

For release: Monday April 30, 2012

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Statement of Chairman Sam Fruscione regarding casino revenue:

The City of Niagara Falls is suffering due to the current impasse between the Seneca Nation and the State of New York.

For the past two years our city has remained quietly hopeful that the situation would be resolved to our benefit: that the disagreement would come to an end and the casino revenue owed to us would be given to us.

That hasn't happened.

While some have recommended that the best approach for the city is to remain quiet and hopeful a majority of the City Council has respectfully disagreed with that continued approach.

And so, on Wednesday April 25, 2012, a Council majority moved to take immediate action by participating in two important meetings. These meetings were held to gather facts and work toward a solution to the casino cash stalemate.

On the morning of April 25 Councilman Glenn Choolokian and I drove to Albany to meet with representatives of the Governor's Office. Participating in the meeting were, Howard Glaser, Director of State Operations, Seth Agata, the Governor's Counsel, Senator Mark Grisanti, Assemblyman John Ceretto and Senator George Maziarz.

Also, on the morning of April 25, Councilmen Robert Anderson and Charles Walker were joined by the members of the casino revenue ad hoc committee (Mort Abramowitz, Richard Palladino and Gary Parenti) in meeting with Seneca President Porter at the Seneca Niagara Casino.

These two meetings were fruitful. Both the Governor's representatives and President Porter were candid and completely open with us in portraying their respective positions regarding the casino revenue impasse.

I have prepared a brief written report detailing the major findings of these meetings and I'm making it available to the public and the media at this time.

In closing I want to emphasize that the City Council majority (Anderson, Choolokian, Walker and Fruscione) will continue the dialog with both the Governor's Office and President Porter that was begun on April 25, 2012.

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