

## **VIII. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

### **B. ECONOMICS**

#### **5. REGIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN COORDINATION**

*Submit as Exhibit VIII.B.5 a statement as to whether the Applicant's proposed Gaming Facility is part of a regional or local economic plan, and, if yes, provide documentation demonstrating the Applicant's inclusion within, and coordination with, regional economic plans.*

The proposed Live! Hotel & Casino in South Blooming Grove is wholly consistent with Regional Economic Plans and the goals of the Village of South Blooming Grove and the surrounding municipalities. The Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Blooming Grove (later inherited by the Village of South Blooming Grove on its incorporation) specifically recommended the proposed Gaming Facility site be zoned Office, Research and Industrial to encourage commercial development of this site. ORI includes entertainment and a variety of other commercial uses. The Site also falls within the Urban concept area under Orange County's Comprehensive Plan.

The Gaming Facility also directly advances the goals and expectations of Orange County's Economic Development Strategy (March 2014) to promote Tourism, one of the five key industries targeted by Orange County for expanded development efforts. The opening of the Gaming Facility will accomplish a key goal of the County's strategy by marketing the tourism opportunities in Orange County. Not only will the casino create a new, highly branded and aggressively promoted tourist destination in the County, the Gaming Facility's cross marketing agreements and awards program will highlight other existing tourist destinations in Orange County.

By creating improved highways and access roads around the site and new water and sewer infrastructure for the site, the Gaming Facility addresses some of the key weaknesses identified in the Orange County Strategy and the 2011 Report of the New York State Regional Economic Development Councils' Report on the Mid-Hudson's Economy and the Hudson Valley Regional Council's 2013-2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Hudson Valley Economic Development District. The CEDS also specifically identifies Legalized Casino Gambling as an economic development opportunity for the Hudson Valley.

All three reports emphasize the need for specialized workforce training jobs. A key element of Applicant's casinos throughout the country are the cooperative plans with local community colleges and technical institutes to provide the technical and specialized training in a range of areas including finance, information technology, marketing, culinary and restaurant services as well as gaming expertise. Applicant has already reached out to SUNY Orange located and has received a letter of support from its President. Additionally, the Applicant has initiated the

“Angel Incubator Program – H2V2” which has been established to fund the creation and location of hi-tech industries in the Hudson Valley Region. The Applicant has pledged a minimum of \$1.5 million annually for this program for each year of operations. The program is expected to be administered through educational institutions in cooperation with economic development agencies.

Another universal theme in the Economic Development Reports is cooperation and cross marketing between tourist destinations, museums, historic sites and art venues. This is an essential aspect of the Gaming Facility’s role as a center for economic development for all of Orange County as well as the entire Mid-Hudson Region. Bringing millions of new visitors a year to the area, will help the entire region meet its growth and economic goals as outlined in the three regional economic development reports.

**Attachments included:**

March 2014, Orange County Economic Development Strategy

2011 A New Vision for Mid-Hudson’s Economy prepared by the Regional Economic Development Council

2013-2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Hudson Valley Economic Development District prepared by the Hudson Valley Regional Council

Angel Incubator Program – H2V2 brochure