

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, and I do
3 appreciate the opportunity to have visited there
4 yesterday. It is quite a facility.

5 MS. MELTZER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

7 Gene Roach. Mr. Roach here?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Sidney Meadows.

10 MR. MEADOWS: Good evening. My name is --

11 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.

12 MR. MEADOWS: My name is Sidney Meadows.

13 I can remember graduating from high
14 school, seeking full-time employment, not having a
15 trade, not being able to find a full-time job. I left
16 and went into the service.

17 After having served in the Armed Forces
18 and returning home as a Vietnam vet, still having a
19 hard time finding full-time employment, I took to
20 piece work, odd jobs, working on docks, et cetera, et
21 cetera, et cetera, barely making ends meet.

22 While sitting home one day watching a show

1 called "Vegas," I thought to myself, "Boy, that would
2 really be nice to work in a casino." Then the casinos
3 came to Atlantic City. Lo and behold, the opportunity
4 arose.

5 I got employed as a pantry person making
6 sandwiches. Then the casino sent me to school to
7 further my education in the culinary field. Then I
8 became a cook, shortly thereafter a relief cook,
9 making money that I didn't imagine I would be making
10 and being able to provide for my family.

11 Not only did it enable me to provide
12 decent housing and transportation. It also provided
13 medical and dental benefits. For example, I was
14 diagnosed with having congestive heart failure, then
15 having to have surgery on my leg and foot three times,
16 no less. On top of that, I also had to have a bone
17 graft.

18 Had it not been for the casinos with such
19 great medical benefits, I would not have been able to
20 have had these procedures done. Possibly I would have
21 lost my life having congestive heart failure thinking
22 about how I would pay these expensive bills.

1 You know, I can remember when I was in the
2 service just before casinos came. Other service
3 members and different people asked me, "Where are you
4 from?" and me saying, "Atlantic City, New Jersey," and
5 them saying to me, "Where is that?" because Atlantic
6 City wasn't well known enough. They didn't have
7 baseball, basketball, football, hockey teams. So I
8 had to say, "I'm right outside Philadelphia or New
9 York City."

10 In closing, I'd like to -- I'd like to or
11 I remember entering Atlantic City on Route 40. West
12 of Atlantic City there's a sign hanging over the
13 overpass that says, "Welcome to Atlantic City, the
14 World's Playground." That sign was barely hanging.
15 The paint was faded and saying, "Welcome to the
16 World's Playground." I just shook my head and sighed.

17 But now I get to Atlantic City and I'm so
18 proud to say that I'm from Atlantic City because the
19 lights flourish, adequate signage, beautiful
20 buildings, nice streets, something to do, somewhere to
21 go, and money to be made. Yes, it's a 24 hour city
22 thanks to the gaming.

1 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

3 Bill -- is it Mattle?

4 MR. MATTLE: Mattle.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mattle.

6 MR. MATTLE: That's correct.

7 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Welcome.

8 MR. MATTLE: Thank you.

9 My name is Bill Mattle, and it's a
10 pleasure to be able to speak with you this evening.

11 First and foremost, let me say that I am
12 a resident of Atlantic City and a resident very much
13 by choice. I relocated to the area approximately five
14 years ago, and at that time I really had my pick of
15 nice communities to live in, but I chose to make my
16 home in the redeveloped northeast inlet, and at the
17 time I was looking around, you could just sense that
18 something very exciting was taking place. It was
19 palpable. A community was being rebuilt. A
20 neighborhood was being reborn, and I very much wanted
21 to be a part of it and am very glad that I did so.

22 I know that you had an opportunity today