



December 9, 2010

Press Release

Re: Video Lottery Terminals or VLT's

The Board of Directors of the West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce approved the following proposal to support Video Lottery Terminals at Texas Race Tracks during their board meeting on December 8, 2010. The proposal is as follows:

As a measure for San Antonio and Retama Park to boost the local economy, the West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce endorses a proposal to provide electronic lottery at Texas pari-mutual race tracks. Video Lottery Terminals or VLT's are an electronic form of lottery games. The West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce calls upon all of our local state legislators to vote on and approve such legislation.

Passage of VLT legislation will provide the state with new revenue sources, boost local and state wide employment and give the state's agri-business industry much needed help. Currently, the Texas racing and breeding industries create approximately 40,000 jobs annually and it is a \$6 billion a year industry. The industry is seeing annual erosion of its market from all surrounding states and now Mexico. Customers and horse owners are taking advantage of enhanced economic opportunities in other states fueled by slot machines. The longevity of the Texas racing and breeding industry is at stake.

Currently Retama Park provides approximately 1,000 full time annual jobs at Retama Park and provide the San Antonio metropolitan area a very popular destination venue.

Video Lottery Terminal Facts and Figures

- State VLT revenue in the first year of operation is expected to exceed \$1 billion
- VLT's will boost state wide racing and breeding employment to a estimated 70,000 annual jobs.
- VLT's will help the Texas economy by stimulating racing and agricultural industries that support pari-mutual racing.

West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
1800 W Commerce | San Antonio, Texas | 78207
Phone: 210.299.5244 Fax: 210.299.5160
Lgalvan@westsachamber.org

- Texas dollars will stay in Texas instead of going to neighboring states by virtue of Texans traveling to slot machine venues.
- This proposal confines gambling in the state to existing pari-mutual facilities and can be implemented quickly as the infrastructure is now in place at state racing facilities.
- Additionally, such legislation could help combat and remove the approximately 140,000 illegal "eight liners" now in the state that produce no revenue to the state and are completely unregulated.

It has been stated by former President Mary Cruz, "Retama Park would then be a larger partner with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County in the local economic development process. Retama Park is willing to promote education, economic development, agriculture, jobs and tourism in San Antonio. They are committed to improving the quality of life for us all. Retama Park will be making a difference in Bexar County. This is a new vision for all of us and a concept born in a barn which will have unprecedented growth in San Antonio. I would like to see entertainment, hotels, video lottery terminals, horse racing at its best. We will be extremely grateful to Retama Park for the generous commitments toward the revitalization for education, economic vitality and visibility of this facility by making the city, the destination racing and gaming point of the Southwest."

Thank you,



Lourdes Galvan
Executive Director