



Testimony Regarding City Council Bill # 240010
Prohibition on Certain Gaming and Skill-Based Devices
Andrew Toy for PACDC
February 20, 2024

Good afternoon Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Lozada and City Council Public Safety Committee members. My name is Andy Toy and I am the Policy Director for the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Public Safety Committee regarding Bill # 240010 that seeks to address the growing problem of completely unregulated Games that serve as a means of gambling in commercial corridors across our City, especially in lower income neighborhoods.

What we at PACDC and our Members who manage commercial corridors in the City have been observing is that the proliferation of these machines, whether you call them games of chance or skill, have become an attractive nuisance in many neighborhoods. Of our Commercial Corridor Managers polled, not one supports the allowance of these unregulated devices and many have cited negative impacts upon their corridors overall.

Some places of business have one, but others have many machines that create a feeling like a mini-casino, but totally unregulated. In addition, because of the amounts of cash at these locations and people hanging out for hours, they can become hostile and potentially unsafe places for others in the community.

Finally, for some residents in our communities, these games may represent a chance to make money – we know that without the payouts they are just like regular arcade games and we don't see people playing arcade games for hours and days on end. Some would call these "games of skill" predatory. In the long run most everyone loses.

PACDC supports Bill # 240010 that prohibits these devices, unless specifically licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you - Andy Toy
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