

1 periods before casino gaming, and were forced out due
2 to the lack of quality job opportunities.

3 Today, I can say that my family has
4 benefitted in many ways due to my union and the gaming
5 industry.

6 I moved here to Atlantic City in 1981 to
7 open up Playboy Casino Hotel. The reason I came to
8 this area was to provide my family with a better
9 opportunity and quality of life by working in the
10 gaming industry. Through this industry, I was able to
11 buy a new home here in Atlantic City almost ten years
12 ago. Yes, I, too, am one of the many people in this
13 area who enjoy the fact that I have a good job, with
14 good health benefits, job security and real income.
15 I can truly say the opportunities are here.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. VELASQUEZ: (This testimony is given
18 through an interpreter.)

19 I'm going to be brief in my story, and I
20 appreciate the opportunity that you have afforded me
21 to speak in Spanish.

22 I am an immigrant from Chile, who has been

1 in this country for 16 years. My family was composed
2 of three members, my wife, myself, my daughter, who
3 was born in New York City where we lived comfortably.

4 I was a construction worker for eight years
5 and was barely able to find work in the summers and
6 sporadic work in the wintertime.

7 One day, my wife invited me on a trip to
8 Atlantic City, which changed our lives for the better.
9 We went to the Taj Mahal, and as a joke we put in an
10 application for employment, which was on the verge of
11 opening. The following week, we received a phone call
12 informing us that we had an interview the next day at
13 10:00 a.m.

14 I informed them that we were not interested
15 and to take us off their list and we thanked them for
16 their offer. Ten days later we received a telegram
17 with the same proposition. They didn't seem to
18 understand that we were not interested in working for
19 the casinos. We felt it was too big of a risk to
20 switch life styles at this stage of our lives.

21 It took some convincing on their part to
22 get us to come down here, and we did. The rest is

1 history. Today, I look back and I realize that it was
2 the best decision we made. Today, we are homeowners,
3 we live in a fine neighborhood, and my wife had twins
4 and all the medical bills were covered by our health
5 plan.

6 The twins are now four years old, and in
7 March we will mark our eighth year in this area. I
8 know I would never have been able to accomplish any of
9 this in the Big Apple, everything that I have
10 accomplished in Atlantic City.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. BRENNER: My name is Devon Brenner. I
13 work for -- Bally Park Place.

14 I came to Atlantic City in the summer of
15 1972, for what was to be a long vacation. Within two
16 months I met my husband to be and my temporary visit
17 turned into 25 years.

18 I worked as a food server in various
19 restaurants around town, mostly in the spring and
20 summer, since during the winter the city was virtually
21 deserted and employment in the restaurant business was
22 not available.