



January 2006

Happy New Year!

Frequently we hear people asking, “How’s the fight going? Are there any new developments? Is C4C still in existence?” The answers are “Good! Yes! And Yes!” We know that we need to keep sending these newsletters out, but many times, by the time they are edited, they are already in need of updating! Things do happen very quickly. What we will try to do in the upcoming year is to send out these newsletters on a quarterly basis. This should help to keep everyone at least partly up-to-date. You may also check our website www.citizens4community.org at any time for updates. Since they do cost money for postage, stationery, etc., please contribute, if you are able, to help us keep up the fight and to help us keep the updates coming. (We plan to send a brochure produced by the NCALG to our Lynwood residents. This brochure, entitled “Legalized Gambling – Facts every citizen should know before gambling comes to YOUR town”, points out the truth about the negative effects gambling brings. Keep in mind that sending these to all the residents may depend on your financial support.)

On the local level, we are currently fighting the tax abatement request the HoChunk Nation is bringing to each of the taxing bodies in Bloom Township. We have fought these at Bloom Township, High School District 206, Elementary School District 167, and will be fighting this at Prairie State College. These taxing bodies are granting a 50-70% tax abatements to the HoChunk Soccer Complex (an existing business), and we, and numerous businesses owners in Bloom Township believe that this is unfair to existing businesses. Therefore, we ask the taxing bodies for similar abatements in an attempt to make them vote this abatement down. Currently, Bloom Township and Bloom High School District 206 have approved the abatements, and District 167 and Prairie State College are considering the requests.

On the state level, this past fall the Illinois House voted to eliminate riverboat gambling in Illinois. The bill (HB 1920) now goes to the Senate, where it faces a tough challenge from Emil Jones, who is very much pro-gambling and pro-expansion of gambling in Illinois. Even though it is possible this bill will never see the light of day in the Senate, what it has done is raise awareness in the public’s eye that there is evidence that eliminating gambling in Illinois will not have a negative effect on our economy and budget. Did you know that gambling revenues only contribute 1% to Illinois’ budget? It is not the “huge” amount the press and our politicians would like us to believe it is.

On the federal level, we have seen much attention and action in the past months. The House and the Senate will be considering separate bills, one from Rep. Pombo of California and one from Sen. McCain of Arizona. Both would severely limit or even eliminate tribal gambling outside of a tribe’s home state and “reservation shopping” (as is the HoChunk Nation’s plan to do in Lynwood). If Sen. McCain’s bill passes both the Senate and the House, and is signed into law, our fight here would be over.

Here’s what we encourage you to do:

1. Write your U.S. Senators and ask them to support Sen. McCain’s bill to eliminate off-reservation gambling. Illinois’s Senators are Obama and Durbin. Indiana’s Senators are Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar.
2. Write your district Illinois senator and ask him/her to support HB 1920, the bill to eliminate riverboat gambling in Illinois.
3. Write to the “voices” section of your newspaper to respond to any article about the benefits of gambling or about the prospects of a tribal casino in Lynwood.
4. Contribute to C4C at P.O. Box 542 Lansing, IL 60438. Every dollar contributed goes directly to the fight of this casino proposal and helps get information out to the people.
5. Pray! This is not our fight, but is the Lord’s. We are called to be His soldiers. If you are unable to do anything else, do the most important thing: pray. To His name be the Glory Forever!

Sincerely, The C4C executive committee