



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Catawba Nation celebrates first anniversary of Catawba Two Kings Casino and its positive impact

*Expanded temporary gaming facility has created jobs, sparked commerce  
for Cleveland County businesses and supported local charitable organizations*

**KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. (June 29, 2022)** – Since opening a year ago in a temporary facility, the Catawba Two Kings Casino has had a significant beneficial impact on Catawba Nation citizens, Kings Mountain and Cleveland County businesses and residents, and the State of North Carolina.

The casino opened July 1, 2021, with 500 gaming machines and expanded in December to 1,000 gaming machines, including electronic table games. The casino now counts more than 100,000 members in its loyalty club.

An on-property sportsbook is planned to open before football season, bringing sports wagering to the Charlotte region, and an easily accessed food truck will be added soon to expand dining choices. The Catawba Compact with the State of North Carolina also allows the possibility of adding video poker, which the casino is considering.

“As we celebrate the first anniversary of the casino, we are grateful for the support we have received and proud of what we have been able to do for the Cleveland County and Kings Mountain community,” said Trent Troxel, vice president of the Catawba Nation Gaming Authority and a Catawba citizen. “The casino has provided jobs and is doing very well, and we are continuing to add amenities for our guests.”

The casino is celebrating the anniversary beginning Friday and running through the weekend with live DJs, musical entertainment outside the casino and free-play promotions for patrons. There will be daily drawings to give away three new Jeeps, and the bands playing throughout the weekend include Next Level of Charlotte, which will play at 10 p.m. Friday.

### Community and Business Impact

Amid overall increases in population, the first for Cleveland County in decades, and residential development with some 3,000 new units under development, the casino is contributing to overall business and tourism growth in Cleveland County, according to Jason Falls, the county’s business development director. About 60% of the casino’s approximately 260 employees are Cleveland County residents. According to hotel occupancy data, Cleveland County has seen an increase of 29% in overnight visitors since May 2021, and a 64% increase since March 2022.

“Many of those visitors pair a trip to Catawba Two Kings Casino with visits to local restaurants, shops and recreational areas, and many businesses in Cleveland County have interacted with the casino as a vendor or have become a favorite restaurant for the employees and construction crews,” Falls said. “Our Small Business Services Center at Cleveland Community College has been busy working with business owners and entrepreneurs that want to position themselves to work with the casino as it grows.”

The casino is also working with Cleveland Community College to develop training programs in security, culinary and gaming for Cleveland County residents and members of the Catawba Nation. An internship program on basic casino operations and management structure is also being launched for local college students, and a managerial training program for Catawba citizens is being developed.

The casino's Share Change program, which enables patrons to donate the remaining change on slot vouchers, has now raised \$27,000 for local organizations, including Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Hospice Cleveland County, Cleveland County Fund for Children and Adults with Disabilities, Children's Home of Cleveland County and the Mental Health Association of Cleveland County. The casino has also donated meals to local social services providers and first responders.

### **Full Casino Resort Update**

Infrastructure work is also well underway on two key projects needed for development of the permanent casino resort and thus being funded by the Catawba Nation: Doubling the size of the Dixon School Road Bridge over I-85 near the casino entrance and new sewer lines.

"Plans for the full casino resort are being finalized and necessary agreements are undergoing a thorough review by the National Indian Gaming Commission," Troxel said. "A timetable for construction is anticipated to be announced later this year. It's a large and complex development project, and we are continuing to work through it."

The full casino resort project is expected to create thousands of construction jobs in the region and 2,600 permanent jobs at full buildout.

### **About Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort**

Catawba Two Kings Casino Resort is being developed by the Catawba Nation at a 17-acre site at 538 Kings Mountain Blvd. in Kings Mountain, N.C. The site is near Interstate 85 Exit 5 and about 35 miles west of Charlotte. A temporary "pre-launch" gaming facility opened July 1, 2021, with 500 gaming machines to provide an initial opportunity for patrons to game with limited food & beverage and other guest amenities. An expansion of that facility with 500 additional games, including electronic table games, opened Dec. 15. At full buildout, the casino resort project is expected to create thousands of construction and permanent jobs in the region. The Two Kings name celebrates the Catawba Nation's history and hopeful future in their ancestral lands in North Carolina, paying tribute to the 18th century Catawba Chief King Hagler and the City of Kings Mountain. For more information visit [www.twokingscasino.com](http://www.twokingscasino.com), <https://www.facebook.com/TwoKingsCasino/>, <https://www.instagram.com/twokingscasino/> and <https://twitter.com/twokingscasino>.