December 4, 2015

To: Long Grove Village President Angie Underwood
Re: Public Hearing on Video Gaming

Dear Ms. Underwood,

We are residents of Long Grove. It has come to our attention that on Tuesday, the Village Board will be voting on allowing video gaming within the Village of Long Grove. We are as yet undecided in our opinion of video gaming, but we believe that a final vote on this issue is premature. Like most residents, we have witnessed the decline in our downtown and the multitude of vacant buildings. We also understand that the Village is working very hard to revitalize our downtown and will be working with a consultant over the next year to revise our Village's comprehensive plan. It seems that it would be prudent for the Village to wait until that process is completed and a vision for Long Grove becomes clear, before making any permanent decisions that could affect our current businesses. It should also be noted that there are plans for an assisted living facility within walking distance of downtown in the near future. This would bring approximately 150 or more new residents to long grove in close proximity to downtown and continuing the trial period would give these new residents a voice on this matter as well.

Moreover, difficult months are coming for the downtown businesses and it does not appear that there will be any positive revenue changes for these businesses in the next 6-12 months. To the extent the gaming brings additional revenue to the establishments, regardless of the amount, and if it helps sustain them through these difficult months, the Village should support their desire to retain the gaming at least on a temporary basis.

Finally, we have visited both the Winery and Chatterbox in recent months and have not found the gaming machines themselves to be offensive. They appear to be limited in number without signs or advertising. In fact, patrons would not know that these businesses have the machines without venturing inside and even then, they are inconspicuously placed. Many residents are still unaware that these gaming machines are in some downtown bars and restaurants and hopefully, by the time the comprehensive plan is revised, more residents will have patronized these establishments and voiced their opinions as well.

We support the Village's efforts in revitalizing our town and we thank you for taking our concerns into consideration. Please feel free to share this letter with the village Trustees.

Sincerely,
Marci Ecanow
Jay and Marci Ecanow
5135 RFD, Long Grove