

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2004 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-14-2004

Proposed by Council Member Harrington

Introduced by Council Members Harrington, Bland, Shapiro, Exum, Dean and Hendershot

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction February 17, 2004

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Opposition to Slot Machines and Further Expansion of Legalized

3 Gambling in the State of Maryland

4 For the purpose of expressing the opposition of the Prince George's County Council to slot
5 machines and further expansion of legalized gambling in the State of Maryland.

6 WHEREAS, as in 2003, the 2004 session of the Maryland General Assembly will debate
7 expansion of gambling in the State by legalizing slot machines; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Ehrlich's proposal last year called for slot machines at four
9 Maryland racetracks; and

10 WHEREAS, other gambling proposals have followed including slot machines at the State
11 Fairgrounds at Timonium; State-controlled slot machine emporiums on interstate highways; slot
12 machines at restaurants, bars and liquor stores; slot machines at Rocky Gap Resort in Western
13 Maryland, and a racetrack near Ocean City; and casinos at National Harbor in Prince George's
14 County, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor; and

15 WHEREAS, as one of the largest jurisdictions in the State of Maryland, Prince George's
16 County would receive enormous pressure to locate slot machines within its jurisdiction once the
17 State of Maryland adopted any slot machines legislation or expansion of legalized gambling; and

18 WHEREAS, national and state studies have shown that revenues from these forms of
19 gambling disproportionately come from the poor, from minorities, and from those with limited
20 education; and

21 WHEREAS, a study of the Maryland lottery shows that "districts in the State that sell the
22 most lottery tickets per person ... have more poverty, more minority residents, and more high

1 school dropouts than elsewhere” (Washington Post, 10/20/03); and

2 WHEREAS, the economic costs of gambling are also documented, showing that the vast
3 majority of monies raised are taken from other businesses in the areas where they operate; and

4 WHEREAS, the social costs of gambling are well documented and include increased crime,
5 bankruptcy, petty theft, family disintegration, welfare and substance abuse. In fact, in 1995,
6 Maryland’s Attorney General issued a report against the introduction of casinos, stating they
7 would bring a “substantial increase in crime ... more violent crime, more crimes against
8 property, more insurance fraud, more white-collar crime, more juvenile crime, more drug and
9 alcohol-related crime, more domestic violence and child abuse, and more organized crime”; and

10 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County and the State of Maryland have for years focused
11 their economic development strategies on a foundation of knowledge economy, family
12 supporting jobs, including our role as one of the nation’s largest regions for biotechnology; and

13 WHEREAS, these efforts have and will provide the greatest opportunities over the long
14 term for a strong economy for the State of Maryland, and will be negatively affected by the
15 introduction of slot machines and further expansion of legalized gambling.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
17 County, Maryland, that the County Council opposes the further expansion of legalized gambling
18 in the State of Maryland, including slot machines and casinos, and urges State lawmakers to vote
19 against such proposals in the current session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2004.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Tony Knotts
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council