



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: LETTER URGING THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA TO ALLOW
THE REOPENING OF THE COMMERCE CASINO

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Mayor and City Council to sign a 5-signature letter urging the Governor of California to allow the reopening of the Commerce Casino and other cardrooms within local jurisdictions that allow it.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Commerce is faced with a seemingly insurmountable burden. Card club revenues derived from the Commerce Casino are 65% of our City's total General Fund revenues are vital to our City's ability to provide essential and quality of life services. The closure of the Commerce Casino on March 14, 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic has only intensified this financial impact to the City and has directly impacted 8,000 local residents from in and around the City of Commerce, employed by the Commerce Casino.

The Commerce Casino's response to the COVID-19 epidemic was swift and responsible. The well-being of their employees and guests was and continues to be their main priority; which is why they have worked with health care professionals to develop a Health and Sanitation Program that outlines guidelines for employees and guests to follow in order to comply with state policies and with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. The Commerce Casino's Health and Sanitation Program thoughtfully and comprehensively considers how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact at the Commerce Casino, including, but not limited to, reducing transmission among employees and customers/public; maintain healthy business operations, and maintain a healthy work environment.

The reopening of the Commerce Casino is crucial to the City of Commerce, since the City greatly relies on revenues from the Casino in order to staff our youth programs, feed our seniors and ensure that public safety needs are met for all citizens.

At this time, staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to allow the reopening of the Commerce Casino and local cardrooms in cities that authorize it.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendations.
2. Provide staff with further direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with authorizing the Mayor and City Council to sign the letter of support.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This matter is applicable to the following 2012 Strategic Goal: "Protect and Enhance the Quality of Life in the City of Commerce."

Prepared by: Liz Garcia, Administration (Library)
Approved as to form: Norma Copado, Assistant City Attorney
Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

Attachment:

- 1) Draft Letter to Governor Newsom