


<p>Agenda</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7/23/2020 10:00 AM LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego NY 13827</p>	
<p>Meeting called by:</p>	<p>Chair Martha Sauerbrey</p>	
<p>Type of meeting:</p>	<p>6th Special</p>	
<p>Attendees:</p>	<p>Legislator Balliet Legislator Hollenbeck Legislator Monell Legislator Mullen Legislator Roberts Legislator Sauerbrey Legislator Standinger Legislator Sullivan Legislator Weston</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda topics</p>	
<p>Invocation Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p>Legislator Sullivan Legislator Sullivan</p>	
<p>RESOLUTIONS:</p>	<p>1. Resolution Calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to Support the Southern Tier Region with the Re-opening of Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs</p>	

REFERRED TO: LEGISLATIVE WORKSESSION

RESOLUTION NO. -20 RESOLUTION CALLING ON
GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO TO
SUPPORT THE SOUTHERN TIER REGION
WITH THE RE-OPENING OF TIOGA DOWNS
AND VERNON DOWNS

WHEREAS: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern Tier Region has stayed within the established metrics and has successfully been on target with all phases of re-opening; and

WHEREAS: Specific businesses remain closed in Phase 4 or have been required to take additional precautionary measures to ensure public safety; and

WHEREAS: Tioga Downs Casino Resort in Tioga County and Vernon Downs in Oneida County have submitted an extensive re-opening plan to the NYS Gaming Commission taking into account every precaution to protect the health and safety of their customers and employees while still resuming business; and

WHEREAS: These efforts encompass all physical distancing requirements and best practices outlined in the State's NY Forward Guidelines for shopping malls, including, but not limited to, adapting their floor plan to account for adequate social distancing, requiring face masks for all employees and customers at all times, installation of various Plexiglas barriers between slot machines, upgrading their air filtration system, limiting hours and entrances, reducing capacity by 50% or more, temporarily eliminating table games, regular testing for employees, and more; and

WHEREAS: Tioga Downs Casino Resort and Vernon Downs have been closed and employees furloughed since mid-March 2020 creating an economic challenge for sustainability and a crippling economic impact on Tioga and Oneida Counties; and

WHEREAS: The owner of Tioga Downs Casino Resort and Vernon Downs issued a Worker Adjustment and Retaining Notification (WARN) indicating the closure of these businesses and termination of over 900 employees effective October 1, 2020 unless the State allows for re-opening; and

WHEREAS: Tioga Downs Casino Resort has generated over \$30 million each year in tax revenue for public schools and local governments over the last several years and over \$25 million each year for statewide school aid and millions more for Tioga County, the Town of Nichols and surrounding counties, including Broome County; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature believes Tioga Downs Casino Resort and Vernon Downs will rise to the challenge, successfully thrive, and maintain all outlined precautionary measures upon State's approval for re-opening; and

WHEREAS: Tioga Downs Casino Resort is committed to supporting community non-profits through the creation of Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation funded solely by owner, Mr. Gural, and serves Tioga, Broome, Chemung, and Bradford Counties with awarding \$1 million dollars annually to local not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Gural believes strongly in the importance of giving back to the community, especially in times of need. Mr. Gural, along with Tioga Downs' employees, delivered food, water, and worked tirelessly to help families near the facility with cleanup efforts during the 2011 Flood. Most recently, contributing to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through the partnership with other local businesses providing meals to those in the Owego, Waverly, and Towanda areas all while his business remained shuttered; and

WHEREAS: Tioga Downs Casino Resort and Mr. Gural are part of our community and now is our opportunity to return the support to him and his businesses; and

WHEREAS: The Tioga County Legislature strongly supports Mr. Gural, Tioga Downs Casino Resort, and Vernon Downs Casino; therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Tioga County Legislature urges Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to re-open the NYS casino industry and allow Tioga Downs Casino Resort and Vernon Downs to re-open under the guidance of their submitted plan in an effort to preserve the local economy and workforce of these businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Congressional Delegation, the New York State Association of Counties, and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.