



112 Granby Street, Suite 400  
Norfolk, VA 23510

## MEDIA RELEASE

October 22, 2020

Contact: Jay Smith  
(804) 467-6046

### Norfolk Leaders Endorse Norfolk Resort & Casino

– Twelve current and former local officials encourage Norfolk residents to vote “YES” –

**NORFOLK** – Today, the Norfolk Resort & Casino got a huge boost from leaders across Norfolk with the announcement of 12 key endorsements, including Mayor Kenny Alexander; Vice Mayor Martin Thomas; City Council members Courtney Doyle, Mamie Johnson, and Tommy Smigiel; Virginia Senators Lynwood Lewis and Jen Kiggans; Delegates Steve Heretick, Jay Jones, and Joe Lindsey; former Mayor Paul Fraim; and former Norfolk School Board member Yvonne Peele-Wagner.

“Leaders from every corner of Norfolk have been so enthusiastic about this project, and the Tribe is grateful for their support,” said Robert Gray, Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. “This has been a true partnership throughout the process, and I know that it will continue to provide benefits for Norfolk well into the future.”

Praise for the project includes the economic benefits that the resort and casino will provide to the City and the structure of the deal itself, which requires no public funds or tax breaks for the developer. The project will generate an estimated \$30 million annually in revenue for the City, \$50 million annually for Virginia public schools and create 2,000 construction jobs and an additional 2,500 permanent FTE jobs.

“Hundreds of millions of dollars stand to be invested in our city, which will bring thousands of new jobs for residents. New opportunities will be presented to our businesses and entrepreneurs, and our city will potentially benefit from millions of dollars in new tax revenue that will be committed to public education. This would be the first project of its size to be financed without taxpayer subsidies, and the land for this project will be purchased at full-market-value.” – **Mayor Kenny Alexander**

“From the beginning, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe has been an incredible economic development partner. From their commitment to all site improvements without any city funds, to their commitment to our community, this partnership is already reaping benefits for our city and will continue to for decades to come.” – **Vice Mayor Martin Thomas, Ward 1**

“The Norfolk Resort and Casino is projected to be a \$500 million economic development project, generating nearly 2,500 jobs. The annual tax revenues to the City of Norfolk from this commercial casino will be used to address flooding and sea-level rise, support our schools and make our neighborhoods safer.” – **Councilwoman Courtney Doyle, Ward 2**

“I made the decision to support the Norfolk Resort and Casino because the development will provide continuous revenue to our city for equity in education to our Scholars. I support this project because it will help build our communities. Where it would take years to generate enough money, now there will be revenue. The job and career opportunities will provide Norfolk residents a better chance to be self-supporting and support families. Residents also have the potential to gain executive-level jobs. College Students have a chance to practice their career jobs on-site and get hands-on experience. The Norfolk Resort and Casino is an economic development project without subsidies.” – **Councilwoman Mamie Johnson, Ward 3**

“As a parent and supporter of Norfolk Public Schools, the school system has been a priority since I first joined Council. This project provides an injection of revenue the City of Norfolk desperately needs to improve the educational facilities for our students. I’m all in!”  
– **Councilman Tommy Smigiel, Ward 5**

“As a chief co-patron of legislation to make this happen, I’ve been a supporter of the Norfolk Resort and Casino from the beginning. Now that the referendum is officially on the ballot, I hope you will support the prospect of thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact to Norfolk. I’m all in!” – **Senator Lynwood Lewis, 6th District**

“I was happy to support SB 36 and HB 4 during the General Assembly Session to make this casino possible. This project creates thousands of new permanent jobs and has an annual potential economic impact of over \$750 million, which will be a huge boost to Norfolk. In terms of economic development, this is an important opportunity.” – **Senator Jen Kiggans, 7th District**

“What is not to like about millions of dollars in private investment for the City of Norfolk? I was happy to support the casino gaming legislation during the 2020 session and am excited to see these projects finally come to fruition. The Pamunkey’s Norfolk Resort and Casino will be a jewel on the Norfolk skyline, a true destination facility.” – **Delegate Steve Heretick, 79th District**

“Casino gaming in Hampton Roads has been years in the making. The Norfolk Resort and Casino will provide a huge economic boost to the city I’ve called home my entire life. I’m all in for this major tourism attraction right here in the 89th District.” – **Delegate Jay Jones, 89th District**

“A project of this magnitude without any public funds is unprecedented. Over 2,000 new jobs for the City and the region will be a huge asset to our economic recovery.” – **Delegate Joe Lindsey, 90th District**

“Norfolk estimates that the casino hotel project, developed on a parcel that is currently non-tax producing, will generate as much as \$44 million dollars in new revenue that could be spent on schools and public safety. Together with thousands of new jobs, this development deserves our support. It’s a good deal!” – **Former Mayor Paul Fraim**

"This project will help provide much-needed revenue for our schools, and preventing it from going forward would be a detriment to our students' futures." – **Yvonne Peele-Wagner, former Norfolk School Board member**

###

To learn more about the Norfolk Resort & Casino, visit [www.AllinNorfolk.com](http://www.AllinNorfolk.com) or check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AllinforNorfolkCasino](https://www.facebook.com/AllinforNorfolkCasino).