

**MINUTES OF A HEARING OF THE PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE TO BE
HELD AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON MONDAY, 20 JULY 2009,
COMMENCING AT 9.34 AM**

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MINUTES OF A HEARING OF THE PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON MONDAY, 20 JULY 2009, COMMENCING AT 9.34 AM

PRESENT: Councillors VS Neeson, JP (Chairman)
WW Flaunty, QSM, JP (Deputy Chairman) (until 9.35 am)
BA Brady, JP
MFP Chan, JP
JM Clews, QSO, JP
MM Jolley
JP Lawley, JP
PG Mitchell

Deputy Mayor PA Hulse (ex officio)

OBSERVER: Councillor WW Flaunty, QSM, JP (Deputy Chairman) (from 9.35 am)

IN ATTENDANCE: Group Manager: Planning and Community Services
Director Community Wellbeing
Team Leader: Legal Regulatory
Group Manager: Cultural and Social Strategy
Wellbeing Collaboration Project Manager
Strategic Partnerships Advisor: Ethnic Communities
Section Administrator: J Green
Project Administrator: K Schuster
Committee Secretary: D Tukutama
C Fernandes

NOTE: A minutes silence was observed by the Planning and Regulatory Committee for Gwen Nash, former Councillor and Community Board member 1992 - 2004.

1 APOLOGIES

1274/2009

MOVED by Cr Neeson, seconded Cr Hulse:

That apologies from Crs Battersby, Clow, Cooper, Corban and Dallow for absence, be received and sustained.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Elected Members were reminded via the agenda, of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have.

3 GAMBLING VENUE POLICY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

9.35 am Cr Flaunty declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting, taking no part in the discussion or decision on Item 3: Gambling Venue Policy.

9.36 am The Chairman and The Group Manager: Planning and Community Services outlined the proceedings of the Hearing.

9.40 am Kim Conway, Wellbeing Collaboration Project Manager presented the report on the Gambling Venue Policy.

1275/2009

MOVED by Cr Lawley, seconded Cr Chan:

The Planning and Regulatory Committee resolved to:

1. **Receive** the Gambling Venue Policy report.
2. **Agree** to consider the following two policy options (as attached at pages A1 to A25 to the agenda), after consideration of the submissions received and the Hearing process:
 - a. *Maintaining the status quo of the current cap on venue and machine numbers as stated in the existing policy, or*
 - b. *Including a sinking lid policy, where the cap on venue and machine numbers as stated in the existing policy will reduce each time a venue closes and no new venues be permitted.*

CARRIED

10.03 am The hearing commenced.

10.04 am **Warahi Paki (Submission - 362)**
(Te Taumata Runanga)

- Te Taumata Runanga supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
- Spoke to their submission also expressing their views on the Council decision made on the recommendation to include a Maori representative to the Planning and Regulatory Hearing Panel to review the Gambling Venue Policy; and
- He also highlighted the adverse affects of Class 4 gambling on the Maori community and detailed the key impacts, such as the concentration of gambling machines in deprived areas of Waitakere, only 1% of gaming profits are returned directly to Maori organisations.

10.14 am **Murray Spearman (Submission - 167) (also on behalf of Ian Caulfield Submission - 292)**
(TTCF West Auckland and Portage & Waitakere Licensing Trusts)

- TTCF West Auckland and Portage & Waitakere Licensing Trusts support maintaining the status quo of the current cap on venue and machine numbers as stated in the existing policy;
- Spoke to the submissions and presented a powerpoint supporting this option outlining their contribution to community projects, donations over the past 7 years and the positive impact this has had in Waitakere; and
- The Trusts Charitable Foundation Incorporated also recommended that the policy include a requirement for every venue to supply to the Council annually a list of bankings, available funds for distribution, list of applicants, approved recipients and the value of donation for every gaming venue in the City and that this information be published on the Waitakere City Council website.

- 10.29 am **Francis Wevers (Submission - 374)**
(Charity Gaming Association Incorporated)
- The Charity Gaming Association supports maintaining the status quo of the current cap on venue and machine numbers as stated in the existing policy;
 - Spoke to their submission and they do not believe there is substantive evidence that a Sinking Lid Policy will result in harm minimisation for problem gambling; and
 - Also believe there is no direct link between machine/venue numbers and problem gambling behaviour.

ADJOURNMENT

1276/2009

MOVED by Cr Neeson, seconded Cr Mitchell:

That the meeting and hearing stand adjourned until 11.00 am.

CARRIED

- 10.39 am The meeting and hearing adjourned.
- 11.00 am The meeting reconvened and the hearing continued.
- 11.01 am **Joanne Wood (Submission - 296)**
(Lion Foundation)
- The Lion Foundation supports maintaining the status quo of the current cap on venue and machine numbers as stated in the existing policy;
 - Spoke to their submission supported by a powerpoint presentation and requested the Committee make a decision to maintain the critical funding line needed by community groups;
 - Believes there is no link between gaming machine numbers and problem gambling; and
 - Also detailed were their grant recipients and the positive effects of the funding in Waitakere.
- 11.15 am **Graeme Ramsey (Submission - 378)**
(Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand)
- The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission highlighting in particular, their view "harm from gambling" in the community identifying gambling as a "hidden addiction";
 - Strongly believe that access to and the availability of pokies is associated with problem gambling.
- 11.32 am **Taha Fasi (Submission - 363)**
(Waitakere Pacific Board)
- The Waitakere Pacific Board supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Expressed their view on the adverse effects and negative social impacts of gambling to families within the community, in particular the negative impacts on the low income earning Pacific Island community; and
 - Firmly believes that removal of all gambling machines within Waitakere is the best option to address problem gambling in the community.

- 11.44 am **Glenda Northey (Submission - 173)**
(Resident)
- As a Piha resident she supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission as a Piha resident and her desire to keep pokie machines out of the Piha community; and
 - She believes it is not fair to source funding, for the various community groups including their local groups, from the poor areas of the community where the gaming machines are located.
- 11.52 am **Zoe Martin and Ngaaroimata Reid (Submissions - 379 and 382)**
(Hapai Te Hauroa Tapui and Tu Wahine)
- Hapai Te Hauroa Tapui and Tu Wahine support the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission supported by a powerpoint presentation and requested that the Committee make a decision on the Gambling Venue Policy with consideration to the Maori community as they believe that gambling pokies is exploitative to their community; and
 - Also believes adopting a Sinking Lid Policy would complement Waitakere City Council's overall economic, social, cultural and environmental platforms.
- 12.10 pm **Megan Tunks (Submission - 361)**
(Resident)
- As a ratepayer resident in Waitakere she supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - She highlighted the non-representation of the Maori and Pacific Island community in the decision making process for the Gambling Venue Policy; and
 - Requested that Council consider their role in minimising gambling harm through regulation of the supply of pokie machines, and also access to them, as this is adversely affecting the Maori community.
- 12.15 pm **Richard Northey (Submission - 377)**
(Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand)
- The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand support the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke in support of their submission expressing the view that the gambling venues and pokie machines in Waitakere, overall, have a negative social and economic impact on the community; and
 - Also noted that the adoption of the Sinking Lid option in Auckland and Manukau cities has reduced gambling cases and gambling harm.

ADJOURNMENT

1277/2009

MOVED by Cr Neeson, seconded Cr Jolley:

That the meeting and hearing stand adjourned until 12.26 pm.

CARRIED

12.24 pm The meeting and hearing adjourned.

12.28 pm The meeting reconvened and the hearing continued.

- 12.29 pm **Brent Diack (Submission - 383)**
(Salvation Army)
- The Salvation Army supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission and presented a powerpoint which focused on the negative impacts of the gambling machines on the poorer citizens and areas of the community; and
 - Requested that the Council highlight to the Super City, the negative impacts of the gambling venues to the vulnerable areas of the community.
- 12.43 pm **John Hubscher and Mary Watts (Submission - 319 and 381)**
(Waitakere Association for Gambling Action)
- The Waitakere Association for Gambling Action supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission and are supportive of lobbying for alternative funding sources for grants to community groups in Waitakere, replacing the gambling funded support that is presently provided to these community groups; and
 - Believes that gaming machines in the family entertainment areas of businesses normalises gambling and would like gaming machines from these locations removed.
- 1.03 pm **Gary Stewart (Submission - 301)**
(Resident)
- As a resident of Waitakere he supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Spoke to their submission and emphasised and noted their views were not a direct criticism of The Trusts Charitable Foundation Incorporated and their community work, but were directed to gambling income in comparison to this funding injected back into the community;
 - He believes ideally gaming machines should be phased out altogether as he feels New Zealand survived well without them 15 years ago.
- 1.03 pm **Tiaria Fletcher (Submission - 186)**
(The WAVES Trust)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 1.03 pm The Deputy Mayor declared an interest and withdrew from the table, staying in the room, taking no part in the discussion on Submission - 186 from The Waves Trust.
- The Waves Trust supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - They spoke to their submission and explained and acknowledged that even though they were recipients of funds from The Trusts, they still strongly believe there is a proven correlation between domestic violence and gambling which is why they are supportive of this option; and
 - They also believe there is a strong connection between problem gambling and problem drinking in the community effectively depriving families of money for necessities.
- 1.15 pm The Deputy Mayor returned to the table.

ADJOURNMENT

1278/2009

MOVED by Cr Neeson, seconded Cr Lawley:

That the meeting and hearing stand adjourned until 2.00 pm.

CARRIED

1.16 pm The meeting and hearing adjourned.

2.01 pm The meeting reconvened and the hearing continued.

2.02 pm **Setaia Pesio (Submission - 3076)**
(Otago Gambling Action Group)

- The Otago Gambling Action Group support the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
- Spoke to their submission and highlighted the negative impacts of gaming machines on families and children in the community; and
- Also drew comparisons to Manukau City Council adopting the Sinking Lid option for their Gambling Venue Policy noting overall there was no drop in the number of gaming machines.

2.11 pm **John Dick (Submission - 79)**
(Resident)

- As a resident of Waitakere, he supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
- He spoke to his submission and noted that the pokies in Waitakere are placed in lower-socio economic areas; and
- He spoke from first-hand experience where problem gambling has negatively affected people within his own community.

2.14 pm **John Wong (Submission - 187)**
(Chinese Social Workers Interest Group)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.14 pm Cr Chan declared an interest and withdrew from the table, staying in the room, taking no part in the discussion on Submission - 187 from Chinese Social Workers Interest Group.

- The Chinese Social Workers Interest Group supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
- The Chinese community and businesses make a valuable contribution to all aspects of life in Waitakere but need greater protection from gambling harm and they believe the Sinking Lid policy option would address this; and
- Post migration adjustment issues make Chinese particularly vulnerable to gambling harm.

2.21 pm Cr Chan returned to the table.

- 2.22 pm **Donghwan (Gus) Lim (Submission - 3075)**
(Korean Community Wellness Group)
- The Korean Community Wellness Group supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Requested Council make a recommendation to central Government that gambling venues should be monitored more vigorously to protect the Korean families in the community; and
 - The group also believes that problem gambling harm seriously impacts on the health and wellbeing of the Korean community in Waitakere.
- 2.35 pm **Rufo Pupuali (Submission - 127)**
(Resident)
- As a Waitakere resident she supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - She firmly believes that problem gambling negatively impacts to the Pacific families in the community and shared tragic personal experiences related to problem gambling from her own family and friends; and
 - She believes this option would minimise the serious problems in the Pacific community caused by problem gambling.
- 2.49 pm **Mele Halapua (Oral Submission)**
(New Developments)
- As a Waitakere resident she supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - Requested that gambling pokie machine access be restricted to the Casino in Auckland City and not be made available in venues in Waitakere to minimise problem gambling; and
 - She also believes that Waitakere will become a city of increased poverty and crime if the Sinking Lid option is not adopted.
- 3.01 pm **Tupe Taisalika (on behalf of Tueipi Clarke) (Submission - 3073)**
(Pacific Gambling Team Incorporated)
- The Pacific Gambling Team Incorporated supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - They also spoke on behalf of the Pacific youth in the community and displayed to the Committee a “graffiti art” project which enabled the youth to express their thoughts on problem gambling; and
 - Requested that Waitakere remain a clean, green environment for the future generations by adopting the Sinking Lid policy option for the Gambling Venue Policy.
- 3.10 pm **Dora May Sutcliffe (Submission - 327)**
(Alliance Party)
- The Alliance Party supports the Sinking Lid option for the Waitakere Gambling Venue Policy;
 - They believe the Sinking Lid option would control the growth of problem gambling in the community and noted this was a national issue;
 - Encouraged Council to lobby central Government to set up a Commission or an independent regulatory agency to monitor and regulate gambling venues to protect communities; and
 - Also noted ideally Waitakere should be removing all Class 4 gambling machines from the community.

ADJOURNMENT

1279/2009

MOVED by Cr Neeson, seconded Cr Lawley:

That the meeting and hearing stand adjourned until 9.30 am, Tuesday, 21 July 2009.

CARRIED

3.21 pm The meeting and hearing adjourned.