



A Century of Progress with Pride

April 28, 2016

Dear Berwyn Residents,

I would like to update you on the status of video gaming in the City of Berwyn. Although video gaming has brought in significant revenue to the City, I believe it is important to set up limits and rules regarding this new business. I have received feedback from residents, the business community, and aldermen (specifically Alderman Nora Laureto who has several video gaming establishments have opened in her ward), regarding putting a cap on specifically video gaming cafes and regulations for all businesses that house the video gaming machines.

In February, under my direction, City staff and the Berwyn Development Corporation began researching video gaming ordinances and tendencies. Working with attorneys, an ordinance was created. This ordinance follows state guidelines and court decisions to prevent litigation against the City of Berwyn.

At the April 12th City Council meeting, Alderman Polashek brought forward a communication about creating a Video Gaming Ordinance in which he was informed that this had already been a priority for my administration. The ordinance was prepared for the April 26th meeting to be brought forward for vote. At the April 26th council meeting, City Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

This Video Gaming Ordinance strengthens the City's local control over the conduct of video gaming establishments. This ordinance also caps the number of video gaming cafes to 15 (the number of video gaming cafes currently in Berwyn including the few pending businesses.)

The City of Berwyn has a limit on liquor licenses which in turn limits video gaming licenses since the State of Illinois only allows establishments with liquor licenses to be eligible for a video gaming license. The State of Illinois also has a rigorous background checks done on all video gaming applicants.

Further limits were established by the City of Berwyn under the ordinance that require that any establishment with a liquor license (except for video gaming cafes) be established for at least one year before applying for the video gaming license. This was done to make sure that the businesses are not strictly opening for gaming purposes.

The City of Berwyn, under my direction, will continue to monitor video gaming in the City of Berwyn. As we move forward, we will make changes to this ordinance as necessary to make sure that Berwyn not only maintains its thriving business community, but one that works with the City in maintaining its family appeal.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Lovero
Mayor