



October 12, 2023

Mark Wong  
Travis Clarke

Gentlemen,

Thanks for your time yesterday, we felt it was a candid and productive meeting. As promised, here is our recap.

Mark and Travis provided a brief update on operations at the temporary facility. Attendance peaked at around 1,300 on opening day but has trended much lower since. The 675-member staff has performed well, and the renovated facility has received positive feedback from customers. Approximately 10% of ID checks have used passports, indicating an appeal to foreign travelers. According to press reports, more than 80,000 visitors (not unique) have produced nearly \$6.7mm in adjusted gross receipts since September 9. Business has run smoothly with no serious incidents, although some individuals, who apparently came from other hospitality establishments and were primarily interested in continuing to imbibe, have been turned away at the door. This issue is helped by Bally's policy to discontinue liquor sales in all areas of the facility at 2:00 a.m. daily. A well-publicized ID check policy and weapons detection system, along with the conspicuous presence of uniformed and well-equipped security personnel serve as an effective deterrent to bad behavior. As requested by Alderman Reilly, Bally's still has no contracts with motor coach companies but may revisit this decision in the future.

RNRA shared some information regarding ambient criminal activity. According to the Chicago Data Portal, from 1/1/22 through 10/8/23, in just the 9 beats surrounding the temporary and permanent locations, there were 269 weapons violations, 240 aggravated or armed robberies, 182 aggravated batteries, 160 aggravated assaults, 11 vehicular hijackings, and 6 homicides, not including domestic incidents. This unfortunate situation constitutes a threat to Bally's patrons and employees as well as to residents and neighboring businesses and is the primary driver behind RNRA's safety-related proposals.

| RNRA Request   | Discussion   |
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| A 1-year pilot program beginning at the opening of the permanent facility, under which Bally's private security personnel will routinely conduct patrols beyond the site perimeter during high-risk hours to deter criminal activity in the surrounding communities. | <p>RNRA believes the presence of well trained, uniformed professional security officers in marked cars will unquestionably help to deter carjacking, robbery, and other street crime, even if they rarely exit the vehicles.</p> <p>The primary responsibility of private security personnel should be to observe, document, and report potential criminal activity to local CPD. RNRA suggested a patrol zone extending to the first major streets in each direction from the main casino: Division, Orleans, Kinzie, and Milwaukee/Elston.</p> <p>It was agreed Bally's would explore this concept with its security contractor and senior management. The patrol zone and schedule, communication protocol, rules of engagement, and other details will be discussed in a future meeting.</p> |
| Install external surveillance cameras and license plate readers, compatible with and fully integrated into, the OEMC platform.   | <p>Bally's explained that, when presented to the IGB, this recommendation was denied on the grounds that it violated existing rules, though the reason for this prohibition was unknown. Other than this obstacle, Bally's confirmed it would have no objection to complying with the request. RNRA agreed to research the problem, explore potential solutions, and report its findings at a future meeting.</p>  |
| Relocate the water taxi stop southward to reduce noise and disruption for the many residentially directly across the river.  | <p>Bally's agreed to review the feasibility of the water taxi proposal with their site design team and discuss their findings at a future meeting.</p> <p>At a previous meeting on 7/7/22, Bally's expressed general agreement with the request that private, recreational, and commercial for-hire boat docking will be prohibited.</p>   |



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| <p>Suspend onsite liquor service at 2:00 a.m. each day in onsite bars, restaurants, and on the gaming floor, to prevent the casino from becoming the “last stop” for alcohol consumption in the area.</p> | <p>Of the thousands of liquor licensees in Chicago, less than 130 hold “late-hour” licenses, allowing liquor to be served until 4:00 a.m. Monday – Saturday, and 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, and a large percentage of these are located in the 42nd Ward. Invariably, an inordinate amount of disruptive and/or criminal activity occurs in or near a small number of these establishments, causing significant problems for all concerned.</p> <p>RNRA’s research confirms only a handful of states across the U.S. allow alcohol service past 3:00 in the morning because of the increased hazards posed by this practice. A last call notice at 2:00 a.m. will reduce risk for employees, casino patrons, and the public. Bally’s noted that they will need to reassess this at the permanent site since circumstances may be different than at the current location but understood the concern having seen evidence of the issue at the present site.</p> |
| <p>Provide updates on plans to manage traffic, minimize congestion, and maximize pedestrian and cyclist safety in light of pending and in-process projects near the casino site.</p>                      | <p>It is RNRA’s understanding there are 5 major pending or approved developments adjacent to or very near the permanent site that, if combined with the casino/entertainment complex, will add more than 10,000 dwelling units, 1,500 hotel rooms, and 2.7 million square feet of commercial space when completed within the next few years. This is in addition to the densely populated existing residential communities near the site. Current traffic volumes already produce rush-hour gridlock on all surrounding arterial streets, so it’s difficult to imagine how much congestion may increase, and safety may decline, when all these projects come online. Bally’s agreed to put RNRA in touch with the individual on their project team who is responsible for transportation engineering. It was noted that RNRA is also actively involved in ongoing planning review for many of the planned developments.</p>                            |
| <p>Strict compliance with existing codes regarding external noise and light emanating from the site during the construction and operational phases.</p>   | <p>Bally’s confirmed that compliance with all applicable codes will be their objective.</p>   |
| <p>Designate a liaison to interface with HOAs, community organizations and other stakeholders.</p>  | <p>The Bally’s community liaison should attend Beat and Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) Hospitality meetings, interface regularly with local community organizations, HOA Boards, Property Managers, and local business owners and be accessible 24/7 via phone and email to designated community leaders to address issues as they arise. Bally’s agreed to work towards this objective.</p>  |

RNRA is pleased that meaningful progress is being made to reduce potential negative external impacts from this development and appreciates the ongoing willingness of Bally’s leaders and city officials to engage in substantive dialogue with our association and many other stakeholders. As we discussed, debates over the merits of a Chicago casino, its location, and its operator are finished, and Bally’s is now our neighbor. As such, we must work together to protect safety and quality of life for all those who live in, work in, and visit our shared community.

Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

*Debra Schalk*  
Debra Schalk, Co-President

*Eileen Murray*  
Eileen Murray, Co-President

CC: Aldermen Walter Burnett, Brendan Reilly, and Brian Hopkins, Deputy Chief Jon Hein, and Commander Michael Barz