. And a member or officer of NAACP
9 for as many years.
10 I would like to speak in support of Showboat
11 Marina Partnership's application for a certificate of
12 suitability to operate a gaming facility in East
13 Chicago. My support is based on the impact their
14 proposal -- their proposed riverboat gaming project
15 will have on the East Chicago black community in the
16 areas of jobs and housing.
17 The roots of East Chicago dates back to a time
18 near the turn of the century, when the City emerged
19 from being a lightly developed and permanently ruled
20 lakefront community, to its becoming a prosperous,
21 industrious center for the production and servicing of
22 steel and other products. Over the many years since,
23 the City's fortunes have risen and fallen with this
24 industrial ties.
25 For the past two decades, I have -- the City has

1 been especially challenged because of the armful of
2 jobs due to permanently reduced man power needs in the
3 very industries which caused the City to grow
4 originally. When employment opportunity within the
5 City have changed dramatically. This change has
6 weighted heavily on the black community. 15 to 20
7 years ago, virtually any graduating high school student
8 in the City could find a job at one of the local steel
9 mills. This is not the case today. Unemployment in
10 the minority community is hovering around 20 to 25
11 percent. Just recently, one of the local mills
12 announced a plant closing that will cause a loss of 500
13 jobs. Many look to City government to fill the
14 employment gap. But due to budgetary restraints, there
15 have been a reduction in job opportunities available in
16 the City government. Showboat's proposed riverboat
17 gaming project will cause a significant surge in
18 employment opportunities by bringing more than 2,000
19 new permanent jobs to East Chicago residents. The
20 construction contemplated will also create new job
21 opportunities. These jobs are sorely needed.
22 In the area of housing, Showboat's proposal to
23 establish a real estate development company in East
24 Chicago that will develop at least one residential
25 project a year, will benefit the minority community

1 immensely. Lack of decent housing has caused minority,
2 moderate-, and middle-income residents to relocate to
3 other areas in Northwest Indiana. Showboat's
4 commitment to develop between 350 and 500 housing units
5 over the next five years will help alleviate the
6 shortage of decent housing, and halt the flight of
7 talented minority from our City.
8 As a resident of East Chicago, officer of the
9 NAACP and National City Bank, I strongly support the
10 issuance of a certificate of suitability to Showboat
11 Marina Partnership. The commitment outlined by
12 Showboat in their application is a means to an
13 immediate and highly desirous end: the creation of the
14 diversified new jobs and development of decent housing
15 for East Chicago residents in general, and the black
16 community in particular. Thank you very much.
17 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you. Is Jose Cisneros
18 here?
19 Now, the next person is out of order, but needs to
20 get somewhere and so we went ahead and pushed him up.
21 Gerry Nannenga.
22 MR. GERRY NANNENGA: Good morning, ladies and
23 gentlemen. My name is Gerry Nannenga, I'm the
24 Secretary/Treasurer, Business Manager of the Northwest
25 Indiana District Council of Carpenters and Millwrights.

1 And I'm here today to speak on their behalf, but not
2 only their behalf, there are approximately 27,000
3 building tradesmen in Northwest Indiana. Not all live
4 in East Chicago, not all live in Lake County. But all
5 are affected by the employment or lack of employment
6 that seems to have taken place throughout this City and
7 other cities in Northwest Indiana.
8 So I'm here today to speak in behalf of Showboat
9 Marina Partnership because their proposal is gonna
10 create jobs. I don't think there's anybody in this
11 room that doesn't have somebody in their family that's
12 been laid off either from the steel mill or from some
13 type of industry in the area. And the effect that it
14 has on your family, as well as mine, is devastating. I
15 don't think there's any parent that can look back and
16 see one of their children have to leave home because
17 there's no job opportunity locally that would ever
18 state that an opportunity such as this shouldn't be.
19 Shouldn't come to fruition. And maybe I said that a
20 little bit wrong, but that's the way I feel with that.
21 Today I think with the Showboat Marina
22 Partnership, there's an opportunity to turn all that
23 around. Economic rebirth has to begin with jobs. If
24 people don't have jobs, they can't purchase goods and
25 services. Those things that the other businesses of

1 our community sell and need to sell in order to
2 survive.
3 The potential, I think, with Showboat is so great
4 that they've committed that the jobs that are gonna be
5 -- that we're talking about are gonna be good
6 union-paying jobs, union wages. And I'm just pleased
7 to say that the construction of the things other than
8 boat, the housing units, the development of Washington
9 School, the site there, and the Cline Avenue ramp, all
10 will create jobs for people that I represent.
11 I won't take any more of your time. I'd just like
12 to speak in their behalf and support this partnership,
13 and ask this not for only the members that I represent
14 or building tradesmen throughout Northwest Indiana, but
15 for all of the people in Northwest Indiana, whether
16 union or nonunion, building tradesmen or not, that need
17 an opportunity to have a job. Thank you.
18 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Okay.
19 Next we have Edward, and I'm just having a hard time
20 with this name, Egipciaco?
21 MR. EDWARD EGIPCIACO: Egipciaco. Yeah. My
22 name is Ed Egipciaco, I live here in the City and I'm
23 representing the citizens in the class action suit,
24 those that were left out of this investment, which I
25 feel was improper, and unfair.

1 I have a prepared statement here. I want to
2 strongly object to Showboat, Incorporated, being
3 granted a certificate of suitability until the time
4 that the riverboat gaming process has reopened to other
5 interested participants. I am calling on the Indiana
6 Gaming Commission to reopen the process to allow for
7 open and fair competition, and to provide for true
8 local participation.
9 I want very much to see a riverboat development in
10 East Chicago, to provide an economic stimulus to our
11 City, but not under these circumstances, and not with
12 the current application offered by Showboat,
13 Incorporated.
14 Let me make it clear that I'm not here to
15 bad-mouth Showboat. Their current local investment
16 group makeup, clearly, does not reflect our community.
17 I can accept any applicant that you might have selected
18 to do this process, if there was a fair and level
19 playing field for all who might have an interest in
20 participating in this process. I am convinced that was
21 not the case from the beginning. All interested
22 applicants were discouraged from participating by
23 so-called local investors. As you know, they carry
24 much political clout. They do not live in East
25 Chicago. But yet, they use our City for the sole

1 purpose of benefiting themselves.

2 Competition is the American way, and I am sure

3 everybody here will agree. Competition makes any

4 project better. Real competition makes the process

5 more honest and allows for the best economic package to

6 be selected. There is no competition here in East

7 Chicago, and there never was.

8 One of the most and disgusting and discouraging

9 aspects of the political insiders' proposal is the lack

10 of minority participation; less than two percent

11 minority investment is from East Chicago residents.

12 While our City population is composed of over 75

13 percent residents, and again, I could accept any racial

14 makeup of this, or any applicant who has put forth

15 their best efforts on the level playing field, and lost

16 out on a fair and open betting process. That is not

17 the case here.

18 I urge you, I urge this Commission to take a good

19 hard look at the key participants from waterfront

20 entertainment and development. For too many years

21 these same individuals have used their political

22 influence to control the political climate in East

23 Chicago. They have had the opportunity -- the

24 opportunity to use or influence to make East Chicago a

25 first-class community. Instead, they have had -- they

1 have used their influence to manipulate the economic of
2 our City in a negative manner.
3 Make no mistake about it, if the current
4 application is granted, a certificate of suitability,
5 there will be minority participation. I'm sure
6 minorities will be hired for menial jobs that will be
7 provided to service the gaming operation. I'm also
8 sure they will accept the money of the minority
9 population who will frequent the riverboat.
10 I urge you to closely scrutinize the Showboat
11 application, and the circumstance surrounding Showboat
12 being the sole applicant. It is incomprehensible that
13 in this highly competitive industry, there would be
14 only one applicant. That in itself should raise
15 concerns about the fairness of this process.
16 Where is the real substantial minority
17 representation here? Where are the real local East
18 Chicago investors? Where is the fair and open
19 competition? I beg you, sink this rotten boat right
20 now. Reopen the process for competition, or at the
21 very least, force Showboat to offer significant
22 investment opportunities to real East Chicago citizens.
23 If you care at all, please stop or change the process
24 and open it up for competition.
25 Thank you for your time. I am confident you will

1 do the right thing.

2 Furthermore, I want to point out something.

3 Here's a chart here of the total package from East

4 Chicago money. 153.6 million dollars. Out of that,

5 Showboat has 55 percent. The so-called local

6 investors, you know, greedy, they were so greedy they

7 took 45 out of that. Out of that 45, out of the

8 kindness of their heart, they gave out two percent to

9 four minorities in this town, okay. And the two

10 families that control this whole thing, which out of

11 the 45 percent that control 98 percent, and my plan is

12 that is to make 25, 28 million dollars. Thomas capital

13 is 25.8 million dollars, and then each minority here

14 stands to make a menial $345,572.00. I mean, that

15 should raise some questions. That's not true economic

16 development. Any riverboat that has come to any city

17 is to offer economic opportunities for the citizens in

18 that city. In this case it's not. Those people don't

19 live here. They didn't give us enough opportunity for

20 us to be partners in this riverboat process. Okay.

21 I have another question I have here. There is

22 16.1 million dollars as of that that has not been given

23 out.

24 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Keep going, but you need to

25 tie it up.

1 MR. EDWARD EGIPCIACO: Okay. Now, there's
2 three other shareholders right here. And I'm sure -- I
3 don't know if they have it mentioned publicly who they
4 are. I'd like to ask the Commission to look into that.
5 Who are these three other shareholders. Okay.
6 And I also want to ask if any warrants have been
7 issued, or are they proposing to do so either by
8 Showboat or by waterfront entertainment. All I'm
9 saying is that these guys, they have taken -- they
10 continue getting all the goodies, they continue trying
11 to use us. And yet, they don't contribute nothing
12 here. They don't give anybody an opportunity. They
13 don't open doors for anyone. So I hope that they do,
14 you'll take that in consideration and do the right
15 thing.
16 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you. Thank you very
17 much. Okay. Zoraida Rios-Andino. I don't believe
18 she's here.
19 Okay. Dalia Quiroz.
20 MS. DALIA QUIROZ: Good morning. My name is
21 Dalia Quiroz, I'm a resident of East Chicago and have
22 been for most of my life. I work for the State of
23 Indiana as an employment specialist. Throughout my
24 nine years employed as a claims taker and employment
25 specialist, I've been reviewing and service thousands

of people, both unemployed and underemployed. I've seen familiar and unfamiliar faces, people of all races and backgrounds, all of which are in the same predicament, in search of a job.

I've heard in their voices the uncertainty and hopelessness which unemployment has caused them. There is bitterness, hostility, and blaming. They lash out on me, the City, and our system. It's very frustrating for me not being able to place each and every one of these people into a satisfying job. They deserve an opportunity to provide for their families, and a chance to improve their quality of life.

Now, with Showboat Marina Partnership coming into East Chicago, our residents will have that opportunity. They can look forward to a plan for 2,000 jobs that will be available and which have been long overdue.

And one final note I'd like to say is, I'm disappointed to hear that some residents aren't informed about what's going on with Showboat. There is an opportunity newsletter mailed out periodically to 14,000 households in this City to keep us informed and updated on all the proceedings. My thanks to the City for that. Thank you.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Is Celia Martinez here?

1 George Van Til.

2 MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: Good morning. My name

3 is George Van Til. I've been involved in trying to

4 improve the governmental and political process in Lake

5 County for more than two decades. Right now the

6 elected County Surveyor of Lake County. And

7 representing and including all areas of Lake County

8 including East Chicago.

9 I love my job and I work hard at it. All I want

10 to do is promote more response of government and be a

11 good county surveyor. So the question is, why am I

12 here today?

13 I'm here because for the future of all the people

14 of Lake County, you really need to understand what

15 you're dealing with. I'm here representing officials

16 and other people who are either ill informed or too

17 scared to be here. Well, I'm scared, too. My wife

18 begged me not to come here, and I was warned by people

19 sent from the investors, that I shouldn't testify. And

20 of course--

21 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Come on.

22 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Wait--

23 MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: And of course--

24 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Wait a minute now.

25 MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: And of course -- and of

1 course, they will lie about that.

2 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Hold on. Everybody, out of

3 respect, whether you agree or disagree, you need to let

4 Mr. Van Til speak.

5 I'm sorry to interrupt you.

6 MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: I agonized about talking

7 here today, because I understand the process. And I

8 know that I'm jeopardizing my future and my family's

9 livelihood by saying the things that need to be said

10 here today.

11 So here's the issue in a nutshell. Of course East

12 Chicago should have the riverboat casino so that

13 economic development can happen in the City, and it

14 will affect the whole area. Of course. Of course.

15 Everybody supports that. No matter who the particular

16 company is. But of all the riverboat casinos being

17 considered by you in Indiana, this one is totally

18 unique, and you should handle it totally differently

19 from all others.

20 The process was different from the getup. Only in

21 Lake County did just the cities have the opportunity to

22 vote for the process. These boats affect the whole

23 County and the whole area outside the cities, but the

24 voters outside the cities were shut out from this

25 process, unlike any other county in Indiana. So the

1 dynamics were different from the onset.
2 Also, unique in Lake County, is the dominance of
3 one political party. And the current dominance of a
4 group of manipulators within that party.
5 Also unique is the fact that, in East Chicago,
6 only one boat was ever considered. And was conceived
7 and was operated by totally politically wired
8 investors. All from outside of East Chicago, except
9 for a tiny token minority representation. Incidentally
10 very nice folks. None of these people had to invest
11 any of their own money, but they stand to make millions
12 because they were politically connected.
13 You must know that this is not about Mayor Bob
14 Pastrick. He's an elected official, nearing the end of
15 his career, and he's just pushing economic development
16 for the City. Rather, this is about unelected power
17 brokers in the shadows of government who have quietly
18 built power and influence in all levels of government
19 here, ever since the assassination of East Chicago's
20 political team maker Jack Givens. Few people dare say
21 no to this group. Even Mayor Pastrick.
22 They have built their power from the East Chicago
23 schools, the patronage capital of Lake County, and the
24 street activities of our urban areas and their election
25 involvements, which brings them to the halls of power

1 in our county seat in Crown Point, and even to our
2 State capital.
3 These riverboat investors influence the elections
4 and our outright control of City councilmen, township
5 officials, State legislators, various powerful county
6 officials and judges, and they almost got their own
7 prosecutor, and they will try again.
8 You know for instance, that Sam Cappas, one of the
9 investors, is the officially appointed attorney for the
10 Lake County Tax Board of Review. For all tax
11 assessments in Lake County. Draw your own conclusion.
12 But most of their influence is very subtle, and
13 less visible. But nevertheless, real and raw and
14 pervasive.
15 They're influences in both political parties. In
16 fact, one of their chief political technicians is a
17 republican party official who operates within the
18 democratic party. Everybody knows that here. Their
19 power comes from patronage, skillful illusions,
20 directing money -- rarely their own -- towards
21 political candidates, and quietly placing their people
22 in key governmental positions. And they are ruthless,
23 and they crave more power, not just money. Even now
24 they are creating a candidate to run against me,
25 because I'm one of the few people who really

1 understands their insidious influence, and dares to
2 say, it's bad for the people.
3 So what can the Commission do about this? So what
4 can the Commission do about this? It's very simple.
5 Treat this unique situation in a unique way. If you
6 don't open the process back up and start over, and you
7 do award this group the right to operate, then it must
8 be absolutely prohibited from any political activity of
9 any kind.
10 So if the -- if it's awarded, there should be
11 special prohibitions. Whatever prohibitions there are
12 now in State law, have not stopped them to this point.
13 They've become even more aggressive in recent times.
14 This special situation needs special rules. For
15 instance, their so-called community organization they
16 are proposing as a for-profit group, would make it that
17 much easier to funnel money into the political
18 campaigns.
19 Because of their widespread and political
20 connections and influence already, adding millions of
21 dollars in riverboat casino income to the process,
22 along with hundreds of political jobs on the boat,
23 would have a terribly chilling effect on the politics
24 and open government here. In a few years, free and
25 open primary elections in Lake County would literally

be a thing of the past. Instead of East Chicago being a one-boat city, if you don't make rules, Lake County will soon become a one-boat government.

They should be prohibited from any kind of political activity. Serving as appointed attorneys for governmental boards or commissions, direct or indirect involvement with political campaigns, soliciting money or workers for political candidates, directing riverboat casino employees to be involved in campaigns or to vote for a particular candidate or party, any kind of governmental influence, and any other kind of political activity, should be prohibited.

Gambling money and influence in the political process in Lake County would be a disaster for the good people of our area -- and I'm almost finished--

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay.

MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: --and we could, under the right circumstances -- under the right circumstance, our area could benefit from the economic stimulus of the boats that could be generated here.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Thank you. Is this the last--

MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: Yes. It's one-half of a page.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Go ahead.

1 MR. GEORGE VAN TIL: Also if you're inclined
2 to give these boat people the action, two things are
3 needed: Forcing this outfit to reopen the companies to
4 real legitimate minority representation and
5 investments, to operate in a community like East
6 Chicago's, population is more than two-thirds minority,
7 and have this significant development encompass less
8 than one percent of minorities in both companies, that
9 is a travesty; that should be changed.
10 Then if you put stringent political prohibitions
11 in place before you agree to anything, then maybe,
12 maybe this boat could benefit our County.
13 Please study the situation more, so your decision
14 does not negatively influence all of Lake County in the
15 future of responsible government, free of gambling
16 influence. Thank you.
17 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. I did
18 give Mr. Van Til extra time because I had to interrupt
19 him in the middle of his statement. However, I would
20 appreciate people trying to stick to the five-minute
21 period so that it's all completely fair.
22 If you have additional material beyond the five
23 minutes, you can submit written material to us, and
24 that all becomes part of the record and we will read
25 it. Thank you.

1 Okay. Ricardo Moreno.

2 MR. RICARDO MORENO: When I was in school, my
3 teacher told me if you're gonna make a presentation, to
4 help with visual aids.

5 First of all, my name is Ricardo Moreno. Some of
6 the people might know me here as Streetwise. I was
7 born on 3529 Block Avenue, which I think was the
8 original ghetto that we had here in East Chicago. That
9 was considered the wrong side of the tracks if you
10 lived on Block Avenue.

11 As a kid, I remember I used to leave school at
12 8:29; I used to watch cartoons. And then at 8:29 I'd
13 just run right across the alley and go to Field School
14 and I used to make it on time in one minute.

15 The reason why I mention Block Avenue is because
16 this proposed riverboat is going to be in that neck of
17 the woods where we used to hop the railroad tracks and
18 go swimming at the lakefront.

19 My only claim to fame is I was a 6th grade
20 spelling champion at Field School. And I don't care
21 what anybody says, they can never take that away, I got
22 it right here to prove it.

23 Also I had a teacher there, by the name of Mrs.
24 Riley. And she always taught me, she said, "Ricardo,
25 if you have a question, raise your hand." And that's

1 why I'm here. Because I have a question. It seems
2 like whenever somebody wants to pick on somebody, East
3 Chicago is always the easy picking, you know. Just go
4 kick them and spit on them, and you know, they're easy,
5 they've got a bunch of blacks and Hispanics, and you
6 just do what you want with them.
7 But here's what I want to ask: Why is it that the
8 Indiana Horse Racing Commission gets 65 cents of the
9 $3.00 admission fee from the riverboat? Okay. Now
10 that's in the language that's made up, that the Indiana
11 State legislature has put together. And here's a --
12 I'd like to give this to Mrs. Bochnowski, which shows
13 how they make 65 percent -- 65 cents right off the top.
14 Now, if you explore that, you will find out that
15 there's a senator by the name of Larry Borst, southern
16 Indiana; Larry Borst is also a horse doctor. He's a
17 veterinarian. And he also is Chairman of the Finance
18 Committee. And it just so happens when we wanted to
19 put this riverboat thing, well, guess who this had to
20 come to? It had to come through Larry Borst. And
21 Larry Borst, being a horse doctor, and kind of
22 concerned for paramutual betting, said, "Okay, fine,
23 we'll give you guys over there the black sheep of Lake
24 County. We'll give you riverboats. But you know what?
25 There's a catch. We want 65 percent off the top, off

1 the $3.00 admission fee."

2 Somebody mentioned here about free enterprise.

3 Well, where else can you see in America that if you're

4 in the riverboat business, and they're in the horse

5 racing business, you have to reimburse them because

6 your business might be better than theirs? You talk

7 about free enterprise, that behooves me. Where else

8 does a competitor have to kick back his competitor some

9 money so they can get the permission to operate here?

10 Those are one of the questions that I wanted to ask.

11 Also, you have asked our corporation of Evansville

12 -- I don't know if you're familiar with them, Miss

13 Bochnowski -- they wanted a license, okay. And now

14 four months before they got their certificate of

15 suitability, guess what? They went ahead and ordered

16 their riverboat and their spokesman said, "Well, we're

17 gonna gamble. We're gonna just take a chance that

18 we're gonna get the license so we're gonna go ahead and

19 preorder it."

20 Now, these people casino, they're not gamblers.

21 They want us to be the gamblers, so we'll go on the

22 boat and spend some money. So to me, it behooves me

23 that this corporation asked our corporation, would take

24 the chance and say, "Well, you know what, we're just

25 gonna role the dice and hopefully we'll get blessed and

1 get the certificate of suitability, and we'll order our
2 riverboat."
3 Suppose they wouldn't have got the certificate of
4 suitability. What happens with that riverboat? Do
5 they eat it? I'm thinking maybe, maybe -- and this is
6 an assumption on my part -- maybe they have inside
7 information. "Don't worry about it, go ahead and build
8 it, you guys are gonna get blessed."
9 But now when they come to East Chicago, oh, all of
10 a sudden now, and nothing personal, but the Gaming
11 Commission comes out here holier-than-thou, and judge
12 us.
13 You also had an individual that was Speaker of the
14 House, Mike Phillips, okay. Mike Phillips smelled
15 money. Nobody is beyond reproach. And Warrick County,
16 he wanted to specify Warrick County, southern Indiana
17 would be the only place that could get a riverboat that
18 didn't have water on it. Okay. Mike Phillips, the
19 Speaker of the House, was connected with some people in
20 Warrick County. What happened to Mike Phillips, they
21 smelled the rat, they didn't get the riverboat over in
22 Warrick County, plus he lost. He's no longer in
23 office.
24 And this is some of the things that I wanted to
25 put out. Why is it that we are always the stepchild?

1 East Chicago, Lake County, they always come up, they
2 put us under the magnifying glass. But how about in
3 that other neck of the woods in southern Indiana?
4 And also what I want to end with now, here's a
5 letter that I wrote to the Gaming Commission -- I don't
6 know if you were aware of it -- but this is my take on
7 this whole thing.
8 My name is Ricardo Moreno and I produce a cable
9 show titled Streetwise. Ann Bochnowski, a member of
10 the Gaming Commission, and Tom Bonner, who is CEO of
11 Showboat Marina Partnership, have both appeared on my
12 show to talk about the riverboat concept.
13 My intention has always been the little guy on the
14 street. That he always has somebody in there pitching
15 for him. There's always a little guy on the street
16 corner that maybe he doesn't have the communication
17 skills. Maybe he doesn't have the guts to get up there
18 and talk. And he needs somebody in there pitching for
19 him, and I'm hoping I can do that.
20 Being a proponent of the First Amendment has
21 motivated me to look beyond the surface and to look to
22 the root of an issue. The riverboat concept is the
23 biggest deal to hit my hometown, and now a potential
24 conspiracy is developing. The lawsuit that's been
25 filed to halt the hearings related to the Gaming

1 Commission has a foul odor.

2 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Ricardo, you need to tie it

3 up.

4 MR. RICARDO MORENO: Okay. Well, let me make

5 this point. The exact same lawsuit has been handed

6 over to another guy, Eddie Egipciaco. Like what would

7 they do in a relay race with a baton.

8 And I have a copy of the lawsuit that Lonnie

9 Randolph filed and Eddie Egipciaco filed, and they're

10 identical.

11 Now, how did the Gaming Commission look at

12 something that, you know, if you're gonna treat the

13 legal system like that with so many--

14 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: I'm sorry, I have to...

15 MR. RICARDO MORENO: Okay. Then they're

16 gonna let somebody file a lawsuit that's bogus, and it

17 was thrown out ultimately. If Bob Stiglich, from ISM

18 Security, and Mickey Lopez, the President of Active

19 Corporation, and John Aguilera, County Councilman, if

20 these gentlemen are not part of a conspiracy to play

21 dirty pool to stop this process, then they ought to

22 step forward and say, "We are for the Showboat

23 development."

24 This is at the 11th hour, there's 2,000 jobs at

25 stake. Inland Steel just laid off 500 people, with

1 another thousand people to go, and what I want to say,
2 I hope the Commission says, "You know what, let's go to
3 work." Thank you.
4 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. We do
5 have your written comments.
6 Rita Jacque.
7 MS. RITA JACQUE: Vice-Chairman Bochnowski, I
8 am Rita Jacque. I am the President of the East Chicago
9 Chapter of Indiana Black Expo. I serve a dual role
10 today. I'm also the Executive Director of the East
11 Chicago Urban Enterprise Association and the Enterprise
12 Development and Management Association. And I want to
13 greet you and welcome you once again to our center. We
14 are the owners of the center. We're happy to have you
15 and to have the facility here to house this particular
16 hearing. And all the other meetings that have taken
17 place.
18 I speak from the perspective of being the
19 President of East Chicago Chapter of Indiana Black
20 Expo. We are a statewide organization and you have
21 held hearings in many of the cities that chapters are
22 viable for us and we in East Chicago feel we are a
23 viable force as well. We're committed to bettering the
24 lives of the people in our communities and bettering
25 our City through whatever means are available.

1 Economic development has become a part of our mission,
2 and our goal, it's something that the entire statewide
3 organization wholeheartedly endorses. And today,
4 Showboat has obviously become very viable for us,
5 something that we're very interested in.
6 The proposed casino development will have an
7 overwhelming impact on the City of East Chicago. It is
8 Expo's perfect hope, prayer, and expectation that the
9 benefits of Showboat's presence in the City of East
10 Chicago will have a great impact and will be felt very
11 strongly in the African-American community. It's been
12 some time, and most definitely not in my adult
13 lifetime, since the City of East Chicago has been on
14 the brink of a project as large as the proposed
15 Showboat operation. Black Expo is excited, energized,
16 and most importantly, encouraged by the possibilities
17 which we feel lie in front of us.
18 As previously stated, community and economic
19 development have always been a high priority for Black
20 Expo. Showboat has always, we feel, has already
21 demonstrated their commitment to community development.
22 We have wholeheartedly endorsed and we do in fact
23 applaud their efforts in awarding a $10,000.00
24 scholarship and two $5,000.00 scholarships to 1995
25 graduates of East Chicago Central High School. We feel

1 that it has clearly been a long-term commitment by
2 making those scholarships renewable for the entire four
3 years those students will be in school.
4 We also believe that Showboat has demonstrated
5 that they do intend to be a force and a viable factor
6 in economic development in the City for years to come
7 by the establishment of the two foundations, which
8 proceeds will go to help further causes in education
9 and other areas within the City.
10 Expo also commends Showboat for their community
11 police cars for the monies that they've donated for the
12 efforts and for the restoration efforts of the Goodman
13 Park and the Indiana Harbor Senior League Field.
14 Our hope is that Showboat will be a catalyst for
15 change and motivate other businesses to take a
16 proactive approach to community development as well.
17 We feel they've established a new standard, a standard
18 that has been missing in the City of East Chicago. We
19 hope that their process, their commitment, will be
20 benchmarked by other businesses, and they will
21 establish the lead for businesses to proactively
22 participate in the economic development of this City.
23 It's obvious that jobs will be created with the
24 development of the casino and the gaming operation.
25 Followed shortly thereafter by many permanent jobs.

1 If the certificate of suitability is granted, we
2 know that Showboat's performance in the area of
3 community development will lead -- have a -- we have
4 very high expectations for them. The role they will
5 play in economic development in the City of East
6 Chicago will be measured greatly. They've shown us
7 great promise. They've already demonstrated their
8 commitment through dollars which translates in any
9 language, and we are particularly encouraged by the
10 efforts they made.
11 The African-American community like all others has
12 been extremely hard hit by unemployment. When the jobs
13 have become available, our people have either been
14 untrained, or are not trained in skills which are
15 compatible. And thereby do not meet the needs of
16 today's job market.
17 What we see in Showboat is a golden opportunity to
18 take advantage of the training opportunities they will
19 make available, and the subsequent jobs which will
20 follow. I do not speak of minimum wage jobs, rather
21 jobs which we expect people to be able to buy homes
22 with, educate children with, and enjoy a piece of the
23 American dream with. We trust that Showboat will
24 continue to be sensitive to the needs of the
25 African-American community, and indeed have

1 African-Americans represented at all levels of their
2 casino operation.
3 We likewise have faith that the African-American
4 entrepreneurs will have a fair share and chance at
5 being contractors during the construction phase, and
6 suppliers for the Showboat casino.
7 I'd like to think that I as a young, educated,
8 African-American person, won't be the exception to the
9 rule in the City of East Chicago anymore. And I speak
10 for all minorities. There are so few opportunities for
11 us. We do leave the community. We go to college, we
12 come back, and we leave. And so we're hoping that with
13 the new development, with the gaming operation, we can
14 stay home. We can work at home. We can be a part of
15 our community. That's what's important to us. We have
16 a lot to offer this community, and through Showboat, we
17 believe we'll have that opportunity.
18 I thank you for your time and the opportunity to
19 speak.
20 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much and
21 thank you for staying within your five minutes. I
22 appreciate that.
23 I understand a couple of people have arrived who
24 were on the list earlier.
25 You know, I don't know if you realize, when there

1 are conversations back there, it's very distracting to
2 me. So I would appreciate it if you want to have a
3 conversation, move out into the hallway completely.
4 Because I'm trying to concentrate, and I want the video
5 to be of good quality. So I would appreciate that.
6 Let's see. Okay. I understand Celia Martinez is
7 here. Would you like to go ahead.
8 MS. CELIA MARTINEZ: Good morning. I am a
9 lifelong resident--
10 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Excuse me, Celia. You
11 weren't here to hear. Could you please state your name
12 and who you represent.
13 MS. CELIA MARTINEZ: My name is Celia F.
14 Martinez. I represent myself and my family. I do
15 belong to a Mexican-American organization, Union
16 Benefica Mexicana. I've been active there for the last
17 30 years.
18 My purpose for being here is because I am past
19 middle age, all right. I am secure in my life. But I
20 do have my daughter and my son that live here. I have
21 grand -- excuse me. I have grandchildren. I don't
22 want them to move out as so many of our young people
23 are moving out. I want them to remain here. I want
24 them to make their life here. East Chicago has been
25 very good to me and my husband. And I know that East

1 Chicago would be good for my family.

2 However, we do need an injection for our children.
3 That injection I see in Showboat coming in to East
4 Chicago.

5 I see a lot of opportunities for my children, for
6 my grandchildren. We need a lot of things here in East
7 Chicago that we have up to now not been able to have.
8 We need a sports place for our children in the summer.
9 We have no summer places for our children to go play,
10 to go roller blading, to go roller-skating, as they do
11 in the streets now. And our community seems to be a
12 dying community because so many people are moving out.

13 The industry has hurt us a great deal. A lot of
14 our people are laid off, or they move away to find
15 other jobs out of town.

16 I wish that we would be able to retain all these
17 people; these are good people that are leaving. We
18 need them here. The marina, the Showboat marina, would
19 be a big help to get us all going. I did not have any
20 notes prepared; I am speaking from the heart. I would
21 like to have the marina come in.

22 We have a few mall ca tes who are putting a
23 stumbling block, and don't really have the best
24 interest of East Chicago at heart.

25 I wish that we would all pull together, so that we

1 could get the marina, the Showboat going, so that this
2 town will be revitalized so that people will have jobs.
3 Our children would be better situated in their
4 playgrounds. And we would all be a community that we
5 were 20, 30 years ago, before industry started moving
6 out.
7 That is all I really have to say. Thank you.
8 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. And
9 then I understand Lonnie Randolph is here.
10 MR. LONNIE RANDOLPH: Thank you. I apologize
11 for being late. We have a reorganization down in
12 Indianapolis in the Senate, and I just arrived this
13 morning. But I want to indicate my thoughts in
14 reference to everything.
15 The objective of the statute when we originally
16 passed it was for economic revitalization. A tool to
17 allow an area, in this case a specific municipality to
18 get back on its feet. And in addition to that
19 objective, one was to allow for minority participation,
20 in addition to that, women participation. Not just
21 with jobs, but with ownership. The objective
22 specifically in addition to passing the statute for the
23 revitalization of the area, was to allow for ownership
24 of local residents. And the purpose for that was to
25 add stability to your own property, the consensus is,

1 you had better take care of it.

2 So we wanted an opportunity for local people,

3 minorities and women to have ownership of the local

4 investment.

5 In this case, that was not allowed at all. And

6 that's my problem that I have with the Showboat

7 situation right now. Now, originally, I filed a

8 lawsuit against it. My concern at that point dealt

9 with giving blacks, giving women an opportunity to

10 participate. I got a verbal commitment from Mr. Bonner

11 himself, indicating that that will be followed up, I

12 would have direct input in terms of seeing that that

13 was done. I've subsequently discovered that Mr. Bonner

14 no longer is with Showboat. They've got a new CEO; who

15 that is, I don't know. I'm concerned now as to whether

16 or not the commitments that was made to me will be kept

17 at this point in time.

18 What I'd like to do is see the local ownership be

19 changed, be changed for the purpose of allowing blacks

20 and women to participate and be part owners. Not just

21 jobs, but owners. That was not done. Everyone was

22 excluded.

23 When you talk about the ownership of the boat, the

24 objective was local wise. Local wise who we have on

25 that. The only one we have on that is four people who

1 comprise approximately two percent out of 45 percent
2 ownership. That's not right. That's not fair. What's
3 gonna happen? What is gonna happen, if in fact that is
4 not done? There's gonna be some subsequent lawsuits
5 filed concerning that particular issue.
6 Now, this point in time, Gary has already got the
7 right to have a boat. Hammond has got the rights.
8 East Chicago is last. I want to make sure things in
9 East Chicago are right. And right now they're not
10 right. Yes, I know blacks want jobs, I know everybody
11 in the City wants jobs. But can't you see the big
12 picture here is ownership? You have a chance to be
13 owners of a local investment of a magnitude that we've
14 never dreamed of here in East Chicago before, and
15 you're being shut out. No one, no one, black or women,
16 was given an opportunity to be an investor and an owner
17 of this boat. And that's wrong. I don't like it, and
18 I intend to do whatever I can about that situation.
19 So at this point in time, I'm asking you, the
20 Commission, to deny Showboat this license and reopen
21 the process, and so whatever subsequent investors come
22 in and bid on this, will give blacks and women an
23 opportunity to be owners. Not just employees, but
24 employers, in reference to this investment.
25 That's why I'm here. That's what I'm here for.

1 And I'm for fairness in the process, and the process
2 that was compiled in East Chicago was not fair, and
3 there's gonna be some problems. If the Gaming
4 Commission passes and gives Showboat their permit,
5 there's gonna be some subsequent problems, and I
6 guarantee you there's gonna be some subsequent
7 litigation in reference to this issue. Because it's
8 very important that blacks and women be given a chance
9 and an opportunity to be owners and investors in this
10 enterprise who were not given that opportunity at all
11 prior to this date.
12 That's all I've got to say, and that's my position
13 at this point in time.
14 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: I have a question. Okay. I
15 understand what you're saying. Here's been our
16 problem. How do you choose to who gets to invest
17 locally? And I -- you know, aside from who's already,
18 we've seen, in every location, kind of phoney local
19 investors. They don't put up money, they're chosen for
20 their -- you know, I mean, how do you choose? How can
21 an ordinary person on the street have an opportunity
22 for something like this?
23 MR. LONNIE RANDOLPH: You have a process, a
24 procedure, whereby everyone has told us that they can
25 be a potential investor. And you set guidelines. You

1 can say, well, someone, $50,000.00 or more with income
2 can apply to be a potential investor. Then if they
3 meet that minimum qualification, then you do a
4 background check. Then you see how sincere they are.
5 Then you have them make a commitment concerning the
6 funds that they have available. That will help you
7 weed out the process to get some legitimate true
8 investors. That was not done. We've got some people
9 in East Chicago with some money, who can and does have
10 the capability and ability to be investors. And they
11 were not given a chance.
12 And I'm pretty sure you, yourself, being familiar
13 with East Chicago, are probably aware of some of the
14 people in East Chicago with the funds, with the funds
15 to invest in this enterprise, was not given that
16 opportunity at all.
17 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: What were the commitments
18 that Mr. Bonner made to you?
19 MR. LONNIE RANDOLPH: The commitment was that
20 to make sure -- my concern was minority and women
21 participation. And he assured me I would have direct
22 input in terms of seeing that that would occur. Prior
23 to that, I was completely shut out myself.
24 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Have you had subsequent
25 conversations?

1 MR. LONNIE RANDOLPH: Since he resigned, I
2 have not. I've tried to locate him the last two or
3 three days and I don't know where he is. But I'd like
4 to get in touch with him.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Thank you.
6 Okay. Let's move on, then, down the list. Is
7 Gloria Gregory here?
8 MS. GLORIA GREGORY: Good afternoon,
9 Commissioner Bochnowski, and welcome to our great City
10 of East Chicago. A lot of us call it the melting pot
11 of the State.
12 My name is Gloria Gregory, and I hold a degree in
13 education. I've worked in the social service area for
14 over 18 years in the City of East Chicago. I'm a
15 native of East Chicago. I am a branch director with
16 Twin City Community Services. And I would like to
17 thank you for the opportunity to tell you why I and the
18 people we serve are looking forward to the partnership
19 with the City of East Chicago and the Showboat marina
20 here.
21 Twin City Community Services provides emergency
22 and social services to the residents in East Chicago
23 and surrounding areas. I, like most social service
24 organizations, we are very hard-pressed to do more with
25 less. The Federal Government has tightened its grip by

1 cutting back federal dollars, and emergency relief
2 funds that we desperately need to serve our clients.
3 Now, this is just one more indication why we here
4 in East Chicago need to look to the private sector and
5 to help ourselves. And the Showboat proposal before
6 you today will help us do just that.
7 Showboat is here to run a business. And yet
8 remembering that the people in East Chicago make this
9 business possible. Showboat has proven that it can
10 help. It has done this and it has not even received
11 this license yet. And they have proven this by
12 investing in community projects, educational
13 scholarships for our youth, and public safety
14 enhancement.
15 Now, this shows leadership and commitment to me.
16 Personally, I have witnessed the benefits. The removal
17 of unsightly graffiti, and dilapidated, hazardous
18 buildings that we have in our community. But most
19 important to me, has been what happened to my
20 93-year-old father. My father was sitting in his
21 living room at home, and he was shot by a random
22 shooter. But since that traumatic incident, the
23 community policing program has come to our
24 neighborhood. Now the youths, the seniors, and other
25 adult residents, feel more secure. My father knows the

1 patrolman in his area by his name. Showboat helped to
2 advance this program. And I am very grateful to them.
3 Many people in our community feel a sense of
4 ownership for this community policing program. I know
5 that this is only the tip of the iceberg. And I know
6 we will see more improvements in those services, more
7 opportunities in our City and the surrounding area. I
8 truly believe that you have to be real with people.
9 You must be truthful. Not everyone will not get a
10 chance to work on the boat. We just have too many
11 people that need jobs and they need to work on the
12 boat.
13 But everyone can benefit, everyone can benefit
14 from Showboat Marina Casino being in East Chicago. And
15 people will get the opportunity to see the progression
16 of services, the economic, academic, and social
17 achievements, I believe will make a marked improvement
18 in the quality of life of our residents.
19 Miss Bochnowski, you and the other commissioners,
20 you can make this happen. East Chicago cannot afford
21 to let Showboat opportunity just float away. Please
22 give us this opportunity. Opportunity is knocking at
23 our door. Thank you.
24 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Okay.
25 Next we will hear from Elaine Kisisel, and Dr. Luis

1 Gonzalez, together, I understand.

2 MS. ELAINE KISISEL: Good morning, Miss

3 Bochnowski, fellow East Chicagoans, and guests. I

4 would like to introduce myself. I am Elaine Kisisel,

5 President of the Board of Trustees for the School City

6 of East Chicago. And I will be making a joint

7 presentation today with Dr. Luis Gonzalez,

8 Superintendent of Schools for the School City of East

9 Chicago.

10 Our children and youth are the greatest resource

11 for East Chicago and any community. This resource at

12 times threatens -- is threatened, and one of its

13 greatest threats is poverty. Poverty is one of the

14 best indicators of student success or failure in

15 schools.

16 This morning I attended a meeting of the Northwest

17 Indiana Forum. And I was apprised of the fact that in

18 the last six months in Lake County, we have lost over

19 1600 jobs.

20 Additional jobs in the community are needed.

21 Either as a result of Showboat employment, or jobs that

22 will be available because of emerging businesses and

23 opportunities. These opportunities will contribute to

24 a rising standard of living. This standard will have a

25 direct effect on our school children and youth. When

1 the standard of living and economy are raised, everyone
2 benefits. With additional jobs, the community will
3 feel motivated to address other community problems and
4 issues. Community issues and problems that are unique,
5 and that only we can answer and solve.
6 Besides offering employment opportunities for
7 students, Showboat has also made a commitment to help
8 with furthering a student's education as they prepare
9 for life and the world of work. Showboat is currently
10 providing $50,000.00 worth of post-secondary
11 scholarships for East Chicago Central High School
12 student graduates. Showboat has also made the
13 commitment to establish an educational foundation to
14 support other student resources and programs, such as
15 school library collections, proven quality
16 instructional programs, academic and athletic
17 activities, emergent technology, and so on.
18 Dr. Gonzalez will continue.
19 DR. LUIS GONZALEZ: Our children and youth
20 are the greatest resource for any community. Doing
21 more with less, creative financing, embracing
22 partnerships, building cooperatives are all thoughts in
23 education for the '90s and beyond.
24 Doing resources and budgetary shortfalls have
25 stimulated much of the direction in education, and a

1 lot of the controversy that comes up with financing.
2 As an urban school district, we are not immune to these
3 ills. The school district is constantly seeking ways
4 of providing more resources and benefits to all of our
5 students. And as school superintendent, I embrace
6 those opportunities to do that. Showboat for us will
7 be a powerful ally. And a shot in the arm as we pursue
8 resources for our students and community.
9 I mention community in the sense to mean all
10 stakeholders, be it parents or patrons. A positive for
11 our community soon translates into a positive for our
12 students. Showboat is not a panacea. It is instead a
13 partnership to be treasured and embraced for all the
14 reasons that Dr. Kisisel has mentioned. By embracing
15 the Showboat industry, East Chicago can use its
16 resources to invigorate its goals for a prosperous,
17 confident, vibrant, and resourceful community.
18 Supporting its children and youth to become
19 contributors and leaders in a greater society.
20 Showboat is good for East Chicago. Showboat is good
21 for the community, Showboat is good for the children
22 and youth.
23 As Superintendent of Schools, and on behalf of the
24 School Board and all of the staff, I'd like to
25 certainly welcome Miss Bochnowski, and the other

1 visitors here in East Chicago. Thank you for the
2 opportunity.
3 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Jose
4 Roldan.
5 Okay. Emiliano Perez.
6 MR. EMILIANO PEREZ: Good morning. I'd like
7 to thank the commissioners for allowing me to speak
8 here today, as I think it's very important that
9 every segment of our community is represented here
10 today.
11 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Can you state your name.
12 MR. EMILIANO PEREZ: Yes. My name is
13 Emiliano Perez. I'm the past Chairman for the
14 International Association of Firefighters for 365. And
15 I was also recently elected Vice-President of the
16 Puerto Rican Parade Committee, which is an elected
17 office here in Lake and Porter County.
18 Having these positions and dealing with the public
19 and with my community, I think I have a pretty good
20 idea of what we need, or the problems that we have in
21 our community. Number one is jobs. Everyone I talk
22 to, their son was just laid off. Like someone
23 mentioned earlier, Inland laid off 500 people. A
24 hundred thousand to come. That should be our concern
25 here today. Whether or not Showboat is doing the best

1 they possibly can for the economic development of this
2 City.
3 I think it has. I think it's demonstrated -- me
4 as a firefighter, public safety is a big concern.
5 I think Showboat has showed its commitment by its
6 dedication to public service. It has donated five
7 community policing cars. The graffiti blasters. These
8 people are involved in our community and they don't
9 even have the license yet.
10 I wanted to stay away from the political aspect of
11 it, but I heard so much of it today; I'm an East
12 Chicago resident, I know what's going on. These people
13 that came here today, they're all politically connected
14 also. You know, I'm here today as a leader in the
15 Puerto Rican community and a firefighter. It's
16 irrelevant who's running the show.
17 But Showboat came in with a package. They were
18 ready. And now they want to get crucified because they
19 came ready?
20 They were ready with the package. They had a plan
21 in place and they executed it. I'd be quite frank with
22 you, if I was heading this Commission, I would be
23 looking at who was ready and who was prepared. Because
24 this is about economic development. I don't want
25 anybody who wasn't prepared at the time they should

1 have been, steering this boat. Because if they weren't
2 ready in the beginning, they're definitely not gonna be
3 ready when this boat takes off. And we don't need
4 anybody at the helm of this ship that's gonna sink it.
5 Another thing I'd like to point out is why we need
6 this boat here. In these positions that I hold, I do a
7 lot of traveling throughout the State and in the
8 Midwest. We go back and forth, exchanging ideas for
9 our communities to prosper and to grow. Whenever we
10 bring people here from outside of town, maybe Ohio,
11 Illinois, Wisconsin, or union officials from
12 Indianapolis or our international, or Washington, D.C.,
13 and we want to entertain, these are all dollars that
14 are generated here. Our union dollars that are paying
15 for this. We have to leave town to entertain these
16 individuals. Because the facilities just ain't here.
17 Showboat will help us with that. There will be
18 somewhere to take these individuals to entertain.
19 That's East Chicago dollars staying in East Chicago.
20 Along with the economic impact of jobs.
21 But I implore the Commission to think about
22 everything you've heard here. Mr. Randolph made a
23 statement, it stuck to my mind. "I made a deal with
24 Bonner." His word was "I." This isn't about Mr.
25 Randolph or about myself. This is about East Chicago.

1 I. If he had a commitment with Mr. Bonner, why didn't
2 he get it in writing? Because he couldn't come back to
3 the people and tell the people, "I'm gonna be the one
4 assuring that we have a process." He didn't want that
5 in writing. I. "I'm gonna make sure."
6 Well, Mr. Randolph, it ain't about you. It ain't
7 about me. It ain't about any one individual here.
8 It's about the citizens of East Chicago. And what we
9 need. We need jobs. Showboat came in -- I'm sorry, I
10 don't know Mr. Cappas or Mr. Pannos or any one of these
11 individuals. I've never had the pleasure of meeting
12 them. But I tell you what, if it was up to me, and I
13 had to choose between this group that's coming in now
14 or Showboat, I'd have to ask myself, who's better
15 prepared to run the show?
16 The answer should be easy. That's why we're here
17 today. Thank you.
18 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Sallie
19 Davis.
20 MS. SALLIE DAVIS: Good morning,
21 Vice-Chairman Bochnowski. My name is Sallie R. Davis.
22 I'm a resident of East Chicago. I am employed for the
23 East Chicago Public Library. But I'm here on behalf of
24 myself and other residents who have been lifelong
25 residents of the City of East Chicago.

1 As a resident, born and raised in this City,
2 educated and currently living with no plans to leave,
3 it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to express my
4 appreciation of and support for Showboat Marina Casino.
5 Having been a teacher, a social worker, a
6 steelworker, and now as a librarian working in
7 Outreach, but most importantly, a working single mother
8 in Northwest Indiana, I have watched the region become
9 increasingly economically depressed. I have watched
10 the ripple effect of the declining steel industry in
11 this area. To become one of the unemployed due to the
12 reduction of a city's tax base. To become unemployed
13 because you have become surplus labor. Or to work a
14 job for minimum wage during periods of spiraling
15 inflation, only increase the risk of crime and
16 violence.
17 Because I have experienced the loss of jobs, and
18 the lack of economic opportunities, I know this impact
19 only too well. Showboat Marina Casino has demonstrated
20 a legitimate commitment to the City of East Chicago and
21 its communities. The commitment has come by way of
22 approximately one million dollars already donated to
23 the City. In the form as stated previously, the
24 community policing cars, scholarships for our students,
25 and the graffiti blaster. Their commitment to the

1 City, their promise of approximately 2,000 jobs, and
2 their presence in our community, will act as a catalyst
3 for new businesses to want to come to East Chicago.
4 And thus bringing even more jobs.
5 Also, no one has thought about the entrepreneurial
6 opportunities for our own residents, and they are
7 unlimited. But one fact remains. Nothing will come to
8 pass if Showboat's license is denied. They need the
9 license.
10 My mother always taught me to be business minded.
11 Her basic philosophy was, as is mine, that money is
12 attracted to money. Money is not attracted to poverty.
13 When the steel industry established itself in East
14 Chicago, it brought with it other businesses and
15 industries, new monies, and new investments. With the
16 spiraling downturn, the businesses that depended on the
17 steel industry, went out of business, or relocated to
18 more prosperous areas. The result: our high
19 unemployment, and as stated previously, a decline in
20 tax base, and indefinite lack of opportunity.
21 It is self-evident that Showboat Marina Casino
22 will, number one, bring new jobs. Number two, bring
23 related businesses and industries to the City of East
24 Chicago. Number three, create an entrepreneurial
25 environment for local economic development. And four,

1 raise the overall standard of living for the residents
2 of East Chicago. But the license must be issued.
3 Those that oppose the riverboat can present
4 opposing arguments to counterarguments for the
5 riverboat. We can go on and on in this continual
6 debate over the pros and cons of having the riverboat
7 in East Chicago. But it does not change the fact that
8 we need jobs, jobs, jobs. But in order to achieve
9 jobs, jobs, jobs, Showboat needs its license, license,
10 license.
11 And I respectfully urge the Indiana Gaming
12 Commission to grant Showboat Marina Casino the license
13 to operate in the City of East Chicago. Thank you.
14 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
15 Sergeant Michael Muskin.
16 SGT. MICHAEL MUSKIN: My name is Michael
17 Muskin. I'm a sergeant in the East Chicago Police
18 Department. Miss Bochnowski, Mr. Chairman, and other
19 members of the Commission, I'd like to thank you for
20 this opportunity to address you.
21 For the second time I'll be wearing a couple of
22 hats today. I will be speaking on behalf of East
23 Chicago Policeman Frank Alcala, the men and women of
24 the East Chicago Police Department, and I will also be
25 speaking for the over 300 members, both active and

1 retired, of the Fraternal Order of Police in East
2 Chicago, Lodge 59.
3 Like most of the men and women in the East Chicago
4 Police Department, I was born and raised in East
5 Chicago. I attended school here and graduated from
6 Washington High School. Maybe some of you seen the
7 school jacket hanging here a little earlier.
8 I am presently assigned to the Criminal
9 Investigation Division of the department. Because of
10 man power shortages, I am also their coordinator, grant
11 officer, and motor pool supervisor. I'm a 12-year
12 member of the Police Pension Board, 13-year member of
13 the Executive Board, which also included three years as
14 past president.
15 When I started at the East Chicago Police
16 Department in 1975, I came into a law enforcement
17 family of 155 sworn officers. We provided more
18 services for our citizens than any other police
19 department in the area. As the steel industry took a
20 turn for the worse and changed our total economic and
21 financial picture, the City budget started feeling the
22 pains and financial shortfalls. Our man power started
23 to decrease, and reached an all-time low of 86
24 officers. Many of us learned by firsthand experience
25 that economic conditions of the City and crime go hand

1 in hand. As our man power reduced, violent crime
2 against people and property grew threefold. We
3 struggled to provide the City with the protection
4 services they were entitled to. It is only because of
5 the character and the quality of the men and women of
6 the East Chicago Police Department that we succeeded.
7 We continue to struggle. Drugs and gangs became a
8 problem like they have in many cities across our
9 country. With the prospect of no jobs and no financial
10 future, many took to crime while others escaped into
11 drugs.
12 The City and the police department took a strong
13 stand to fight the increasing crime rate through
14 federal grants and increasing our man power to 111
15 police officers. We added -- excuse me -- we formed
16 one of the first gang units in the area to take an
17 aggressive approach towards gang activity. A drug
18 canine unit was started with an immediate impact.
19 We then moved forward with our biggest and largest
20 grant to start our community policing program. We were
21 able to assign 11 sworn officers into our
22 neighborhoods. Showboat then purchased five marked
23 squads, employed with our community policing program.
24 The officers began walking the neighborhoods, giving
25 the City the first on-foot police since the

1 disappearance of the beat officers.

2 The reactions of the citizens to this program has
3 been to ask for an increase of neighborhood patrol.
4 The acquisition of four small motorcycles to help
5 patrol our parks and alleys to bring us even closer to
6 our citizens.

7 The community policing program has proven to be
8 the catalyst of a new wave of law enforcement. To help
9 us keep control of our streets and the confidence of
10 our citizens.

11 In the department, many new concepts and programs
12 are awaiting to be implemented to bring us into the
13 21st Century of law enforcement. Unfortunately, the
14 economic condition of the City will not allow this at
15 the present time.

16 Our community policing program is in jeopardy.
17 With the grant to run out in 1997, without new revenue
18 for the City, the program and the 11 officers will be
19 lost, and all that we gain will also be lost.

20 The cost of the law enforcement is only going to
21 continue to grow. The City will be forced to make hard
22 decisions unless new revenue will be brought into the
23 City.

24 In law enforcement, we continue to look for hope
25 and answers to our crime problems. We see that hope in

1 Showboat's economic package to the City. We see over
2 2,000 jobs to our community. We know from our
3 experience, as police officers, jobs will decrease
4 crime.
5 As the City grows economically, we see hope for
6 our children to find jobs as they graduate from school.
7 We see our young children staying on a path of
8 education, because they will see jobs in their future.
9 We will turn many from the life of gangs and drugs, and
10 they will then become a positive influence in our
11 community.
12 Miss Bochnowski, and other members of the
13 Commission, on behalf of myself, Chief Frank Alcala,
14 the men and women of the East Chicago Police
15 Department, and all members, active and retired of the
16 Fraternal Order of Police, we, together as one,
17 unanimously endorse the application and the economic
18 package presented to you by Showboat.
19 And if I may go off a little bit as a police
20 officer, and draw on my experience there, I heard Dr.
21 Gonzalez talk about kids in school. About a year ago,
22 I had the -- unfortunately of investigating a homicide.
23 This homicide was conducted by kids in school. A kid
24 got killed on one of our blocks. And during the course
25 of interviewing the defendant, the subject who pulled

1 the gun, I talked to him, and asked him why. In the
2 law enforcement, your heart is broken many times, over
3 and over again. But this kid broke my heart. Because
4 his answer was, "I have no place to go. No job, no
5 future, so what does it matter?" That's why we need
6 Showboat in this town. It's a sad sight, but crime and
7 economic conditions are here, and we need help.
8 Miss Bochnowski, any questions of the police
9 department?
10 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Well, it sounds like you
11 have been working with Showboat as far as the needs
12 now, but what about the needs once the boat arrives?
13 Have they been working with the police department?
14 SGT. MICHAEL MUSKIN: Yes, I've personally
15 had the privilege of sitting down with both of their
16 executives in security and that I've talked to them.
17 If you're talking about the crime aspect of it I'm
18 assuming; correct?
19 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: (Nodding head up and down.)
20 SGT. MICHAEL MUSKIN: What I have done, Miss
21 Bochnowski, I have talked with the Joliet Police
22 Department. I have been there, I've talked to them
23 about the impact on their police department. It's
24 null. Very little. Unlike some of the publicity you
25 see and stuff like that, we expect no increase in

1 crime, other than forged checks, and probably credit
2 card thefts. Being used at the boat. But we would
3 have that if Sears came into here. I mean, we would
4 have bad checks and credit cards being scammed,
5 everything. We'd look for no crime increase
6 whatsoever, other than those two.
7 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. But they have been
8 cooperative with you?
9 SGT. MICHAEL MUSKIN: Oh, very. Showboat has
10 talked with me personally, they've talked with the
11 chief. When we sat down with their security, they are
12 gonna work with us. They are waiting for the
13 parameters of the laws and stuff from the Commission
14 and from legislators. When they get that, they're
15 gonna walk up on the boat. They have offered to train
16 us personally, on the scams and the cons that may come
17 with the boat and stuff like that. We can ask for no
18 more. We're waiting for you to give them the license.
19 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you. Sally Tonkovich.
20 Okay. Eliza Vela.
21 MS. ELIZA VELA: Good morning. My name is
22 Eliza Vela. I'm here to speak on behalf of Indiana
23 Harbor Little League, but I'll give you a little bit of
24 background about myself before I do that.
25 I'm very active in my community. I'm regarded as

1 a community activist. I used to not like that title
2 but I've come to appreciate that very much. I've been
3 past president of the Lake County AIDS Task Force. I'm
4 the current President of the Indiana Harbor Little
5 League. Also the Hispanic Task Force. I'm the first
6 Vice-President of the East Chicago Women's Commission.
7 I'm a former UCO member, and I've been involved with a
8 lot of other organizations.
9 I'm also a graduate of Indiana University. I left
10 in Bloomington in 1981 and I came back here, so that I
11 could continue to help my community and in the capacity
12 of my degree. And I will speak on behalf of the Little
13 League.
14 Okay. I'm President of the Indiana Harbor Little
15 League, and you may wonder what baseball has to do with
16 Showboat Marina Casino proposal before you. Well, both
17 baseball and Showboat go beyond just the game, beyond
18 the fun, the excitement of the competition. I support
19 baseball for our youth because of our opportunities for
20 growth and the development it gives our young people.
21 This is the same reason I welcome Showboat coming
22 to East Chicago. I graduated from high school here, my
23 mother graduated from high school here, and my daughter
24 is now a senior and will graduate from high school here
25 in June. I want my other three children to grow up in

East Chicago and to stay in East Chicago to raise their families like I have. But the reality is that our young people don't want to stay here. They don't see opportunities. They don't see jobs. They don't see a bright future. Showboat can help to change that. They have already started to make changes. From the beginning, Showboat worked with people from the community who care about the community, and want to make it better. The City and Showboat involve local, well-respected individuals in the plans, instead of out-of-towners coming in and telling us what we need to hear.

I was one of the people on the Economic Development Committee. I have seen the results of our work and our negotiations. We wanted improvements in education, in recreation, in public safety, and in economic opportunity. Showboat has delivered.

East Chicago High School graduates are in college on Showboat scholarships. The baseball fields have new landscaping, abandoned buildings have been brought down. New housing will go up. There are real changes due to just the prospect of Showboat being in our City. With your approval of the certificate of suitability, more changes, more improvements will come. By promoting recreation, stimulating our economy,

1 revitalizing the real estate market, and funding
2 education, Showboat can help East Chicago make a turn
3 upward towards prosperity.
4 But to do that, we need the help of this
5 Commission. East Chicago needs you to grant the
6 certificate of suitability to Showboat Marina Casino.
7 Because opportunity suits the people of East Chicago
8 just fine.
9 In closing, I just want to say that I probably am
10 one of the last individuals people would expect to
11 support Showboat considering my past activism. Many
12 people including the Mayor on down, I have organized
13 against on particular issues. But this issue of
14 bringing the casino here, I had no problem in saying
15 yes because I believe it's not only gonna help them,
16 but it will help the community. It will revitalize
17 here what has not been here for a long time.
18 Our past speakers have said that there was no
19 opportunity to invest originally in the beginning. But
20 you can still invest. Showboat is a public entity and
21 if they wanted to buy stock and own Showboat, they can
22 still do that.
23 So again, Showboat I believe is the best thing
24 that has come to this community in a long time, and I
25 hope to continue to remain active in it, making sure

1 that it does suit the needs of the people, for the
2 people, which it again has already been started, even
3 before they granted or will grant the license to them.
4 So thank you very much for your time.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Is
6 David Ranich here?
7 MR. DAVID RANICH: Present. Commissioner
8 Bochnowski, and members of the Indiana Gaming
9 Commission. My name is David K. Ranich, and I'm here
10 as Chairman of the Board of the East Chicago Chamber of
11 Commerce. I'm also an attorney and partner in the firm
12 of Burke, Murphy, Costanza and Cuppy, with offices in
13 East Chicago, Merrillville, and Valparaiso. I'm a
14 third generation Ranich, with roots in the City of East
15 Chicago. My grandfather having established his
16 residence here in approximately 1910.
17 I'm a product of the public schools in Highland.
18 I attended DePaul University in Greencastle, Indiana,
19 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree with
20 highest honors from the Indiana University School of
21 Business in Bloomington.
22 Thereafter I attended Rutgers University School of
23 Law, graduated with a jurist doctorate degree in 1977.
24 That same year I became licensed as an attorney by the
25 Indiana Supreme Court, and began work as a staff

1 attorney for the Honorable Phil McNagy, Jr., the United
2 States District Judge for the Northern District of
3 Indiana, Hammond Division.
4 I entered private practice in Hammond in late
5 1978, and ultimately joined the East Chicago firm of
6 Murphy, Max, Murphy, Costanza in 1980. Since that time
7 I have enjoyed an office here in East Chicago. My firm
8 has long been associated with the East Chicago Chamber,
9 and a member of our firm has been on the Board of
10 Directors for the last 25 years.
11 Since January of 1994, I have served as Chairman
12 of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, and it is in
13 that capacity that I appear today. I would be remiss
14 if I failed to mention that I am both honored in my
15 professional capacity, and pleased on a personal level
16 to be able to appear and make these remarks.
17 By way of background I would explain to the
18 Commission the purposes for which the East Chicago
19 Chamber exists. First and foremost is the advancement
20 of civic, commercial, and industrial interests in the
21 City of East Chicago.
22 Second is to facilitate intelligent discussion of
23 and concerted action upon matters of public concern.
24 Third and finally, is to discover and address
25 matters affecting the interests and rights of its

1 members, and the citizens of East Chicago. In light of
2 the stated purposes, I cannot imagine a matter of
3 greater public interest to the citizenry of the City of
4 East Chicago than these proceedings.
5 As this Commission may be aware, East Chicago does
6 not presently enjoy the economic prosperity it once
7 did. During the late 1970s and continuing through the
8 decade of the '80s, the City experienced significant
9 and substantial job loss. While the exodus has abated
10 to the '90s, the City is facing some harsh realities in
11 terms of unemployment, dwindling revenue sources, and
12 to a degree, hope for the future. I must tell you that
13 the East Chicago Chamber wholeheartedly endorses the
14 application and proposal of Showboat because it
15 positively addresses these harsh realities and many
16 more.
17 Showboat has been extremely active and highly
18 visible in its efforts here in East Chicago. I
19 personally attended any number of presentations and
20 meetings aimed at both gathering information as to the
21 wants and needs of the community, and the citizens, and
22 keeping those groups informed as to how those wants and
23 needs would be addressed and implemented.
24 While the Chamber has not been privy to all the
25 gaming proposals submitted throughout the State, we

1 believe the Showboat application and proposal compares
2 very favorably to others. We are advised that Showboat
3 has committed to exceed the State's legal requirement
4 for revenue sharing with East Chicago, by its
5 contribution to the City, the community foundation, and
6 the educational foundation. We believe those dollars
7 will have an impact on every citizen, corporate or
8 otherwise, of the City of East Chicago.
9 In addition, the Chamber's excited about an
10 operation that will employ nearly 2,000 full-time jobs,
11 along with full-time construction jobs. Moreover, the
12 prospects of improved public access to the Pastrick
13 Marina, and more recreational tourist activities at the
14 lakefront, are highly desired.
15 The Chamber believes the Showboat proposal and
16 application stands on its own merits, and would urge
17 this Commission to render a prompt and favorable
18 decision on the Showboat application. The phrase,
19 "time is of the essence," is certainly appropriate
20 here.
21 The Chamber appreciates the rules and procedures
22 by which this Commission operates, and sincerely thanks
23 this Commission for its consideration and
24 deliberations.
25 Given these rules and policies, the Chamber would

1 ask this Commission to make a favorable decision to
2 Showboat at the earliest possible moment. For every
3 day this Commission extends its decision, is another
4 day that tens of hundreds of City residents are denied
5 employment opportunities. It is another day that the
6 businesses are denied sales and marketing
7 opportunities. It is another day that the children in
8 the City are denied increased educational
9 opportunities. It is another day that tourists,
10 boaters, and other water communitists are denied
11 enhanced recreational opportunities. And finally,
12 overall, it is another day that the citizens of East
13 Chicago are denied a better quality of life.
14 The Chamber is also served up with, as with any
15 good project, there are naysayers. Their comments
16 include slights about those involved with Showboat, as
17 well as this proceeding is nothing more than a mere
18 formality.
19 On behalf of the Chamber, it must report that
20 there is no credibility in those disparaging comments.
21 We have observed Showboat on a regular basis over the
22 last two years, and find the principles to be worthy of
23 your consideration. In all respects, we have found the
24 Showboat proposal and application to be of great
25 substance, and anything but a formality. Again, the

1 East Chicago Chamber wholeheartedly supports the
2 Showboat proposal and application.
3 In closing, I would ask this Commission to take
4 from this area, the sense of urgency that the Chamber
5 is attempting to convey.
6 I thank you for the opportunity to be heard, and I
7 wish the Commission God speed.
8 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. Is
9 Chris Morrow here? I don't believe so.
10 And then the last speaker I have on my list is
11 Gloria Stine Mercerson.
12 It appears that we have come to the end of our
13 list of speakers. I wanted to let all of you know that
14 if you weren't on our original list and therefore since
15 we are backtracking in time before the lawsuit stopped
16 our proceedings, and you weren't able to speak, we will
17 accept written comment, and I want you to know that I
18 personally read everything, and I believe that my
19 fellow commissioners also read all written comments.
20 If five minutes was not long enough for you to
21 present all of your ideas, please send written comments
22 to the Commission Office, and we will all receive
23 copies of everything you have to say.
24 I want to thank every one of you for coming here.
25 You've had to come twice. That's quite a commitment to

your community. And I appreciate everything that everybody said, whatever your position happened to be. We like to take all ideas and thank you on behalf of all of the commissioners. And believe me, we will consider this application very seriously and consider all aspects of it.

Thank you again for coming. Happy Thanksgiving.

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STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, KAREN M. PRICE, a duly qualified stenotype reporter and duly authorized to administer said oath, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were had before me, on Wednesday, November 22, 1995, at the Intergenerational Center, 14023 East Chicago Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.

I further certify that I then and there reported in machine shorthand the proceedings so given at said time and place, reduced the same to typewriting from my original shorthand notes, and that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete transcript of said proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby affix my name and seal this 5th day of December, 1995.

SEAL

Karen M. Price

KAREN M. PRICE, RPR, CSR No. 93-R-1000
Notary Public

My commission expires March 4, 1998.