

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TO:	Council	
DATE:	May 11, 2021	DIVISION: All
FILE:	N/A	APPLICATION: N/A
SUBJECT:	Letter of Support – Century Downs Racetrack and Casino	

POLICY DIRECTION:

The County's Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) report identifies assessment base growth as a County goal. The retention and expansion of businesses in Rocky View County would support this objective.

In Alberta, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) regulates all gaming activities and is the relevant authority to approve the request from Century Downs Casino and Racetrack.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Century Downs Casino and Racetrack (Century Downs) is seeking to expand its current business activities and is working with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis agency for approval to offer live table games. AGLC requires a letter of support from the local municipality as part of their approval process.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

Century Downs is a destination location within Rocky View County and source of pride for live entertainment, gaming, and equestrian enthusiasts in Western Canada. Opening in 2015, Century Downs contributes significantly to the local economy (contributing over \$20M to the local economy) and provides approximately 400 jobs to the region.

As a significant entertainment and tourism destination within Rocky View County, Century Downs contributes to regional economic health and provides a unique agritourism opportunity.

Century Downs management views the addition of live table games as an added marketable feature for the business, and expects it to increase tourism and local economic growth and provide additional employment to the region. Other gaming operators in the region have this additional "live" feature, and Century Downs believes this addition would place them on equal footing with their peers.

The table games addition is not anticipated to require any additional building space or impact current land use. The letter of support would demonstrate the County's support for this addition to the gaming options at the Casino, in hopes of obtaining approval by the Provincial regulator.

The request for a letter of support as well as supportive feedback on future circulations to AGLC is supported by the current economic goals identified within the ERTF. Administration has included a copy of the draft letter for consideration (Attachment 'A') and recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

Administration Resources

David Kalinchuk, Business and Economic Development



BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budget implications for this request.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

If approved, providing a letter of support and complimentary feedback to ALGC aligns with the Strategic Objective of “Strengthening of Financial Resiliency” and supports the objective that businesses are open and thriving.

OPTIONS:

- Option #1: THAT Council supports the request on behalf of Century Downs Racetrack and Casino, and that a Letter of Support related to live table games at the Century Downs Racetrack and Casino be sent to Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC).
- Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“David Kalinchuk”

“Kent Robinson”

Economic Development Manager

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment ‘A’ – Draft Letter of Support for Century