



# NIAGARA JOURNAL

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Special Report:

Casino Expenditures

## Just the facts

### How the city has *really* spent casino revenues

Some politicians say that Niagara Falls has gotten “nothing” from its \$190 million share of casino revenues over the past 12 years. An objective analysis says otherwise. Here are the facts.

#### **FACT: Development has resulted**

The \$17.5 million spent on economic development has attracted more than \$800 million in outside investment to the city.

#### **FACT: It’s all out in the open**

All casino expenditures are approved by a majority vote of the City Council and are listed on the city’s website for public review.

#### **FACT: It has kept taxes in check**

Since 2008, city taxes have gone up at half the rate of inflation. The Dyster administration has used casino dollars to build up the city while protecting taxpayers.



#### **FACT: 25% goes straight to others**

The city has done all of this while sharing dollars with others. Under state law, 5.5% of the city’s casino dollars automatically go to the Niagara Falls City School District; 5.5% go to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center; 7% go to the Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation; and 7% are sent to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. That’s 25% right off the top.

#### **A note from Mayor Dyster**

I am very proud of the way my administration has managed casino revenues. We have been able to keep the city moving forward while holding the line on taxes.

Before I took office, we had years of constant tax increases. Under my administration, taxes have gone up at half the rate of inflation. That was possible because we have spent casino dollars wisely.

Our strategy has focused on paving and infrastructure, economic development and quality of life improvements such as creating parks and removing diseased trees. We have made sure that casino expenditures will have a long-term benefit for every resident of the City of Niagara Falls.



Everything related to casino revenues is done in the open, where you can see it. Every penny of casino spending is approved by the City Council, and documented line-by-line on the city’s website.

It’s an election year. Let’s face it: some politicians are trying to pull the wool over your eyes about how casino monies have been spent. They want you to believe you’ve received “nothing” for that money. I hope this newsletter will help to separate fact from fiction.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Casino revenues paid for ...

- Paving of 270+ streets throughout the city
- ZOOM Team neighborhood cleanups
- New snowplows, fire trucks and police cars to keep us safe
- Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial at Hyde Park
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Stroke Center

## HOW IT HAS BEEN SPENT

Here's the breakdown of casino expenditures since Mayor Dyster took office in 2008

\$40,213,000	Debt payments on the new Public Safety Building, public safety expense in the area of the Seneca Niagara Casino, tax relief for the loss of the Seneca property from tax rolls	\$1,903,200	Niagara County (under original agreement, ended in 2009)
\$17,269,000	Paving, bridge maintenance and sidewalks	\$2,729,400	Parks and recreational facilities for residents
\$17,566,600	Economic development projects, resulting in \$800 million of outside investment	\$1,500,000	USA Niagara Development Corporation (downtown development)
\$10,783,100	Niagara Tourism & Convention Corporation (NTCC) as required by State Law (99H)	\$979,800	Tree removal, tree planting, streetscaping
\$9,585,500	Maintenance of city buildings: City Hall, fire halls, public safety buildings, libraries, senior centers	\$969,600	ZOOM Team (neighborhood cleanup crew)
\$7,000,000	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) as required by State Law (99H)	\$787,300	Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center (Stroke Center and parking facilities, not required by State Law)
\$6,000,000	Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center as required by State Law (99H)	\$724,500	Downtown concerts and festivals
\$6,000,000	Niagara Falls City School District as required by State Law (99H)	\$500,000	Veterans Memorial at Hyde Park
\$4,166,800	Demolition of blighted properties	\$362,400	Police patrols
\$2,917,000	Equipment purchases for Department of Public Works	\$344,800	Brownfield remediation for development
\$2,650,300	Equipment purchases for Police Department	\$278,300	NCCC Culinary Institute at Rainbow Centre
\$2,450,000	Underground Railroad Heritage Commission as required by State Law (99H)	\$257,400	Seasonal workers for ramps, tourism area
\$2,247,755	Garbage and recycling	\$250,000	Family & Children's Services Main St. project
\$2,190,000	Equipment purchases for Fire Department	\$225,000	Holiday Market
\$3,046,000	New train station	\$223,100	SPCA
\$3,000,000	Niagara Falls Housing Authority for HOPE VI	\$210,600	Equipment for Code Enforcement
		\$175,000	Management Information Systems
		\$94,000	Engineering consulting
		\$62,000	Faith-based community outreach
		\$50,000	Buffalo Niagara Enterprise dues
		\$21,000	Urban Fellowship Program

**DOLLARS AUTOMATICALLY SENT TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW: \$34,136,300**

