



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Contact: Dan Gelber
(305) 345-7879
dan@dangelber.com

New Study Delivers Alarming News to Floridians: Cost of Mega Casinos Crime Over \$3 Billion

Miami, Fla. – NoCasinos today released a new study that examined crime rates and the accompanying fiscal impacts to taxpayers of mega-casinos in a community. The study shows that Miami-Dade County will see an increase in its crime rate of 8-12% as a direct result of the introduction of mega-casinos in the county. The estimated costs of incarceration resulting from the surge in crime will be \$3 billion to the state over the first 10 years after the casinos open. This does not include cost of prosecution the costs to victims, or the costs of crimes that are not prosecuted. Taxpayers will be left to foot the bill for the additional cost for the spike in crime, which points to the imprisonment of new criminals.

"We shouldn't focus on the false promises but rather the harsh realities. Mega-casinos will increase property crime throughout the region and corrupt our government processes. Taxpayers will not only be victimized by the criminals and undesirables attracted to these mega-casinos, but we will have to pay billions to incarcerate those we apprehend. It's a lose lose for Florida," said Former State Senator Dan Gelber, Chairman of South Florida's NoCasinos.

Businessman Norman Braman, who has been outspoken in his opposition to casino gambling in Miami stated, "Destination resort casinos are an assault on the quality of life of our community and must be well-scrutinized and defeated lest we lose the advantages our community has struggled to offer its citizens — and its tourists. Bringing casino gambling here also comes with the increase in crime, burglary, rape, and prostitution. It

will be like bringing a cancer here to this community that will only spread. That's what the numbers indicate all over the country. One only need examine the promises that were made to other cities regarding casinos and gambling, and compare the results to those promises.”

As the former chief federal law enforcement officer for the Southern District, Former U.S. Attorney Roberto “Bob” Martinez added another perspective to the results of the study, "Apart from the increase in the total number of criminal activity caused by the massive expansion of casino gambling, the biggest threat to the fabric of our society will come from the huge infusion of cash to the political process from the mega casino groups. This massive infusion of cash will have the ability to influence and distort political action to benefit those mega casino groups. This will occur at the local and state level and, there will be nothing to counter-balance it.”

The study provides a conservative estimate of the financial impact of crime on the community, state, and taxpayers. The study did not include the costs to the victims of crime, or costs for increase in police, prosecutors, and impacts to the courts. Individual and business taxpayers will pay for the all the direct effects of crime on the costs of community policing, prosecution, court resources, and imprisonment. But the indirect costs of increased crime, such as negative impacts on property values, productivity, and availability of public resources for other community needs, cannot be as easily estimated, but can be extremely devastating.

The study can be found at the top of the page found on this link:
<http://nocasinos.org/press/key-studies/>

###