

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 am writing you today to express my concern over the negative impacts that potential regulations changes that the Bureau of Gambling Control is considering will have on the Bell Gardens community. As a Council Member for the City of Bell Gardens, I am extremely alarmed that a business our community and local economy relies upon, the Bicycle Hotel & Casino, is in jeopardy.

Any changes to Bicycle Casino's ability to operate or provide previously approved and established card games would have a direct and negative impact to the City of Bell Gardens and surrounding communities. For decades, the cardroom in our area has contributed steady tax revenues, well-paying jobs and much-needed improvements and support to our local community. We urge you to consider the direct impact regulations changes will have on the residents of Bell Gardens.

In our community, the Bicycle Casino generates about \$13 million in tax revenue that benefits our local economy. This money contributes to fundamental local public services that our residents rely heavily on. This includes local police and fire protection, park construction and maintenance and local road repairs. In the absence of cardroom tax payments, cities across California, like ours, would have to cut these vital services to residents. Law enforcement is already understaffed in our community, and would suffer greatly from budget cuts due to the closure of the local cardroom. This, in turn, would impact public safety for residents and visitors to Bell Gardens.

As the Bureau of Gambling Control considers actions that will significantly harm the revenues of cardrooms across the State, as well as Bell Gardens, we encourage you to recognize the positive impact of cardrooms on our communities and to work directly with stakeholders to find a fair solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marco Barcena', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marco Barcena  
City of Bell Gardens Council Member