



For Immediate Release

Information Contacts:

Lisa Schroeder
(412) 258-6636

Pittsburgh, December 11, 2007 - Riverlife has never objected to a casino. Rather we object to efforts to bypass the public review process, as required by law: a process that is enabling Pittsburgh to reclaim its rivers and remake itself as one of America's great cities.

In December of 2005, City Council passed amendments to the Zoning Code that require the Planning Commission to review the proposed final design only after the design application is complete; after public notice is provided, and after a public hearing is conducted. The zoning amendments include design standards specifically to prevent a massive structure that will create an eyesore and isolate itself from the surrounding community.

PITG Gaming created this timetable with their 11th hour submittal. By choosing to submit final drawings after the groundbreaking ceremony, PITG Gaming appears to be forcing the hand of the public and the City Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is not a rubber stamp and has an obligation to look beyond promises and consider actual site improvement plans.

The Riverfront Master Plan was created by and for the people of Pittsburgh. Since 1999, and without one dollar of public operating support, Riverlife has contributed over \$132 million of investment in new riverfront parks and trails, leading to the development of five new corporate headquarters and 800 new residential units on the waterfront.

We stand on our record of working with every property owner and developer who undertakes a project on the riverfront, with the result that \$2.5 billion has been invested in a few short years, and with the result that every person in the region now has the opportunity to enjoy a spectacular and accessible downtown riverfront. The casino should be no exception. Pittsburgh has just been cited as one of the world's top tourist destinations. Now is not the time to roll back the clock, but to hold to our standards of high quality design and move Pittsburgh forward.