

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ELECTRONIC GAMING DEVICES (EGDS)

Prepared for: Council of Chiefs

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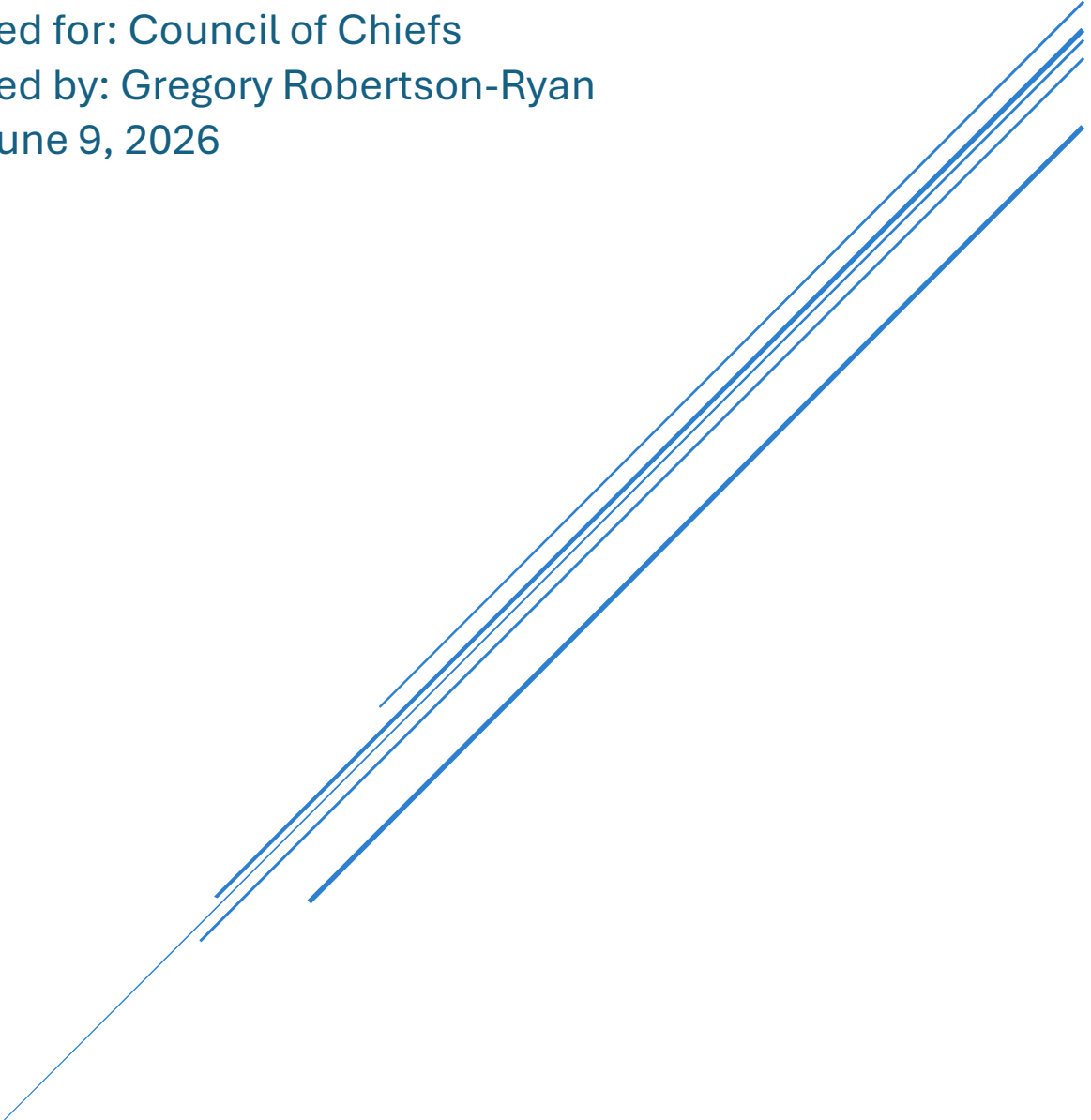


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1. Purpose

This report consolidates engagement activities and feedback received during the period from May 1, 2026, to June 5, 2026, regarding the proposed expansion of Electronic Gaming Devices (EGDs) in Kahnawà:ke. It is intended to provide the Council of Chiefs with a single working document that summarizes completed engagement activities, feedback received, the main themes raised by participants, and the key considerations that emerged throughout the process.

2. Engagement Activities to Date

The engagement campaign activities included public kiosks, radio discussions, stakeholder sessions, a special community meeting, and a dedicated email channel for written feedback.

2.1 Communications and Engagement Schedule

The schedule included:

- **May 4, 2026:** Launch and information distribution
- **May 6, 2026:** Community Kiosk 1 (Kahnawà:ke Services Complex (Caisse) Lobby)
- **May 8, 2026:** MCK Friday 1 (K103.7 FM)
- **May 13, 2026:** Community Kiosk 2 (Kahnawà:ke Services Complex (Caisse) Lobby)
- **May 14, 2026:** Internal stakeholder meeting – Regulatory Security Group
- **May 15, 2026:** MCK Friday 2 (K103.7 FM)
- **May 24, 2026:** Special Community Meeting (the Royal Canadian Legion Mohawk Branch 219 – Kahnawà:ke)
- **June 4, 2026:** Internal stakeholder meeting – KSCS
- **Written feedback:** Open throughout May and closes **June 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM**
- **June 9, 2026:** Feedback report scheduled

2.2 Community Kiosk 1 – May 6, 2026

A series of comments were received at the first community kiosk on **May 6, 2026**. The comments included support, conditional support, and opposition. The feedback captured many of the same themes throughout the report.

2.3 Community Kiosk 2 – May 13, 2026

More comments were received at the second community kiosk on **May 13, 2026**. These comments continue and reinforce the same general themes raised during Community Kiosk 1.

2.4 Written Feedback

Written feedback was made available through the dedicated feedback email as part of the engagement process. The engagement campaign took place throughout May 2026, and multiple notices were issued stating that written submissions could be sent to feedback@mck.ca. For the purposes of this report, written feedback was open throughout May 2026 until **June 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM**.

2.5 Facebook Comments on Public Posts

Comments were also posted publicly on Facebook in response to the engagement-related posts. Most of these comments expressed opposition to the proposed expansion of EGDs. However, these comments were made through social media, and based on the information available, the individuals posting them did not participate directly in the engagement activities or submit feedback through the formal engagement channels. As such, these comments may provide some indication of online sentiment but are distinct from the structured engagement feedback summarized in this report.

2.6 Stakeholder Meeting – Regulatory Security Group (May 14, 2026)

The internal stakeholder meeting with the Regulatory Security Group took place on **May 14, 2026**. Attendees included Paul Rice, Ryan Montour, Marnie Lahache, Lloyd Phillips, Dwayne Zacharie, Robyn Montour, Gregory Robertson-Ryan, and Wihse Stacey.

The purpose of that meeting was to gather comments from regulatory and public safety entities regarding the impacts of EGD expansion.

2.7 Special Community Meeting (May 24, 2026)

A **Special Community Meeting** was held on **May 24, 2026** at the Royal Canadian Legion Mohawk Branch 219 – Kahnawà:ke. Ryan Montour, Paul Rice, Gregory Robertson-Ryan, and 12 community members were in attendance.

The meeting was used to present the EGD project, explain the mandate of the Gaming Working Group, discuss the market study, review the pilot project context, and explain the possible community benefit priorities, regulatory oversight, and future decision-making steps.

2.8 Stakeholder Meeting – KSCS (June 4, 2026)

A stakeholder meeting with Kahnawà:ke Shakotiià'takehnhas Community Services (KSCS) was held on **June 4, 2026** to gather a health, prevention, and frontline-service perspective on the proposed expansion of EGDs.

3. Feedback Received to Date

Feedback received to date reflects comments collected through **Community Kiosk 1**, **Community Kiosk 2**, and **written submissions** received through the dedicated feedback channel during the engagement period. This section provides a high-level summary of the volume, sources, and overall profile of the feedback used in the thematic analysis that follows. Facebook comments on public posts were noted as part of the broader engagement context but were not included in the formal feedback totals or thematic analysis summarized in this section.

3.1 In-Person Feedback

In-person feedback was collected during the following engagement activities:

- **Community Kiosk 1 – May 6, 2026:** 13 in-person comments
- **Community Kiosk 2 – May 13, 2026:** 12 in-person comments

3.2 Written / Remote Feedback

Four written submissions were received through the dedicated feedback channel during May 2026, with submissions accepted until June 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Summary Statistics	
Total Participants	29
Most Common Position	Conditional / Mixed
Top Theme	Community benefit / reinvestment
% Conditional Support	48%
Themes Identified	12

Each submission was reviewed and categorized by overall position and by recurring theme in order to support the summary, breakdown, and key observations presented later in this report.

Although the number of submissions remains modest, the feedback provides a useful snapshot of community perspectives and points to several recurring conditions and priorities that are explored in the sections that follow.

4. Summary of Community Feedback

The feedback received to date reflects a range of positions, including supportive, conditional or mixed, neutral or issue-focused, and opposing views. The strongest overall pattern is that support for EGD expansion is often **conditional**, meaning that participants generally supported additional EGDs only if conditions such as visible community benefit, stronger transparency, avoidance of monopoly, appropriate location, and stronger oversight were met.

5. Key Themes Emerging from Feedback

5.1 Community benefit and reinvestment

The strongest recurring theme in the engagement is that expansion of EGDs **should clearly benefit Kahnawà:ke and return funds to the community**.

5.2 Infrastructure and local improvements

A large number of comments referred to **infrastructure and service improvements** such as roads, paving, arenas, transportation, lighting, and related community needs.

5.3 Community Ownership / MCK Role / Stronger Oversight

Many of the comments expressed a preference for community ownership, stronger MCK/community involvement, or clearer public accountability. This theme is reinforced by written submissions that explicitly support expansion only under a **community-owned model**.

5.4 Overall support, but often conditional

The thematic summary explicitly identifies “overall support, but often conditional” as a major theme. Participants frequently supported expansion only if there were clear conditions around benefit, fairness, governance, and location.

5.5 Regulation, standards, and vetting

Several comments made clear that expansion would only be acceptable if subject to strong regulation, vetting, and enforceable standards. This includes ensuring that any new

operator, permit, or facility is reviewed through a clear regulatory process and meets defined requirements related to licensing, financial soundness, compliance, location, and ongoing oversight.

5.6 Housing as a top priority

Housing was repeatedly identified as one of the clearest preferred uses of any new revenue generated through EGD expansion. In this context, housing refers not only to general support for community development, but to a specific expectation that funds should contribute to addressing housing needs in Kahnawà:ke. The consistency of this feedback suggests that housing is viewed by many participants as a visible and meaningful example of community benefit.

5.7 Opposition to monopoly / desire for fair access

A major recurring theme was opposition to monopoly and support for either more than one operator or a fair permitting process. In this context, “fair access” refers to concern that no single business or operator should be seen as the sole beneficiary of expansion without a transparent and equitable process. This theme reflects both a desire for fairness in opportunity and a broader concern that any expansion should avoid concentrating benefits too narrowly.

5.8 Economic development and self-sufficiency

Supporters often framed expansion as a way to generate revenue, create jobs, and strengthen local self-sufficiency and financial autonomy. In this context, economic development refers to using gaming as a practical tool to generate funds that can support community priorities, while self-sufficiency refers to reducing reliance on outside funding and strengthening Kahnawà:ke’s own economic capacity. This theme reflects a view that expansion should contribute to long-term community sustainability rather than short-term gain alone.

5.9 Location and zoning concerns

Support was often tied to keeping EGDs out of residential areas, social clubs, and other sensitive spaces, while favoring dedicated gaming environments or commercial corridors. In this context, location and zoning concerns refer to where expansion would physically occur and whether those locations are seen as appropriate, controlled, and separate from everyday community life. This theme reflects the view that the acceptability of expansion is closely tied to place, visibility, and proximity to homes and family-oriented spaces.

5.10 Youth, sports, and community programs

Many participants tied their support for EGDs to visible benefits for youth and families, including sports, recreation, and community programming. In this context, these references point to a desire for revenues to support practical, community-facing programs that are accessible and easy to identify as direct benefits. The recurring mention of youth, sports, and community activities suggests that participants want to see outcomes that strengthen community wellbeing in a tangible way.

5.11 Concern about gambling addiction and social harms

Some comments received were opposed to the expansion or expressed hesitation because of addiction, financial hardship, and negative family impacts. In this context, social harms refers to the broader effects gambling may have on individuals, households, and the community, including hidden addiction, financial stress, relationship strain, and the normalization of harmful gambling behavior. This theme reflects concern that expansion may increase these risks if not accompanied by prevention, support, and safeguards.

5.12 Transparency and trust in fund allocation

Participants repeatedly raised concerns about where money would go and whether people would clearly see the community benefits. In this context, transparency refers to clear and understandable reporting on how revenues are collected, allocated, and spent, while trust refers to confidence that the benefits of expansion would actually reach the community in a visible and accountable way. This theme reflects the importance of not only generating funds but demonstrating clearly how those funds are used.

5.13 Special Community Meeting observations

The May 24 Special Community Meeting reinforced themes raised through the kiosks and written feedback. Presenters reported that feedback focused on having a voice in how and where generated revenue should be spent, including areas such as housing and sports. There was also clear opposition to monopoly by a single business and interest in community ownership. Although “Community ownership” was not defined as a concept during this session, one attendee expressed a preference for a community-owned house over a private expansion. Another participant raised the question of whether a formal referendum should be considered.

5.14 Stakeholder Meeting Summary - Regulatory Security Portfolio

The internal stakeholder meeting with the Regulatory Security Group took place on **May 14, 2026**. Attendees included Paul Rice, Ryan Montour, Marnie Lahache, Lloyd Phillips, Dwayne Zacharie, Robyn Montour, Gregory Robertson-Ryan, and Wihse Stacey. The Regulatory Security Group meeting did not function as public opinion feedback, but it

added an important operational and planning perspective to the engagement record. The discussion emphasized that any gaming expansion must be matched by long-term investments in public safety, inspections, enforcement, emergency preparedness, and legal/regulatory authority. Emergency Services should have greater operational and regulatory authority built into any expansion planning. They also expressed concerns that the growth of gaming should not move ahead of emergency service readiness, traffic and parking capacity, and compliance capacity.

A prior **\$3.1 million** funding request from 2023 was discussed, and the identified follow-up was to earmark indexed funding for the Kahnawà:ke Fire Brigade, Kahnawà:ke Gaming Commission, Peacekeepers, and Public Safety.

5.15 Stakeholder Meeting – KSCS (June 4, 2026)

A stakeholder meeting with Kahnawà:ke Shakotia'takehnhas Community Services (KSCS) was held on **June 4, 2026** to gather a health, prevention, and frontline-service perspective on the proposed expansion of EGDs.

Discussion focused on the need to better understand the extent of gambling-related impacts within the community, including use of existing player card data and current KSCS research to assess whether problematic gambling is occurring and how community members may be affected. KSCS emphasized that EGDs are designed to be highly addictive and that increased availability can increase harm, even if the broader intent is to attract outside patrons.

Their key recommendations were that any expansion should be accompanied by sustained prevention, awareness, early intervention, data analysis, and access to treatment resources; that consideration be given to a dedicated gambling-focused prevention/support role linked to KSCS, KGC, and operators; and that regulations require ongoing collaboration and prevention measures.

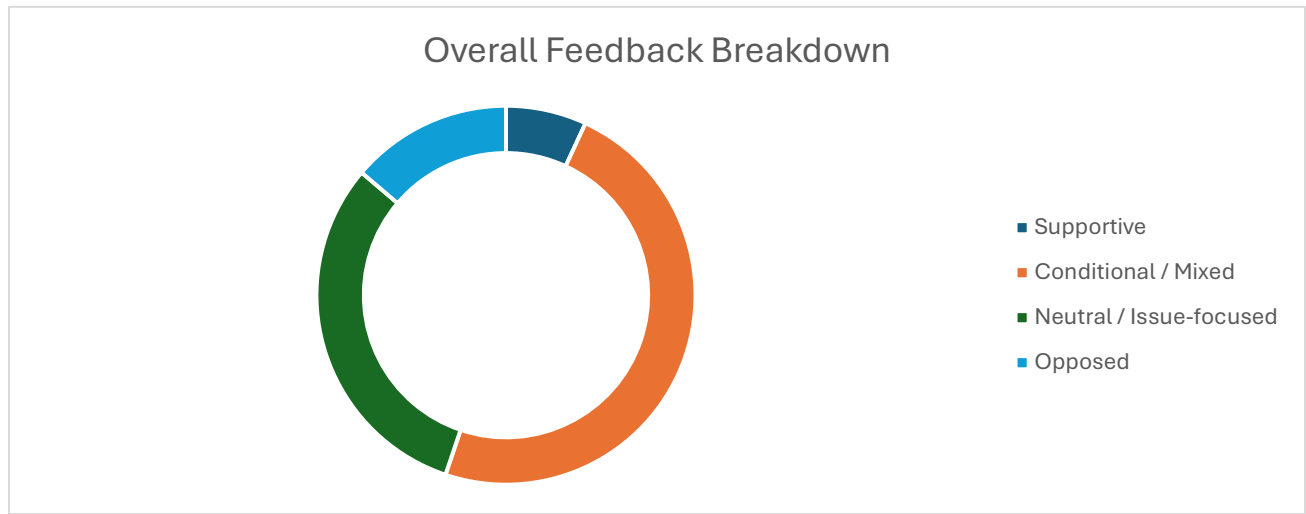
Concerns raised included hidden addiction, limited specialized treatment options, the risk of substitution from substance use to gambling, the need for referral pathways and staff training, and the importance of keeping EGDs in controlled, non-residential settings while ensuring revenues help fund prevention and support services.

6. Overall Feedback Breakdown

The feedback summary identifies the following breakdown of community feedback positions:

- **Supportive: 2**
- **Conditional / Mixed: 14**
- **Neutral / Issue-focused: 9**
- **Opposed: 4**

The dominant pattern is conditional or mixed feedback, alongside a significant number of neutral or issue-focused submissions and a smaller number of opposing views.

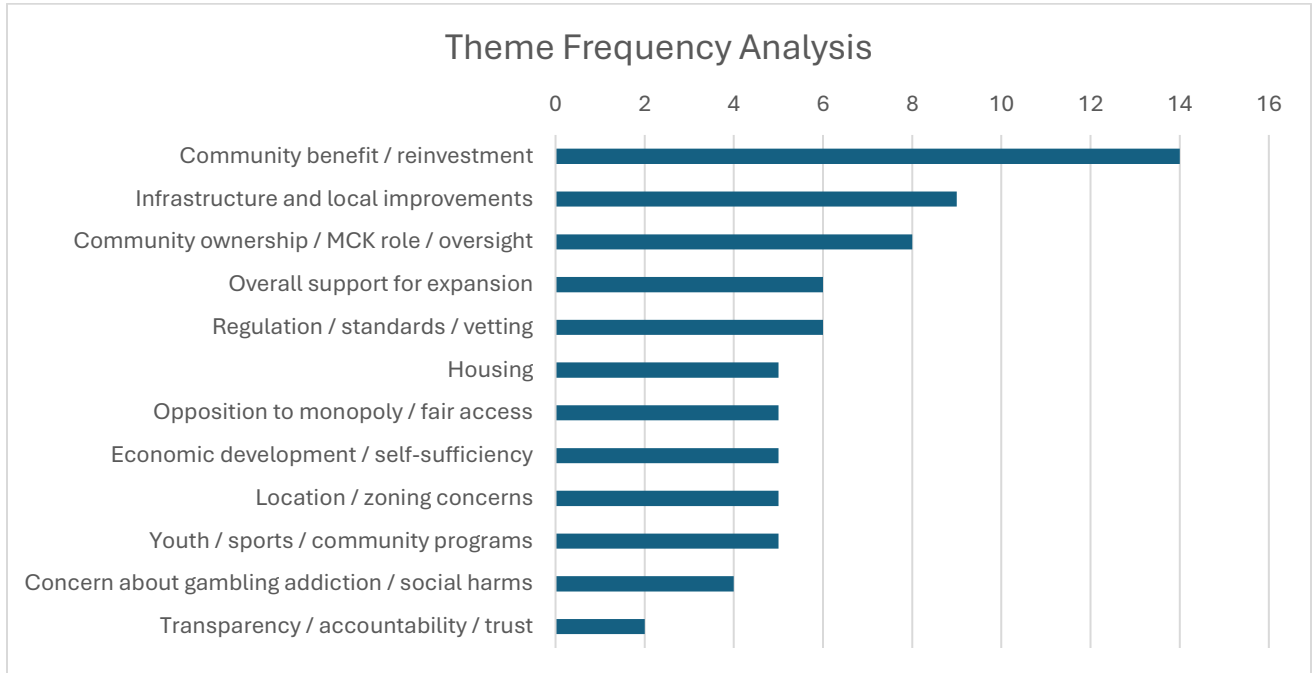


7. Theme Frequency

The feedback summary identifies the following theme frequencies:

- **Community benefit / reinvestment: 14**
- **Infrastructure and local improvements: 9**
- **Community ownership / MCK role / oversight: 8**
- **Support for expansion (often conditional): 6**
- **Regulation / standards / vetting: 6**
- **Housing: 5**
- **Opposition to monopoly / fair access: 5**
- **Economic development / self-sufficiency: 5**
- **Location / zoning concerns: 5**

- Youth / sports / community programs: **5**
- Concern about gambling addiction / social harms: **4**
- Transparency / accountability / trust: **2**



Other Comments/Areas:

- **A feedback comment mentioning caution about moving forward with additional permits before the legal matter involving an existing gaming establishment is resolved.**

8. Key Observations for Council

The engagement data indicates that the key issue is not simply whether there is support or opposition to expansion in principle, but **what conditions must be in place for expansion to be acceptable**. The strongest expectation across the process is that any expansion should:

- Provide visible benefits to the community
- Avoid monopoly (one business profiting)
- Include stronger transparency and accountability

- Be supported by proper regulation and oversight

May 24 Special Community Meeting

The session was a live public event held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with 12 community members in attendance. The main themes raised during this event included:

- Allocation of revenue generation (where and how revenue would be allocated)
- Community ownership (what does a community-owned facility look like, and how it would operate)
- Fair access to participation in the industry (no monopoly, equal opportunity to participate, and broader sharing of benefits)

May 14 Regulatory Security Group stakeholder meeting

Discussion with internal regulatory, public safety, and emergency services stakeholders focused on the following:

- Capacity
- Enforcement authority (to issue tickets and enforce safety standards)
- Inspections (fire, safety, commercial building, restaurant)
- Traffic and parking impacts
- Sustainability of staff and training
- Need for indexed long-term funding and updated law/regulatory tools

June 4 KSCS stakeholder meeting

Consultation with KSCS provided a health, prevention, and frontline-service perspective that focused on the following:

- Need to better understand the extent of gambling-related impacts within the community through research, assessment, and use of available data
- Prevention, awareness, and early intervention measures if any expansion proceeds
- Need for referral pathways, staff training, and access to specialized treatment and support resources
- Consideration of a dedicated gambling-focused prevention or support role linked to KSCS, KGC, and operators
- Maintaining EGDs in controlled, non-residential, and dedicated settings
- Importance of ensuring that revenues contribute to prevention and community support services

9. Conclusion

The engagement conducted between May 1 and June 5, 2026, indicates that while there is interest in EGD expansion, acceptance depends on visible community benefit, practical reinvestment, transparent governance, and stronger safeguards related to location, regulation, and public safety. Community ownership, emergency service readiness, and regulatory capacity were also identified as priorities that should be addressed before any expansion proceeds.

Appendix A - Late-Received Comments and Updated Tallied Comments Page

Three additional written comments were submitted to the Public Relations Unit on June 1 and June 5, 2026, within the written feedback period. These comments were not provided to the report writer until June 16, 2026, after the feedback report had been finalized and presented to the Chiefs.

As a result, the comments were not included in the original feedback totals or thematic analysis contained in the main body of the report. At the request of Chief Paul Rice, they are included in this appendix for transparency and completeness, together with an updated tallied comments page showing how the overall feedback record would be reflected if these submissions are added.

Late-Received Comments

#	Date Received	Source	Position	Themes
1	June 16, 2026	Email	Opposed	Concern about gambling addiction / social harms; Regulation / standards / vetting; Location / zoning concerns; Youth / sports / community programs; Community benefit / reinvestment
2	June 16, 2026	Email	Opposed	Concern about gambling addiction / social harms; Regulation /

				standards / vetting; Location / zoning concerns; Community ownership / MCK role / oversight; Transparency / accountability / trust; Community benefit / reinvestment; Other: unresolved legal matter involving existing establishments
3	June 16, 2026	Email	Conditional / Mixed	Community benefit / reinvestment; Transparency / accountability / trust; Economic development / self-sufficiency; Regulation / standards / vetting

Updated Tallied Comments Page – Including Late-Received Comments

The following updated tallies show how the overall feedback record would be reflected if the three late-received written comments are added to the original feedback totals. These figures are provided for transparency and completeness and do not alter the analysis presented in the main body of the report.

Summary Statistic	Number
Original total participants	29
Late-received written comments added	3
Updated total participants	32

Updated Position Totals

Position	Original Total	Late Comments Added	Updated Total
Supportive	2	0	2

Conditional / Mixed	14	1	15
Neutral / Issue-focused	9	0	9
Opposed	4	2	6
Total	29	3	32

Updated Theme Frequency

Theme	Original Total	Late Comments Added	Updated Total
Community benefit / reinvestment	14	3	17
Infrastructure and local improvements	9	0	9
Community ownership / MCK role / oversight	8	1	9
Support for expansion (often conditional)	6	0	6
Regulation / standards / vetting	6	3	9
Housing	5	0	5
Opposition to monopoly / fair access	5	0	5
Economic development / self-sufficiency	5	1	6
Location / zoning concerns	5	2	7
Youth / sports / community programs	5	1	6

Concern about gambling addiction / social harms	4	2	6
Transparency / accountability / trust	2	2	4