



For Immediate Release: Friday, October 29, 2021

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**ST. TAMMANY CORPORATION RELEASES NEXT TWO COMPONENTS OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY IMPACT STUDY CONDUCTED ON PROPOSED CAMELLIA BAY RESORT, CASINO, AND MARINA**

*This set of components released focus on public safety and social impacts*

MANDEVILLE, LA – Today, St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill releases the next two sections of an independent community impact study to further understand possible impacts of the first-class entertainment & gaming resort, *Camellia Bay Resort, Casino, and Marina*, proposed in Eastern St. Tammany Parish.

Notable findings from these two components of the Community Impact Study include:

- **Public Safety:** The probability of a resident being a victim of crime has not been shown to increase because of the presence of a gaming facility. The crime rate per capital in casino areas generally falls after casino development. This drop in crime rate is partially attributable to increased security presence from both casino security and any dedicated police patrols. These conclusions are drawn from CSG’s analyses of FBI crime statistics, through interviews with public safety officials in casino communities across the United States, as well as confirmed through third party research. With casino development, there may be a need for additional public safety efforts similar to what are necessary with any large development such as a big-box store. Camellia Bay is expected to have a robust security and surveillance program, will be establishing a St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office substation, and securing increased patrols for the neighborhood surrounding the development.
- **Social Impacts:** Evidence in emerging and established casino markets shows no correlation between the opening/presence of a gaming resort and rates of divorce or bankruptcy. In markets that already have access to gaming, the addition of a resort casino gaming development does not increase problem gaming rates.

The goal of the study is to expertly evaluate the potential range of impacts that such a project could have on Slidell, the surrounding community, and St. Tammany Parish by providing an additional layer of professional research to further address community questions on the resort and gaming project. There are seven total components of the study, specifically focusing on the areas of businesses and employment, property values, income levels of residents, crime and public safety, social welfare of residents, tourism, and tax revenues to local government.

St. Tammany Corporation proactively commissioned this independent assessment of the project by Convergence Strategy Group, a nationally leading firm that specializes in studies on the economic impacts of the gaming industry. Convergence examined 16 comparable communities both in Louisiana and across

the United States which host modern gaming and resort amenities to assess potential impacts of a new development in Eastern St. Tammany. Their analysis draws from peer-reviewed sources as well as personal interviews with officials within existing comparable host communities.

St. Tammany Corporation prioritizes its role as a trusted and reliable source of timely, relevant economic information and data with our community and partners. The scale and overall financial impact of a project of this nature is significant for our community, representing \$329 million in capital expenditure and up to 1,000 direct permanent jobs. The community impact study provides an abundance of data and information for St. Tammany residents to take into consideration to make informed decisions about this project.

Each component of the Community Impact Study includes a full report and a summary one-page document. The full community impact study reports and one-pagers can be found online at <https://sttammanycorp.org/camellia-bay-community-impact-study/>.

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**About Convergence Strategy Group:** Convergence Strategy Group brings together minds that have guided some of the most successful developments in the world. The New Orleans-based consulting firm, led by partners Scott Fisher, Ph.D. and Suzanne Perilloux Leckert, brings a collective 40+ years of professional experience in providing analytical and strategic planning services to gaming, leisure, commercial, tribal and public development partners across 39 states, and 33 countries worldwide.

**About St. Tammany Corporation:** As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, St. Tammany Corporation serves as the comprehensive resource center for business services throughout the parish. St. Tammany Corporation's services include business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support, and marketing St. Tammany. Since the organization's launch in 2018, St. Tammany Corporation facilitated business expansion and attraction announcements representing over \$60 million in capital investment and 1,177 new and retained jobs in St. Tammany Parish.