

September 22, 2009



Dear East Boston Neighbors:

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce strongly supports expanded gaming at Suffolk Downs, the historic Thoroughbred racing facility in East Boston. Since 1935, Suffolk Downs has been an important contributor to the East Boston business community.

Always a good neighbor, Suffolk Downs has expanded its community outreach and philanthropic efforts over the last few years despite challenging business conditions at the track and in the economy in general. Through the years, Suffolk Downs has employed hundreds of East Boston residents who raised families, owned homes and paid taxes in our city. Suffolk Downs attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, conducts over 100 days of live racing and hosts other special events. It has always worked to ensure that its business operations did not disrupt or inconvenience its neighbors.

In addition, Suffolk Downs has embraced the East Boston business community, pledging to do more business locally and increasing its involvement in Chamber activities designed to promote East Boston businesses.

An existing gaming destination since 1935 situated on 163 acres on the East Boston-Revere line, Suffolk Downs is ideally suited for expanded gaming, should the Commonwealth authorize it. An expanded gaming development, completed in phases over the next 4-7 years, will bring much-needed jobs and revenue to the area along with ancillary economic benefits for East Boston businesses.

By way of comparison, Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut combine to employ 19,000 people. An expanded gaming facility at Suffolk Downs would generate 2,000-5,000 new jobs as the property develops over the next few years. These jobs would go to residents of East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea and other surrounding communities where unemployment rates are at 20-year highs. East Boston residents need these jobs now more than ever.

Gaming experts predict that expanded gaming would produce up to \$500 million in annual revenue for the state, revenue that can be distributed to local cities and towns. As East Boston and its neighboring communities face cuts to essential government services, this potential revenue stream is vitally important.

In addition, should Suffolk Downs be granted expanded gaming rights, its new ownership, led by Richard Fields, has pledged to buy goods and services locally, to include local businesses in a player loyalty program and to work with the East Boston Chamber and other local business institutions to create partnership opportunities.

On behalf of the Chamber Board of Directors, please support us in supporting Suffolk Downs as our elected leaders debate expanded gaming in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Angelo Vigliotta, Jr.  
President

John Dudley  
Executive Director