

Arcadia First! Hosts Gambling Forum about Simulcast Center

A number of Arcadians have expressed their concern about whether or not additional gambling will be a part of Caruso Affiliated's proposed The Shops at Santa Anita. In response, Arcadia First!, a self-proclaimed coalition for sensible growth, hosted a meeting on Monday, March 26, for residents to discuss the potential impact of horse racing and gambling activities.

Wayne Lilley, author of *Magna Cum Laude*, a book about the owners of the Santa Anita Racetrack, and Cheryl Schmit, director of Stand Up for California!, a statewide, citizen-based organization with a focus on gambling control, both spoke at the forum.

Sung Tse, spokeswoman for the Arcadia First! Executive Committee claims that "despite assurances of no additional gambling, we unfortunately are unable to trust the developers." Arcadia's Planning Commission, however, does trust the developers of The Shops at Santa Anita. On March 19, 2007, the Planning Commission clearly contradicted Arcadia First!/Westfield's claim that The Shops at Santa Anita will have more gambling. The city staff also explained that the "simulcast center" will simply consolidate all of the wagering that *already exists at the track* (through machines called Horse Wizards) into one place.

The Truth About Casinos at The Shops at Santa Anita

- There will be absolutely no casino as part of The Shops at Santa Anita or Santa Anita Park.
- State law prohibits Santa Anita Park and The Shops at Santa Anita from having a casino.
- Any assertion by Arcadia First!/Westfield to the contrary is false. On March 19, 2007, the Planning Commission clearly contradicted Arcadia First!/Westfield's claim that The Shops at Santa Anita will have more gambling. The city staff also explained that the "simulcast center" will simply consolidate all of the wagering that *already exists at the track* (through machines called Horse Wizards) into one place. There will be no additional gaming beyond what already exists at Santa Anita Park. There will be no gaming whatsoever at The Shops at Santa Anita.

