

TOWN OF LIBERTY

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SITING OF THE FIRST TWO CLASS III GAMING CASINO DESTINATION RESORTS IN THE CATSKILL REGION STRICTLY IN THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

WHEREAS, the exceptional efforts of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature brought about the enactment of the Upstate NY Gaming Economic Development Act, which included an amendment to the New York State Constitution to allow Class III Gaming in New York State,

WHEREAS New York State will now develop up to four casinos in upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2013, the voters of the State of New York voted for and supported the enactment of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State,

WHEREAS on November 5, 2013, the voters of Sullivan County provided the largest plurality of votes for such enactment of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State,

WHEREAS, the passage of said constitutional amendment and the concurrent legislation authorized the establishment of four destination gaming resorts in three distinct regions (Regions 1, 2 and 5), in Upstate New York, with a maximum of two projects to be located in any one Region

WHEREAS, Sullivan County is located in the Catskill/Hudson Valley Region 1, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County has been recognized as the premiere vacation destination in New York State for generations and has historically served as host to some of the world's most famous destination resorts; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County was home to multiple destination resorts which contained thousands of hotel rooms and accompanying amenities such as retail, entertainment, and sports attractions.

WHEREAS the local infrastructure of Sullivan County was always sufficiently able to handle all economic, social and environmental direct and indirect impacts of the many destination resorts; visiting tourists, and the employees who worked in these facilities; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County's tourist economy was one of the cornerstones of vibrant, middle class that comprised many of its towns, villages, and hamlets;

WHEREAS, Sullivan County, has experienced a significant downturn in its tourist economy over the last half century and stands now as one of the most economically challenged areas in New York State;

WHEREAS Sullivan County's working class and small businesses, as well as tax ratables, have significantly suffered from this downturn;

WHEREAS, Sullivan County ranked last in New York State in year 2013 job creation and was the only area in the Hudson Valley that experienced a year-over-year decrease in private-sector employment, according to Johnny Nelson, labor market analyst for the state, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County, through its local and state officials and local business community has historically sought the legalization of Class III Casino Gaming for more than four decades, and

WHEREAS, gaming, as a single component within a destination resort, will provide the much needed catalyst to stimulate further economic growth in Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS the current proposals in Sullivan County are for sustainable resort destinations that will comply with New York State's environmental regulations to mitigate all environmental impacts, and

WHEREAS, the development of destination gaming resorts and the siting of TWO Casino Gaming Destination Resorts would bring thousands of much needed quality jobs and economic growth to Sullivan County that now already exists in neighboring counties that are in the Catskill Region I; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of destination resorts in Sullivan County will provide financial support for education and desperately needed property tax relief for Sullivan County taxpayers and communities statewide; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of destination resorts will stop the flow of revenues for tourism and gaming crossing our borders into neighboring states and keep those dollars in Sullivan County and New York State; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Liberty enthusiastically supports the siting of TWO Class III Gaming Destination Resorts in Sullivan County to meet the intent and language of the constitutional amendment authorizing Class III Gaming in New York State.

Moved by Councilperson Thomas Hasbrouck, seconded by Councilperson Dean Farrand, all in favor "AYE".