
City of Norfolk Requests Meeting with the Pamunkey Indian Tribe ("Tribe") and Asks that the Planned Architectural Review Board ("ARB") Presentation be Continued

Norfolk, VA – Upon the recommendation of the City of Norfolk, HeadWaters Resort & Casino's development team will not present its application for a Development Certificate to begin construction on the initial phase of its planned \$500 million resort and casino project at the ARB meeting today. Instead, the City has asked to meet with the Pamunkey Tribe and its development team tomorrow, July 25th, which the Tribe has agreed to do.

"We are solely focused on getting this project off the ground and look forward to making that happen as soon as possible. We remain committed to working closely with the City and our neighbors to make this the greatest resort and casino in Virginia," said Robert Gray, Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. "We want to get this project up and running as soon as possible to start generating revenue for the Tribe and our citizens, for the other recognized Virginia tribes that will benefit from this project, and for the City of Norfolk, its citizens and the Commonwealth of Virginia."

This continuance of the ARB meeting comes after the receipt by the Tribe of a letter from the City dated July 14th which contradicted the prior direction given to the Tribe and its development team in a March 1, 2023 letter from the City. After receiving the July 14th letter, the Tribe responded with a letter noting the conflicts in the City's approach and requested a meeting to get clarity from the City on its proposed path to acquire the land and begin construction on the resort as soon as possible.

"We remain committed to developing the finest resort and casino in the Commonwealth, located right in the heart of Norfolk. This is what we said we would do when we were working hard to include the City of Norfolk in the 2020 legislation. It's what we promised the voters we would do in 2020. Despite changes of direction and the City's desire to reduce the land we have available to build on, we intend to follow through on this pledge to build a \$500 million resort and casino featuring a high end 300-room hotel and other amenities," added Chief Gray. "We are looking forward to a fresh start with the new city manager and his team on Tuesday."

HeadWaters Resort & Casino won city approval with an overwhelming majority of residents voting in favor of the project in November of 2020. Once fully operational, the project is anticipated to create thousands of jobs and provide tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue for the city, as well as generating nearly a billion dollars in annual economic impact for the area.

