

1 MS. ANN DANIELS, CITY MANAGER, RIVERSIDE, MO

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3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Our final speaker on this panel is
4 Ms. Ann Daniels, City Manager, Riverside, Missouri. Ms. Daniels,
5 welcome.

6 MS. DANIELS: Thank you for allowing me this
7 opportunity to share the impact of riverboat gambling on our
8 small Missouri city.

9 Riverside is a fourth class city with a population of
10 only 3,390 people. It's less than 50 years old and was chartered
11 with the understanding that no personal property or real estate
12 taxes would ever be assessed or levied against the residents or
13 businesses, and this promise still holds true. Because of this
14 commitment, the city received only very limited funds with which
15 to operate each year. Revenues were generated through a one cent
16 city sales tax, utility franchise fees and motor fuel taxes.

17 While the elected officials are to be commended for
18 their efforts to operate with very limited funds, a trip through
19 the community only four short years ago would demonstrate the
20 dire need for permanent streets, for a community center, for
21 parks, for facilities to house the departments of city government
22 and a general effort for planning the future and cleaning up the
23 debris from the past.

24 The legalization of riverboat gambling in Missouri,
25 and specifically the large majority vote cast by Riverside
26 residents in 1992 to open the city to riverboat gambling has
27 nothing but the most positive effect on our community. While all
28 our residents may not be staunch proponents of gambling, with
29 many never having been to the boat, all are reaping the benefits

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1 the money provided by gamblers bring to the city's coffers each
2 year.

3 One thing we have learned is that we cannot legalize
4 nor legislate morality. When the voters spoke so strongly in
5 favor of gambling being permitted, it became the duty of the
6 elected officials and our city staff to provide strong leadership
7 to insure the core values of the community were not undermined
8 and that the receipts were put to use with infrastructure needs
9 long overdue. The elected officials chose to commit the
10 riverboat funds strictly to capital improvements and capital
11 equipment purposes. The commitment has continued, with none of
12 the gambling revenues going into general revenue funds. This
13 means that no salaries or daily operation costs are funded with
14 gambling dollars.

15 Consequently, should our boat ride on down the
16 Mississippi River tomorrow, our community would have benefited
17 from the major improvements made to our infrastructure, but no
18 jobs would be lost, no salaries reduced, no services
19 discontinued. As of this date our city has received \$23,952,429
20 in revenues from the Argosy Casino.

21 You may be interested to know that there's listed in
22 the documentation I've given to you a large number of projects,
23 one of the most unique being a contribution of \$5.3 million
24 towards the required local share of \$29 million for the only
25 remaining flood protection levy not constructed on the Missouri
26 River, the L385, in addition to absorbing the escalating legal
27 fees for development of this project. Completion of this project
28 will provide much needed flood protection to our business

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1 community, to alleviate the over \$80 million spent by federal,
2 state and local governments with the 1993 flood.

3 I would just remind you that there are many benefits
4 that we have realized, part of that because we believe that the
5 set aside by Missouri Gaming Commission, there are regulations
6 requiring the highway patrol folks to be in place and on board to
7 provide additional security which has been very beneficial. We
8 have not had any additional crime. We have not had increased
9 calls. Two a day citywide is all our calls have increased.

10 We do not know of folks who have lost their homes.
11 We do not know of those who have committed suicide. We do not
12 have any of those things in our community. The Gamblers
13 Anonymous program is very small within our area, has not had
14 large numbers of folks participating whatsoever.

15 I wish I could say that there are bad things to say,
16 but there are no bad things for us to report to you. That's all
17 I can share with you, the fact that we have had a very positive
18 impact. I think part of that is because of the way that we're
19 using the funds and the commitment we've made to do so. We hope
20 that as you collect your data that the impact that has been felt
21 in Riverside will be something that will help to assess things as
22 you look at the rest of the communities. I hope you'll look
23 further at our written documentation.

24 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

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