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Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and City of Taunton Reach Intergovernmental Agreement

Agreement details tens of millions of dollars in mitigation and direct funding to the City of Taunton

Taunton, MA – Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoye announced today that they have negotiated an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the development of a destination resort casino in the City of Taunton.

“We’re excited to have reached an agreement that provides for a mutually beneficial partnership between the City of Taunton and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe,” said Chairman Cromwell. “In addition to the thousands of jobs and millions in economic impact our destination resort casino will provide, this agreement details our Tribe’s commitment to mitigating all impacts to city services as well as providing direct payments that Taunton can use to plan its own bright future.”

The agreement will provide approximately \$33 million in up front mitigation payments and a minimum annual payment to the city of approximately \$13 million. The agreement includes:

- Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for the land to be taken into trust of approximately \$250,000, for the taxable value of the land on the day the land is taken into trust plus a 3% increase annually for ten years, after which the payment continues as long as the IGA is in effect. This PILOT compensates the City in full for the loss of the property from its tax rolls.
- General mitigation payment of \$1.5 million within 30 days of General Court approval of a Compact between the Tribe and the Commonwealth.
- Annual general mitigation payment of 2.05% of slot revenue, but not less than \$8 million per year.
- Specific mitigation payments covering impacted services (fire protection, police, water, sewer, schools, etc.) estimated at approximately \$14,754,000 in the first phase of the destination resort casino and \$720,000 in the second phase. In addition, the Tribe will provide annual payments to mitigate increased operating costs, estimated at \$4,790,000 per year.
- Mitigation of traffic impacts, with approximately \$10 million allocated for improvements to the intersection of Routes 24 and 140, the Route 140 / Stevens Street intersection ramps and signaling. In addition, approximately \$5 million will be allocated to traffic calming measures such as controlling speed and congestion in East Taunton. The Tribe and the City have also agreed to cooperate in approaching the federal and state governments to seek a longer-term solution to congestion at Routes 24 and 140.
- Funding for compulsive gambling services in the amount of \$60,000 upon opening and \$30,000 per year thereafter.
- The Tribe will make whole certain local charities that currently rely on gaming (bingo) revenue.

In addition, the IGA ensures communication and cooperation between the Tribe and the City, and establishes a nine-member advisory committee to make recommendations to the Tribe and the City regarding the implementation of the IGA.

In accordance with the IGA, the Tribe will adopt stringent building, health and safety codes. Subject to preference to Tribal members, the Tribe will work in good faith to hire local residents and utilize local vendors.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council has authorized Chairman Cromwell to sign the agreement on the Tribe's behalf. The Taunton Municipal Council will also take up the agreement at an upcoming meeting.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe plans a \$500 million destination resort casino in the Liberty and Union Industrial Park at the intersection of Routes 24 and 140 in Taunton. The project, which includes plans for gaming, hotels, restaurants, entertainment and a water park, is estimated to provide 1,000 construction jobs with a payroll of \$230 million. In addition, the Tribe estimates it will hire 2,500 permanent employees in phase one of operation at an annual payroll of \$80 million.

A referendum on the project will be held on Saturday, June 9th.

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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