

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL FORMALLY
AUTHORIZES MAYOR
TO RESPOND TO TRIBAL RFP**

***Silver Lane Partners “gratified” by building momentum and
expanding local support for proposed entertainment and
gaming facility***

By a 7-1 margin, the East Hartford Town Council Tuesday night formally authorized Mayor Marcia Leclerc to submit a response on the town’s behalf to the recent RFP released by MMCT Venture, LLC, the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Tribal joint venture. The Mayor's anticipated action and formal submission to follow in the next two weeks are a reaffirmation of the town's strong interest in being considered as the "host community" selected for development of a third Connecticut casino. The town has identified the former Showcase Cinemas property on Silver Lane as its single preferred site for development of an entertainment and gaming complex in East Hartford.

Passing a formal resolution, the Council expressed its desire to see a facility that will (1) provide significant dollars annually in additional property tax and other revenue to the town; (2) employ hundreds of workers including residents of East Hartford; (3) include a plan agreeable to the town to reduce any negative traffic impact on Silver Lane and the surrounding areas; (4) consist of restaurants, bars and other entertainment facilities that will attract non-gaming consumers; and (5) include a

cooperative arrangement with the East Hartford Police Department to minimize or prevent criminal activities within the facility and in the town.

Silver Lane Partners, LLC (SLP) has been working closely with the Mayor and town officials for several months in advancing a comprehensive development plan for Tribal consideration. SLP holds an option to acquire the long-shuttered Showcase property – vacant and boarded up for nine years – a high-profile site with significant frontage and unmatched visibility located directly on Interstate 84. The Town Council’s action Tuesday night fulfills a requirement of the Tribal RFP and follows on the heels of a recent unanimous vote of the East Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) in support of a Phase I Special Permit Use Application for the abandoned Showcase Cinemas building submitted by SLP. The P&Z’s initial approval covers uses and activities allowed in the existing zone and conforming to current state and local laws, including commercial indoor recreation and entertainment, restaurants and office space.

SLP Managing Member Tony Ravosa called Tuesday night’s Council action “extremely gratifying” and he spoke of the “building momentum and broad local support that will be required to make this project and all of its economic benefits a reality for East Hartford.” Ravosa went on to say, “Town officials led by Mayor Leclerc continue to be absolutely fantastic to work with in pursuit of this opportunity.” He added, “I’m deeply appreciative of the Council’s action and the big step forward taken this evening.” Ravosa also called the Council’s action reflective of what he’s been hearing across the community. In recent speaking engagements before the East Hartford Rotary and Women’s Clubs, Ravosa said he experienced first-hand “the incredible level of enthusiasm and grassroots support for our proposal.”

Mayor Marcia Leclerc said, “The Council’s action tonight reaffirms that the town of East Hartford is interested in working with the Tribes and open to the possibilities presented by this project. This is a great opportunity to provide a venue for entertainment, rehabilitate a significant commercial corridor in our community, create jobs, expand our grand list, and complement the activities at Pratt and Whitney Stadium (UConn Football), the hoped-for Horizon Outlet Center proposed for Rentschler Field, and, of course, the new UTC World Headquarters.”

Ravosa concluded by saying that the Showcase property and East Hartford present “the single most compelling opportunity to develop a transformative entertainment and gaming destination anywhere in Greater Hartford,” adding further that “no other site disclosed to date comes even remotely close to matching the overwhelming set of attributes presented by East Hartford.”