



Corporate Report

NO: R157

COUNCIL DATE: JUNE 25, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 20, 2007**
FROM: **Acting General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **0480-20**
SUBJECT: **Comments Regarding an Application to Add Slot Machines to the
Langley Bingo Palace at 19664 - 64 Avenue, Langley**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Advise the Township of Langley that the City of Surrey has no comments with regard to infrastructure, policing costs, traffic and highway use, related to the proposed addition of 150 slot machines to the Langley Bingo Palace;
3. Request that the Township of Langley advise the City of Surrey of any application for a Liquor Primary License in relation to the Langley Bingo Palace; and
4. Direct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report to the Township of Langley.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of information circulated to the City by the Township of Langley, regarding a proposal for the addition of 150 slot machines to the Langley Bingo Palace and to advise of any potential impacts resulting from the proposal in response to the Township of Langley's request. Provincial legislation provides for neighbouring municipalities to respond with respect to potential impacts related to infrastructure, policing costs, traffic and highway use.

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey has received correspondence from the Township of Langley (attached as Appendix I to this report) advising of receipt of an application from Playtime Community Gaming Centres Inc. to add 150 slot machines to the Langley Bingo Palace located at 19664-64 Avenue, Langley. The Langley Bingo Palace is located close the Surrey border, as shown in the map attached as Appendix II to this report. The Township of Langley has indicated that according to the *Gaming Control Act*, the proposed addition of the 150 slot machines is considered a substantial change to the type or extent of lottery schemes at a gaming facility.

As a result of this change in operation, Section 19 of the *Gaming Control Act* and Section 12.1(5) of the *Gaming Control Regulation* require that the Township of Langley consult with each municipality, regional district or first nation located within a five kilometre radius of the facility. Pursuant to the Provincial regulations, the Township of Langley is consulting with the City of Surrey, the City of Langley and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Accordingly, the City of Surrey has the option to provide written comments, regarding the proposal. Provincial regulations stipulate that the comments be confined to infrastructure, policing, traffic and highway use. To prepare a response, staff have consulted with the Surrey RCMP and Surrey Engineering Department.

The Township of Langley's request for comments was received by the City of Surrey on May, 15, 2007. Although the *Gaming Control Regulations* indicate that municipalities may provide written comments regarding the proposal within 30 days, the Township of Langley has indicated that a response can be forwarded to the Township by the end of June, 2007.

DISCUSSION

The Langley Bingo Palace is located at 19664 - 64 Avenue, Langley, as shown on the map attached as Appendix II. The facility is located approximately two kilometres from the Cascades Casino in Langley City and less than four kilometres from Fraser Downs Racetrack and Casino in Surrey. The Cascades Casino has 600 slot machines and no electronic table games. Fraser Downs has 437 gaming devices, with 40 of those being electronic table games and 397 being slot machines.

According to the Township of Langley, the Bingo Hall has been in operation for 15 years, and Playtime Community Gaming Centres is finding that nearby casino operations are having an impact on attendance and revenues at the Langley Bingo Palace. In 2002, player visits to Langley Bingo Palace exceeded 14,000 per month and, recently, player visits have fallen to 10,000 per month. As this phenomenon appears to be happening province-wide, the British Columbia Lottery Corporation has introduced the Community Gaming Centre concept to assist community bingo associations with a business recovery option.

The Langley Bingo Association (which is affiliated with the Langley Bingo Palace) is comprised of 48 charity and community groups that perform community services in and around the Langley Township area. Between 2005 and 2006, 35 of the 48 organizations received over \$1.6 million in funding as a result of their affiliation with Langley Bingo Palace.

The Proposal

In order to continue the flow of revenues to community charities, Playtime Community Gaming Centres Inc. is applying to change the Langley Bingo Palace into a "community gaming centre" through the addition of 150 slot machines. The slot machines are proposed to be added to the currently vacant second floor, above an existing bingo operation on the main floor.

According to Playtime Community Gaming Inc., a community gaming centre is different from a casino in that bingo remains the primary attraction and, according to Provincial regulations, a community gaming centre is only permitted to have a maximum of 150 slot machines. Table games, such as Blackjack, Roulette or Poker, are not permitted. In addition, the Langley Bingo Palace is not currently licensed to serve liquor, and is not applying for liquor licensing at this time.

In the future, if Playtime Gaming Centres Inc. applies for a liquor primary license for the Langley Bingo Palace, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch Regulations would not require the Township of Langley to consult with adjacent municipalities. However, the Township of Langley advises that due to the Langley Bingo Palace's proximity to the Surrey border, in order to assess impacts on the surrounding community, the Township would request comments from the City of Surrey in this regard.

Surrey Context

Given the proximity of the Langley Bingo Palace to the Fraser Downs Casino in Surrey, staff from Fraser Downs have expressed concern about the potential impact on the revenue at Fraser Downs, which could result from the proposed addition of the 150 slot machines at the Langley Bingo Palace.

Referrals

As noted earlier, in accordance with Provincial Gaming Regulations, comments from Surrey must be limited to infrastructure, policing costs, traffic and highway use. The following summarizes the responses from the Surrey RCMP and Surrey Engineering Department:

- Surrey RCMP have indicated no concerns as the addition of the slot machines to the Langley Bingo Palace will likely have very little impact on calls for policing service.

- Surrey Engineering Department have no issues with the proposal as:
 - o the traffic impact on Surrey roads will be nominal;
 - o the existing building in the Township of Langley is not serviced by Surrey sewer system;
 - o water is not supplied or connected to Surrey's water system; and
 - o there is no impact on drainage.

CONCLUSION

Since Provincial Gaming Regulations stipulate that inter-municipal comments must be confined to infrastructure, policing, traffic and highway use, the City of Surrey has no concerns with respect to these particular issues resulting from the proposed addition of 150 slot machines to the Langley Bingo Palace. It is noted, however, that due to the proximity of this facility, Fraser Downs Casino has expressed concerns about the addition of 150 slot machines at the Langley Bingo Palace and the potential impact on the revenue at Fraser Downs Casino.

How Yin Leung
Acting General Manager
Planning and Development

PH/kms/saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Correspondence from the Township of Langley Regarding the Proposal

Appendix II Location Map

Township of
Langley



Est. 1873

May 10, 2007

File No. 08-10-0056

City of Surrey
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey BC
V3X 3A2

Attention: Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Dear Ms. Jones:

**Re: Request for comments concerning proposed addition of slot machines to
Langley Bingo Palace (19664 - 64 Avenue, Langley)**

This correspondence is being forwarded to you in order to meet inter-municipal consultation requirements pursuant to Section 19 of the *Gaming Control Act* and Section 12.1 of the *Gaming Control Regulation*.

Pursuant to the *Gaming Control Act* and the *Gaming Control Regulation*, within 30 days after the day this notice is received you may provide written comments regarding the proposal to my attention. Please note that, pursuant to Section 12.1(5) of the *Gaming Control Regulation*, comments must be confined to the following matters:

- (a) infrastructure or policing costs;
- (b) traffic and highway use.

Please be advised that Playtime Community Gaming Centres Inc. has applied to change the Langley Bingo Palace (located at 19664 - 64 Avenue, Langley) to a "Community Gaming Centre". The proposal involves the addition of 150 slot machines at the site (on the second floor of the existing building), and continuation of the existing bingo operation (on the ground floor).

The proposed addition of slot machines is considered a "substantial change to the type or extent of lottery schemes at a gaming facility". In accordance with the requirements of the *Gaming Control Act* and the *Gaming Control Regulation*, the Township of Langley is required to consult with each municipality, regional district or first nation located within a 5 km radius of the facility. In this case, the Township is consulting with the City of Surrey, the City of Langley, and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Attached please find a copy of a Report to Mayor and Council which was presented on May 7, 2007, which includes supporting information concerning the proposal. Should you require any clarification, please feel free to contact me at (604) 533-6060 or at rknall@tol.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Knall".

Robert Knall
SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNER

Att.

Location Map

