

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: 2-22-2011	SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R-016 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE "WIN FOR TEXAS" STATE-MONITORED SLOT MACHINES AT RACETRACKS, TO ENCOURAGE THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING SLOT MACHINES AT CURRENT LICENSED RACE TRACKS AND RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBAL LANDS WHICH WILL ALLOW TEXAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE WITH THEIR OUT OF STATE COMPETITORS TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONAL TAX REVENUE FOR TEXAS.
INITIATED BY: Carlos Villarreal City Manager	STAFF SOURCE: Raul Casso City Attorney
PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:	
BACKGROUND:	
FINANCIAL:	
RECOMMENDATION:	STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends passage of this Resolution.

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R-016

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE “WIN FOR TEXAS” STATE-MONITORED SLOT MACHINES AT RACETRACKS, TO ENCOURAGE THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING SLOT MACHINES AT CURRENT LICENSED RACE TRACKS AND RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBAL LANDS WHICH WILL ALLOW TEXAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE WITH THEIR OUT OF STATE COMPETITORS TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONAL TAX REVENUE FOR TEXAS.

WHEREAS, The Texas horse and greyhound racing industry is a significant employer with a major impact on the economy of the State of Texas, currently generating \$5.5 billion in economic activity and providing 36,000 permanent jobs.

WHEREAS, Texas does not permit slot machines, but all of the states adjacent to Texas (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico) permit slot machines at their race tracks; and

WHEREAS, the increased revenue from slot machines in other states has enabled their race tracks to substantially increase purses for individual races as well as enhance the facilities and operations, giving them a distinct advantage over race tracks located within Texas; and

WHEREAS, the racing industry in Texas is slowly but surely declining as a result of the economic advantages held by the industry in the adjacent states due in part to small purses for winners as well as inability to maintain facilities and more expensive programs in Texas; and

WHEREAS, allowing state-monitored slot machines limited to the confines of the race tracks located in Texas would allow them to compete on an equal footing with their out of state competitors and would provide needed additional tax revenue for Texas; and

WHEREAS, slot machines in Texas would raise an estimated \$1 billion in additional state tax revenue each year; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 sectors of the state’s economy would benefit from an infusion of \$8.5 billion in economic activity and the addition of more than 70,000 new permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, numerous statewide polls show that a majority of Texans favor bringing slot machines to racetracks and that Texans want the right to vote on the issue; and

WHEREAS, various groups from the racing industry and thousands of other Texans have joined together in supporting the public campaign, Win for Texas, to encourage the Texas legislature to pass legislation allowing slot machines at the current licensed race tracks and recognized Indian tribal lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO:


1. That the City of Laredo hereby support "Win for Texas" and strongly urges the members of the Legislature of the State of Texas, and in particular its legislative members from Webb County, to actively pursue appropriate legislation enabling the race tracks and recognized Indian tribal lands within the State of Texas to operate slot machines on their properties.
2. That the City of Laredo believes that allowing the state-monitored slot machines in racetracks would generate additional revenue for the State of Texas.

22nd PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR on this, the day of February 2011.




RAUL G. SALINAS
Mayor

ATTEST:



GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



RAUL CASSO
City Attorney

