



City of BELL GARDENS

7100 Garfield Avenue • Bell Gardens, CA 90201 • 562-806-7700 • www.bellgardens.org

May 2, 2019

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 168024
Attn: Bureau of Gambling Control

Dear Mr. Becerra:

I have been advised that the Bureau of Gambling Control has notified Bicycle Hotel & Casino, which serves and employs many Bell Gardens residents, that it intends to rescind or withdraw game approvals for controlled games which have been in play in our jurisdiction for many years. I am writing you today because of the serious impact these potential actions the Bureau of Gambling Control is considering will have on Bell Gardens and the surrounding area. My community is extremely concerned about lasting impact these actions would have locally and across the state.

The actions being considered by the Bureau would have a direct and negative impact to our community. For decades, the cardroom in our area has contributed steady tax revenues to support public safety and community programs, well-paying jobs and capital improvements. Bicycle Casino in our community generates about \$13 million that benefits our local economy and residents who utilize city services.

The Bicycle Casino also generates many valuable jobs for Bell Gardens residents and community members that are irreplaceable. Many of these jobs are living wage jobs that require little prior training or higher education. As the Bureau considers altering rules or rescinding games that have been approved and established for years in this community, we urge you to consider the impact on these local employees and their families.

Our community benefits greatly from Bicycle Casino's presence. In communities such as ours, cardroom table tax payments provide a significant portion of the local budget. These tax revenues help fund vital local services for our residents, such as police and fire protection, park construction and maintenance, and local road repairs. In the absence of cardroom tax payments, many California cities, like ours, would have to cut valuable services to local residents. Particularly in Bell Gardens, law enforcement is shorthanded and would greatly suffer from budget cuts caused directly to the loss of revenue or closure of our local cardroom.

In recent years many cardrooms have made multi-million-dollar upgrades to their facilities increasing local employment and providing non-gaming amenities to our city and local communities. This ongoing investment improves the quality of life in our area, and further supports jobs for our residents.

In closing, Bicycle Hotel & Casino is the pride and joy of the City of Bell Gardens. As the Bureau of Gambling Control considers actions that will significantly harm the revenues of cardrooms, we encourage you to recognize the positive impact of cardrooms on communities across the State, in particular the City of Bell Gardens which relies heavily on Bicycle Casino. We are very concerned about the lack of public process of such a drastic action, especially as it will directly and significantly impact our city services, jobs, and local economy.

We encourage you to instead work collaboratively with all stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Lisseth Flores
Bell Gardens Mayor Pro Tem