



OFFICE of the CHIEF of POLICE

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December 16, 2019

REF: 19-176

Department of Justice
Bureau of Gambling Control
P.O. Box 168024
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024
Attention: Regulations

As the Police Chief for Gardena Police Department, I am writing you today to express our department's serious concern for the cardroom regulations changes recently proposed by the Bureau of Gambling Control. As written, these proposed regulations changes would have a devastating impact on the cardroom industry, placing the stability and safety of the communities we protect in jeopardy.

The games affected by these proposed changes are controlled games which have been approved and in play legally in our jurisdiction for many years, without harm or complaint. The revenue generated by these games is vital to the success of cardrooms and the success of many California communities. We are very concerned about future of these proposed regulations and the major negative impact they would have on our community, and in particular, the funding of vital city services like the police department.

In communities such as ours, cardroom table tax revenue provides for a major portion of the local budget. This revenue helps significantly fund our local law enforcement agencies. In the absence of cardroom tax payments, many California cities would be forced to make major cuts to their police departments.

Under current conditions, police departments are facing unprecedented demands with dwindling resources. Regulations changes like these that would affect local tax revenue would put an even greater strain on our police force and place our communities in danger.

Whether it be increases in homelessness and mental health related calls for service, public records requests, additional training, new and unfunded state mandates, recruitment and retention issues, or a myriad of other struggles our police departments are currently facing, it is essential that our police force has steady and secure funding. Unfortunately, this decision will negatively impact an important source of local funding and cause hardship on our communities without commensurate benefit.

As the Bureau considers the proposed regulations that will significantly harm the revenues of cardrooms, we urge you to consider the importance of California cardrooms to our communities and the repercussions these proposed regulations changes would have. We ask that you work collaboratively with all stakeholders toward a sensible resolution that protects California's communities and the businesses vital to our continued prosperity.

Sincerely,

Michael Saffell
Chief of Police



TASHA CERDA, Mayor / ART KASKANIAN, Mayor Pro Tem

MARK E. HENDERSON, Councilmember / DAN MEDINA, Councilmember / RODNEY G. TANAKA, Councilmember
MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk / J. INGRID TSUKIYAMA, City Treasurer / CLINT OSORIO, City Manager / PETER L. WALLIN, City Attorney