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# All 3 casino companies -- Ameristar, MGM National -- qualified by Springfield officials to Phase 2



(<http://connect.masslive.com/user/pgoonan/index.html>) By Peter Goonan, The Republican  
(<http://connect.masslive.com/user/pgoonan/posts.html>)

on October 26, 2012 at 4:28 PM, updated October 26, 2012 at 6:01 PM

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SPRINGFIELD



(<http://www.masslive.com/springfield>) - City officials announced Friday that all three companies vying to build a **casino in Springfield**

(<http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/10>)

[/all\\_three\\_casino\\_companies\\_in.html](#)) have been cleared by a review committee to move on to the second phase of the selection process.

Ameristar Casinos, MGM Resorts International, and Penn National Gaming, passed the Phase 1 guidelines, which involved submitting their qualifications and conceptual plans, according to a joint statement by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Chief Development Officer Kevin E. Kennedy and City Solicitor Edward M. Pikula.

The first phase was used to pre-qualify competing casino firms. With all three companies approved, the city now moves on to Phase 2, the final phase, which includes the companies submitting far more detailed plans, officials said.

The pre-qualification of all three companies comes as no surprise as Kennedy had praised the quality of all three companies in the past, saying that Springfield was fortunate to have "some of the best casino companies in America" vying for the lone casino license.

Following Phase 2, Sarno and his advisors would negotiate "host community agreements" with one or more firms. A casino would also need approval from the City Council, voters, and the state Gaming Commission.

Under state law, up to three casinos can be built in Massachusetts including a single casino in Western Massachusetts.

In addition to the three casino proposals in Springfield, the owners of **Mohegan Sun** (<http://topics.masslive.com/tag/mohegan-sun/index.html>) have proposed a casino in Palmer.

The proposals in Springfield consist of: Penn National, proposing a casino in the North End of the downtown corridor; MGM, planning a casino in the South End; and Ameristar, proposing a casino at the former Westinghouse Electric property in East Springfield.

The review committee in Phase 1 consisted of: Kennedy and Pikula; Deputy City Solicitor Kathleen Breck; Deputy Director of Planning Philip Dromey; Department of Public Works Director Allen Chwalek; and Springfield Chief Financial Officer Timothy J. Plante.

Under Phase 1, the companies provided information regarding their background, reputation and expertise in designing and developing casino complexes, their financial strength and ability to obtain financing to build a casino, and their initial concept for a

Weat



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## Springfield project.

As stipulated in the Phase 2 Request for Proposals, scheduled to begin Nov. 1, the city will direct the casino companies to provide specific, detailed information including:

- Economic development expected from the project including direct and indirect benefits to the city.
- The company's ability to meet or exceed the requirements for a state casino license.
- The company's ability to offer inducements, incentives and other benefits to the state in excess of requirements.
- The company's estimates of revenues, expenses and income from the casino project.
- The plans to mitigate adverse impacts on the city, its residents and on the city's infrastructure and services including traffic, increased demands on water, sewer and electric systems, and increased demands on the city's police, fire and services.
- The plan to promote the city, local entertainment venues and other attractions, and for marketing the project within and outside the region.
- Accessibility of the project to highways and major roads.
- Plans for mitigating social issues such as compulsive gambling.
- Job training and apprenticeship programs, and opportunities for local minority, women and veteran owned businesses.

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**texasgal** (<http://connect.masslive.com/user/Broomstick43/index.html>)

Why is this happening? Does Sarno know something the rest of us don't? When was Springfield dubbed the location for a casino? Something stinks here and I suspect I'm not the only one wrinkling up my nose.

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Did mayor Sarno comment as to if they received envelopes of cash with the applications as well?

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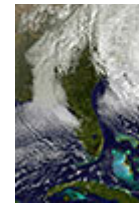




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