

# SPENDING LDC FUNDS ON THE CASINO: IS IT LEGAL?

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At the October 10 LDC meeting, Representatives from 9 Baltimore City Departments/Agencies requested LDC funding for Fiscal Year 2016. Some requested expenditures were to ameliorate the effect of the video lottery facility, while some requests were to help the communities in immediate proximity to the facility. The requested expenditures are listed below, characterized by the type of request. I did not record the requested amounts, but have provided a line to insert the amount.

## Requests serving the Casino, ameliorating its effects:

Police	\$ _____
Fire	\$ _____
Public Works	\$ _____
Baltimore Development Corporation for Warner Street	\$ _____
DOT: traffic officers for Casino traffic	\$ _____

## Requests intended to improve the impacted communities:

DOT: Complete Streets	\$ _____
MOED	\$ _____
BDC: Camden Carrol Façade improvements	\$ _____
Public Arts	\$ _____
Trees	\$ _____
Health Department:	\$ _____.

State Government §9-1A-31(b)(3) states:

**In Baltimore City, local impact grants provided under subsection (a)(1)(i) of this section shall be used for improvements in the communities in immediate proximity to the video lottery facility....**

I suggest any expenditures of LDC funds to serve the needs of the Video Lottery Facility, rather than the communities, is not permitted under §9-1A-31(b)(3). This includes not only the above listed expenditures, but any other expenditures paying for Casino related infrastructure.

I request that the LDC publish an analysis of what percentage of Fiscal 2015 funds are being spent to assist the Casino, and what percentage will improve the communities. Should the Casino continue to be funded, I request that analysis be published annually.

Note that this is not to suggest the requested expenditures, and any infrastructure costs, are bad expenses. Clearly the increased police and fire requirements on the Casino footprint caused by the Casino should be funded. But other sources of funds, whether private or public, must be found.