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NEW YORK GAMING FACILITY LOCATION BOARD APPROVES REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL CASINOS

The New York Gaming Facility Location Board today approved the Request for Applications to Develop and Operate a Gaming Facility in New York State and opened the bidding period for commercial casino applicants.

The Request for Applications (RFA) may be downloaded at www.gaming.ny.gov/gaming/casinos.php.

The RFA, as mandated by the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act establishes minimum license fees for commercial casino licenses in each region and details how local support must be illustrated. Applicants are required to participate in an April 30, 2014 Applicants Conference, which will take place in the Capital Region, be open to the public and streamed online. Details on the conference will be made available in the near future.

Applications for gaming facilities will be accepted until June 30, 2014.

“This marks the beginning of the bidding process for long-anticipated gaming facilities to benefit Upstate New York,” said Facility Location Board Member Paul Francis. “We look forward to reviewing and evaluating the applications and will continue to conduct an open, honest and transparent process.”

“This RFA was designed to attract bidders who are committed to realizing the highest impact and best value to New York State, the applicable region and host locality,” said Facility Location Board Member Stuart Rabinowitz. “The measures and metrics contained within it are comprehensive and realistic and bring with it a commitment to integrity and responsible public policy.”

“Gaming facility applicants now have a clear, concise and practical guide as they begin to construct bids,” said Facility Location Board Member William Thompson. “Economic growth, good jobs and enhancement to the region and community are paramount to this effort and we look forward to seeing what bidders have to offer.”

Minimum License Fees:

The RFA mandates a different minimum license fee for each region:

<u>Catskills/Hudson Valley</u>	
Dutchess or Orange Counties	\$70,000,000
If no License is awarded for a Gaming Facility located in Dutchess or Orange Counties, then for the remaining portion of the Region (comprising Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster Counties)	\$50,000,000
If a License is awarded for a Gaming Facility located in Dutchess or Orange Counties, then for the remaining portion of the Region (comprising Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster Counties)	\$35,000,000
<u>Capital Region</u>	\$50,000,000
<u>Eastern Southern Tier</u>	
Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga or Tompkins Counties	\$35,000,000
Wayne or Seneca Counties	\$50,000,000
If a License is awarded for a Gaming Facility located in Wayne or Seneca Counties, then for the remaining portion of the Region (comprising Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins Counties)	\$20,000,000

Illustration of Local Support:

As a condition of filing an Application, each Applicant must submit to the Facility Location Board a resolution passed by the local legislative body of its Host Municipality supporting the Application. For purposes of this requirement, local support means a post-November 5, 2013 resolution passed by the local legislative body of the Host Municipality supporting the Application.

An Applicant’s demonstration of local support in fulfillment of this initial requirement is only a component part of the 20 percent Local Impact and Siting Factors criteria to be used by the Facility Location Board in evaluating Applications. In weighing local support and opposition under this criteria, the Facility Location Board will consider public statements and declarations, letters or resolutions from the Host Municipality, nearby local governments, private organizations, community, religious and civic groups, charitable organizations, entertainment venues, chambers of commerce, local businesses, labor organizations, etc.

Minimum Capital Investment:

The Facility Location Board has determined that more research is required to establish appropriate minimum capital investment parameters for each region and will issue a determination within 10 days following the April 30 Applicants' Conference.

Pursuant to the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act, the RFA also requires the following elements from applicants:

- The location of the proposed gaming facility
- The type and number of games to be conducted
- Whether the facility is part of a regional or local economic plan
- Identity of each person having a direct or indirect interest in the business
- Submission of an independent audit report of all financial activities and interests
- Proven financial stability by clear and convincing evidence
- Information and documentation demonstrating sufficient business ability
- Full descriptions of internal controls and security systems for the proposed gaming facility
- Designs for the proposed gaming facility
- Number of construction hours estimated to complete the work
- Descriptions of the ancillary entertainment services and amenities to be provided
- Number of employees to be employed at the proposed gaming facility, including detailed information on the pay rate and benefits
- Completed studies and reports including:
 - Economic benefits to the region and the state
 - Local and regional social, environmental, traffic and infrastructure impacts
 - Impact on the local and regional economy, cultural institutions and small businesses
- Cost to the host municipality, nearby municipalities and the state for the proposed gaming facility to be located at the proposed location
- Estimated state tax revenue to be generated by the gaming facility

More information about the casino siting process and the Gaming Facility Location Board may be found at www.gaming.ny.gov/gaming/casinos.php.

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