

Allowing Video Gaming in my Town: The Next Steps



Summary of 'Why Video Gaming?'

- ▶ **Video Gaming Act was passed and is a coming reality:**
 - Video Gaming in Illinois will be governed by a very strict regulator in the IGB, who's reputation & enforcement tools will keep VGTs clean from criminal associations.
 - VGTs will only be found in 21+ environments. In many towns, these locations already operated unregulated "gray games" (the possession of which is now a 4th Degree Felony).
 - The failure of Video Gaming will jeopardize the 2009 Capital Bill which is set to fund over \$850,000 in projects directly benefiting Bloomingdale.
- ▶ **Social Concerns:** The Myths & Realities of Video Gaming have been addressed and little connection can be made between the existence of Video Gaming in one town leading to more social ills.
 - Churches and others against the idea of VGTs lessen their feelings over time as there is a realization that the actual effects of Gaming are out-weighted by the direct & indirect financial benefits it brings to the Town & its local economy.
 - Unlike Riverboats, whose profit goes to large corporations, the local businesses who will be strengthened by (or stay in business because of) Video Gaming are the same bars, restaurants, and Veterans Clubs that have historically been the Cultural Core of a town. These businesses provide many jobs to local residents.
- ▶ **Revenue – Provides Additional Revenue To Local Governments Without The Burden Of Additional Capital Expenditures Or Monitoring Costs.**
 - An Additional 24% for Bloomingdale as compared to present Sales Tax revenue generated from "Drinking & Eating Places".... \$287,437 additional per year
 - A stronger Foundation for your property tax revenue: strengthening the businesses that each pay thousands to tens of thousands of dollars each year in property taxes.
- ▶ **Make the changes to local ordinances quickly, which assures the earliest & greatest benefits to your town & its local businesses.**

What is Next?... How can we help our Local Businesses?

- ▶ **Opt-In & fix any Local Ordinances that would prevent the IGB from accepting a local business's application.** It is important NOT to Put Your Local Establishment at further Disadvantage By Blocking Their Application Attempt.
 - There are over 10,000 Liquor Licenses in Illinois. The IGB is reviewing applications in the order that they come in, so your town and businesses will benefit greatly from early licensing.
 - Supply and Demand predicts that the first 25% of locations (in a particular geographic area) who are allowed to place VGTs will realize far greater earnings than those predicted by the state average (especially as the program is rolled out)... The Town benefits in this way also, through greater Tax revenue.
- ▶ **Bloomingtondale Would Be In A Good Position To Take Advantage Of surrounding areas' Opt-out.** In the same way that local smoking bans hurt bars & restaurants in that town because customers could patronize a competitor in an adjacent town, Video Gaming in your local businesses will take Revenue & customers from adjacent opted-out communities.
 - At this point, there are a number of near-by opt-outs. Prompt action by Bloomingtondale could help to give your local businesses huge competitive edges over those locations in near-by towns. This Allows your local businesses & local government to take advantage of a small supply of VGTs in the area.
 - On the other hand, several near-by towns are Opted-in. *Bloomingtondale businesses will continue to lose customers to businesses with VGTs in towns such as Bartlett, Hoffman Estates, Hanover Park, Carol Stream, and Addison if Bloomingtondale stays out.*