



Public Comments for August 4, 2020 Village Council Meeting
(Comments published as of 4:30pm. Public comments can still be submitted any time before or during the meeting)

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
Active Agenda	ORD 2020-8612 An ordinance proposing to establish Special Service Area #11 (Downers Grove Downtown Service Area) in the Village of Downers Grove, Illinois and provide for a public hearing and other procedures in connection therewith.	I have long been concerned that the Downtown Management Corporation claims to be free of FOIA requirements. Therefore money from the Village enters a black hole of non-transparency. This action is an opportunity to clarify the situation and to require Downtown Management Corporation transparency to the same degree that the Village itself is responsible to FOIA requests.	John Schofield Downers Grove
Manager's Report	INF 2020-8588 2019-2021 Long Range Plan update	As Council deliberates sources of additional revenue, Chamber630 asks you to thoughtfully consider Video Gaming. This revenue stream not only awards the Village with State shared fees but also through the additional sales tax spent at Downers Grove locations on food and beverages. In many situations, this allowance will be the difference of a business staying or leaving the Village and perhaps moving just a few miles or even blocks, east, north or south. I urge you to support the Video Gaming revenue stream and support business while doing so. I appreciate your consideration. Sincerely, Laura Crawford Chamber630	Laura Crawford representing Chamber630 2001 Butterfield Downers Grove
Manager's Report	INF 2020-8588 2019-2021 Long Range Plan update	Video Gaming as a revenue stream for the Village, as well as level the playing field for business' struggling to compete with direct competitors of neighboring towns a few blocks away.	Danny Glover 440 Ogden Downers Grove
Manager's Report	INF 2020-8588 2019-2021 Long Range Plan update	In order for us to stay in business, especially during these times, the revenue from video gaming is a necessity and very much needed.	Steve Syreggelas 5600 Belmont Downers Grove
Manager's Report	INF 2020-8588 2019-2021 Long Range Plan update	My name is James Weyrick and I own Downers Sand Club Sports Bar & Grill in Downers Grove. I am messaging here about long term financial plans for DG. Video Gaming SHOULD be brought into the town. You currently have this estimated at 100,000 to 300,000. I think you are selling yourself short. In my research Westmont, IL for 2019 made over 382,000 with 17 locations having gaming. I believe Downers Grove could easily make that money or more. With the BIG increase from gaming revenue I would ask that you NOT increase the Food & Beverage tax. I hope down the road downers grove would REMOVE this tax as it hurts businesses like mine. I believe you all can find better ways to get more revenue like the video gaming. Thanks for listening James Weyrick downerssandclub@gmail.com	James Weyrick 1211 Butterfield Downers Grove
Public Comment	Public Comment	My name is Frank Militello and I am the owner of 3 Corners Grill & Tap. I would like to voice my support for video gaming. While it is something I don't need for the survival of my business short term, long term it is a valuable source of revenue to offset not only the increased village taxes but also the state mandated wage increases as well as other mandated fees and taxes like having to offer a 401k, sexual harassment training, etc...All of these taxes and fees continually increase our costs. Without a revenue stream to offset these ever increasing costs it only raises the customers bill as our only option is to raise prices. Eventually people will choose to spend their dining dollars elsewhere as our pricing becomes higher than competing businesses in surrounding villages who offer gaming to help defray the increased costs. I have video gaming in my other two locations in Lemont and New Lenox and the patrons who play the games are our current customers and contrary to some beliefs aren't random people coming in from other villages. For many customers where they go to eat and spend their money many times depends on if the establishment has gaming. Thank you for your time.	Frank Militello



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Manager's Report	INF 2020-8588 2019-2021 Long Range Plan update	Hello, I own a business in town. I would like to see Downers Grove allow video gaming as many of the surrounding towns do. I have multiple locations that do allow video gaming and in 10 years we have had zero issues with the machines. They have caused no problems and help add revenue we sorely need to stay afloat. I think with the heavy decreases in tax revenue to Downers Grove it is a good option to look at. Thank you for your time.	Robert Taft 2707 63rd St Downers Grove
Public Comment	Public Comment	<p>Video Link Terminals</p> <p>As a resident and business owner in Downers Grove I am strongly urging the Council, Mayor and Village Manager to approve Video Gaming to help mitigate the impending financial crisis for both the village and restaurant industry. There is more than enough empirical data to demonstrate that this form of adult entertainment is not detrimental to the family image or reputation of the community. We need only look to Westmont, Woodridge, Lemont, Oak Brook Terrace or Lombard to see for ourselves its impact socially and economically.</p> <p>Video Gaming creates a completely separate revenue stream for both the village and establishments that host it. It is a completely voluntary tax source that has no downside. Neither the Village nor the businesses where it is located needs to spend large amounts of capital resources to offer video gaming. The village estimates that it will raise \$100K to \$300K annually in revenue. Westmont realizes nearly \$385K (actual) annually from 20 locations and is about one third the size of Downers Grove and half the population. Downers Grove has more restaurant commerce and retail operations than Westmont with major footprints on Butterfield Road, Ogden Avenue and 75th street. Downers Grove could easily approve upwards of 30 locations and using Westmont's annual VLT income as a base, we could realize upwards of \$500K to \$600K annually.</p> <p>Direct tax revenue is not the only benefit to approving video gaming. Giving Downers Grove Restaurants a level playing field to compete with surrounding communities will help them retain customers, attract new customers and remain competitive in these very trying times. These customers not only game; they eat, shop and spend money in the community. They will help the businesses survive, contribute to the F&B tax as well as sales taxes. Denying these customers the option of spending their discretionary entertainment dollars in Downers Grove does not stop them from gaming. It just compels them to patronize and support surrounding communities. This is a fact!</p> <p>The village is considering a number of new taxes and fees as well as raising existing taxes and fees on businesses and residents. The village should adopt an across the board approach using all available sources incrementally. Most of us will pay these, although begrudgingly. Something to consider, Video Gaming is the only new revenue source proposed where the individual willingly contributes to the coffers without objection and increases other taxes already in place. It also helps contribute to the long term success of business and not take from it.</p>	Bryan Bentley 4455 Wilson Downers Grove