

**Transcribed Public Comments of the  
November 21, 2019 HRPDC Commission Meeting**

**Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky:** *Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Honorable Commissioners, and fellow interested parties. So, this is a departure from where you've been, but it's on the road to where you're going. The JLARC report on casino gambling, gaming, should be released forthwith, and there's some implications for the Commonwealth if it is deemed feasible to move forward. Full disclosure, I completely oppose casino gaming, but if it comes to pass, I believe that it should be an open market, which is to say it should not be confined to the five localities that have been designated, but any community within Virginia should have the opportunity to compete for a spot. The other modification to the grand plan that I would recommend is that any locality which houses an authorized casino would have a host fee but the other revenue would be spread around the Commonwealth. My locality of Portsmouth is designated as one of the five because of our fiscal constraints. I would say to you that every locality has fiscal constraints, and Virginia Beach actually has a very significant issue facing it, that being sea level rise. They're looking for new sources of funding, and I don't believe that mitigating sea level rise is inconsiderable, so they should have an opportunity to compete for any new revenue source along with everybody else. Thank you very much.*