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**Statement from John Ravitz, Executive Vice President/COO
The Business Council of Westchester to the Community Advisory Council**

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Good evening. My name is John Ravitz, and I am the Executive Vice President/COO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW) the county largest business membership organization that focuses on economic development and advocacy. Obtaining a full-gaming license for Empire City by MGM Resorts has been and will continue to be the top legislative priority for the Business Council of Westchester.

Empire City by MGM Resorts has already proven to be a proven winner for the city of Yonkers, the County, and the state, generating over \$300 million dollars in tax revenue each year to fund state education, and millions more for state and local government coffers.

The enhanced development of the property will also make it one of the largest incubators for workforce development, creating 2,000 new jobs for the residents of Westchester and the Bronx. Think about that for a moment, these jobs will change the lives of 2,000 individuals and their families. They will create opportunities for people to work in back-office jobs, IT, security, catering, landscaping, and other business sectors.

It should also be noted that Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts has already established solid working relationships with related businesses in the city of Yonkers. Those relationships will continue to grow once they have a full gaming license.

What I also hope this Committee will consider is the huge commitment that Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts has made to being a good neighbor to the surrounding community of their property. As some of you know, I represented the East Side of Manhattan in the New York State Assembly for 12 years. During that time, I worked with developers and corporations who were proposing huge projects that would impact those communities. I wish that many of them had used the playbook that Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts has used to LEAN-In to address the community's concerns.

In 2019, I attended four roundtable community meetings that MGM facilitated. Invited to those meetings were community leaders, business owners and residents. At each of those meetings, senior MGM officials did not stand up and say, “Here’s our Plan to expand.” What they did say was “We are here to listen and engage in ongoing dialogues with our neighbors to get an understanding on what quality of life concerns you might have, so that we can address them in a responsible manner. These types of meetings have continued over the years, which has allowed Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts to develop deeper relationships with members of the surrounding community. I hope that fact will raise the confidence levels of all stakeholders who are part of this process that Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts is going to be an active initiative-taking neighbor.

Three years ago, the BCW with our Friends in Labor, Non-for-profits and other community based organizations created “A Sure Bet for New York’s Future Alliance” to demonstrate that as a collective body we understood that allowing Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts a full-gaming license will be a GAME CHANGER for the city, the county and the state.

As this process continues to move forward, we all must remember how transformative this project will be not just in the immediate future, but for generations to come.

Simply put, this is a win-win opportunity for all of us.