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Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe details plans for Destination Resort Casino in Taunton

Project will create 1,000 construction and over 2,500 permanent jobs for local residents

Taunton, MA—The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe announced details of their plans for a comprehensive destination resort casino in the City of Taunton in a press conference at Taunton City Hall today.

Mashpee Wampanoag Chairman Cedric Cromwell called the proposed destination resort an enormous opportunity for Taunton, Southeastern Massachusetts and the Tribe. “The jobs and direct economic impact from this project will have a meaningful positive effect on thousands of local families. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the City of Taunton are working together with common goals: creating jobs and providing a better quality of life for our citizens.”

The destination resort casino will utilize union labor and expects to put 1,000 people to work during construction of the facility with an estimated construction payroll of \$230 million over the construction phases of the project

In addition, the destination resort casino will create over 2,500 permanent jobs in the first phase of operation. These opportunities include careers in administration, finance, facilities, environmental services, gaming, security and surveillance, marketing, food and beverage, and information technology. State of the art training emphasizing best-in-class customer service will be provided to those interested in pursuing these careers, and the Tribe expects that the workforce will be comprised almost completely of current local residents as well as Tribal members. Careers at the destination resort will include generous benefits with an expected annual salary of over \$35,000, not including tips earned by gaming and hospitality staff. Annual operating payroll is expected to total \$80 million.

Development of the destination resort casino, situated on 146 acres designated by the Taunton Development Corporation as economic development land at the intersection of routes 24 and 140, will be built out over a five year period in phases at a total cost of over \$500 million. Upon completion the resort is projected to include:

- A 150,000 square foot first class Category 3 gaming Casino, with at least two fine dining restaurants, an international buffet and a multi-venue food court.

- 10-15 distinctive retail shops with recognized national upscale brands
- Three 300-room hotels, including one 3.5- 4 star hotel, one mid-range hotel and one family-oriented hotel
- Business meeting rooms and an event center
- A state of the art family-oriented indoor and outdoor waterpark

The Tribe is committed to sourcing locally wherever possible, meaning tens of millions in operational support spending annually in goods and services upon which local businesses will have the opportunity to bid.

Through employment of local residents, utilization of local companies for goods and services, and continued construction employment, the Mashpee Wampanoag destination resort casino is expected to provide \$120 million annually in economic impact to Taunton. This will mean more opportunity for local businesses, more money spent locally by residents employed by the project, more goods and services purchased locally, and more money back to the community.

Separately, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the City of Taunton are negotiating an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to mitigate any impacts of the project on the community.

The Tribe will participate in an open house for local residents to learn more about the project on Saturday, May 5th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at Taunton High School.

About the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited present-day Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. After an arduous 30+ year process, the Mashpee Wampanoag were re-acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe in 2007 and retain full tribal sovereignty rights.

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