

MAYOR LOPEZ, MPT ZARAGOSA, COUNCILMEN: JANE TOLMACH 3/27/01

WHY ARE THREE OF YOU INSISTING ON A REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF BIG TIME GAMBLING.? EIGHT YEARS AGO TWO OF YOU INSISTED ON HEARING HOW THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY FELT ABOUT BIG TIME GAMBLING. YOU HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR FROM OUR VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITY, THE PEOPLE DO NOT WANT BIG TIME GAMBLING. THE ISSUES HAVE NOT CHANGED, JUST THE APPLICANTS. INVOLVING A TINY INDIAN TRIBE FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DOES NOT CHANGE THE ISSUES. THE ISSUES ARE THE CORRUPTION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT WITH THIS ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CASH INVOLVED THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN CITIES IN CALIFORNIA WITH BIG TIME GAMBLING. IT DESTROYS THE IMAGE OF OXNARD TO EVEN CONSIDER APPROVING BIG TIME GAMBLING. MANY IN THE COMMUNITY REMINDED YOU OF THE DESTRUCTION OF FAMILIES WHEN MONEY THAT SHOULD BE SPENT ON FOOD AND SHELTER ARE Poured INTO THESE CASINOS BY THE ADDICTED OR PARTLY ADDICTED. REGULAR BUSINESSES LOSE SALES WHEN PEOPLE POUR THEIR EXTRA MONEY INTO THE SLOTS, THE ONE HARMED BANDITS. BESIDES, ANALYSISTS HAVE FOUND THAT MOST INDIANS HAVE NOT BENEFITTED FROM THE CASINO BOOM. ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS BEFORE WAS THAT WE HAVE PEACFULL GAMBLING IN SMALL CARD CLUBS IN OXNARD AND VENTURA. ON APRIL 16, 1998 THERE WAS A "BRUTAL SHOOTING IN A DOWNTOWN VENTURA CARD CLUB" (AT THE ELKS LODGE) KILLING THE MANAGER. ONE OF THE DEALERS HAD BEEN LOSING WHILE PLAYING DURING BREAKS AND CONFESSED TO THE KILLING. THAT WAS A TINY CLUB NOT 2000 SLOTS 175 GAMING TABLES.

YOU SHOULD NOT BE PUTTING YOUR STAFF TO STUDYING THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROPAGANDA PUT OUT BY THE BIG TIME GAMBLING GROUPS OR SENDING THEM TO PALM SPRINGS. YOU SHOULD HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING ON BIG TIME GAMBLING NEXT TUESDAY AND HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE,. THE QUESTION IS DO THE PEOPLE IN OXNARD WANT BIG TIME GAMBLING IN OUR COMMUNITY. STOP TRYING TO HANDLE THIS ISSUE THROUGH YOUR STAFF OUT OF THE VIEW OF THE PUBLIC. YOU APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO LET PARAGON GAMING, LLC PULL A PROPOSAL TOGETHER AND LET THEM PRESENT IT AS A DONE DEAL. IT REMINDS ME OF THE HOUSING FOR PRISONERS ON D STREET THAT YOU HAD THE STAFF HANDLE. PLEASE CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT WEEK OR AT THE LATEST ON APRIL 10TH.