

**No Casino in the Heart of Our City Coalition
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**Citywide Coalition calls upon City and Civic Leaders to
Stop the Predatory Casino Industry**

Press Conference

Wed., Feb. 18th

11 a.m.

Broad & Walnut Sts.

(HQ of Gov. Rendell and PREIT)

A citywide coalition of organizations, including faith groups, civic organizations, businesses and social service groups, will announce their formation to oppose a slots parlor at Market East and to demand that city and civic leaders take action against a rapidly expanding predatory gambling industry.

The coalition will open its press conference outside the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT), the landlord of the Gallery which is entering into lease negotiations with a proposed slots parlor and whose board chairman is also a primary stakeholder in the slots license for the Foxwoods group. The location is also the meeting space for Governor Ed Rendell, who is holding a Pittsburgh press conference to push video slot machines in neighborhoods.

“The proposed gambling expansion will touch the lives of every Philadelphian, and it starts here at Market East with the idea that it’s OK to expose transit riders, our youth, our elderly, our residents and our city to this predatory industry,” said Rev. Robin Hynicka, pastor of Arch Street United Methodist Church.

The coalition plans to make statements at the Feb. 24th City Planning Commission’s unveiling of their Market East plan, and lobby civic and elected officials

Speakers include: Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church; Pastor Ellis Washington, president, Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity; Tom Earle, CEO, Liberty Resources; and coalition partners.

The No Casino in the Heart of Our City Coalition is a citywide coalition opposed to a casino/slots parlor at the Gallery and the effort to expose the maximum number of Philadelphians to a predatory gambling industry as well as the fast tracking of the Gallery move with little if any regard for economic and social costs.