



A note from our
Commissioner of Finance
on the importance of this petition.

Dear Resident:

Petitions are an effective way for citizens to express a united opinion to elected officials. I need your help in doing so.

I want to take the opportunity to explain my thinking on why this petition is so important. Some naysayers think this is a futile exercise and that it won't change the Governor's mind. I'm not disillusioned to think that the Governor is going to do a complete 180 on his position overnight, but that doesn't mean this petition is without merit. Consider the impact of the Boston Tea Party for example. Did it stop unfair taxes? No, but it sent a message to the government leaders that certainly had a long lasting impact!

IF WE DON'T MAKE SOME NOISE, what will the Governor do to us next???

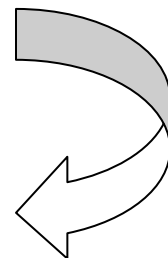
Thank you for signing the petition and helping to send the right message to Albany.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Ivins, Jr." in a cursive script.

Kenneth Ivins, Jr.
Commissioner of Finance

Please look at the flip side of this letter for important facts



Consequences of Governor Paterson's new VLT aid formula

Racino VLTs = more traffic, more wear and tear on our streets, plus the use of our critical police, fire, and DPW services

When the County approved the Racino, it was with the understanding that we'd get a small portion of the revenues to offset the potential negative impacts to our quality of life. It's not fair that they change the formula after the fact.

77% of our 2008 \$36.7M budget covered employee salaries, benefits, and related expenses

Employee costs represent over \$28 Million of our budget that cannot be reduced unless the City Council votes to eliminate positions.

\$3.8 million in lost VLT funding means we lost 45% of the remaining budget dollars we had control of.

In 2009, thanks to Governor Paterson, we had to make up a shortfall of \$3.8 Million. That is 10% of the entire budget, and 45% of the budget that we had any control over, creating a short term economic crisis this City has never seen before.

Employee costs will likely increase in 2010, making the impact of lost VLT aid even greater unless new revenue sources are identified, positions eliminated, or a significant shift in the economy happens.

