## Blakely, Heidi

**From:** Glenn Nelson <  >
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 2:33 PM
**To:** DuPage County Chair; Cronin Cahill, Cindy; Childress, Michael; Covert, Sadia; DeSart, Dawn; Eckhoff, Grant; Evans, Lucy; Galassi, Kari; DeaconGarcia, Paula; Haider, Saba; Honig, Andrew; Krajewski, Brian; LaPlante, Lynn; Martinez, Melissa; Ozog, Mary; Schwarze, Greg; Tornatore, Sam; Yoo, Yeena; Zay, James
**Cc:** Greg Smaistrla; WILLIAM GRAHAM; Hoss, Paul; Blakely, Heidi; michelle.detzner@dupagecounty.go; Martinez, Marissa
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT (2-27-2026 Video-Gambling Ordinance CHANGE PROPOSALS, ..... and Summary of 2-24-2026 and past DuPage County Board meetings regarding video-gambling)
**Attachments:** PUBLIC COMMENT (2-27-2026 Video-Gambling Ordinance CHANGE PROPOSAL and Summary of 2-24-2026 and past DuPage County Board meetings).pdf

**[Caution: This email originated outside Dupagecounty.gov. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]**

DuPage County Board,
**Attached** is a PDF document (PUBLIC COMMENT) that every board member should read in full.

It provides the following information:

1.) A PROPOSAL for specific changes to the Video-Gaming Ordinance of Unincorporated DuPage County.
   a.) This section is **8 pages.** 4 pages of proposed changes (with detailed rationale), and 4 pages with the EXACT TEXT of Aurora's video gambling ordinance.

2.) Feedback about the County Board's past video-gambling decisions (using the 2-24-2026 Luck 7 Bistro decision as merely an example).
   a.) This section is **4 pages.** It makes clear how the variance could have been denied, and also provides other insights for you all to be aware of going forward.
   b.) I actually spoke to the two owner/partners of Lucky 7 Bistro during the 2-24-2026 board meeting and reassured them that PUBLIC COMMENT concerns are not directed at them personally, but our comments are directed at the failures of the DuPage County Board. They understood completely. I also suggested to them "One suggestion I would give is for you to use some of the HUGE profits from video-gambling to support your neighborhood and community. Businesses in my neighborhood that don't have video gambling contribute every year to our annual neighborhood gatherings/parties (like Octoberfest, and summer BBQ's)." They indicated that they do support the community with their "Subway" and "Charlie's" locations as well. I can't be sure this is true (might have just been lip-service), as they live in Park Ridge, but it was good to hear nonetheless.

3.) Feedback highlighting the specific parts of the IL VIDEO GAMING ACT, and the DuPage County video-gambling ordinance that explain where your authority can be exercised related to video-gambling. I share this because, based on what I have observed, I don't think the county actually knows how much authority they have, but willingly conceded under threat of lawsuit, in recent months.
   a.) This section is **5 pages.**

4.) Information about a SENATE BILL that some have tried to pass to FORCE video-gambling into CHICAGO. This should not be permitted to pass if ever re-raised.
a.) This section is **1 page.**

Below, I am also highlighting an article I recently found on a news site named "MEDIUM" titled "HOW VIDEO GAMBLING IS EATING ILLINOIS ALIVE." I found it to be very well written.
I just copied the article to 440,000 people in the Chicago Suburbs and to another 300,000 in broader Illinois who are subscribers to a couple other social media sites.
I will also be further corresponding with and sharing DuPage County specific information with the author of the article in the near future.

If any Board members care to discuss any of what I have shared, especially the 6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, please feel free to reach out.

Glenn Nelson

P.S. On a side note: I was driving on 2/25/2025, and using GOOGLE MAPS on my phone. As I was driving, google maps said to me **"APPROACHING MIMI'S CAFE in 1/2 mile on your right - PLAY, SPIN, WIN!"** It is crazy how video-gambling is being marketed in this manner, especially when there are IL STATE laws that PROHIBIT video-gambling establishments from sending advertisements or mailers to people on a list of OPTING-OUT GAMBLING ADDICTS. I guess this advertising method allows video-gambling establishments a loophole to reach those people anyway.

**********

# How Video Gambling Is Eating Illinois Alive

When programming makes losses feel like wins, individual willpower isn't enough.

6 min read
**May 4, 2025**
(https://medium.com/)

Walk into any gas station, restaurant, or truck stop in Illinois and you'll see them: innocent-looking video screens that generate more addiction than entertainment.
These aren't your grandfather's slot machines.

### 1. The Dopamine Hijack
Your brain releases dopamine not when you win, but when you might win.
Video gambling machines exploit this by using "variable reward schedules" — the same mechanism that makes cocaine addictive. Players get hooked on the anticipation, not the actual wins.
The machine doesn't care if you win or lose. It just needs you to keep pressing that button.

### 2. The Trance Zone
1,200 gambling events per hour.
Read that again.

That's 20 bets every single minute. Your brain literally cannot process losses at this speed.
Players enter what researchers call "the machine zone" — a dissociative state where time disappears and rational thinking shuts down. People report playing for 12 hours straight without realizing it, wetting themselves rather than leaving the machine.
This isn't entertainment. This is systematic consciousness hijacking.

### 3. The Almost-Win Trap

Here's where it gets truly evil.
These machines are programmed to show "near misses" more often than random chance would allow. You see two cherries, then the third reel almost lands on cherry before clicking to the next symbol.
Your brain interprets this as "I almost won!" instead of "I lost."
The machine literally rewires your perception of reality.

### The Hunting Grounds

Where do these machines appear? The pattern reveals everything.

Poor neighborhoods get 3x more terminals than wealthy areas.
This isn't coincidence. It's targeting.
Drive through Riverdale, Robbins, or East St. Louis and you'll find video gambling terminals every few blocks. Drive through Winnetka or Lake Forest and they're virtually nonexistent.
The typical victim? A woman over 40, earning less than $40,000, working multiple jobs while caring for family. Someone who stops for gas between shifts and thinks "maybe this $20 will solve everything."
It never does.
But the machine keeps her believing it might.

### The Wealth Extraction Machine:

Every dollar fed into these machines leaves Illinois.
Corporate owners are based in Nevada, Delaware, and overseas tax havens. Profits flow out of state while communities are left with the devastation.

### The math is brutal:

• $400 million lost annually by Illinois residents
• Each gambling dollar reduces local spending by $3–4
• Money that should buy groceries, clothes, and school supplies vanishes into corporate bank accounts.

### Real impact in real communities:

• Local restaurants report customers eating less to fund gambling
• Children's programs lose funding as parents prioritize machines over activities
• Small businesses watch regular customers disappear into gambling venues
• Landlords evict tenants who spent rent money chasing losses.

This is economic colonialism disguised as entertainment.

### City Hall's Dirty Secret:

Illinois municipalities aren't victims of gambling expansion.
They're accomplices.
Local governments control licensing. They decide where machines can operate. And they're addicted to the revenue just like the players are addicted to the machines.

**The corruption is systematic:**
Municipal officials receive gambling tax revenue, creating direct financial incentives to approve more licenses. They've transformed from community protectors into gambling industry sales reps.
Zoning meetings that should prioritize community health instead focus on maximizing terminal density. Officials who took oaths to serve residents consistently choose machine revenue over neighborhood stability.
Some cities actively recruit gambling operators with tax breaks and expedited permits. They market vulnerable communities to addiction manufacturers.

The power exists to stop this. Every municipality can restrict or ban video gambling entirely.
Most choose the money instead.

**The Predation Corridors:**
Drive down any struggling commercial strip in Illinois and you'll see the pattern.
Video gambling terminals cluster near payday loans, pawn shops, and check-cashing stores. This isn't random distribution — it's surgical targeting of financial desperation.

**Here's how the ecosystem works:**

1 Resident pawns wedding ring for emergency cash
2 Tries to "win it back" on video poker next door
3 Loses pawn money
4 Returns to surrender ring permanently
5 Takes payday loan to chase losses
6 Cycle repeats until financial destruction is complete.

Each business feeds the others. The gambling operator knows customers will need the payday lender. The pawn shop knows gambling losses create desperate sellers.
They're not serving a community. They're harvesting one.

The Neighborhood Death Spiral:
Watch what happens when gambling terminals saturate an area.

**The transformation follows a predictable pattern:**
Commercial districts that once featured diverse businesses now revolve around addiction extraction. Grocery stores, bookstores, and family restaurants can't compete with enterprises designed to generate compulsive behavior.
Property values stagnate as gambling concentrations signal community distress. Legitimate businesses avoid the area, leaving more space for gambling operations.
Corner stores that once served as informal community centers prioritize machine revenue over relationships. The atmosphere shifts from neighborhood gathering place to money extraction zone.

Public safety deteriorates. Cash-heavy gambling operations attract robberies. Domestic disputes spike as families fracture over gambling losses. Police reports show direct correlations between terminal density and crime rates.
The cumulative effect extends far beyond the gambling establishments. When residents lose discretionary income to machines, they spend less everywhere else. Local businesses lose customers, creating a downward spiral that devastates entire commercial ecosystems.

This is community murder by economic strangulation.

**The States That Fought Back:**

While Illinois expands video gambling, other states prove meaningful restrictions work.
South Carolina banned video poker in 2000 after documenting devastation in low-income communities. Despite industry fear-mongering about economic collapse, the state's economy grew as gambling money flowed to legitimate businesses and community development.
Hawaii and Utah prohibit all forms of gambling. Both states report among the lowest addiction rates nationwide and consistently higher levels of community social capital.
West Virginia imposed strict density limits after mapping how machine clustering destroyed vulnerable neighborhoods. **They now cap TERMINALS (not establishments) at one per 2,500 residents per census tract, preventing the saturation plaguing Illinois.**

**GLENN'S ADDED COMMENT: If DUPAGE COUNTY (including all municipalities), with 932,877 residents,**
**used the same cap of 1 terminal per 2500 residents, this would result in only 373 terminals.**
**DuPage county currently has 345 establishments with 2,070 terminals.**

Oregon dedicates all gambling revenue to addiction treatment and prevention programs. Illinois sends taxes to general revenue while communities bear social costs without receiving dedicated support.
Even Nevada — America's gambling capital — restricts video terminals to licensed casinos, not gas stations scattered throughout residential neighborhoods.

The solution isn't theoretical. It's proven.
Other states chose community health over industry profits. Illinois can do the same.

## The Reality Check:

Strip away the marketing language and here's what video gambling really is:

Addiction devices targeting economically vulnerable communities.
These machines generate 1,200 opportunities for compulsive behavior every hour. They're programmed to hijack brain chemistry and perception of reality. They're deliberately placed in neighborhoods least equipped to absorb financial losses.

This isn't entertainment. It's legalized predation.
Sarah's story isn't unique. Across Illinois, thousands of residents feed their paychecks into machines designed to create and exploit addiction.
The gas station still has decent coffee.
But that machine in the corner is still hunting.

## What You Can Do:

**At the municipal level:**

- Attend city council meetings when gambling licenses come up for renewal
- Demand geographic restrictions preventing terminal clustering
- Push for revenue redirection toward addiction treatment programs
- Support candidates who prioritize community health over gambling revenue

**At the state level:**

- Contact representatives about banning addiction-engineering features
- Advocate for transparent loss reporting by ZIP code
- Support legislation requiring gambling revenue fund community development

**In your community:**

- Share this information with neighbors and local business owners
- Support businesses that refuse to host gambling terminals

- Recognize the signs of gambling addiction in friends and family

The machines are counting on your silence.
Break it.

Know someone affected by gambling addiction? The Illinois Council on Problem Gambling helpline is 1–800–522–4700.
Recovery is possible, but only after we acknowledge the scope of exploitation happening in our communities.

Share this article if you think Illinois residents deserve better than legalized poverty extraction.

DuPage County Board Members (submitted as PUBLIC COMMENT on 2-27-2026),

This submitted PUBLIC COMMENT is intended to be used as input to inform fact-based changes to the Unincorporated DuPage County video gambling ordinance (often inappropriately referred to as the "video gaming ordinance"), via an amended ordinance or text amendment.

Below I raise a number of proposed changes, and I provide the rationale/logic for each and every proposed change. If any Zoning Board of Appeals member, or any Development Committee member, or any DuPage County Board member has ANY reason why they do not agree with the rationale/logic stated, I would ask them to explain to the other members the EXACT REASON THEY BELIEVE the proposed change is not adoptable or not in-line with the original intent of why the ordinances were originally put in place.

1.) **INSTITUTE A VIDEO-GAMBLING LICENSE CAP:** DuPage County should put a CAP on the number of video gambling licenses that will be permitted in Unincorporated DuPage County. Whether this should be a CAP-AND-TRADE model (like liquor licenses) is debatable due to complications that that entails (mentioned in prior public comments). Also a 5-year moratorium could also be implemented to observe how other municipalities fare related to negative societal impacts.

**AURORA, IL has a # of VGT (video gaming terminals) CAP of 240**. They have already hit the CAP. **That equals 40 establishments, unless 18 establishments have only 5 VGTs (thus allowing 43).**

| METRIC | DUPAGE COUNTY | AURORA (2020) | UNINCORP. DUPAGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| POPULATION (PEOPLE): | 932,877 people | 180,542 people | 100,000 people |
| # VID-GAMING ESTAB: | 345 | 43 | 30 |
| # PEOPLE / VG ESTAB: | 2,704 | 4,198 | 3,333 |
| ESTAB CAP IF = AURORA | 222 | 43 | 24 |
| VGT License CAP: | 1,332 terminals | 240 terminals | 144 terminals |
| ESTAB CAP IF = COUNTY | 345 | 66 | 37 |
| VGT License CAP: | 2,070 terminals | 396 terminals | 222 terminals |

I share the above because it shows that Unincorporated DuPage County already has surpassed the number of establishments (24) that would be equivalent to Aurora's CAP of 40 (based on # people population per establishment).

If I did not mention this, then I suspect Tornatore would probably try to make a case for Unincorporated DuPage County to still allow more gaming establishments. Would Unincorporated DuPage County Board really want to lower their standards to be lower than Aurora's?

Even compared to all DuPage County, Unincorporated DuPage County's CAP should be **NO MORE THAN 37** video gambling establishments (based on # people population per establishment).

2.) **INSTITUTE DISTANCE REQUIREMENT OF 2640 feet:** Sam Tornatore proposed lowering the distance requirement between video-gambling establishments from 1000 feet (property-line to property-line) down to 1000 feet (door-to-door or building to building). I ask, what does that actually accomplish? ANSWER: Absolutely nothing! They are meaningless distances.
The distance restriction used to be 100 feet (property-line to property-line). This would not even stop my immediate residential next door neighbor from doing something. It was a meaningless distance. The same can be said for the 1000 foot distance requirement, as is clearly shown by my prior public comment that showed how Unincorporated DuPage County has negligently permitted clustered gaming malls in numerous areas (at the same intersection, and even on the same corner). The county has shown that they can't effectively limit video gambling close-proximity saturation even with a 1000 foot restriction.

As I stated in prior public comment, AURORA has a 2640 foot (1/2 mile) restriction **(ATTACHED)**. I would propose that this is what Unincorporated DuPage County should approve (at the very least), otherwise the county risks more of the same video gaming congestion in close-proximity areas. This restriction would also help further limit the spread of video-gambling.

https://aurora-il.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=DIVISION_8-IV-5_VIDEO_GAMING

The majority of the board has said they personally DO NOT LIKE VIDEO GAMBLING (even Tornatore, Krajewski and Zay, and many others), when they say "I don't personally think having so much video gambling is a good thing." Therefore, I do not believe there should be any objection to this proposal, which is in alignment with the intent of why a distance restriction from churches, daycares, schools, and other video-gambling establishments even exists.

I have **attached** the CITY OF AURORA – VIDEO GAMING ORDINANCE below for your reference. It does a pretty good job of limiting certain aspects of the spread of video gambling in Aurora, and grants the City of Aurora numerous ways to legally claw back gaming licenses when business ownership changes. This means that a business would not able to sell their primary business (worth $500,000) for $3,000,000 by telling a potential buyer that they will be able to keep generating HUGE income from video-gambling. This gives the County the inherent right to stop video-gambling at establishments when ownership changes hands. This is good for the county and its residents. One would think Glen Ellyn should want similar rights related to strip clubs like "Uncle Paulie's: The Shame of Glen Ellyn" (which also has video gambling), though I realize this establishment is not under DuPage County jurisdiction.

3.) **<u>DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS (2640 feet):</u>** AURORA also has wording to prohibit multiple video-gambling establishments on in the same shopping center, plaza or strip mall. The above proposed 2640 feet distance restriction would adequately address this concern, but IF the county for whatever reason does not use a 2640 feet distance requirement in an updated ordinance (likely because of Tornatore influence), then wording like the following should be required:

> "A video gambling establishment may not be in the same shopping center, plaza or strip mall as another video gambling establishment. A video gambling establishment may not be at the same intersection or on the same corner within ½ mile of another video-gambling establishment."

As you know, Unincorporated DuPage County's toothless distance restriction and lack of adequate oversight has resulted in many establishments violating distance restrictions which were put in place to prohibit such close-proximity to schools, places of assembly, daycares, and other video-gambling establishments.

4.) **<u>INCREASE NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENT (from existing 300 feet to a more appropriate 1 mile distance):</u>**
What does the existing 300 foot neighborhood notification requirement actually accomplish?
ANSWER: Absolutely nothing! It was a meaningless throw-away distance.

This often results in 0-3 homeowners being notified, even though a proposed video gambling residence is smack-dab in the middle of residential communities and near schools, churches, daycares and other gaming facilities. We have seen this play out. What are the odds that one of those 0-3 people will have the ability or knowledge to even know of how to respond or object.
ANSWER: Very low odds.
This fact validates the need for better communication to the neighboring residential subdivisions and businesses, because clearly the county doing what is best for residents is not being accomplished regarding video gambling.

**NOTE:** I think the DuPage county board does a wonderful job regarding many other aspects of Unincorporated DuPage County management and governance, but residents do not believe the county board has done well regarding video-gambling oversight. Therefore 300 feet is a meaningless notification distance. As such, this notification distance should be increased to 1 mile.

5.) **<u>REVOKE VIDEO-GAMING LICENSE upon 50+% CHANGE OF ESTABLISHMENT OWNERSHIP:</u>**
This is what Aurora does and it would give Unincorporated DuPage County better flexibility to counter any already existing video-gambling over saturation on corners, intersections, strip malls,

across the street from each other, or after seeing an increase in vide-gambling related crimes (which will are inevitable based on the news stories I have previously provided in public comment). I propose using the language Aurora used for this ordinance provision. **(ATTACHED)**

6.) **Make video gambling licenses non transferable or assignable:** AURORA STATES: "All licenses issued by the city under this article shall expire on September 30 and are renewable annually unless sooner cancelled or terminated. No license issued under this article is transferable or assignable."

7.) **INCLUDE WORDING THAT STATES VIDEO-GAMBLING REVENUES (i.e. NTI) MAY NOT EXCEED REVENUES FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS PRIMARY BUSINESS (which is implied in AURORA guidance to Liquor commissioner for distance exceptions):** Businesses with a small video-gambling side-business are better than a video-gambling business that sells liquor, gasoline, convenience items, or sandwiches.
The owner of M&W Thai told me he makes far more from video-gambling than he does from his food sales. He was very proud of this fact, yet his sign on the front of his establishment says M&W Thai. He also has no separation of his gaming machines from his restaurant.
Lets get back to the basics of capitalism where good business models succeed and bad-business models fail. I don't buy into the Jim Zay belief that *"we have to save failing small businesses so we don't have empty storefronts."* If we allow the small failing businesses to fail, then if there are not other businesses immediately jumping to rent out the vacated building, then the landlord rents would likely drop until someone signs a lease to take over the location. Instead, Jim Zay's model just facilitates commercial business landlords keeping rents high.

8.) **SUNSET VIDEO GAMBLING IN UNINCORPORATE DUPAGE COUNTY:** I realize this is the most aggressive proposal (#8 by itself), and one I think the County probably can't stomach, but I wanted to put it out there for consideration nonetheless. That said, all of the above prior proposals should all be easy for the County Zoning Board, Development Committee and County Board to approve, implement, and enforce, unless Sam Tornatore (Head of the Development committee until December 2026 retirement), Krajewski, and Zay overpower the rest of the board or they don't put forward these proposals for a vote. Remember even these three have said they don't necessarily think more video-gambling is good for DuPage County, so one should question WHAT MOTIVES they have if they object to the changes I and my community are proposing.

This is just a brain dump of thoughts for the DuPage County Zoning, Development Committee and County Board members to consider as they work through the process of future-proofing against the continued and unfettered spread of video-gambling in DuPage County. I'm curious to see what change proposals do or don't get approved and implemented.

Sincerely, Glenn Nelson

# City of Aurora - Code of Ordinances

**DIVISION 8-IV-5 VIDEO GAMING**
Sec 8-130 Definitions
Sec 8-131 Licensee Requirements
Sec 8-132 Application And Issuance
Sec 8-133 Fees
Sec 8-134 Renewal

**Sec 8-130 Definitions**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Video gaming terminal* or *Gambling device* means: (1) any clock, tape machine, slot machine, or other machines or device for the reception of money or other thing of value on chance or skill or upon the action of which money or a voucher for money or other financial consideration is staked, hazarded, bet, won, or lost; or (2) any mechanism, furniture, fixture, equipment, or other device designed primarily for use in a gambling place; or (3) any vending or other electronic machine or device, including, without limitation, a machine or device that awards credits and contains a circuit, meter, or switch capable of removing and recording the removal of credits that offers a person entry into any contest, competition, sweepstakes, scheme, plan, or other selection process that involves or is dependent upon an element of chance for which the person may receive a gift, award, or other item or service of value if that offer is incidental to or results from: (A) the purchase of an item or service of value; or (B) the purchase or gratuitous receipt of a coupon, voucher, certificate, or other similar credit that can be redeemed for or applied towards an item or service of value from such machine or device or elsewhere.

(Ord. No. O12-068, § 4, 8-28-12; Ord. No. O18-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. O19-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19; Ord. No. O20-024, § 1(Exh. A), 4-14-20)

HISTORY
*Amended by Ord. O23-079 on 11/14/2023*

**Sec 8-131 Licensee Requirements**

No establishment licensed by the Illinois Gaming Board shall be permitted to operate any video gaming terminal in the city pursuant to the Illinois Video Gaming Act (230 ILCS 40/1 et seq.) without first obtaining a video gaming terminal license under this division. The distributor of the video gaming terminal must also be in compliance with division 2 of this article.

1. Effective May 1, 2020, video gaming terminal licenses will only be issued to full-service restaurant establishments holding a liquor license and video gaming endorsement as described in Chapter 6, Sec 6-2 Definitions. **Any video gaming terminal license in effect at the time of adoption of this section shall be renewed yearly so long as the licensed business does not change ownership. Any sale, transfer, or assignment of more than fifty (50) percent of the ownership of a business or partnership shall terminate said license. In the event that such license is held in the name of a corporation, the sale, transfer or assignment of fifty (50) percent of the stock shall terminate the license.**
2. Liquor license must be in good standing with the City of Aurora and the State of Illinois.

3. An establishment must be in operation as a liquor licensed business for no less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to issuance of a video gaming terminal license. Applications for a video gaming terminal license may be submitted prior to the expiration of one hundred twenty (120) days, however, final review of the application will only occur after the required waiting period.
4. **Limitations on the issuance of video gaming terminal licenses:**
    1. **The number of video gaming terminal licenses shall be limited to two hundred and forty (240) video gaming terminals.**
    2. **No new video gaming terminal licenses may be issued to any establishment that is less than two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet from another licensed establishment, measured from property line to property line and where there is an existing licensed video gaming terminal licensed in the same single shopping center, plaza or strip mall** without the applicant obtaining approval by the local liquor control commissioner (liquor commissioner) for the issuance of said license as set forth herein. **Current establishments located within two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet or within the same single shopping center, plaza or strip mall with a video gaming terminal license in effect at the time of adoption of this section shall be renewed yearly so long as the licensed business does not change ownership. Any sale, transfer, or assignment of more than fifty (50) percent of the ownership of a business or partnership shall terminate said license. In the event that such license is held in the name of a corporation, the sale, transfer or assignment of fifty percent (50) of the stock shall terminate the license.**
        1. ~~The liquor commissioner may grant a reduction of the distance requirement set forth in paragraph (d)(3) of this section based on the finding of an administrative hearing officer that such a reduction would not detrimentally impact the existing video gaming licensee or the surrounding community~~. If the liquor commissioner grants a reduction, the applicant must still comply with all other application requirements associated with the issuance of a video gaming terminal license.
            1. The hearing officer shall consider the following factors in reviewing a request for a distance reduction:
                1. The type of activity to be conducted at the establishment and the days and times during which such activity will take place;
                2. **The size of the applicant's business and the size of the existing video gaming licensee's business located within 2640 ft of the applicant business;**
                3. A report from the police regarding the location, as well as the history of activity conducted at or in conjunction with the premises and any associated infractions or violations of the municipal code;
                4. The relevant geography, and location of the applicant's business;
                5. **Testimony from the existing video gaming licensee(s) located within two thousand six hundred forty (2640) ft of the applicant business, if they choose; and**
                6. **The extent to which the video gaming constitutes a significant focus of the applicant's business; and**
                7. The legal nature and history of the applicant.
            2. Applicants for a reduction of the distance requirement shall submit their application to the city clerk's office, and shall bear all costs associated with the hearing officer's review and court reporter fees for said review. All such

costs shall be paid by the applicant prior to the issuance of a license, if approved.

3. **Prohibited in new establishments located within the downtown and downtown fringe as defined in the zoning ordinance.**
4. Must not be permitted at establishments located within one thousand (1,000) feet of a casino.
5. A licensed video gaming location in the city may operate up to six (6) gaming terminals on its premise at any time.

5. Every licensee shall strictly comply with all of the conditions, rules and regulations imposed by the state, and by the city, and specifically shall comply with the following:
    1. Each and every video gaming terminal shall be licensed by the state **before placement** or operation, and the license for each and every terminal shall be posted at the licensed premises where the video gaming terminal is operated.
    2. No video gaming terminal may be played except during the legal hours of operation allowed for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at the licensed establishment.
    3. **No licensee shall cause or permit any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years to use or play a video gaming terminal.**
    4. **Video gaming terminals located within any licensed establishment must be within an area of the establishment that is restricted to persons twenty-one (21) years of age and over, the entrance to which restricted area is within the view at all times of at least one (1) employee of said establishment, which employee must likewise be twenty-one (21) years of age or over.**

(Ord. No. O18-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. O19-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19; Ord. No. O20-024, § 1(Exh. A), 4-14-20)

HISTORY
*Amended by Ord. O22-031 on 5/10/2022*
*Amended by Ord. O23-079 on 11/14/2023*
*Amended by Ord. O25-078 on 11/25/2025*

**Sec 8-132 Application And Issuance**

1. Each video gaming terminal license application for an initial license at a premises shall be submitted to the revenue and collections division and, at a minimum contain the following information:
    1. A set of floor and site plans prepared under the seal of an architect or engineer licensed to practice in the State printed on 11 x 14 paper. The plans shall show the dimensions of its site; and the design and layout for determination of occupancy, including, but not limited to, exiting, seating, dining rooms, bars, game and waiting areas, proposed video gaming areas, and position of equipment and fixtures therein. The layout of any video gaming terminal licensed premises may not be substantially changed without submission of a new set of plans and approval by the local liquor commissioner.
    2. Proof of liability insurance on each video gaming terminal placed in a licensed video gaming location in an amount set by the state gaming board.
2. **The local liquor control commissioner shall have jurisdiction, subject to the jurisdiction of the state gaming board, to adopt rules for the purpose of administering the provisions of this article and to prescribe rules, regulations, and conditions under which all video gaming in the city shall be conducted. Such rules and regulations are to provide for the prevention of practices**

**detrimental to the public interest and for the best interests of video gaming, including rules and regulations regarding the inspection of such establishments and the review of any permits or licenses necessary to operate an establishment under any laws or regulation applicable to establishments and to impose penalties for violations of this article.**

(Ord. No. O18-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. O19-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19; Ord. No. O20-024, § 1(Exh. A), 4-14-20)

HISTORY
*Amended by Ord. O23-079 on 11/14/2023*

**Sec 8-133 Fees**

An initial application fee as established by resolution of the city council from time-to-time, shall be charged for the establishment and distributor. No licensed establishment shall be permitted to operate any video gaming terminal in the city unless said establishment and distributor also has obtained a license, and paid a yearly operation fee to the city in the amount established by resolution of the city council from time-to-time, for each video gaming terminal on its premises.

(Ord. No. O18-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. O19-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19; Ord. No. O20-024, § 1(Exh. A), 4-14-20)

HISTORY
*Amended by Ord. O23-079 on 11/14/2023*

**Sec 8-134 Renewal**

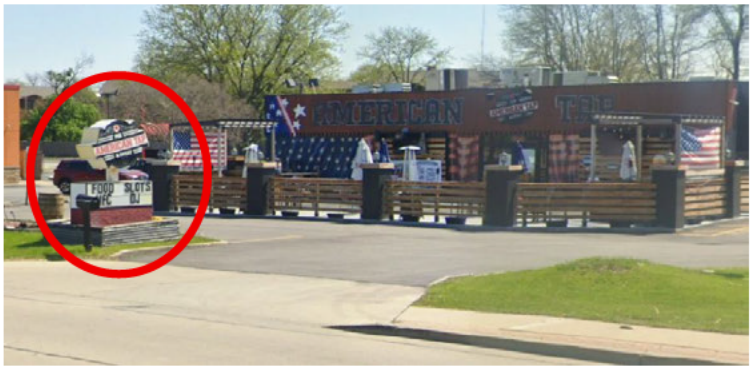
1. **All licenses issued by the city under this article shall expire on September 30 and are renewable annually unless sooner cancelled or terminated. No license issued under this article is transferable or assignable.**
2. The license may only be renewed upon receipt of a copy of the current state license, the applicable renewal fee and any renewal forms provided by the city.
3. The license may only be renewed if the licensee continues to meet all qualifications for licensure set forth in the Video Gaming Act, the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Video Gaming Act, Aurora Liquor Control Ordinance and this article.

(Ord. No. O12-068, § 4, 8-28-12; Ord. No. O18-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. O19-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19; Ord. No. O20-024, § 1(Exh. A), 4-14-20)

The below information is simply some response related to Lucky 7 Bistro which the DuPage County Board approved for video-gambling on 2-24-2026, even though such approval was not in accord with Unincorporated DuPage County ordinance. It got approved because of the ..... never mind, I don't even need to list the reasons it got approved, ... I believe I have already shown how badly the zoning and ordinance compliance/governance process seems to run under Sam Tornatore's leadership.

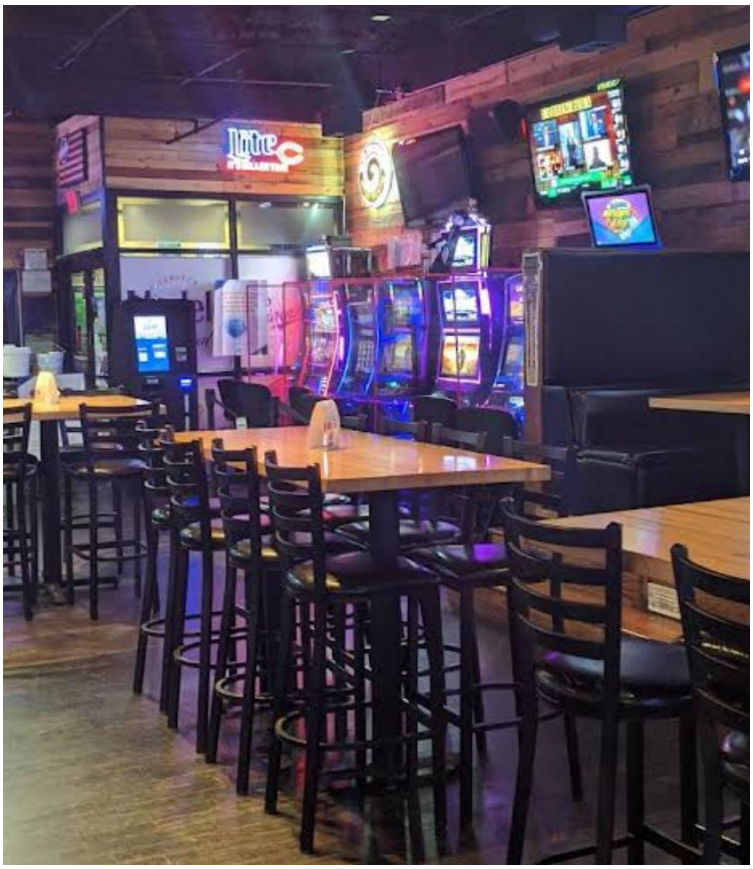
**LUCKY 7 BISTRO (pka Royal Liquor - Play Slots) ... CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ... AMERICAN TAP (with Slots)**

**CLOSER UP VIEW OF THE SIGNS SHOWING SLOTS:**



**LUCKY 7 BISTRO SLOTS**

**AMERICAN TAP SLOTS out in the open of the restaurant**



**Per (230 ILCS 40/58) Video Gaming Act, video-gambling machines are REQUIRED to be segregated from the rest of the business in a contained enclosure so as not to be accessible to the general public and children.**

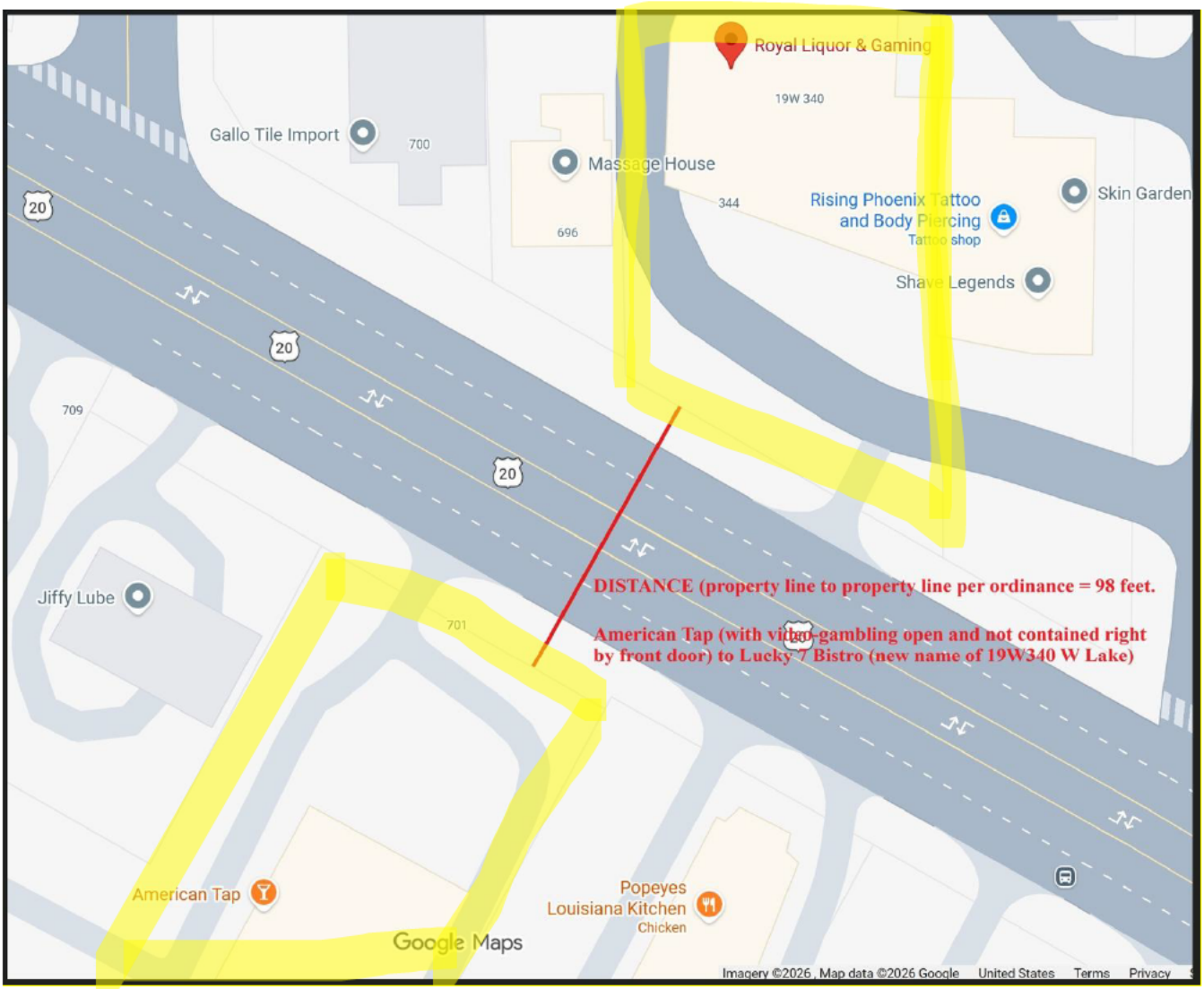
**You can see in the below picture (from American Tap's own website), not only are their machines out in the open in their restaurant, but there is what appears to be a child standing in front of, and seemingly in awe of, the video-gambling machines.**

**It's as if the establishment (and the County) are allowing for the training-up of the next generation of gambling addicts.**

**The property-line to property line DISTANCE between Lucky 7 Bistro and American Tap (directly across the street) <u>is just 98 FEET</u>. This is below even the PRIOR 100 foot ordinance that existed prior to being changed to a 1000 foot distance restriction.**

**On 2-24-2026, FINALLY the newer DuPage County Board members admitted numerous times that the long-timer County board members who wrongfully approved prior liquor and gaming licenses had FAILED in their elected duties to abide by their own instituted County ordinances regarding video-gambling.**

**The apparent lack of ownership of mistakes and lack of accountability by the old-timers is shameful. Those long-serving members did everything in their power to cover up THEIR MISTAKES by eventually taking away the votes of the other DuPage County Board Members coordinating an ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION to grandfather 20 video-gambling locations as "legal non-conforming use." Makes me want to go do some "legal non-conforming driving of 90 mph in a 60 mph zone." Lol! Why not? Apparently rules are just guidelines. I'm being facetious, but you get my point.**



**********

(230 ILCS 40/1) **Video Gaming Act**

(230 ILCS 40/18)

**Sec. 18. Restrictions on advertising.** A licensee under this Act may not advertise its video gaming operation using physical advertisements outside the video gaming location or on off-premises billboard signs **unless the advertisement is directly and permanently affixed to a building on the video gaming location or on a permanent pole sign that is permanently affixed to a foundation.** This Section does not apply in the first 90 days after a video gaming location is issued a license.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above IL statue is violated by many video gambling locations in DuPage County that put signs and flags along the roadway that are not affixed to any permanent pole or structure.**

(230 ILCS 40/27)

**Sec. 27. Prohibition of video gaming by political subdivision.**

(a) **A municipality may pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits of the municipality. A county board may, for the unincorporated area of the county, pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the unincorporated area of the county.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above IL statue clearly shows that DUPAGE COUNTY has COMPLETE AUTHORITY to prohibit/ban video gambling in Unincorporated DuPage County. There does not appear to be any verbiage in this IL statute about timing or that suggests such would not be retroactively applicable and enforceable if such prohibition was enacted in the Code of Ordinances. This is likely why Paul Hoss said in prior board meetings that "GRANDFATHERING is not allowed by the County." What we subsequently learned is "Grandfathering IS ALLOWED … all someone needs to do is threaten a lawsuit against the County."**

(230 ILCS 40/58)

**Sec. 58. Location of terminals.** **Video gaming terminals in a licensed establishment**, licensed fraternal establishment, or licensed veterans establishment **must be located in an area that is restricted to persons over 21 years of age** and the entrance to the area must be within the view of at least one employee of the establishment who is over 21 years of age.

The placement of video gaming terminals in licensed establishments, licensed truck stop establishments, licensed large truck stop establishments, licensed fraternal establishments, and licensed veterans establishments shall be subject to the rules promulgated by the Board pursuant to the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act (5 ILCS 100).

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above IL statue is violated by many video gambling locations in DuPage County that have their video gambling machines installed right out in the open in violation of this IL statute. Some Examples are "AMERICAN TAP" (Unincorporated Addison), M&W THAI" (Unincorporated Glen Ellyn), and many more.**

**********

## DuPage County, Illinois – Code of Ordinances

## Chapter 4 - VIDEO GAMING TERMINALS

- **4-4: - REGULATIONS FOR OPERATING VIDEO GAMING TERMINALS.**

(A) **The following regulations apply to all licensed establishments operating a video gaming terminal** on the licensed premises with a valid video gaming terminal permit sticker for each video gaming terminal.

(1) A valid Illinois Gaming Board video gaming license must be clearly displayed at all times.

(2) A valid county video gaming terminal permit sticker shall be clearly displayed at all times on each video gaming terminal on the licensed premises whether operational or not.

(3) No more than the allowed number of video gaming terminals pursuant to the Video Gaming Act (230 ILCS 40) may be located on the licensed premises.

**(4) All video gaming terminals must be located in an area restricted to persons twenty-one (21) years of age or older.** The entrance to such area must, at all times, be within the view of at least one (1) employee of the licensee who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

(5) No licensed establishment may cause, suffer, or permit any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years to use, play, or operate a video gaming terminal.

(6) For licensed establishments with a liquor license, no video gaming terminal may be played, except during the legal hours of operation allowed for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at the licensed establishment pursuant to section 3-46.

(7) The licensed establishment must fully comply with the Illinois Video Gaming Act, 230 ILCS 40/1 et seq., as amended, and all rules, regulations and restrictions imposed by the Illinois Gaming Board.

**(8) The licensed establishment must fully comply with all applicable DuPage County ordinances, as well as any applicable federal and Illinois laws or regulations. This includes applicable building and zoning requirements for a facility in which this type of business requires.**

(9) Licensed establishments must immediately notify the Liquor Control Commissioner in the event the Illinois Gaming Board revokes or suspends the licensed establishment's video gaming license. The revocation, loss, or suspension of a valid Illinois Gaming Board video gaming license shall automatically result in the revocation, loss or suspension of the county video gaming permit stickers, without refund of any fee, for all video gaming terminals permitted for the establishment.

(Ord. No. DC-O-0034-24, 5-28-2024)

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above DUPAGE COUNTY ORDINANCE is violated by many video gambling locations in DuPage County that have their video gambling machines installed right out in the open in violation of this IL statute. Some Examples are "AMERICAN TAP" (Unincorporated Addison), M&W THAI" (Unincorporated Glen Ellyn), and many more. Video-gambling is supposed to be "BEHIND CAGES" away from the general public visiting an establishment.**
**Additionally, #8 above does not appear to contain any verbiage about timing or that suggests such would not be retroactively applicable and enforceable when such a prohibition is enacted in the Code of Ordinances. This is likely why Paul Hoss said in prior board meetings that "GRANDFATHERING is not allowed by the County." What we subsequently learned is "Grandfathering IS ALLOWED … all someone needs to do is threaten a lawsuit against the County."**

## 4-7: - REVOCATION/SUSPENSION OF LICENSE AND PERMIT STICKER.

(1) **The Liquor Control Commissioner may revoke or suspend any video gaming terminal permit sticker issued by the county if the Liquor Control Commissioner determines the licensed establishment has violated any of the provisions of this chapter, any provision of other county ordinances, or any applicable state or federal statute.** No video gaming terminal permit shall be revoked or suspended, except after a public hearing before the Liquor Control Commissioner, with a five-day written notice to the licensed establishment.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any licensed establishment that has its liquor license forfeited, revoked, or suspended by the County or by the Illinois State Liquor Commission, or has its state video gaming license revoked or suspended by the Illinois Gaming Board, shall forthwith, without a hearing before the Liquor Control Commissioner, have all of its County video gaming terminal permit stickers revoked or suspended for the duration for which its liquor and/or Illinois Gaming Board gaming license is suspended, as the case may be.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above DUPAGE COUNTY ORDINANCE indicates that DEBORAH CONROY (Liquor Control Commissioner) has the authority to require compliance with video gambling statutes and ordinances. No action seems to be taken to enforce video gambling statutes and ordinances in DuPage County. The ordinances are on the books, but they apparently hold no weight. As shown, many video gambling establishments violate advertising/signage restrictions, and many violate gaming machine location restrictions.**

- ## 4-9: - INJUNCTIONS.

(A) If any person, firm, corporation, association or other business entity operates in violation of any provision of this article, or any rule, regulation, order **or decision of an authorized officer of DuPage County, or any interested party or person injured thereby may apply to the Circuit Court of DuPage County to prevent such violation.** The court has jurisdiction to enforce obedience by injunction or other process restraining such person from further violation and enjoining upon him obedience. (Ord. No. DC-O-0034-24, 5-28-2024)

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above states "AN AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF DUPAGE COUNTY" can enforce compliance with the County's video gambling ordinances. Do we see that happening? It does not appear so.**

- ## 4-13: - ADOPTION CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

(A) Ordinance CD-ZO-002-83, June 28,1983, is hereby repealed and reenacted by the substitution of the foregoing ordinance in lieu thereof.

(B) This chapter shall take effect upon passage of ordinance OFI-002-05. **This chapter shall cover and pertain to all persons, firms, corporations, associations, social clubs or other entities who possess or control premises upon which video gaming terminals are located or operated in accordance with the standards and provisions set forth herein.**

(Ord. No. DC-O-0034-24, 5-28-2024)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**
**Paragraph B above DOES contain verbiage about timing that clearly indicates ordinance changes ("effective upon passage") WOULD BE retroactively applicable and enforceable when ordinance changes are enacted in the Code of Ordinances. This is likely why Paul Hoss said in prior board meetings that "GRANDFATHERING is not allowed by the County." What we subsequently learned is "Grandfathering IS ALLOWED … all someone needs to do is threaten a lawsuit against the County." This Ordinance clause was passed by the County (at the same time as the increase to a 1000 foot restriction) and both became legally enforceable, but the Asst. States attorney's office, and I believe Tornatore, disregarded this clause when they grandfathered 20 video-gambling locations. LAWYERS ON THE BOARD: AM I WRONG?**

# Chapter 34 - ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION OF ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

- ## 34-4: - CODE HEARING UNIT.

A. There is hereby established a Code Hearing Unit in the County government. The Code Hearing Unit shall consist of a hearing officer, administrative assistant and recording secretary.

B. **The function of the Code Hearing Unit shall be to expedite the prosecution and correction of violations of County ordinances ("code violation") regulating** animal control; the definition, identification, and abatement of public nuisances; the accumulation, disposal, and transportation of garbage, refuse, and other forms of solid waste; **the construction and maintenance of buildings and structures;** sanitation practices; **and zoning.**

C. Charges of code violations are to be heard and **adjudicated by a hearing officer appointed by the DuPage County Board Chairman, with the consent of the County Board.** The hearing officer term will be for no more than two (2) consecutive years with the possibility for re-appointed at the discretion of the County Board Chair.

D. Hearing officers shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To preside at an administrative hearing called to determine whether a code violation exists.

2. To hear testimony and accept evidence from the code enforcement officer, the respondent, and all interested parties relevant to the existence of a code violation.

3. To preserve and authenticate the record of the hearing and all exhibits and evidence introduced at the hearing.

4. To issue and sign written findings and a decision and order stating whether a code violation exists.

5. To issue subpoenas as allowed by section directing witnesses to appear at the hearing, upon the request of the parties or their representatives.

6. **To impose penalties consistent with applicable code provisions and to assess costs reasonably related to instituting the proceedings upon finding the respondent liable for the charged violation.** In no event, however, shall the hearing officer have the authority to impose a penalty of incarceration.

7. To revive judgments in favor of the County of DuPage issued by the hearing officer which are older than eight (8) years old, provided that such judgments are not older than twenty-one (21) years from the date of issuance.

(Ord. CB-0046-10, § 1, 8-24-2010; Ord. No. DC-O-0057-24, 9-10-2024)

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The above DUPAGE COUNTY ORDINANCE indicates that DEBORAH CONROY has the authority to require compliance with video gambling statutes and ordinances. No enforcement actions seem to have ever been taken to enforce video gambling statutes and ordinances in DuPage County.**

**The ordinances are on the books, but they apparently hold no weight. As shown, many video gambling establishments violate distance restrictions, violate advertising/signage restrictions, and many also violate gaming machine location restrictions.**

**********

**PUBLIC COMMENT: The below is FOR AWARENESS OF THOSE RUNNING FOR ILLINOIS SENATE OR HOUSE SEATS. In short, ILLINOIS is attempting to FORCE Chicago to allow video gambling to spread. This should not be permitted to pass. Just wanted all to be informed, so as not to later say "I was unaware."**

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY - State of Illinois 2023 and 2024

**SB3172 Introduced 2/6/2024**, by **Sen. Donald P. DeWitte**

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

230 ILCS 40/27

230 ILCS 40/60

**Amends the Video Gaming Act. Provides that a municipality with a population that is greater than or equal to 1,000,000 may not pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits of the municipality.** Provides that, in such a municipality, video gaming may be prohibited only by referendum. **Preempts home rule powers.** Provides that a tax of 34% is imposed on net terminal income in such a municipality and shall be collected by the Illinois Gaming Board, of which 83% shall be distributed to the Regional Transportation Authority and 17% shall be distributed to the municipality in which the terminal is located. Makes conforming changes.

**Actions**

| Date | Chamber | Action |
|---|---|---|
| 2/6/2024 | Senate | Filed with Secretary by Sen. Donald P. DeWitte |
| 2/6/2024 | Senate | First Reading |
| 2/6/2024 | Senate | Referred to Assignments |
| 2/14/2024 | Senate | Assigned to Executive |
| 2/21/2024 | Senate | To Subcommittee on Gaming, Wagering, and Racing |
| 3/15/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee Deadline Established As April 5, 2024 |
| 4/5/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee Deadline Established As May 3, 2024 |
| 4/12/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established As May 3, 2024 |
| 5/3/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As May 17, 2024 |
| 5/17/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee Deadline Established As May 24, 2024 |
| 5/24/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As May 25, 2024 |
| 5/25/2024 | Senate | Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As May 26, 2024 |
| 6/26/2024 | Senate | Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-9(b) / Referred to Assignments |
| **1/7/2025** | **Senate** | **Session Sine Die** |

***Feb. 29, 2024 News article:*** https://www.bonus.com/news/illinois-senate-bill-would-prohibit-chicago-from-banning-vgts-without-a-referendum/

**********