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## **Southland Live Casino & Entertainment Complex Proposed for Calumet City, Illinois**

*Global Hospitality Leader Delaware North to be Operator*

**CALUMET CITY, Ill.** – Today, plans for Southland Live Casino, a 150,000-square-foot casino and entertainment complex, were announced to revitalize River Oaks Center – renewing an effort from a decade ago to bring a casino to Calumet City.

The \$275 million casino destination will be located on a 20-acre site near Macy’s on the southwest corner of River Oaks Center, 96 River Oaks Center Drive. The casino will include 1,200 slot machines, 35 table games, a full gaming offering, a vibrant music venue, restaurants and lounges. A 200-room, 18-floor hotel will be constructed after year three. Southland Live Casino will generate 1,200 jobs during the construction period and 1,150 part-time and full-time positions once in operation.

“River Oaks Center has been an economic anchor of the southeast suburbs for more than half a century, but it needs this exciting casino destination to bring it back to its former glory,” said Southland Live Casino project manager Timothy Hughes. “Equally important, Southland Live Casino will fulfill a longstanding goal of establishing a south suburban casino to provide an economic infusion for a predominantly minority community.”

Annual projected revenues for Southland Live Casino exceed \$200 million, including \$40-\$50 million in local and state taxes. Calumet City would receive approximately \$6-\$8 million per year. About \$6 million would be split equally among 42 suburbs, according to revenue sharing detailed in the state law.

The proposal has already received widespread support:

### **Neighboring municipalities**

Burnham  
Dolton  
Lansing  
South Holland

### **Religious leaders**

Bishop Reynaldo Kyles, of  
Kingdom Builders Church  
Coordinator of the Calumet City  
Churches organization

### **Elected officials**

Sen. Napoleon Harris III  
  
Sen. Elgie R. Sims, Jr.  
  
Rep. Nicholas K. Smith  
  
Thornton Township Supervisor  
Frank Zuccarelli

### **Local business owners**

Advantage Toyota (minority-owned)  
Calumet City Plumbing (2<sup>nd</sup> generation)  
Hasse Construction (4<sup>th</sup> generation)  
JJ Newell Concrete (woman-owned)  
Wes’s Towing (minority-owned)

Delaware North Gaming, one of the most innovative gaming operators in the country, will present its vast experience to the Calumet City Council during a special meeting Friday prior to submitting a casino license application to the Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) by the October 28 deadline.

Calumet City narrowly lost a bid for an open casino license in 2008 and this proposal resurrects that plan because of the ideal, shovel-ready location and opportunity to bring significant economic development to the region. River Oaks Center is conveniently located minutes from I-94/I-80/I-294 and less than 2 miles from the Indiana border, Southland Live Casino is uniquely positioned to attract Illinois residents and visitors alike.

“Southland Live will be a world-class entertainment destination unlike anything Illinois has seen while revitalizing an iconic location in the south suburbs,” said Osi Imomoh, Regional General Manager, Delaware North Gaming. “We’re excited for the opportunity to share our vision with Calumet City and the larger Southland community. We look forward to submitting our proposal and working closely with the IGB once again to bring another successful casino operation to Illinois.”

Delaware North has a well-established track record in creating economic development and tourism assets, with a diverse portfolio that includes ownership and operation of hotels, resorts and casinos. Delaware North owns and operates Jumer’s Casino & Hotel in the Quad Cities. Additionally, Delaware North manages operations in national parks and cultural attractions such as NASA’s Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. The company has been a partner of the Chicago White Sox since 1940 and operates the Chicago Bears team stores.

Within 90 days of the license award, Southland Live Casino will open a temporary gaming facility in the vacant Carson Pirie Scott within River Oaks Center to start generating benefits immediately and create 300 temporary jobs. Carson’s will be retrofitted to resemble the future Southland Live Casino, giving visitors a taste of what’s to come on a grander scale.

Other features of the Southland Live Casino proposal include:

- Southland Live Casino will partner with local and national educational institutions to provide one-of-a-kind training opportunities. Team members will also be supported through unique incentives to foster work-life balance.
- Southland Live Casino will offer living-wage positions with advancement opportunities and a support structure focused on employee growth. All full-time employees will be offered a competitive benefits package including health care, retirement savings plans, paid vacation and skills training.
- As a predominantly minority community and region, Southland Live Casino is committed to focusing hiring efforts locally on those who live in Calumet City and the Southland communities. Every effort will be made to recruit, hire, support, train and retain a diverse workforce. Likewise, Southland Live Casino is committed to purchasing from local vendors and hiring local union contractors.
- Southland Live Casino will establish the Southland Live Casino Charitable Foundation focused on economic empowerment and improving education resources throughout the area. The 501(c)(3) not-for-profit will be overseen by a diverse group of residents who will identify worthy initiatives to support.

The site is ripe for further investment and there is market potential to expand the entertainment complex in future phases. A convention center, parking garage and sports complex are all being

considered for continued revitalization of River Oaks Center and long-term investments into Calumet City's economy.

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**About Delaware North**

Delaware North is one of the largest privately held hospitality companies in the world. Founded in 1915 and owned by the Jacobs family for more than 100 years, Delaware North has global operations at high-profile places such as sports and entertainment venues, national and state parks, destination resorts and restaurants, airports, and regional casinos. Our 55,000 employee associates are dedicated to creating special experiences one guest at a time in serving more than a half-billion guests annually. Delaware North operates in the sports, travel hospitality, restaurant and catering, parks, resorts, gaming, and specialty retail industries and has annual revenue of more than \$3 billion. Learn more about Delaware North, a global leader in hospitality, at [www.DelawareNorth.com](http://www.DelawareNorth.com).