



# VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS, OHIO

Kevin Hurst – Mayor / Safety Director/ Economic Director/ E-Mail [mayor@waltonhillsohio.gov](mailto:mayor@waltonhillsohio.gov)

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Information: 2/14/2014

## Sharing of Race Track Hosting Money.

Proposed H.B.# 377

- Senator Tom Patton Information .....Letter, Response and E-mail ..... 8 pages
- Senator Keith Faber /President, Ohio Senate .....2 pages
- State Rep. Marlene Anielski Information .....Letters, Response and E-Mails .....13 pages
- State Rep. Terry Blair Chairman of the House and Local Government Committee ..... 6 pages

I.G.I.T.

7595 Walton Road, Walton Hills, Ohio 44146 \* Office: (440)-786-2963, Fax: (440)-232-4070  
[www.waltonhillsohio.gov](http://www.waltonhillsohio.gov)



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst - Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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September 27, 2013

Senator Tom Patton  
Senate Building  
One Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Patton:

I write this letter to express my strong concerns about the representation or lack of representation for the Village of Walton Hills from our State officials. There was an amendment made to the State budget in late June that took away any possibility that Walton Hills would share in the hosting revenue from the Northfield Park Racino. I discussed with you on the Wednesday before the budget was passed about my concerns with the hosting money to the Racino, and you assured me that nothing would change. You assured me that the information that I obtained from Armond Budish, the State Representative for Warrensville Heights, was unfounded and that is not the way things are done. But apparently State Representative Budish knows more about the operations than you gave him credit for, because it happened exactly as he had predicted.

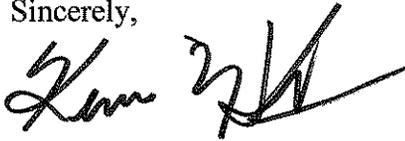
My concern is this - is anyone that represents us, such as you, our State Senator, or Marlene Anielski, our State Representative, going to pursue helping us retain the hosting money from the Northfield Park Racino? We have 35% of that racetrack in our community and we should be entitled to 35% of the \$2 million that is on the table; that would give our Village \$700,000. We would like some type of communication. We have two public servants elected to help our community and we have not received any type of help from either of them on this crucial issue.

The Walton Hills Ford Stamping Plant made the announcement in 2011 that they were going to close. Only after I contacted your office was I put in touch with a representative from the State's Economic Development office. I have had two congressmen in my office and I have had senators send representatives to my office to discuss this impending issue. I have had several roundtable discussions with the Manufacturing Alliance of Communities. I am very concerned about what direction we are supposed to take when we have no representation from our State officials.

Senator Tom Patton  
September 27, 2013  
Page 2

Please, contact me as soon as possible to give me direction on whether or not you are going to help us. Everything has been made public for approximately 36 months. That is the length of time that I have been Mayor and have had no contact from any State official other than the Governor and representatives from Economic Development and the EPA. It is a very sad state of affairs. I would really like to know what my next move is to receive help for our little village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hurst", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Hurst  
Mayor/Safety /Economic Director



THOMAS F. PATTON  
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

OHIO SENATE  
24th District

Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-466-8056

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Kevin Hurst, Mayor  
Village of Walton Hills  
7595 Walton Road  
Walton Hills, OH 44146

Dear Mayor Hurst,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Northfield Park Racino. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with me on this important matter, and am grateful for your thoughts.

After looking at the 3,747 page As Enacted version of House Bill 59, our state's newly-enacted main operating budget, I did locate the statute to which you refer in your letter. This provision was not included in the bill passed by the Ohio Senate on June 6, 2013. It was only added during Conference Committee, which met after the Senate had passed the bill to work out its differences with the Ohio House of Representatives. The Governor's Office of Budget and Management requested an amendment regarding the Casino Operator Settlement Fund be included during Conference Committee that would require the finite revenue in this fund go to the township or municipal corporation in which 50% or more of the real property of a commercial racetrack was located.

I commend my colleague Representative Budish for knowing that the Governor's office would put forth this amendment in Conference Committee. Furthermore, I am sorry that you feel you have not been appropriately represented; if 50% or more of the Northfield Park Racino had been located in Walton Hills, your community would have been entitled to the revenue from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund. I would encourage you to discuss this matter with Timothy Keen, Director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. His office number is 614-752-2579, and if you have any questions or would like to pursue this matter further, he should be able to assist you.

Thank you again for your letter. If I can ever be of assistance to you or the people of Walton Hills, please feel free to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas F. Patton".

Thomas F. Patton  
Majority Floor Leader  
24<sup>th</sup> Senate District

## **Mayor Kevin Hurst**

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**From:** Benjamin, Marcus <Marcus.Benjamin@ohiosenate.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 3:29 PM  
**To:** Mayor Kevin Hurst  
**Cc:** Annie Masad  
**Subject:** information regarding Northfield Racetrack  
**Attachments:** LSC Research Request COSF.pdf; Casino Operator Settlement Fund Amendment.pdf

Good afternoon, Honorable Mayor Hurst,

Please see the attached documents from Senator Tom Patton's office regarding the Northfield Racetrack. The first item is an LSC research memo requested by Senator Patton determining which municipalities contain portions of the racetrack. The second item is a proposed amendment concerning the second payment from the Ohio Casino Operator Settlement Fund.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

Best,

**Marcus Benjamin**  
Legislative Aide  
Senator Tom Patton  
614-466-8056  
[Marcus.Benjamin@OhioSenate.gov](mailto:Marcus.Benjamin@OhioSenate.gov)



Mark Flanders  
Director

# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## SENATE MEMBERS

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## Memorandum

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R-130-2286

**To:** The Honorable Tom Patton  
Ohio Senate

**From:** Todd A. Celmar, Senior Economist *TAC*

**Date:** October 30, 2013

**Subject:** Casino Operator Settlement Fund payments

This memorandum responds to your request for information on the municipal corporations and townships affected by Section 610.15.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59. This section specifies that two \$1 million payments would be made to no more than six subdivisions, and that in cases where a racetrack was in more than one subdivision, the full payment would be made to the subdivision in which the larger portion of the property was located. The bill also specifies that the Director of Budget and Management has the sole authority to make the eligibility determination.

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the six municipalities or townships determined eligible for the two payments from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund are as follows:

- Anderson Township in Hamilton County;
- Austintown Township in Mahoning County;
- City of Dayton in Montgomery County;
- Turtlecreek Township in Warren County;
- Village of Northfield in Summit County; and
- Village of North Randall in Cuyahoga County.

Two racetracks are located within more than one municipality or township. According to OBM, most of the Thistledown racetrack is located in North Randall (77.36%), while the rest is in Warrensville Heights (22.64%). Most of the Northfield Park racetrack is located in Northfield (82.9%), with portions in Walton Hills (10.9%) and Macedonia (6.2%).

If you have any other questions, please contact me at (614) 466-7358.

R2286-130.docx / lb

\_\_\_\_. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Casino Operator Settlement Fund 1

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

Between lines \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, insert: 2

"Section \_\_\_\_\_. That Section 10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 386 of the 129th General Assembly, as most recently amended by Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly, be amended to read as follows: 3  
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Sec. 10. As used in this section, "commercial racetrack" has the same meaning as "track" as found in Sections 3 and 7 of Am. Sub. H.B. 386 of the 129th General Assembly. 6  
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To the extent that sufficient cash is available, within three months after the receipt of moneys into the Casino Operator Settlement Fund created in section 3772.34 of the Revised Code, the Director of Budget and Management shall pay one million dollars to the municipal corporation or township in which greater than fifty per cent of the real property of a commercial racetrack was located on June 11, 2012, or a municipal corporation or township to which greater than fifty per cent of the real property of a commercial racetrack is to relocate, but excluding the previous municipal corporation or township of each moved or moving commercial racetrack, and excluding a municipal corporation or township in a county with a population between 1,100,000 and 1,200,000 in the most recent federal decennial census. Additionally, within six months after the first payments made 9  
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under this section, the Director of Budget and Management shall 23  
either pay an additional one million dollars to each of these 24  
municipal corporations and townships or, if the real property of 25  
such a commercial racetrack is in more than one municipal 26  
corporation or township, pay the additional one million dollars to 27  
those municipal corporations or townships in proportion to the 28  
amount of real property in each municipal corporation or township. 29  
~~Not more than six municipal corporations or townships shall be~~ 30  
~~eligible for the payments under this section.~~ The determination of 31  
which ~~six~~ municipal corporations or townships are eligible to 32  
receive payments under this section shall be made solely by the 33  
Director of Budget and Management. Each municipal corporation or 34  
township receiving such a payment shall use at least fifty per 35  
cent of the funds received for infrastructure or capital 36  
improvements. If after either of the payments referenced in this 37  
section, a municipal corporation or township loses a commercial 38  
racetrack as a result of the commercial racetrack permit holder's 39  
decision to relocate to another municipal corporation or township, 40  
the municipal corporation or township losing the commercial 41  
racetrack becomes eligible for a payment from the Racetrack 42  
Facility Community Economic Redevelopment Fund provided for in 43  
Sections 7 and 8 of H.B. 386 of the 129th General Assembly after 44  
all of the communities that have already lost a racetrack permit 45  
holder's commercial racetrack at the time the first payments 46  
referenced in this section are made have each been awarded up to 47  
\$3 million for the initial loss of such commercial racetracks. 48  
Such a municipal corporation or township shall not receive more 49  
than the sum of \$3 million minus any payments made by the Director 50  
of Budget and Management in accordance with this section. The 51  
Director of Budget and Management is also authorized to establish 52  
any necessary appropriation items in the appropriate funds and 53

agencies in order to make any payments required under this 54  
section. Any funds in such items are hereby appropriated. 55

Section \_\_\_\_\_. That existing Section 10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 386 56  
of the 129th General Assembly, as most recently amended by Am. 57  
Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly, is hereby repealed." 58

In line \_\_\_\_\_ of the title, after "\_\_\_\_\_" insert "to amend 59  
Section 10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 386 of the 129th General Assembly, as 60  
subsequently amended," 61

In line \_\_\_\_\_ of the title, after "\_\_\_\_\_" insert "to make 62  
changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement 63  
Fund to certain local government entities" 64

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst – Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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October 11, 2013

Senator Keith Faber  
President, Ohio Senate  
Statehouse  
1 Capital Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Faber:

I am a Republican Mayor of Walton Hills, a small Northeast Ohio community located in Cuyahoga County. We have a small population of approximately 2,300 people. I have been Mayor of this town for approximately 32 months, during which time we have faced many difficulties and challenges. When I took office in 2011, our previous Mayor, Marlene Anielski, was elected as our State Representative. At that time, we had a deficit of \$1.8 million. We were able to decrease that within a three month period and, by the end of the year, we closed out approximately \$100,000 in the red. We did this by being very balanced in our approach. We downsized our workforce by 28%. We decreased our budget by approximately 31%. We have been constantly keeping ourselves in good standing.

To give you some background, in 2007 I was Council President and our community had a surplus of a little over \$10 million. I took a bid for Mayor in 2007 and lost my bid. From 2007 to 2009, we had a deficit of \$1.8 million. We had approximately 38 employees at that time and there was no end in sight in managing the money. In 2010 I was reelected to Council and elected as Council President. We immediately removed \$700,000 from the budget and still had a budget of approximately \$1 million. In 2011 when I became Mayor, we completely wiped out the deficit with proposals from the former Mayor. We were able to manage and continue to function and be positive. In September of 2011, we received notification that the Walton Hills Ford Stamping Plant was to close in December of 2014. I was elected Mayor from 2012 to present. We were very aggressive with Ford; we met with them several times and gathered pertinent information necessary to start the redevelopment process. As we continued to struggle with many budget challenges and issues, we were able to balance our budget and continue to function with downsizing and deleting of wasteful spending.

Last year, another issue became a major concern to our community – the Northfield Park Racino located in Northfield Village, our neighboring community located in Summit County. This is the only racetrack located in two counties in Ohio. We have been very cooperative; we gave them the authority to purchase traffic lights, yet Walton Hills still controls the timing of those lights. When we were notified of the Racino, our Village Engineer conducted a study of what impact it would have on Walton Hills' infrastructure. This is when we discovered that 35% of the racetrack was location in our community.

Senator Keith Faber

October 11, 2103

Page 2

Before the budget was passed in June, it was quite clear that there would be a sharing of revenue from hosting the racetrack. Even though I heard rumors to the contrary, our State Senator, Tom Patton, assured me that everything would work out for Walton Hills. However, the State legislature decided to totally shut out two of the nine Ohio racetrack communities in sharing any of the new Racino money; Walton Hills and Warrensville Heights. They have a smaller percentage of the Thistledown racetrack located in their community than the 35% of Northfield Park located in our community. We receive 50% of the racetrack winnings from the State Lottery Board, which equates to approximately \$32,000 a year.

The Ohio Municipal League is sympathetic to our concerns and recommended that I write you this letter. Senator Patton assured me that everything was going to be fine for Walton Hills, which it is not. I have never received any correspondence from or had any conversation with our State Representative Marlene Anielski, our former Mayor. I want to stress to you that when I took over office in 2011 and closed out the year, we had approximately \$3.8 million in surplus. Now we are back up to \$4 million because we brought our spending under control. However, with all of the events taking place in our community, it has been very discouraging that we have not had any input or any help whatsoever from our own State Representative. I have sent several letters and received no response. I asked her to call me, and I have never received a call. I was under the impression that our State Representative was to represent us in every way possible, to let us know what steps we need to take to ensure that we receive funds that are rightfully ours, and to help us move in the proper direction.

I close this letter by stating that Walton Hills has worked well with everything that has been put before us. We have been able to balance our budget to stay very productive and proactive. However, none of this has happened with any help from our State Representative. I am asking you to intervene and find out how we can receive our share of the revenue from the Northfield Park Racino. Please understand that when the Ford leaves our Village, it will mean the loss of \$650,000 of payroll tax that we collect each year, plus a \$500,000 impact to the Bedford City School District. These are ongoing issues that not only affect my little community, but all four communities that are tied to the Bedford Schools. We recently found out about the closing of Ben Venue, and that is another \$500,000 in taxes that the schools are no longer going to collect in 2014. We are talking about a \$1 million deficit in the school funding, not to mention the local government payroll tax that Bedford and Walton Hills will be losing. We are dealing with all of this and yet we still receive no assistance from our State Representative. I am asking you, as one Republican to another, to please help Walton Hills go in the right direction and recover any money that rightly belongs to us. I am asking you to please reach out and assist us in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hurst

Mayor/Safety /Economic Director

Enc: Letter to Representative Marlene Anielski dated 9.30.13  
Letter to Senator Tom Patton dated 9.30.13

Cc: \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio Municipal League



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst - Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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September 30, 2013

Representative Marlene Anielski  
District 6  
77 South High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Anielski:

I write this letter with strong concerns for the Village of Walton Hills. As the mayor of this fine community for approximately 36 months, I have watched an ongoing pattern of no cooperation, communication and not once have you reached out to the Village of Walton Hills, which is one of the 17 communities you represent.

The Walton Hills Ford Stamping Plant announced in September of 2011 that they were closing. That projected date is now the end of 2014. You have not contacted my office one single time about this issue. You have not attended any of our Council or Committee of the Whole meetings or the Auto Community Revitalization Roundtable we hosted last year. The real concerns are as follows: Are you going to help us when we start to redevelop this property? Are you going to help us seek funding? Are you going to help us in any possible way?

Another strong concern I have is the state budget that was passed at the end of June. There was a last minute amendment made by a senator that took away any possibility that Walton Hills would share in the hosting revenue from the Northfield Park Racino. The reason I bring this up is that our community was projected to receive approximately \$700,000 because 35% of Northfield Park is in Walton Hills. The statute clearly states you cannot have gambling or slot machines without a *racetrack*. It does not say a parking lot, it does not say a building - it says a *racetrack*. Northfield Park is the only racetrack in Ohio that is located in two counties.

These are two big concerns that continue to grow. I am sending you this letter wanting to know what you, as our State Representative, what will be doing to help the Village of Walton Hills. We have heard rumors from Northfield Village that you have attended their Council meetings. I have seen you personally at the Rocksino's topping off beam party in August. Never once did you attempt to talk to me. Never once did you come forward and try to explain why we are not receiving any of the hosting money. We contacted the Ohio Municipal League to find out exactly what happened. I was told that there could be an amendment made to correct this injustice. Our State Representative should be pursuing this on behalf of our community you are paid to represent the Village of Walton Hills. In addition, our State Senator, Tom Patton, should be pursuing this as well.

State Representative Marlene Anielski  
September 30, 2013  
Page 2

I am hoping that you will take your responsibilities more professional and could find a way to attend one of our Council or Committee of the Whole meetings to bring your constituents up to date on how you are working to help our Village. Please provide our Village with your schedule so we can pinpoint which meetings you could attend or even plan a special meeting that will accommodate your schedule.

The Village of Walton Hills has another important issue coming up and that is the federally mandated Health Insurance (Obama Care). We are having a town hall meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Gospel House Church to address federally mandated health care reform. Will you be available to attend and show your concern for Walton Hills?

Many of our residents were in Oakwood last year when you provided that community with pastries for one of their concerts. Never once have you provided anything to our Village. Never once have you communicated with the residents of Walton Hills through any means.

These are very strong concerns that I share with Council and many of our residents. Please respond as soon as possible. Give me some proof that we actually have some kind of representation from our State Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hurst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Hurst  
Mayor/Safety /Economic Director

This letter is the fourth letter that has been sent to our State Representative with no response to date.



## Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst – Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

September 30, 2013

Representative Marlene Anielski  
District 6  
77 South High Street, 12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Anielski:

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The Walton Hills Ford Stamping Plant announced in September of 2011 that they were closing. That projected date is now the end of 2014. You have not contacted my office one single time about this issue. You have not attended any of our Council or Committee of the Whole meetings or the Auto Community Revitalization Roundtable we hosted last year. The real concerns are as follows: Are you going to help us when we start to redevelop this property? Are you going to help us seek funding? Are you going to help us in any possible way?

Another strong concern I have is the budget that was passed at the end of June. There was a last minute amendment made by a senator that took away any possibility that Walton Hills would share in the hosting revenue from the Northfield Park Racino. The reason I bring this up is that our community was projected to receive approximately \$700,000 because 35% of Northfield Park is in Walton Hills. The statute clearly states you cannot have gambling or slot machines without a *racetrack*. It does not say a parking lot, it does not say a building - it says a *racetrack*. Northfield Park is the only *racetrack* in Ohio that is located in two counties.

These are two big concerns that continue to grow. I am sending you this letter wanting to know what you, as our State Representative, will be willing to do to help the Village of Walton Hills. We have heard rumors from Northfield Village that you have attended their Council meetings. I have personally seen you at the Rocksino's topping off party in August. Never once did you attempt to talk to me. Never once did you come forward and try to explain why we are not receiving any of the hosting money. We contacted the Ohio Municipal League to find out exactly what happened. I was told that there could be an amendment made to correct this injustice. Our State Representative should be pursuing this on behalf of our community; you are paid to represent the Village of Walton Hills. In addition, our State Senator, Tom Patton, should be pursuing this as well.

I am hoping that you will take your responsibilities more professional and could find a way to attend one of our Council or Committee of the Whole meetings to bring your constituents up to date on how you are working to help our Village. Please provide our Village with your schedule so we can pinpoint which meetings you could attend or even plan a special meeting that will accommodate your schedule.

The Village of Walton Hills has another important issue coming up and that is the federally mandated Health Insurance (Obama Care). We are having a town hall meeting on October 9th at the Gospel House Church to address federally mandated health care reform. Will you be available to attend and show your concern for Walton Hills?

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These are very strong concerns that I share with Council and many of our residents. Please respond as soon as possible. Give me some proof that we actually have some kind of representation from our State Representative.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Hurst*

Kevin Hurst  
Mayor/Safety/Economic Director

Cc: All News Channels

*LIBERTY  
NEWS*

# Report from Council President Pro Tem Denny Linville

The most asked question of Mayor Kevin Hurst and Council members is how much money will Walton Hills expect from the advent of the "racino" going up on Northfield Road, Northfield Village? An effort is made in the following text to give some sort of explanation of what has happened and what is hoped for going forward.

The Village of Walton Hills and the City of Warrensville Heights truly received the "short-end of the stick" recently. Late in June, the State legislature decided to totally shut out two of the nine Ohio racetrack communities in sharing any of the new "racino" money. Mayor Hurst and Mayor Brad Sellers of Warrensville Heights (also famous for inbounding the ball to a double teamed Michael Jordan for "The Shot") have not given up.

Historically, horse wagering tax revenues from Northfield Park have been divided equally between Northfield and Walton Hills. The horse wagering tax for Thistledown is also shared equally by North Randall and Warrensville Heights. The reason for the equal sharing of the wagering tax is because Northfield's flying turn on the northern side is approximately 35% in Walton Hills and a portion of Thistledown's backstretch is in Warrensville Heights.

The maximum annual amount divided to both communities totals \$60,000. Therefore each community received a maximum of \$30,000 each. Columbus, on the other hand, receives a maximum amount of \$60,000 annually since Scioto Downs is entirely within the Columbus border. The sole purpose of this distribution was to reimburse communities for expenses incurred due to racing meets.

Over the last several years, the State granted all seven Ohio racetracks the ability to operate a "racino". With that, the State also stated that it **shall pay one million dollars to the municipal corporation or township in which each commercial racetrack is located & an additional \$1 million six months after**. The State's bottom line intent was to distribute \$14 million in total. The language had to be amended because with nine communities and seven racetracks, the distribution would have to be \$18 million.

Without any notification from our/your local state representatives (our former Mayor), the State's legislature changed the allocation formula to exclude Walton Hills and Warrensville Heights from receiving any money due to the fact that less than 50% of the racetrack is located in each respective community.

The Village contacted Josh Brown, an Ohio Municipal League legislative advocate; Mr. Brown contacted Senator Bill Coley from Butler County who sponsored the allocation change. The Senator stated that the change was prompted by the department that will be distributing the new "racino" money. He also stated that he was against any distribution of "racino" money to any of the municipalities and was only aware of one Ohio racetrack that shared two municipalities and that the one municipality only had a few feet of the racetrack in their community. He was not aware that Northfield Park is approximately 35% in Walton Hills.

The Village later on learned that our State Representative (our former Mayor) contacted the Walton Hills Engineer about the percentage of Northfield's racetrack in Walton Hills. Our State Representative (our former Mayor) represents Walton Hills, not Northfield Village. Having been mayor for 10 years, don't you think she would have known what is and is not in our community? Needless to say, the communities of Walton Hills and Warrensville Heights are not pleased with the unfair act of the amended legislation and will continue to pursue a fairer way of distributing the "racino" money.

To express your dissatisfaction of how we are being represented write to:

**State Representative Marlene Anielski (R)**, District 6,  
77 S. High St, 12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 644-6041.

**State Senator Tom Patton (R)** Majority Floor Leader, Senate  
Building, 1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215; (614) 466-8056



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**Representative Marlene Anielski**  
Ohio House District 6

CERTIFIED MAIL

October 10, 2013

Mayor Kevin Hurst  
7595 Walton Road  
Walton Hills, OH 44146

Dear Mayor Hurst,

My hometown of Walton Hills is an important partner in my effort in representing nearly 125,000 Ohioans in the General Assembly. As a state representative, I have an extensive outreach program. My office, since January 2011, has issued more than 250 press releases, invitations for the "Senior Legislator for a Day" program, announcements for the "Military / Veteran Benefits Fair" and district media columns. You have either received correspondence directly or had access to all of these publications that may have impacted the village. I find it troubling and unfortunate that information is not being shared by yourself or your administration with our Walton Hills' residents.

Therefore, even though all of my office correspondence to you or your staff has never been returned to me via mail or email, please ensure that my office e-mails are not being blocked from the village's computer system. It is exceptionally easy to pass along all the 6th District news releases by sharing my link, [www.ohiohouse.gov/marlene-anielski](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/marlene-anielski), located on the State of Ohio's House website.

I am disappointed and concerned with your continued negativity rather than your efforts toward the prosperous future of our village. A professional, well thought out plan for the growth and security of the village is necessary to be successful. I appreciate you reaching out to me with your concerns and would like to take this opportunity to share several dated correspondences which you previously received. Since several parts of your September 30<sup>th</sup> letter are not accurate, attached is a sampling of local government updates, roundtables with officials, and events that I have sponsored for all constituents, including Walton Hills residents.

As the former mayor of Walton Hills and now this area's state representative, the well-being of the residents of our community has been, and always will be, a priority for me. I will continue to reach out and support them. As a resident, I will continue to expect the best of all my village elected officials and your staff to share accurate information and to promote our secure future without discrimination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlene Anielski".

Marlene Anielski  
State Representative, District 6

**Committees:**

State and Local Government-Vice-Chair  
Finance  
Military and Veterans Affairs  
Shared Services and Government Efficiency

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)

77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-644-6041  
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253  
FAX: 614-719-6956  
Email: [Repo6@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Repo6@ohiohouse.gov)



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst – Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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October 16, 2013

Representative Marlene Anielski  
District 6  
77 South High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Anielski:

I want to thank you for finally responding to one of the several letters that I sent you since I have held the office of Mayor for the last 32 months. As I read your letter, I was very disappointed, but not surprised, to see that you did not answer even one of the questions that were posed to you. I asked you for help with the impending Ford Plant closure and with obtaining a share in the hosting money from the Northfield Park Racino. Instead your letter addresses issues that have nothing to do with what we are currently facing that need your assistance.

In your letter you stated that your hometown is Walton Hills. The State's website, [www.ohiohouse.gov/marlene-anielski](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/marlene-anielski), indicates that your hometown is Independence. Your children attend public school there as well. We also noticed that your signature does not match any of the signatures that we have on file from past legislation that you have signed. By not addressing any of the issues I discussed in my letter, you have actually confirmed that you do not want to solve any of the problems that Walton Hills is faced with. If you did, you would have already stopped by my office or called me to work out a solution to our problems.

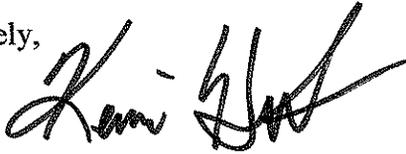
Councilman Brian Spitznagel wrote you a letter three weeks ago regarding his concerns with fracking, and he still has not received a response. Our Village Council passed two pieces of legislation over 16 months ago and asked for your assistance; you never responded to our plea for help.

Walton Hills has made great strides in reducing our budget by decreasing the number of full-time employees, increasing the number part-time employees, and taking over dispatching services for Oakwood. We have brought our police budget down from an all-time high of \$2.3 million to \$1.9 million. In fact, all our departments are more efficient than ever before. We have skillfully handled the issues over which we have control; however we need assistance from our State Representative to handle issues that are out of our control.

State Representative Marlene Anielski  
October 16, 2013  
Page 2

Please understand that the important issues facing our community are not going to solve themselves. I am asking you for assistance for the seventeenth time. Our community needs your help, the individual elected to represent and not ignore Walton Hills. I understand that you will be in Solon on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by my office anytime that day and I will make myself available to you to discuss our issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keni Hurst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "H".

Mayor/Safety and Economic Director

The following letter was an open letter to our State Representative after trying several times to have her meet with me and our village council and still we have no answers.

I ask all residents to please help your Village officials in trying to gain some type of support from our State Representative in pursuing legislation to change the funding of the hosting money that is directly impacting our Village. I have no other choice but to plead with you the Residents of Walton hills any other communities that have the same State Representative as Walton Hills does at this time. Please ask the State Representative to directly contact the Mayor of Walton Hills.

Mayor/Hurst: contact info: Office # (440)-786-2963 ---- Cell # (440)-221-7933

State Representative Marlene Anielski  
Contact info: please include



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst - Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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January 13, 2014

Representative Marlene Anielski  
District 6  
77 South High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Anielski:

I want to thank you for sponsoring H.B. 377. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help get this bill passed. We are eager to help with anything that is needed, including testifying. We have a certified document from our Village Engineer that states that 35% or 1/3 of the racetrack land is located in Walton Hills.

Please send me any information you have that pertains to H.B. 377. Also, please explain the process that has to be followed in order for this bill to become a reality to benefit the Village of Walton Hills. You can send the information electronically or via the U.S. mail.

Sincerely,

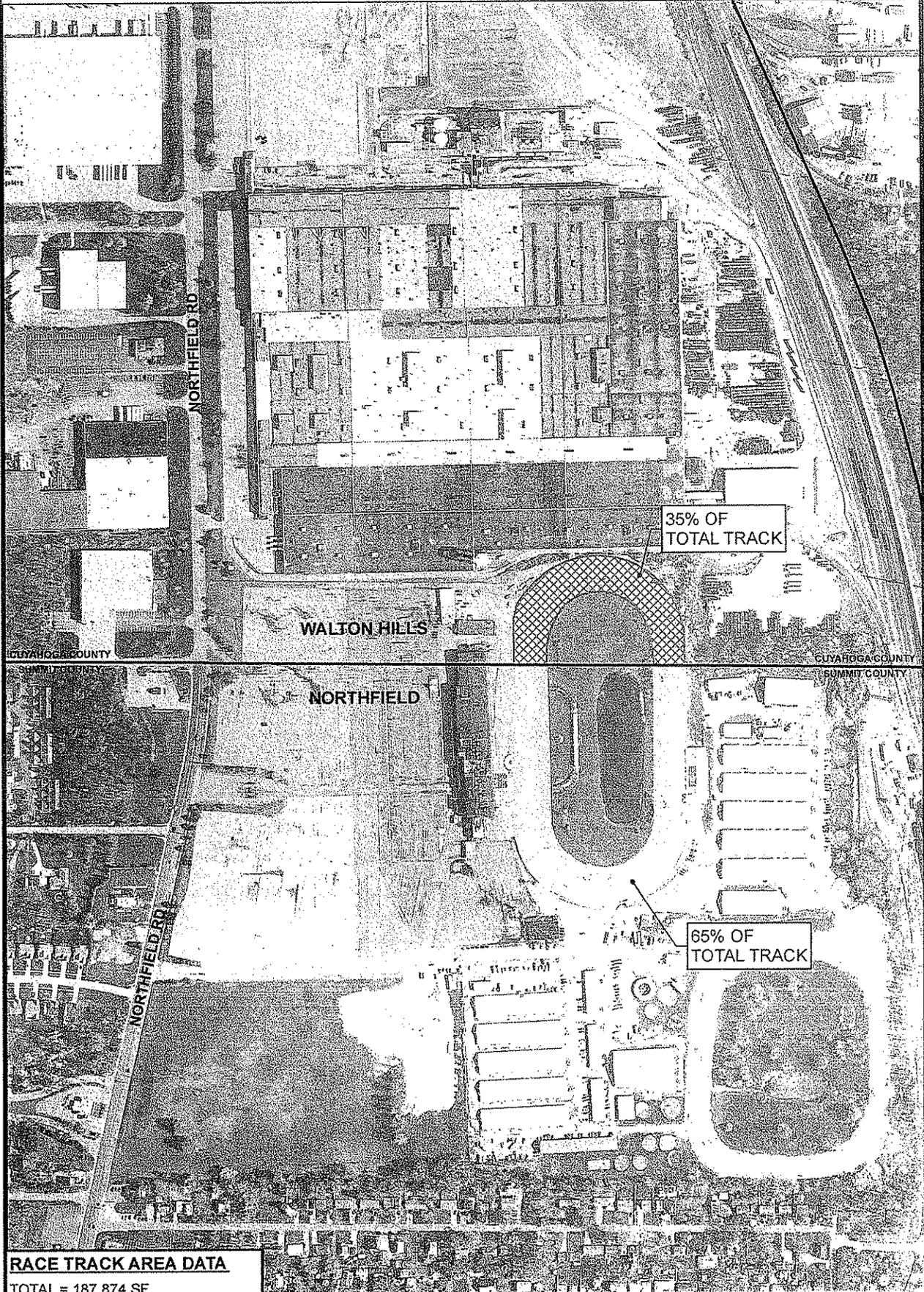
Kevin Hurst  
Mayor/Safety and Economic Director

Enc: Copy of Chagrin Valley Engineering Information



# NORTHFIELD PARK - RACE TRACK DATA MAP

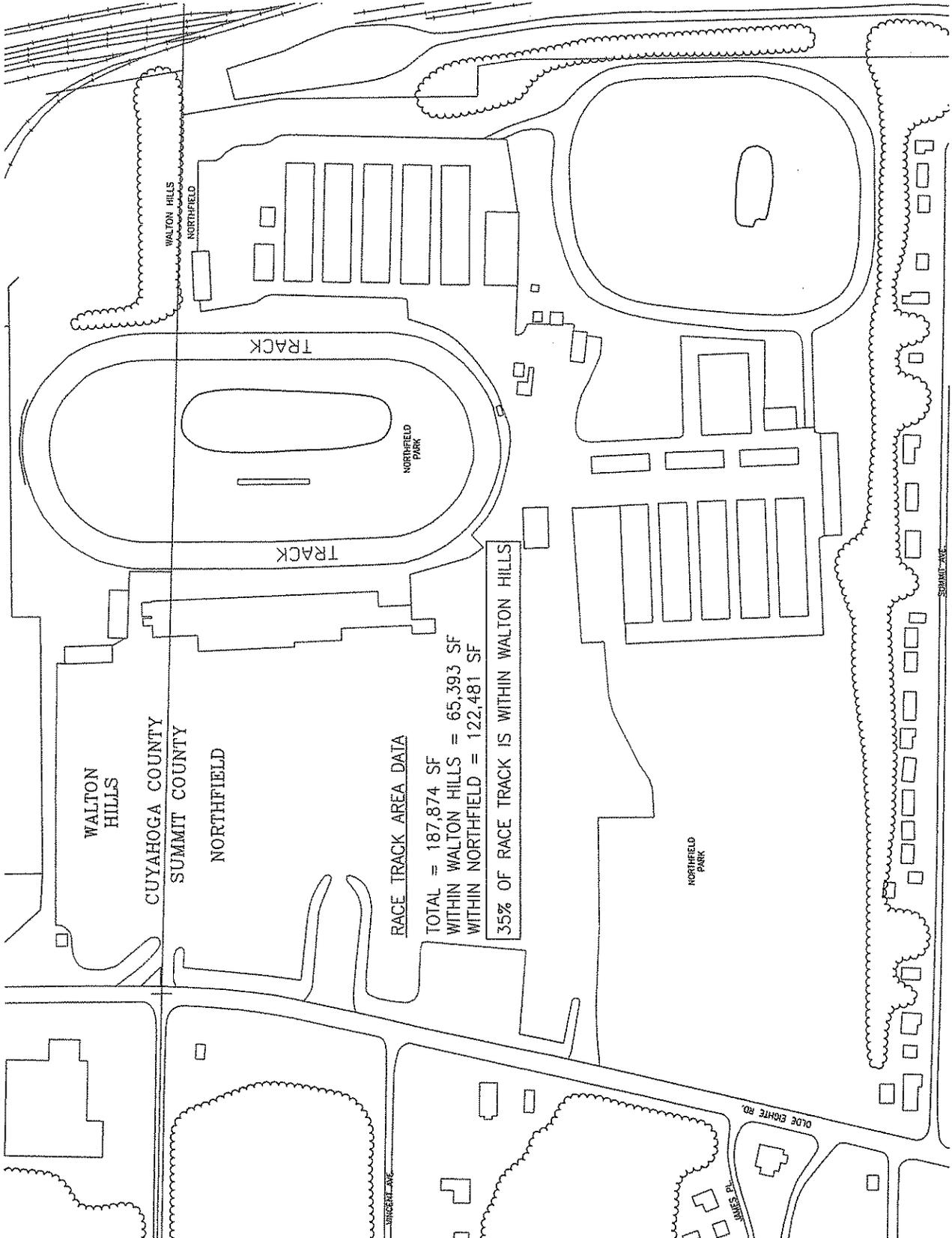
0 150 300 FT



### RACE TRACK AREA DATA

TOTAL = 187,874 SF  
 WITHIN WALTON HILLS = 66,393 SF  
 WITHIN NORTHFIELD = 122,481 SF  
 35% OF RACE TRACK IS WITHIN  
 WALTON HILLS





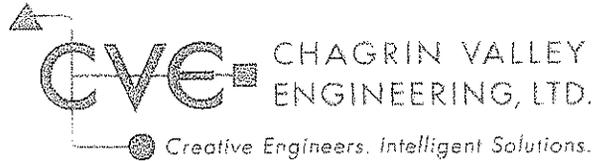
WALTON HILLS  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
SUMMIT COUNTY  
NORTHFIELD

RACE TRACK AREA DATA

TOTAL = 187,874 SF  
WITHIN WALTON HILLS = 65,393 SF  
WITHIN NORTHFIELD = 122,481 SF  
35% OF RACE TRACK IS WITHIN WALTON HILLS

NORTHFIELD PARK

SPRING AVE



22999 Forbes Road, Suite B • Cleveland, Ohio 44146-5667 • Phone: 440.439.1999 • Fax: 440.439.1969 • www.cvelimited.com

Village of Walton Hills  
7595 Walton Road  
Walton Hills, Ohio 44146  
Attn: Kevin Hurst, Mayor

January 17, 2014

RE: Northfield Park; Race Track Data

Mayor Hurst,

As per your request, we have studied the location of the physical racing track at Northfield Park. Our calculations indicate that 35 percent of the actual racing track is located within the corporation limits of The Village of Walton Hills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald F. Sheehy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Donald F. Sheehy,  
Village Engineer

# Ohio House of Representatives



**Statehouse:**  
Office: (614) 466-6504  
Fax: (614) 719-6966  
E-mail: rep42@ohiohouse.gov

**Terry Blair**  
**State Representative**  
42<sup>nd</sup> District

**Committees:**  
State and Local Government, *Chair*  
Ways & Means  
Financial Institutions, Housing &  
Urban Development

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**COMMITTEE:** State and Local Government  
**CHAIRMAN:** Representative Blair  
**DATE:** Tuesday, January 14, 2013  
**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.  
**ROOM:** 121

### BILLS SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD:

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>HEARING</u>
H.B. 239	Ruhl/Brenner	County transit system - agree with public/private entity - generate operating funds	1 <sup>st</sup> Hearing – Sponsor Testimony
H.B. 299	Grossman	Local governments – complaints against valuation of unowned property	1 <sup>st</sup> Hearing – Sponsor Testimony
H.B. 337	Terhar	Local government budgeting – revise requirements/sanctions for noncompliance	1 <sup>st</sup> Hearing – Sponsor Testimony
<u>H.B. 377</u>	Anielski	Casino Operator Settlement Fund – change second payment to certain governments	1 <sup>st</sup> Hearing – Sponsor Testimony <b>*Possible Substitute Bill*</b>

**All witnesses are asked to submit 30 copies of written testimony  
24 hours in advance**

**All amendments and substitute bills should be submitted to the Chairman's office 24 hours in advance**

**Please submit 30 copies of amendments to the Chairman's office by Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.**

CC: House Clerk  
Committee Clerk  
Assistant Majority Floor Leader's Office  
LSC  
Minority Leader's Office  
Committee Members  
Speaker's Office  
Caucus Staff  
Legislative Information Office  
Press Room

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE\*\*\*



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Office: (614) 466-6504  
Fax: (614) 719-6966  
E-mail: rep42@ohiohouse.gov

**Terry Blair**  
**State Representative**  
42<sup>nd</sup> District

**Committees:**  
State and Local Government, *Chair*  
Ways & Means  
Financial Institutions, Housing &  
Urban Development

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**COMMITTEE:** State and Local Government  
**CHAIRMAN:** Representative Blair  
**DATE:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014  
**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.  
**ROOM:** 121

**BILLS SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD:**

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>HEARING</u>
H.B. 327	Burkley	County water & sewer assessments – interest on – use for only water & sewer purposes	1 <sup>st</sup> Hearing – Sponsor Testimony
H.B. 279	Damschroder/Brown	Joint county ditch proceedings – conduct by teleconference or video conference	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hearing – All Testimony <b>*Possible Amendments*</b>
Sub. H.B. 377	Anielski	Casino Operator Settlement Fund – change second payment to certain governments	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hearing – All Testimony
H.B. 198	Butler/Burkley	Tax increment financing – property owners – notice/exclude parcels	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hearing – All Testimony
Sub. H.B. 289	Schuring	Joint economic development zones/districts - revisions	5 <sup>th</sup> Hearing – All Testimony <b>*Possible Amendments*</b> <b>*Possible Substitute Bill*</b>

CC: House Clerk  
Committee Clerk  
Assistant Majority Floor Leader's Office  
LSC  
Minority Leader's Office

Committee Members  
Speaker's Office  
Caucus Staff  
Legislative Information Office  
Press Room



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst – Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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January 29, 2014

Representative Terry Blair  
Chairman of the House State and Local Government Committee  
Ohio House District 42  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Blair:

My name is Kevin Hurst and I am the Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills. I ask you to please recognize and support Sub House Bill 377 that would benefit our Village as well as other communities.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, I traveled to the State House to testify in front of the State and Local Government Committee on behalf of the Village Walton Hills. While at this hearing, I was questioned on the many levels of impact that the Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park has placed upon our community.

When we first heard that the Rocksino was being built in Northfield Village, we took the following actions:

1. We prepared preliminary calculations on the increase of sewage volume as well as the cost for replacing the existing sewer with a larger diameter sewer to accommodate the increased flows. The cost to improve our infrastructure is approximately \$650,000. After studying all of the information, we realized that the diameter of our sewage pipes would be adequate for the increased volume on that particular site. However, this would cause problems to future development and other locations adjacent to the Rocksino.
2. We performed a traffic study to review the increase in traffic volume that is directly tied to the motorists utilizing the Rocksino. The majority of the traffic to and from the Rocksino will come directly through and greatly impact the main corridor of Walton Hills.
3. We put into place a whole new division of Auxiliary Police, including seven new employees to help with traffic control.
4. We studied the traffic flow on Sagamore Road, which has been in need of repair for several years. This road provides vehicular access as a direct route to the Rocksino. We have undertaken the planning, funding and plan development phases of the Sagamore Road Reconstruction and Water Main Replacement Project. This road impacts four communities, two different counties, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Cleveland Water Department. We have been pursuing grants to pay for this project; however we cannot fund 100% of this project with grants. Therefore, it is another costly burden to the Village of Walton Hills directly related to the traffic flow of the racetrack.

5. We performed appraisals for properties located at the Northfield and Alexander Road intersection driven by the need for installing turning lanes at these intersections to help control traffic flow to the Rocksino.
6. We had a traffic study done at the intersection of Independence Drive and Alexander Road. As a result, we provided signal maintenance and upgrades at the traffic signal at this intersection to handle increased traffic generated by the additional vehicles travelling to and from the Rocksino.
7. We reviewed various design alternatives and impacts in relation to placing a center lane on State Route 8 for access to the Rocksino.
8. We posted informational signage throughout our Village that directs motorists to the Rocksino location.

In addition, we plan to enhance the Northfield Road corridor by placing sidewalks, installing all utilities underground and eliminating the use of utility poles. This upgrade to our infrastructure would be enhanced through landscaping.

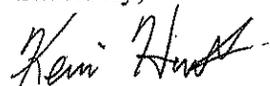
As you can see, we have taken or will take many actions to accommodate the Rocksino. However, since there has not been a commitment of revenue sharing, some plans have been put on hold until we find the means to fund these projects.

Northfield Park was able to construct a "racino" only because of the existence of a racetrack. Approximately 35% of the actual racetrack at Northfield Park is located in Walton Hills. Over the years, we have shared equally the proceeds of the wagering tax with Northfield. The same should be applied to the distribution of the Casino Operator Settlement Fund (COSF). However, the 2014 State of Ohio budget was passed in late June 2013 with an amendment stating that only those communities with over 50% of a racetrack located in their community shall receive a share in the distribution of the \$2 million COSF. This is in not an equitable distribution. The State statute clearly declares that even the Horseman's Association will receive a percentage of the gambling proceeds. Then why can't all the communities that share a racetrack and now a gambling facility receive any of the proceeds? I am asking you to please share 35% of the proceeds with the Village of Walton Hills.

I am willing to provide you with any other information that you may need. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I have expressed all of these concerns to our State Representative Marlene Anielski of Ohio House District 6. I have also shared this information with Senator Tom Patton, the Senate President Keith Faber, and our Governor John Kasich.

I can provide you with letters that attempted to resolve these issues long before they ever came before your committee. My goal is to share revenue with Northfield Village and all other communities that are impacted by gambling facilities in Ohio.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hurst

Mayor/Safety and Economic Director

Cc: Members of the House State and Local Government Committee



# Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst - Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

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January 16, 2014

Dear Chairman Blair, Ranking Member Clyde and all members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of House Bill 377.

My name is Kevin Hurst and I am the Mayor of Walton Hills. I ask you to please recognize and support Sub House Bill 377 that would benefit our Village as well as other communities.

The Village of Walton Hills is a small community located in the southeastern part of Cuyahoga County. Approximately 35% of the actual racetrack at Northfield Park is located within Walton Hills. Based on that and pursuant to Ohio Law, Walton Hills has equally shared the horse wagering tax with Northfield Village. This sum is distributed quarterly by the State of Ohio. I understand that Warrensville Heights and North Randall have the same sharing agreement that is also recognized by the State.

The Hard Rock Racino has affected operations in Northfield and Walton Hills, just as the Thistledown Racino has affected operations in North Randall and Warrensville Heights. This was contemplated by the Ohio State Legislature by their creation of their \$1 million payments from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund. Walton Hills deserves to participate in the receipt of their fair share of those funds. We propose for your consideration that the funds be allocated 35% to Walton Hills Village from the next \$1 million Casino Operator Settlement Fund disbursement. Similarly, other communities should also receive their fair share of the \$1 million distribution relating to their respective racino.

As Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills, I can attest to the fact that Walton Hills has experienced the need for infrastructure improvements, as well as increased personnel expenses due to the Northfield Park Racino. Traffic through our Village has increased, a new traffic light has already been installed at the border of Walton Hills and Northfield Village, and new turn lanes at the intersection of Alexander Road and Northfield Road in our Village, along with re-timing the light controlling that intersection is under consideration. Additional police personnel has already been a burden absorbed by the Village due to the Racino development.

I strongly ask you to support Sub House Bill 377 with disbursements as proposed herein. I thank you very much for your time and hope for your consideration to carry this very important issue forward. I am open for any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hurst  
Mayor/Safety and Economic Director

Village of Walton Hills  
7595 Walton Road  
Walton Hills, Ohio 44146  
Attn: Kevin Hurst, Mayor

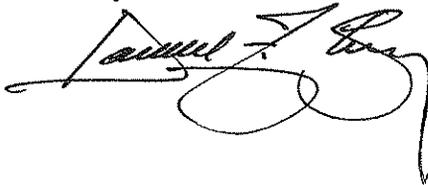
January 17, 2014

RE: Northfield Park; Race Track Data

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Sincerely,

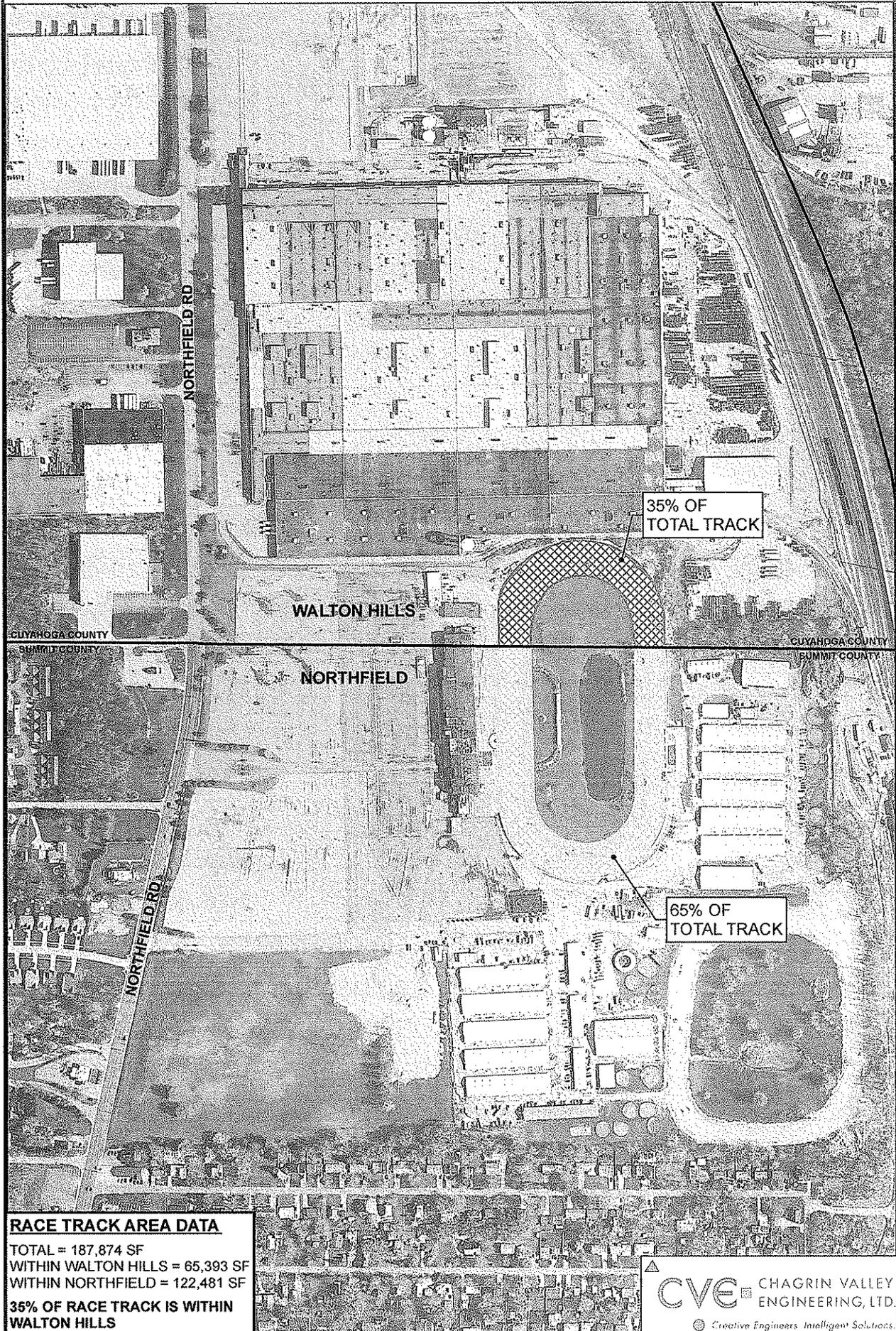


Donald F. Sheehy,  
Village Engineer



# NORTHFIELD PARK - RACE TRACK DATA MAP

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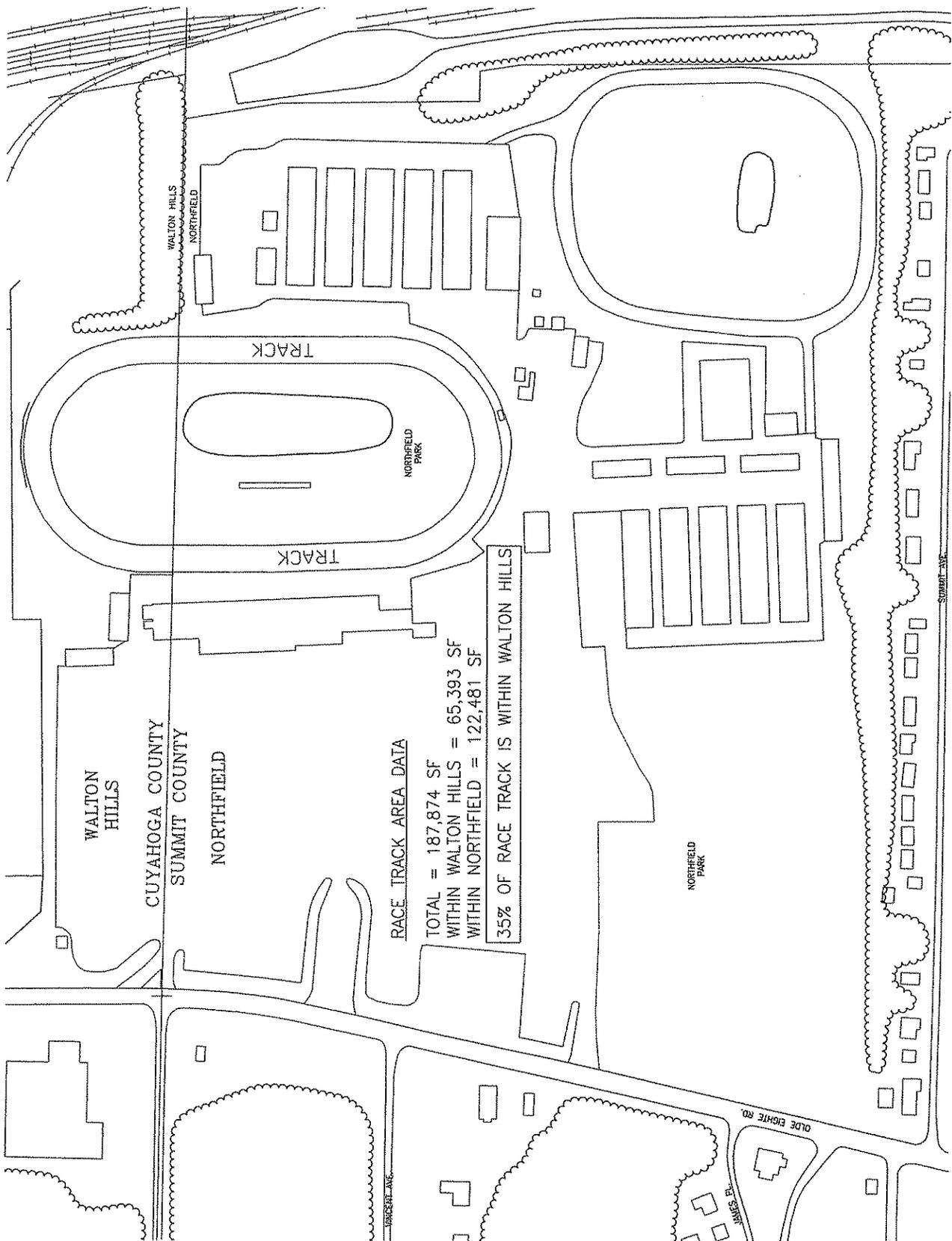
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**35% OF RACE TRACK IS WITHIN WALTON HILLS**



WALTON HILLS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
SUMMIT COUNTY

NORTHFIELD

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TRACK

NORTHFIELD PARK

TRACK

NORTHFIELD PARK

WALTON AVE

OLDE EIGHTH RD

JAMES EV

SUMMIT AVE