



Forest County Potawatomi Community

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Forest County Potawatomi make \$10.12 Million Payment to City, County of Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI. The Forest County Potawatomi made a \$10.12 million payment Friday to the City and County of Milwaukee, \$5.06 million each, as part of an annual revenue sharing agreement. The contribution puts the total amount shared with the City and County of Milwaukee at over \$73 million since 2000.

“In these tough economic times, I know this money will be used to fund important programs and services, and serve to alleviate the tax burden for people of Milwaukee. We’re proud of the strong working relationship we have with the City and County of Milwaukee and pleased we can contribute and invest in an area we called home hundreds of years ago,” said Potawatomi Chairman Phil Shopodock. “I’d like to commend tribal members for making this payment possible.”

The revenue sharing payments made Friday to the City and County are based on a percentage of gross casino revenue as outlined in the 1999 agreement between the City, County and Tribe. The payments are estimated to be more than twice what the Tribe would pay in property taxes on its casino land. According to *Casino City’s 2007-2008 Indian Gaming Industry Report*, the City and County of Milwaukee receive one of the largest gaming revenue payments of any city or county nationwide on a percentage basis. Many local governments in other states receive no direct payments from tribal casinos in their area.

The Potawatomi, along with thousands of guests, celebrated the completion of a \$240 million investment in their Milwaukee business, Potawatomi Bingo Casino, in June. The project provided 500 construction jobs and \$44 million in payroll for local construction workers over the roughly two-year construction period. Potawatomi Bingo Casino expects to add 1,000 new family-supporting jobs because of the construction project, bringing its total employment to nearly 3,000 team members. Potawatomi Bingo Casino is one of the largest and most diverse employers in Milwaukee County, and more than half of the employees are minorities.

“As our business grows, so do the jobs it provides and the potential to increase our contribution to the City and County of Milwaukee,” said Chairman Shopodock.

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