



# Planning Commission Memorandum

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**To:** Karla Richards, Clerk of Council  
**From:** Pat Ryan, Interim Boards & Commissions Secretary *PR*  
**Date:** 6-9-2010  
**Re:** Approved/Signed Planning Commission Minutes:  
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

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Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed Planning Commission minutes from Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

The original document has been forwarded to, and will be on file with the Clerk of Council as the official record.

E-mail: Mayor (per Admin. Sec.)  
Administrative Officer  
Finance Director  
Planning Commission  
Fire Chief  
Council  
Engineer  
Capital One  
Supt. of Building & Zoning

cc: App. File/Posting



**City of Norton**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

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The Planning Commission of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in Council Chambers at the Safety Administration Building. Chairman Spisak called the meeting to order at 6:50p.m.

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Mark Spisak, Janet Jacobs, Ralph Dowling, Todd Houser

**ABSENT:** John Conklin

**ALSO PRESENT:** Pat Ryan, Zoning Inspector

**II. PUBLIC APPLICATIONS: None**

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Spisak stated Internet Café Sweepstake Businesses proposed regulations were on the Agenda. Chairman Spisak stated that Summit County passed regulations on May 10, 2010 and he noted there might be a lawsuit regarding these regulations set by the County. Chairman Spisak also said that he understood the County used the City of Akron's regulations as a model but so far Akron has not been sued.

The Commission discussed the County regulations that were passed the previous evening. Mr. Dowling mentioned in the *Akron Beacon Journal* article on May 11, the Internet sweepstake businesses' concerns were about the police coming in without probable cause or search warrants, the game machine certifications required and fees.

The Commission discussed the fees that are currently in place for Amusement Arcades and if they would want them to be the same for the Internet businesses.

The Commission discussed what profits these businesses generate and what fees would be reasonable based on profits. The Commission also discussed how winnings are paid out and how or if they are reported for tax purposes.

Mr. Dowling brought up the distances from schools, bars, etc. that the County regulations list and compared them to our proposed draft. They also discussed where these would be allowed in the city.

Ms. Ryan stated she has not heard from the law director directly on how he wanted to proceed, if at all.

Chairman Spisak asked Ms. Ryan to contact the law director and get his opinion on this.

Chairman Spisak asked if there was any other Old Business. There was none.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Spisak mentioned he attended the Cleveland Massillon Road widening meeting and gave the Commission an update on traffic patterns and the plans being proposed.

Chairman Spisak also gave an update on the Council workshop that was held. Chairman Spisak said it dealt mostly with sewers, redistricting the wards due to downsizing Council and executive session.

Chairman Spisak asked if there was any other New Business. There was none.

**V. MINUTES:**

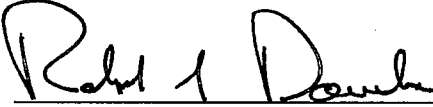
Chairman Spisak asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from April 13, 2010. Being none, **Chairman Spisak made a motion to approve the minutes from April 13, 2010 as written. Ms. Jacobs seconded. ROLL CALL: Mr. Dowling-Yes, Ms. Jacobs-Yes, Mr. Houser-Yes, Mr. Spisak-Yes. Motion to approve passed 4-0.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

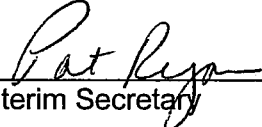
Chairman Spisak said the next meeting would be May 25, 2010.

With no further business before the Commission, Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

  
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Planning Commission Chair/Vice-Chair

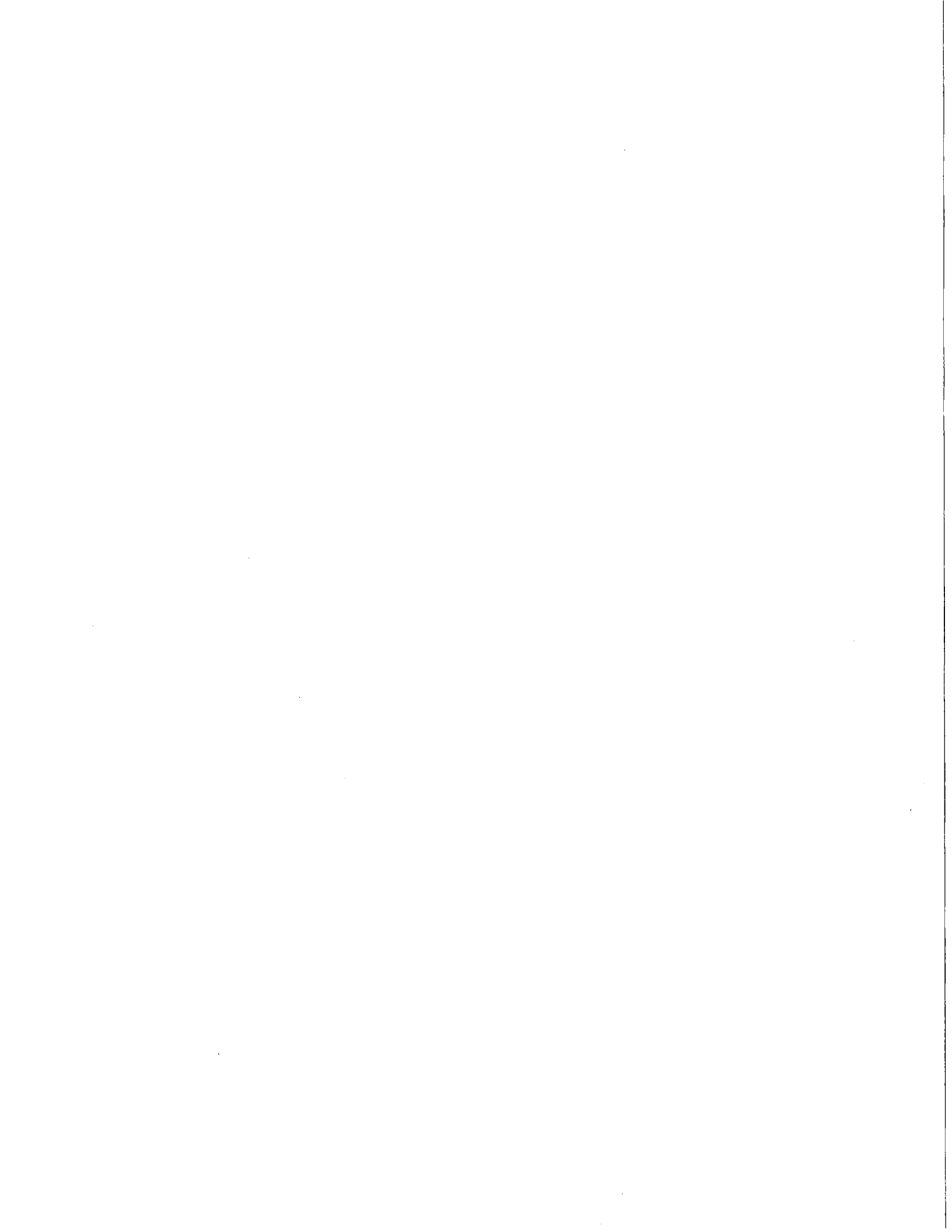
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Commission Vice-Chair/Member

6/8/10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Interim Secretary

6-8-10





Insurer Medical Mutual pushes top doctors to write prescriptions electronically.

B6

ABJ  
5/4/10

B10 Weather B10

News tip? 330-996-3939

Actress Lynn Redgrave dies of breast cancer. B4

**B**

## County Council set to regulate gaming parlors

Vote to be held on law requiring license, fees and testing of games at township storefronts

By Rick Armon  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Summit County is closer to imposing regulations on storefront gambling parlors.

County Council's Rules Committee on Monday approved legislation that would require Internet cafes, sweepstakes cafes and skill arcades in the county's nine townships to obtain an annual license and pay fees.

Under an amendment submitted Monday, they also would have to provide a certificate showing that their games have been tested by an independent company and comply with Ohio gambling laws.

The full council is expected to vote next Monday on the proposal, which is designed to crack down on businesses that some consider unsavory and illegal.

"I don't think these kind of businesses are what we want in our community," Springfield Township Trustee Dean Young told council members during the hourlong committee meeting.

Councilwoman Paula Prentice proposed the legislation after receiving complaints from Springfield and Coventry Township trustees that too many were opening in their communities.

They say the businesses fled to the townships after cities such as Akron and Tallmadge started regulating them. Unlike cities and villages, townships have no regulatory authority.

The owners have said they aren't opposed to some oversight, but they don't want to be regulated out of business. They also have complained that they've been unfairly labeled as illegal underground operations.

They say their businesses are legal.

Under the county proposal, the businesses would be required to obtain an annual \$1,000 license from the county's Office of Consumer Affairs, submit detailed paperwork identifying the owner and all workers, and pay a \$200 fee per machine every six months.

That per-machine fee may change, though. Council members Jerry Feeman, Gloria Rodgers and Ilene Shapiro suggested that the amount

Please see County, B3



KAREN SCHIEL/Akron Beacon Journal photo  
State University



Florence Schmeder of Cincinnati, mother of slain

# County

Akron police official describes shady parlors

Continued from Page B1

should be higher and that possibility will be discussed before Monday's meeting.

The businesses also would be prohibited from operating later than midnight and could open no earlier than 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday. The hours would be 1 p.m. to midnight on Sunday.

No one under age 18 would be permitted inside.

The legislation would affect any business with four or more machines. The Office of Consumer Affairs would be responsible for enforcement.

Twelve people - including law-enforcement and community leaders - testified before the Rules Committee on Monday. All urged the council to enact the regulations.

No one spoke against the legislation.

Law-enforcement officials said the businesses are extremely profitable, saying the owners are pulling in tens of thousands of dollars in just a few days. The parlors also are a drain on resources, officials said.

Springfield police Chief John Smith said his officers have responded to 110 calls at the businesses since 2004, including aggravated robberies, assaults and a kidnapping.

The gaming parlors are plentiful in Springfield, where at least 10 are operating. Seven are located within a short distance of each other on Canton Road.

Springfield police raided two

of the businesses in mid-April. One of them, Cyber Island, is back open with new machines, officials said.

No charges have been filed.

Akron police Lt. Terry Pasko, head of the department's vice unit, described for the council how the businesses once operating in the city failed to keep proper records and even handed out cash prizes in violation of Ohio law.

Some also tried to hide from authorities and operated like a "21st-century speakeasy," with special knocks and peepholes just to be let inside, he said.

Councilman Pete Crossland asked whether any were operating within the law.

"No. Not a single one," Pasko responded.

Rick Armon can be reached at 330-996-3569 or rarmon@thebeaconjournal.com.

5-10-10

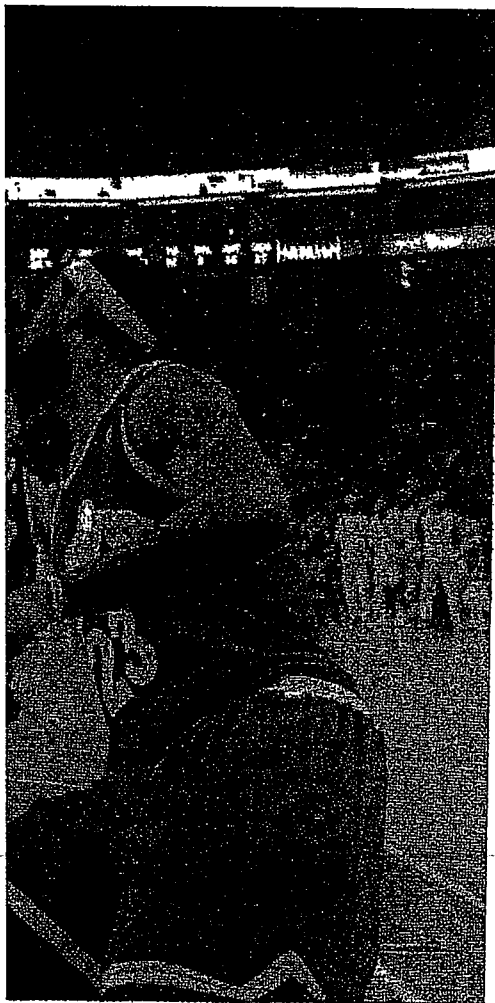
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## AVS 87

# Up Rondo



CHARLES KRUPA/Associated Press

ria Ridenour suggests James cover Rondo full time.

## itch on defense

ctory at TD Garden. He had a ouble wrapped up by the end of 1 quarter.

two players in history have put ar three-category numbers in a game - Oscar Robertson (32 9 rebounds and 13 assists in d Wilt Chamberlain (29 points, nds and 13 assists in 1967).

was absolutely sensational," oach Doc Rivers said of Rondo,



MARIA RIDENOUR

Please see Ridenour A6

# Summit may vote tonight on gaming regulation

## Springfield Twp. manager fears County Council plan might kill legitimate business

By Rick Armon  
Beacon Journal staff writer

**SPRINGFIELD TWP.:** Don Michel doesn't mind that Summit County wants to regulate storefront gambling parlors.

Michel, promotions manager for the Gold Rush Players Club in Springfield Township, just doesn't want them overregulated.

What's overregulation to him? High government fees that force legitimate businesses to close.

"They assume that places like this are making millions of dollars," Michel said last week during an interview outside Gold Rush, a converted box-style convenience store on Massillon Road. "This one ain't."



Michel

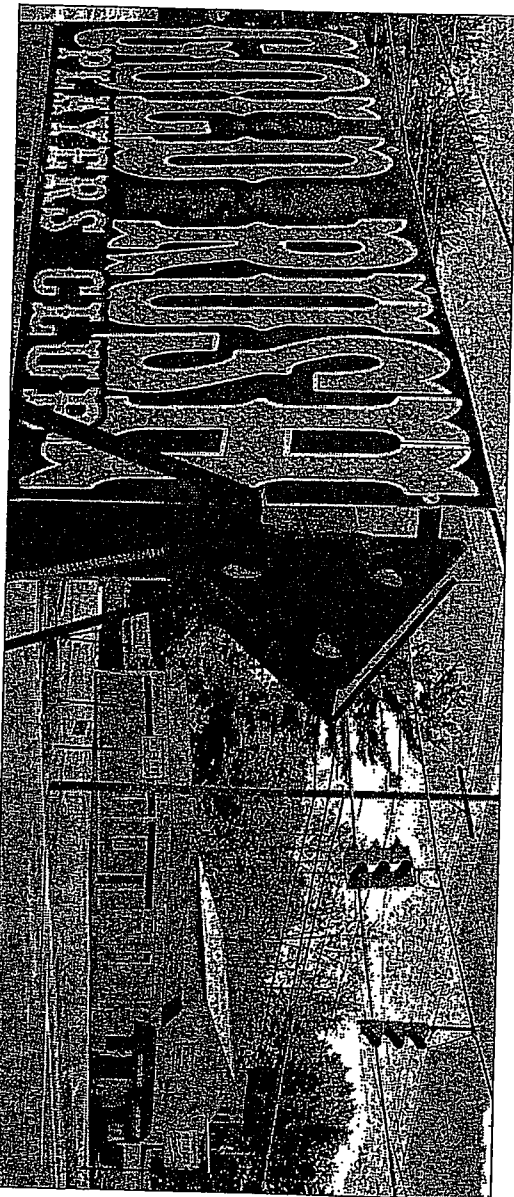
Summit County Council is expected to vote today on legislation to provide more oversight of Internet cafes, sweepstakes parlors and skill arcades in the county's nine townships. The council took up the issue after complaints from Springfield and Coventry Township trustees about too many of the businesses springing up in their communities, which, unlike cities and villages, have no regulatory authority.

The legislation would require the businesses to get an annual license, pay a per-machine fee, prove that they are complying with Ohio's gambling laws and disclose who owns the operation.

Council members have stressed that the legislation wouldn't legalize illegal businesses.

Parlor operators have grumbled privately about the regulations and sent attorneys to County Council to complain. But they have stayed out of the public debate.

The Beacon Journal has tried to talk with business owners about the county proposal but most haven't responded to requests for interviews. Michel, 69, a retired Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. machinist, was the only person willing to discuss the issue publicly.



ED STUBA III/Akron Beacon Journal

# This stretch of Massillon Road in Springfield Township includes the Gold Rush Players Club (open) and the Internet Connection (closed).

## Gambling

Springfield, Coventry can't restrict parlors

Continued from Page A1

He bristled at the term "gambling parlor," saying that carries a negative connotation for many people. Instead, he said, the businesses are places for adults to play games and be entertained.

Authorities, however, maintain that if you're paying money to win money, that's gambling. Michel contended that local authorities have failed to enforce zoning laws to weed out the ille-

gal businesses.

That failure led to the proliferation of operations in Springfield and Coventry townships, he said.

Michel contended other businesses are operating illegally by paying cash under the table, and some of the so-called Internet cafes aren't even hooked up to the World Wide Web.

Also, he said, some businesses accept bets up to \$10 per spin, with individual payouts topping \$10,000 for some games.

Some of those businesses are attracting customers from all around Northeast Ohio and are raking in cash, Michel said. Those operations may laugh at paying tens of thousands in fees, but smaller operations like Gold

Rush would struggle or go under, he said.

He suggested that the county restrict, or cap the amount of the bet permitted. That is not in the proposed legislation.

Two Springfield parlors, including one that sits nearly across the street from the Gold Rush, were raided by local authorities last month. But Michel, who was convicted of gambling-related charges last year stemming from a parlor he operated in Akron, said he's not worried about Gold Rush.

"I'm not afraid of the law coming in and questioning what we're doing here," he said.

Michel, who is appealing his convictions, said he took the Gold Rush business plan to au-

thorities for them to examine and no one has bothered the business since.

Gold Rush operates as a cooperative, Michel said, with about 1,800 individual owners who pay monthly dues of \$30. Those people get to play games such as video slots, poker and keno for free, provided they pay a \$10 admission fee or \$10 parking fee.

Players receive 1,000 free credits for every \$10 service, whether it's parking or food for example.

No money is put into the machines. Instead, people have to redeem credit vouchers to play, and those credits are controlled by a clerk. Michel said the fact that people aren't paying to play

## PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Summit County Council is expected to vote today on a proposal to regulate gambling parlors in the county's nine townships. Here are key components of the legislation:

- The Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs would oversee the regulations.
- Internet cafes, sweepstakes parlors and skill arcades would be required to buy an annual \$1,000 license and pay a \$200 per-machine fee every six months.
- The businesses would be required to provide names and addresses of all owners and employees.
- Licenses would not be issued to a business if someone involved has been convicted of a gambling "or other crime of moral turpitude within five years preceding the application."
- The businesses would be required to provide a certificate or report from "an authorized independent testing laboratory" showing that their machines comply with state gambling laws.
- Seventy-five percent of the licensing fees would be put in a fund to benefit the townships where the entertainment devices are located. The remainder would be used by the Office of Consumer Affairs for operating expenses.
- The businesses wouldn't be permitted to open within 500 feet of a school, public library, public playground or any establishment with a liquor permit.
- Hours would be limited to 1 p.m. to midnight Sunday and 10 a.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday.
- No one under age 18 would be permitted in the business.

A full copy of the legislation (Ord. 2010-160) is available at <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/council/legislation-2010.asp>.

A council caucus begins at 5 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers on the seventh floor of the Ohio Building, 175 S. Main St., Akron.

the games makes the operation legal.

He said Gold Rush tries to provide a friendly, neighborhood atmosphere. People can get free coffee and other nonalcoholic drinks while they play. Food, including hot dogs and sloppy joes, is available.

home-cooked food is brought in at night, Michel said.

Gold Rush also holds regular auctions for items such as patio furniture. "We're in the entertainment business," Michel said.

Rick Arnone can be reached at 330-996-5659