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DAUPHIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIR JEFF HASTE:

Good afternoon everyone. I am Jeff Haste, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Dauphin County. I wanted to discuss with you today the variety of ways in which gaming funds have impacted those living, working, and traveling in Dauphin County.

To give you some background on my history witnessing Hollywood Casino grow, I have pretty much seen it all as a Dauphin County resident and during my nearly 20 years as Dauphin County Commissioner. I recall Hollywood transforming from the racetrack to a full entertainment destination in just a few years. It has been an exciting transformation to watch and one that has benefitted many Dauphin County families and organizations.

Hollywood has been a major economic development driver for Dauphin County. We have seen numerous residential and commercial projects since the racetrack expanded to a full entertainment destination. Specifically, around Hollywood's location in East Hanover Township, there has been development and housing options for employees of the casinos as well as hotel stay options for those who frequent the casino.

Tax revenues generated by the casino have been good for the state, county and townships – but like everyone, Hollywood was greatly impacted by COVID and forced to close for nearly three months last year. With their re-opening, we have started to see revenue levels return to where they were and more people going back to work. However, we know that by supporting our major local job creators, like Hollywood, we can enable them to get back to their full employment compliment sooner.

The Local Share funds and related community impacts I am discussing today come from Hollywood's slots and igaming revenues.

There are far too many positive impacts to list in my allotted time here today. So, to name a few:

Schools and educators can offer more to their students and staff. Human services groups can feed and shelter more people. Communities are safer because first responders have equipment and upgrades. Public parks and spaces are upkept and improved. Municipalities improve infrastructure to ensure durability and stability.

To briefly summarize how gaming dollars are dispersed in our municipalities and neighborhoods:

Through Local Share revenue, funds are dispersed to East Hanover Township and several contiguous municipalities – and also to Dauphin County for distribution to applicants.

There is a process that includes public hearings and meetings before applicants are selected and awarded. My Board of Commissioners gives final approval for those awards – that happened today, actually.

We try to consider a range of projects offering different services – transportation, human services, public safety – and give priority to those that will have community impact and benefit, across the county.

Last year, about \$6.3 million was awarded to over 80 projects and programs.

This year, about 100 districts, agencies and organizations requested about \$9.5 million dollars for projects. Not all of those will be accommodated, but many will.

We are receiving fewer dollars this year for disbursement, due to the COVID pandemic's impact on Hollywood's operation that was discussed earlier. However, let me give you an idea of how impactful every one of these dollars will be.

- Several police and fire departments will have new/replaced radio systems and other equipment
- Human services groups – like the Salvation Army and NutriPacks – can provide more food and resources
- Several schools will have security upgrades
- Sports fields will be improved
- Stormwater, sewer and HVAC projects and systems will be renovated in multiple municipalities
- One police department will pay for body and vehicle cameras with gaming dollars

These are all projects and programs that, without gaming dollars, would not be possible, or would come out of municipality and district budgets and taxpayers' pockets.

And, I would be remiss if I didn't add, this is a process that repeats itself year after year. Groups and organizations annually apply for funds. If they are not able to receive funds in one year, they very well could – and often do – in the years to come.

A strong gaming industry benefits so many communities across Dauphin County and Pennsylvania. I know the team at Penn National is looking to regain its pre-pandemic employment footing. As they do, they will bring back more Dauphin County residents to full-time employment and that has an amazing trickle-down effect on our community and economy. As this committee looks at the gaming industry and reviews potential legislation, please do all you can to support gaming jobs and the industry and help bring it back from the pandemic. For this Dauphin County Commissioner, it is the most important thing your committee can do.

Thank you all for the opportunity to discuss how the gaming industry and associated tax dollars impact Dauphin County. They make our students and neighborhoods safer. They sustain and strengthen community infrastructure. They improve our leisure offerings. They offer our families sustaining jobs.

Thank you again for the time and I will continue listening.