

Lansing casino project is not another Greektown!



Lana Causley, Director,

UNIT II

The Lansing project remains the topic people are most concerned with, fearing another Greektown. I assure you now it is

NOT. Because of the calls I get, I know many are still scared. We held over 40 meetings to inform the membership and hopefully you were able to get answers from your representatives and the chairman, who worked diligently to address all the questions and concerns.

I want to address once again why I voted “no” on the project and why I support the referendum vote for the project. As you all know, I lived the Greektown heartbreak and it stings all the time. We were in debt almost \$700 million when I was elected and I still remember the day I saw the actual financial report — it was a sickening feeling I will always have. So, contemplating another casino in the city had

me on full radar, skeptical and on guard.

But this project has evolved into a full business endeavor that will benefit the tribe for years to come. Right up to the last vote I had questions that needed answers and provisions that I wanted to see in the agreement; some were included, some not. In the end, we have a worthy business plan. The developer will make a ton of money and, yes, we have to pay back all the funds to construct — but only when the casino is open and operating. If we do NOT open, we won’t have to pay back anything. One of the most important facts that cannot be stressed enough is that we will be the SOLE OWNERS and operators of this casino.

We all know that the tribe cannot sustain the members’ needs with our five existing casinos. Growing us into a stable, transparent business asset is the goal for Lansing and it comes with many hours of discussing the past mistakes and securing agreements that will protect us. I’m looking forward to the referendum results and this will set the direction for our people.

We are making headway on the CEO position. We also have been discussing the last draft of the Constitution. I have asked members in my unit for direction. Please contact your reps on what direction you want to see for our Constitution.

We continue to work through Human Resources issues. Our

wage grid study is complete and all lower level positions have been increased by at least the eight percent that we budgeted for. This project took many hours of discussions and study, as we had to implement this the right way in order to keep within our means, this WAS NOT another raise without planning. We will continue working on making our grids comparable.

As always, I will attend our three elders meetings in the unit for our reports. Contact me if you would like to meet.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley,
Vice Chairwoman, Unit II

Director

(906) 484-2954
lcausley@saulttribe.net