

MEMORANDUM

TO: William J. Mueller, Village President

FROM: David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager

DATE: December 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Video Gaming

The prospect of video gaming in the State of Illinois has been a much publicized topic, which has been met with a great deal of attention. On July 13, 2009, as part of the State of Illinois capital bill funding package, the Governor signed into law the Video Gaming Act, which legalizes video gaming in certain liquor establishments, truck stops and fraternal/veterans clubs throughout the state.

Several local municipalities have already prohibited video gaming in their jurisdictions; more notably, Cook County and DuPage County have both banned video gaming within their respective unincorporated properties. Others municipalities plan to continue to push the ban on video gaming some intend to wait until the rules have been promulgated or more information is made available and some plan to take no prohibitive actions at all.

BACKGROUND:

This item was brought before the Board of Trustees for discussion during their October 15, 2009 meeting, with a staff recommendation that video gaming be banned until such time that the Illinois Gaming Board could establish their rulemaking process. The Board of Trustees tabled this item until their January 7, 2010 meeting in order to solicit the thoughts and recommendations of each of the Village Committees/Boards/Commissions. Understandably, this issue may not be relevant to the responsibilities of some of the various Committees/Boards/Commissions; however, a review of the issue and straw-vote is in order.

Per the recommendation of the Community Relations Committee, a one question survey (relative to video gaming) was created. The purpose of the survey was to solicit input from residents as to their level of support for video gaming. The survey was placed on the Village's website until December 31, 2009. The survey will allow Board members to hear from the community at-large. Residents were required to include their address when completing the online survey. As of December 28, 2009, the online survey results demonstrate that a slight majority of residents do not support video gaming in Lombard. Out of 138 votes, 42% believe that the Village should allow video gaming within the Village of Lombard, 54% believe that the Village should opt-out (ban) video gaming within the city limits and 4% had no opinion. An update of these results will be provided at January 7, 2009 Village Board Meeting.

COMMITTEE VOTING RESULTS:

The following is a summation of the recommendations and votes from the different Committees, Boards and Commissions. Not all of the Committees/Boards/Commissions have met, and

consequently will not have the ability to vote until such time closer to the January 7, 2010 Village Board Meeting. Therefore, staff will present the remaining recommendations at the January 7, 2010 Village Board Meeting.

Economic/Community Development Committee

Recommendation: That the Village Board proceeds with investigating the details of video gaming. The Committee suggested that more information should be obtained prior to any final action.

Vote: 7-0

Community Relations Committee

Recommendation: The Community Relations Committee discussed the issue of video gaming at their November 9, 2009 meeting and voted to recommend a complete ban of video gaming.

Vote: 5 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain

Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Finance Committee unanimously recommended that the Village Board proceed with investigating the details of video gaming. The Committee suggested that more information should be obtained prior to any final action.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Recommendation: The ZBA recommended allowing video gaming, subject to further review, following the final rules of the Video Gaming Act.

Vote: 5-0 vote to “allow video gaming subject to further review following the final rules of the Video Gaming Act.”

Plan Commission

Recommendation: The Plan Commission voted on this item at their December 21, 2009 meeting. The results of the vote were inconclusive as there was no majority vote either for or against video gaming.

Vote: 2 members supported the concept of video gaming, 3 members opposed video gaming, and 2 members were undecided and wanted more information before making a decision.

Community Promotion and Tourism

Recommendation: The Community Promotion and Tourism Committee discussed the issue of video gaming at their December 17, 2009 meeting and voted to recommend a complete ban of video gaming.

Vote: 3 against video gaming, 2 for video gaming. This vote was taken by phone/email poll as there was no quorum at the meeting.

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Recommendation: At the November 24, 2009 meeting of the BOFPC, the issue of video gaming was discussed by the Commissioners. As a result of the vote, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners recommended that the Village Board should ban video gaming until the Illinois Gaming Board publishes its rules.

Vote: Commissioners Dunne and Florey felt the Village Board should ban video gaming until the Illinois Gaming Board publishes its rules. Commissioner Rachubinski is opposed to video gaming in any form.

Board of Building Appeals

Recommendation: The Board of Building Appeals conducted a vote on this item, which resulted in a recommendation to allow video gaming in the Village.

Vote: They voted 4-0 stating that they do not oppose the concept of video gaming.

Environmental Concerns Committee

Recommendation: The Environmental Concerns Committee conducted a vote on this item. The results of the vote were inconclusive as there was no majority vote either for or against video gaming.

Vote: 0 for, 2 against and 2 no opinions

Public Works Committee

Recommendation: The Public Works Committee conducted a vote on this item at their November 10, 2009 meeting. The results of the vote were inconclusive as there was no majority vote either for or against video gaming.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 not in favor, 2 - neutral.

Ad Hoc Trails Committee

Recommendation: No meeting was conducted regarding this issue; however, an email poll was

conducted. The results of the vote were inconclusive as there was no majority vote either for or against video gaming.

Vote: 0 for, 2 against and 3 no opinions.

Board of Local Improvements

Recommendation: The Board of Local Improvements voted on this item at their December 10, 2009 meeting. The results of the vote were inconclusive as there was no majority vote either for or against video gaming.

Vote: 1 neutral, 1 against and 1 voted to wait until the rules/more information was made available to make a decision.

Lombard Historical Commission

Recommendation: As a regular meeting of the Historical Commission will not take place until January 19, 2010, it was decided by the Chairperson that a phone poll be conducted.

Vote: Of the eleven Commissioners, the Chairperson was able to poll 8 members, including herself. Of those 8, 7 members gave a definite NO vote to video gambling in Lombard. One member stated that he thought the vote should be postponed until the final rules are established.

Transportation and Safety Committee

The Transportation and Safety Committee has yet to vote on this item. As such, staff will verbally convey the voting results and recommendation at the January 7, 2009 Village Board Meeting.

RESULTS SUMMARY:

To summarize the results from those Committees/Boards/Commissions that voted on the issue, it appears that there is little support for or against video gaming. Of the thirteen groups that have voted so far (14 total), a majority (7) of the groups either recommended that a decision be made once more information is available or had inconclusive results (no majority vote either for or against it). Two groups obtained a majority vote to allow video gaming while three groups obtained a majority vote to ban it. As suspected, it appears that the groups voted based upon their own purpose of existence. For example, the Finance Committee voted to wait for more information as there may be financial benefit to supporting video gaming, while all of the Historical Commission members voted against it (with one abstaining from vote).

As previously mentioned, the online survey results demonstrate that a slight majority of residents do not support video gaming in Lombard. Out of 138 votes, 42% believe that the Village should allow video gaming within the Village of Lombard, 54% believe that the Village should opt-out (ban) video gaming within the city limits and 4% had no opinion. There is a potential margin of

error that may exist with the data. Anyone who enters a vote can submit any Lombard address (regardless of their true residency), which means that someone could enter multiple votes. However, their real IP address will always be shown. There were many duplicated IP addresses, but this could be explained. Anyone who submits a vote from the same building (commercial, multi-family residential, etc) may have the same IP address. Instead of filtering the data, staff believes that using the raw data is better served as any filtering could be viewed as data tampering. As the online survey will be available on the Village website until December 31, 2009, staff will provide an update on any additional votes that come in between December 29th and December 31st.