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**Empire City Casino Donates 1,000 Backpacks
to Get Yonkers Students Ready to Go Back to School**

August 30, 2013, Yonkers, NY- Yonkers' largest private employer, Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway ("Empire City"), continues to play a significant role in ensuring students get the education they deserve and are prepared for the start of the new school year. Empire City delivered 1,000 backpacks to City Hall today as part of Mayor Michael Spano's *Backpack to School* drive. It's the second year the casino has been a major contributor to the program.

"It's essential that students have the tools they need when they enter the classroom," said **Timothy J. Rooney, Jr.**, general counsel at Empire City. "We're proud of the significant funding we generate for education across the state and wanted to make sure that Yonkers students start the year with new backpacks."

Since January, Empire City has generated more than \$170 million for education in the state, representing nearly a third of all education dollars generated by the nine racetrack casinos in New York. In total, since reopening as a casino in October 2006, Empire City has generated \$1.8 billion for education, or more than forty-two percent of all education dollars contributed by the nine racetrack casinos.



Part of a shipment of backpacks that were delivered by Empire City Casino to Yonkers' City Hall today as a contribution to Mayor Spano's *Backpack to School* drive. Photo credit: Natalie Langley

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