

1 and all people, work together for a community where
2 once again maybe we can see some peaches and cream.

3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Harvey.

4 MR. HARVEY: -- once again we see a new
5 community.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

7 Nilda K.

8 NILDA K.: My name is Nilda K., and I'm a
9 compulsive gambler.

10 I did have a speech, but on my way here I
11 have not been down to Atlantic City in five years. On
12 my way here, all I kept thinking about, I remembered
13 when I used to come here was the highs of how great I
14 was going to make it big. On my way here today all I
15 could think of was the misery that it caused me.

16 It caused me my family, my life, my
17 occupation. I lose a degree, looking forward to maybe
18 being in jail.

19 Who do I have to thank for the life that
20 I have now is GA. Because of them I am working again,
21 and I hear all of these people talk about how great
22 their life is because of Atlantic City. Well, you

1 know something? I have a great life, too. I have all
2 the good things in life. We all do, but it's due to
3 GA, not because of the casinos.

4 Yes, we have an addiction, and I'm not
5 saying that everybody cannot gamble. That's not true,
6 but there are a lot of us that cannot gamble because
7 we have an addiction just like an illness. It's an
8 illness.

9 I have diabetes. For the rest of my life
10 I have to take insulin. Well, for the rest of my life
11 I have to go to GA meetings because they saved my
12 life.

13 I know what I feel like coming down here.
14 I'm sick. I am really sick to my stomach of the
15 thought of what Atlantic City -- and not only Atlantic
16 City; I'm talking about Vegas also -- did to me,
17 caused me so much illness, almost -- almost going to
18 jail.

19 But thanks to GA I'm back up on top, and
20 not through gambling; through the program. That means
21 a lot to me.

22 But let me tell you. I mean, like I said,

1 we have an addiction. It's like any illness, any
2 other illness. We don't have to be down here, but I'm
3 not saying that people that can gamble -- that's fine
4 for them, but don't make it so glorified. It's not
5 that glorious. It's not that gorgeous. It's not that
6 shimmering like you see in the casino. For a lot of
7 us it's tragedy.

8 I'm talking about your life, your
9 education going down the drain. That is horrible, and
10 that means a lot.

11 And I think that you should all be aware
12 of also the downfalls, not only all of the glories,
13 because you can have a good life. You can have a home
14 with a picket fence just being in a program and not
15 gambling.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

18 Joel R.

19 JOEL R.: I'm Joel R., and I'm a deeply
20 disturbed, compulsive gambler.

21 I walked into a racetrack first about 40
22 years ago, and from the moment I walked in, I knew I