

1 **Virginia Racing Commission**

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3 **COLONIAL DOWNS**

4 **Ballroom, 4th Floor**

5 **10515 COLONIAL DOWNS PARKWAY**

6 **NEW KENT, VA 23124**

7

8 **August 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**

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12 **Commission Members:**

13 Stephanie B. Nixon, Chair
14 Marsha K. Hudgins, Vice Chair
15 Stuart Siegel
 John F. Tanner, Jr.

16 **Commission Staff:**

17 David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary
18 Ada K. Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical Director
 Israel Saavedra, Commission Investigator

19

20 **Attorney General's Office:**

21 Elizabeth B. Myers, Esquire

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I N D E X

PAGE

1.	Call to Order	3
2.	Approval of the June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes	3
3.	Public Comment Period	3
4.	New Business:	
a.	Request for the Approval of an Additional \$11,000 to the Benevolence Budget Submitted by the VHHA for 2023	4
b.	Request for the Approval of Expenditures from the Standardbred Portion of the Virginia Breeders Fund for 2023	5
5.	Update on the Virginia Horse Industry Strategic Planning Committee	6
6.	Report on the 2023 Thoroughbred Racing Season at Colonial Downs, to include Comparative Live Racing Statistics and Marketing Efforts	11
7.	Introduction of New Commission Investigator	19
8.	Commissioners' Comments	21
9.	Closed Session (if necessary)	26
10.	Date of Next VRC Meeting	26
11.	Adjournment	26

1 CHAIR NIXON: Good morning. I'm going to go
2 ahead and call the meeting to order. First thing
3 on our agenda is approval of the June 6, 2023
4 meeting minutes. Did everybody have a chance to
5 review them?

6 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Yes.

7 CHAIR NIXON: Okay. Do I have a motion to
8 approve?

9 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Second.

11 CHAIR NIXON: Seconded. Okay. All those in
12 favor?

13 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

14 CHAIR NIXON: All those opposed? No. Okay.
15 We're going to go ahead and start with the public
16 comment period. Is there anyone that would like to
17 speak?

18 NOTE: There is no response.

19 CHAIR NIXON: All right. Then we will go
20 ahead and get started on our new business.

21 First thing is the request for the approval of
22 an additional \$11,000 to the benevolence budget
23 submitted by the VHHA for 2023, and I think our
24 executive secretary is going to present this item.

25 MR. LERMOND: Thank you, Madam chair.

1 I think for the record we should state for the
2 record Commissioner Brand is not with us today.

3 CHAIR NIXON: I'm so sorry. Yes.
4 Commissioner Brand is not here today able to join
5 us.

6 MR. LERMOND: Okay. Behind Tab 2 of your
7 notebooks is a letter I received from Debbie
8 Warnick. Basically, the Harness Association is
9 requesting an additional \$11,000 for the
10 benevolence fund.

11 We did approve some money at a prior meeting
12 for their normal expenses. This is something that
13 I guess came up last week when they had a lot of
14 rain. On a Saturday I don't know if you've ever
15 seen the drivers after they come back after a wet
16 trip. They're covered in mud.

17 So this money would go towards putting in two
18 heavy duty washers and dryers at the barn. So
19 6,000 of that is basically for the construction,
20 the electric running and plumbing and everything
21 and 5,000 would be to cover the two washers and
22 dryers.

23 This is something that the Thoroughbred
24 horsemen have here at Colonial. There are some
25 horsemen that do stay at Shenandoah in trailers, so

1 I think this would be very nice for the horsemen
2 there and a very good use of benevolence money.

3 Debbie is here if you guys have any questions
4 for her. If not, I seek a motion to approve it.

5 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I'll move it.

6 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: Second.

7 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Siegel moves and
8 Commissioner Hudgins seconds. All those in favor?

9 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

10 CHAIR NIXON: All those opposed?

11 NOTE: There is no response.

12 CHAIR NIXON: Next is the request for the
13 approval of expenditures from the Standardbred
14 portion of the Virginia Breeders Fund for 2023, and
15 I believe our executive secretary is going to
16 present this item as well.

17 MR. LERMOND: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is
18 some good news this morning. I think most of you
19 know as of July 1, 2202, .025 percent of the
20 Historical Horse Racing handle is now going to the
21 breeders fund and the Harness Association normally
22 uses their share to partially fund eight of the
23 Virginia-bred stake races which are normally held
24 on the last date or thereabouts.

25 So last year, we were only able to provide

1 them with 200,000, but because of the influx of
2 money from the Historical Horse Racing
3 contribution, we extrapolated it out until the end
4 of the year and I'm comfortable suggesting 500,000
5 for these races. So it's more than double.

6 We're just glad that the General Assembly
7 passed that language and this will -- actually, the
8 harness horsemen will have more money now to go
9 towards overnights since they're supplementing the
10 differences in races. That's a good thing.

11 If there are any questions, I'm happy to
12 answer; if not, I will seek a motion.

13 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Second.

15 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Siegel moves,
16 Commissioner Tanner seconds. All those in favor?

17 NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

18 CHAIR NIXON: All those opposed?

19 NOTE: There is no response.

20 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you. I believe that's all
21 of our action items. The next thing we have is the
22 update on the Virginia Horse Industry Strategic
23 Planning Committee. I believe Jill Byrne will be
24 presenting this.

25 MS. BYRNE: Jeb Hannum.

1 CHAIR NIXON: Oh, Jeb. Okay.

2 MR. HANNUM: So thank you, Commissioners.
3 Just a couple of comments before Jill speaks. As
4 you all know, the strategic plan covered a number
5 of different aspects that we're going to speak to
6 in the coming months and over the next year. We
7 have been focused on the marketing over the past
8 couple of meetings and that's what Jill will talk
9 about momentarily.

10 I just wanted to remind the Commissioners that
11 the VEA's marketing initiative is not in replace of
12 what the track should do and is going to hopefully
13 be doing more of in the future.

14 Our marketing is more the macro level. The
15 clip that you're going to see has a number of
16 different audiences; racing fans, casual customers,
17 hopefully new people that would be interested in
18 racing, but also importantly a political audience.
19 That's different than the type of marketing you
20 would see in the newspaper or radio for daily
21 events or daily racing and the big events that we
22 had last week. I do think that's important.

23 I saw on the agenda that Colonial is going to
24 be speaking about marketing, so I wanted to
25 differentiate that and I know that the marketing

1 for this meet, we hope you will see a lot more of
2 it for next year because it has been pretty
3 limited. So we just remind the Commissioners to
4 try to separate the two different marketing
5 campaigns, what we're doing at the macro level and
6 what the track is responsible for on a day-to-day
7 basis and around the big racing days. I just
8 wanted to mention that.

9 In future meetings we can talk about different
10 aspects of the strategic report as well. So I'll
11 turn things over to Jill and let her talk about
12 what she has been up to. Thank you.

13 MS. BYRNE: Good morning. So as you know,
14 we've been working the last couple of months to
15 gather footage for a variety, as Jeb said, really
16 to show the economic impact of the Virginia horse
17 industry for an awareness campaign.

18 This will be a long-term campaign over the
19 next few years divided up; television, radio,
20 digital, social, website. There will be long-form
21 content, short-form content as well, so this is the
22 first 60 second TV ad; not complete.

23 We have some footage to swap out and still a
24 little editing to do. We just got this from our
25 production company this morning. So I want you all

1 to see kind of where we're going with this.

2 NOTE: Video played for public.

3 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Very well done.

4 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. Just a rough cut. As
5 you can see, we have some audio and a few pieces of
6 footage to swap out. Just place holders for now.
7 Trying to get the harness footage in there where
8 you see the place holders.

9 I'm really pleased with the way this is going.
10 We have a great production team that I'm working
11 with that I could not be more pleased with. So
12 yeah.

13 I think once we get this edited, we have about
14 a 48 hour turn around to when it will be able to go
15 live, which is good, and this will be going all
16 throughout the entire state of Virginia from the
17 Washington area, Richmond, Hampton. All
18 throughout.

19 So we should get some very good coverage with
20 this and then we'll be working on the 30 second
21 radio as well, plus a lot of social will be able to
22 come out of this.

23 I really want to thank all the farms and
24 Colonial Downs for putting up with us shooting and
25 spending a lot of time helping this happen and

1 specifically Darryl Williams, who I could not have
2 done this without. So kudos to everybody that has
3 been a part of this so far. So we're really
4 looking forward to this in the future.

5 Just on a side note, Jeb and I were up in
6 Saratoga at the racing and gaming conference, which
7 was very good, very informative. Colonial was
8 getting a lot of good coverage up there coming off
9 of Million weekend and really a lot about showing
10 Virginia as kind of the bar to be set with the way
11 that tracks that are coming back with HHR and with
12 the success of racing. So a lot of good press and
13 good conversation about where Virginia is going in
14 the industry.

15 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: So in Saratoga they had a
16 lot of good press? In Virginia we missed that.

17 MS. BYRNE: Yeah. At the conference people
18 were talking about how great Virginia is doing and
19 how the HHR model here and for racing is one that a
20 lot of tracks should look forward to that are
21 heading in that direction to follow.

22 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Jill, what's the
23 timeline on editing?

24 MS. BYRNE: They should be able to -- I have
25 already sent some of my feedback and they're

1 pulling some more of the footage that we shot here
2 on Friday for some of these replacement shots.
3 Then it's color correction, some audio and as soon
4 as the final version is done, our team that's doing
5 the actual push out says all we need is 48 hours
6 notice. So I'm thinking around this time next week
7 we should be live.

8 COMMISSIONER TANNER: That's excellent.

9 MS. BYRNE: Thank you.

10 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you, Jill. Looks great.
11 Next is the report on the 2023 Thoroughbred racing
12 season at Colonial Downs, to include comparative
13 live racing statistics and marketing efforts, and I
14 believe Frank Hopf is going to be speaking.

15 MR. HOPF: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Commissioners, good morning. So talking about so
17 far we just went past the halfway point for the
18 season and just a couple things on the marketing
19 side.

20 Colonial Downs' standpoint, it's a two-tiered
21 approach, obviously trying to get people here to
22 Colonial Downs during the racing season. There's a
23 second side, too, where we're actually trying to
24 target to the horseplayers themselves through
25 FanDuel, media sources, getting on air content

1 about what's going on at Colonial Downs.

2 So we spent about 80,000 so far promoting
3 racing through the kind of handicap side of the
4 business and then obviously with the live racing
5 side, it seems to be a comparable spend to 2022;
6 about \$115,000 spent to this point.

7 The majority of that is being spent on the
8 social media digital side. So that's about
9 45 percent of it. Another 40 percent TB in
10 Richmond, Petersburg and Hampton, primarily with
11 advertisements and CBS's Sports Play of the Day
12 advertising Colonial Downs there and then local CBS
13 Richmond and local magazines here.

14 An additional \$7500 was spent promoting the
15 Colonial Downs racing festival this past Saturday
16 and then another \$7500 will be spent on Virginia
17 Derby day. So right now that's where the money has
18 gone and obviously at the end of the season we'll
19 reevaluate and see what worked, what didn't work
20 and certainly make sure that we make every effort
21 to get people here at Colonial Downs.

22 I'm happy to answer any questions on the
23 marketing aspect.

24 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I would just comment
25 that my technology skills are not quite as good as

1 perhaps most of the market, so FanDuel and a lot of
2 things that you do on social media wouldn't come to
3 my ear. I see an awful lot on TV about Rosie's.
4 I didn't see that much TV in this market about
5 racing itself and it appears you're spending money
6 wisely as far as I'm concerned, but TV for most
7 folks in this market would be helpful. More TV.

8 MR. HOPF: Duly noted, sir.

9 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: I agree completely. I
10 was really disappointed, frankly, at the lack of
11 lead-up to the event on Saturday. I didn't see
12 anything in the Hampton Roads area promoting it.

13 The big miss was no press. How did that
14 happen? Because seems to me that that was a
15 built-in bring the TV stations out, the Governor is
16 here. He's speaking. Let them put this on for a
17 piece on the evening news. There was none. I was
18 ready for my big moment in front of the cameras but
19 cameras weren't here. So Frank, where were they?
20 why did we not get that?

21 MR. HOPF: I know a press release went out
22 today, probably a little too late in my opinion.
23 I think again based on that day there are certainly
24 things we can learn from and improve upon and
25 hopefully make those changes quickly for Virginia

1 Derby day and hopefully kind of get what we all
2 expect to have with the press here and build upon
3 that.

4 So I think obviously this past Saturday was
5 learning. I think some things went well and I
6 think there are some things, obviously, that we can
7 continue to work on. So I appreciate the feedback.

8 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: The problem is the first
9 day is your first day and that's your big moment.
10 I think we missed on that and that's unfortunate
11 because mind you, I know a bunch of people in the
12 media who would have been happy to come on out.

13 Kelly Till from the Richmond Times-Dispatch,
14 she's the publisher, she would have been all over
15 that if I had given her a call. That's all I would
16 have had to do, but I didn't know that it wasn't
17 happening.

18 So reach out to us because those of us that
19 live here and have networking here, we can make
20 some of that happen free. So please.

21 MR. HOPF: That's the best price to pay. Yes.
22 We appreciate it. Certainly.

23 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Did a follow-up on a
24 release go out on the fact that the Secretariat
25 stakes winner was a Virginia-bred?

1 MR. HOPF: Yes. We did send one out. I
2 believe it went out to the racing publications.
3 I'm not sure what went out to the local media. So
4 if we can get with our third party vendor to make
5 sure it gets out. It may be a little too late, but
6 we'll make sure it still gets out.

7 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: The point about Hampton
8 Roads is a good point. I haven't focused on it
9 myself, but much of Hampton Roads is closer to this
10 race track than lots of Richmond. Hampton Roads is
11 a key market and we shouldn't ignore it.

12 MR. HOPF: Understood.

13 CHAIR NIXON: Is that everything?

14 MR. HOPF: That's at least on the marketing
15 side.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Okay. Any other questions about
17 marketing?

18 NOTE: There is no response.

19 MR. HOPF: Okay. Just to kind of give a quick
20 recap, and I do apologize for the small font. I do
21 like to run a lot of numbers when it comes to
22 evaluating how the season has gone.

23 Real quickly, obviously, these are different
24 race days compared to 2022, so it's not an apples
25 to apples comparison, but we are 14 days through

1 both seasons in this comparison.

2 Our track handle is up 44 percent. That does
3 include Saturdays; 238,000 that was wagered on
4 track, but we were trending higher prior to that.

5 In-state Virginia handle at the OTBs is up
6 33 percent to this point. Export handle after the
7 9.95 handle day on Saturday, we are up two percent
8 compared to 2022. Obviously, our daily average
9 going in to that day was lower than what we were
10 doing in 2022. We're still doing around 2.1
11 million through the first 13 days of the '23 season
12 in export, so right now we are trending higher.

13 The number of races is flat. The number of
14 starters is flat. It's actually off one horse. So
15 the starters are flat. Turf races. We have two
16 more turf races to run this season compared to the
17 first 14 days last year.

18 Obviously, the attendance number. The way
19 we're tracking attendance this year is obviously
20 ticket sales, ticker clicks for the general
21 admission gate and then we are taking clicks at the
22 main entrance from 12 to five each race day because
23 there is a lot of bleed over with people coming
24 over to watch horse racing here from being at the
25 gaming machines.

1 So right now through Saturday we are showing a
2 77 percent increase in total attendance from last
3 year's numbers.

4 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I sort of just learned
5 this morning there's really one or two points of
6 access to get in here, but they include Rosie's
7 attendance, so it's hard -- I'm not sure how you do
8 it -- to determine what the track attendance is and
9 separate it. Rosie's has a big day, it does impact
10 your numbers on attendance.

11 MR. HOPF: Yeah. So we've been kind of having
12 an internal discussion about how we track the
13 attendance. People stand at the gates. A lot of
14 people on race days we send to general admissions
15 over there. They say, Oh, we'll stop, bet on the
16 machines and then go out and watch racing. So they
17 just go through the front entrance.

18 So we're trying to find the right balance for
19 us to calculate as accurately as we could the
20 number, but those do get checked by the security
21 when they go through and get ID'd.

22 So hopefully, you know, we'll continue to kind
23 of modify and make sure that we're getting the most
24 accurate count, but right now this is the method
25 that we've got in place.

1 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: It would certainly be
2 more accurate, I guess, if you had someone clicking
3 on the third and fourth floor. But again, that's a
4 personnel issue, I guess. I think you'd have a
5 purer number because I think the Rosie's people
6 just stay there for the most part, correct?

7 MR. HOPF: Yeah. Mostly in the third and
8 fourth floor they purchase tickets for the most
9 part, so we are capturing those numbers with the
10 ticket sales, but it's obviously just that the
11 general admission crowd that comes in is just the
12 best way to get the right accurate number of the
13 percentage that really is -- that's gaming or not.

14 So obviously, we've still got 12 more days of
15 racing. We did announce yesterday that we're
16 adding racing Wednesday, September 6th to make up
17 for the cancelation on Saturday, July 29th.

18 So as long as weather is helpful, we'll have
19 run all 27 days this year and hopefully I'll give
20 another possible update at the end of the season.

21 CHAIR NIXON: Do you have any plans for the
22 Virginia Derby as far as things going on outside?

23 MR. HOPF: So yeah. I think what we're
24 looking at is kind of a similar footprint that we
25 had this past Saturday with some of the

1 entertainment elements. For some of the customers
2 who walk in, with Korbel possibly doing champagne
3 giveaways for those who purchase tickets. So we're
4 probably going to use last Saturday as kind of the
5 baseline for how we proceed on those bigger days
6 going forward, but obviously working on the
7 marketing aspect as well, but from a customer
8 standpoint.

9 Obviously, we have the same elements that we
10 have here to evaluate what we need. If we need
11 more food trucks or anything else to kind of help
12 make the day as special as the festival allows.

13 CHAIR NIXON: Okay. Anybody else have any
14 other questions, comments?

15 NOTE: There is no response.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you very much.

17 Next is our introduction of our new Commission
18 investigator and I believe our executive secretary
19 is going to make that introduction.

20 MR. LERMOND: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's my
21 pleasure to introduce Israel Saavedra. We refer to
22 him fondly as Izzy. It's easier to say than
23 Israel.

24 Izzy's background. He was actually born in
25 Venezuela, which he has strong Spanish-speaking

1 skills, which is a big help in his position. He
2 moved to St. Martin and actually started as a
3 teller at Caliente racetrack and moved his way up
4 to where he oversaw all of the operations at their
5 sports book, which included horse racing, and it
6 was pari-mutuel wagering. Although they created
7 separate pools down there, it is pari-mutuel.

8 He went on from there to open up three other
9 sports books at related casinos and oversaw that
10 entire operation. As part of that he did
11 investigations on things like irregular betting
12 patterns, money laundering, so he did those types
13 of investigations.

14 Then unfortunately Hurricane Irma hit St.
15 Martin and wiped out everything. So Israel came to
16 the United States and just recently, he worked for
17 two years as a fraud investigator for the Virginia
18 Unemployment Commission.

19 They had a lot of backlog of cases from COVID,
20 and not to get in to it, but people in jail were
21 collecting so he did a lot of work with them and we
22 were lucky enough to have him respond to our
23 advertisement and we hired him.

24 His first day was a week ago. He has spent
25 most of his time on the back side with Dr. Harden,

1 who used to be our equine medical director and now
2 is the safety officer for Colonial Downs. So he
3 patrols the whole back side and Izzy keeps telling
4 me how much he's learning every day.

5 He has also spent time with our current equine
6 medical director, Dr. Caruthers. He has seen the
7 test barn, he witnessed the post-position draw
8 yesterday. So we're trying to give him a good over
9 all understanding of horse racing and it's great
10 that he was hired during the live meet because he
11 will see all of these things firsthand and we are
12 just thrilled to have him and I'd like you to join
13 me in welcoming Israel to the Commission.

14 CHAIR NIXON: welcome. Thank you. I believe
15 we're going to open it up for Commissioners'
16 comments in no particular order. Anybody have any
17 comments?

18 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: Yes. Of course.
19 Actually, I'm very excited. It has been a great
20 year so far. Not without its issues and problems
21 that we have to solve and things that have to be
22 watched. That's the norm.

23 I think we have made some big, big steps
24 towards what we want to do given the document that
25 the Equine Alliance did the forward thinking

1 direction that we have.

2 I think we all can borrow from that and
3 everybody is on the same track about how to, pardon
4 the punch, same road that we are promoting racing.
5 Not just racing but the horse industry and
6 agribusiness in Virginia.

7 It's not just one small piece and I think that
8 is in my mind, that's where we have to go and it
9 takes it out of the realm of just those of us here
10 at Colonial Downs and in the racing business, but
11 it's great because it's so much bigger than that
12 and it's so much more powerful.

13 Politically, it carries a lot of weight. It
14 has great potential for marketing, too, one of the
15 biggest groups; voters. So for that, if for
16 nothing else, promoting horses in Virginia is going
17 to be a very powerful tool for all of us to be able
18 to (inaudible) to and it took Colonial Downs and
19 HHR to trigger that. So well done, everybody.
20 Nice job.

21 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: My comments would echo
22 Marsha's pretty clearly. I think as I said
23 earlier, the VEA's marketing efforts look great so
24 far. I'm anxious to see what happens next. They
25 have been covering the entire industry, which is

1 important and certainly helps Churchill and racing
2 as well as everything the VEA's mission stands for.

3 Also, just to say I believe Churchill has put
4 on a really good show so far. There's more left to
5 go, so you never laugh at the crocodile until you
6 cross the river.

7 So we have a ways to go, but I'm impressed
8 with what is happening so far and I'm hoping
9 they'll continue to build on their first year and
10 be even better going forward in the future. So
11 congratulations to everyone.

12 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: Now having said that, can
13 we get those lights fixed and those speakers fixed
14 and a better petting zoo maybe next time? Just
15 kidding.

16 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: You don't really hear
17 the call of the race unless you go outside from the
18 fourth floor. So I like to hear the call of the
19 race so I usually go out.

20 It would be nice if there was a way to have
21 the interior speakers cover that as well. I don't
22 know what's involved. Whether it's a big
23 electrical problem or a switch that gets turned on,
24 I don't know, but for interior folks it would be
25 great to hear that call as well. You normally

1 don't know the race has started unless you look.

2 COMMISSIONER TANNER: The same is true on the
3 outside boxes. It's very difficult to hear. But
4 otherwise, I would like to echo the positive
5 comments of the other Commissioners.

6 I'm thrilled about the additional money for
7 the harness racing and I'm really excited about
8 where that is and I can't wait to hear what happens
9 with those stakes races this year with the
10 additional money. I think that's going to be
11 super. We're headed in the right direction.

12 CHAIR NIXON: I'll wrap it up just by saying
13 over the past week, I've thought a lot about where
14 racing has come since it started here in Virginia
15 and I remembered a lot of the people who have
16 passed on like Nellie Cox and John Tucker and
17 Marshall Dow, who were such a large part of getting
18 everything started and I believe they would be
19 really excited and pleased with the way things are
20 going.

21 Being invited to the home of the First Lady
22 and Governor of Virginia to celebrate horse racing
23 was truly historic. Then to follow it up with one
24 of the most successful racing days in history on
25 Saturday, it really shows that with all of us

1 working together great things can happen. So thank
2 you.

3 Any other comments?

4 MS. EASTER: I have a comment. I don't know
5 if you want me to or not.

6 CHAIR NIXON: Of course.

7 MS. EASTER: I would like to just follow up
8 what you all said. Obviously, we don't have it all
9 right quite yet as Frank Hopf said, but we're
10 working on it and I think it's a good start.

11 I really want to thank the people here in
12 Virginia that are working for Churchill and
13 Colonial Downs because we spent a lot of time all
14 of us talking to what happens on big days and how
15 we've not serviced our public very well in the
16 past.

17 There was a huge effort by people that are
18 here working, trying to make things better for the
19 people that were here and I just thought they
20 should be recognized for that and they know that
21 there is still more to come and they have to work
22 on it, but I thought it was a pretty nice day on
23 Saturday.

24 VICE CHAIR HUDGINS: Great. Yes. I agree.

25 CHAIR NIXON: Good racing. Very good. All

1 right. If nothing else, then I don't believe
2 there's any need for us to go into closed session.

3 we'll set our next meeting I believe December
4 6th. Is everybody good with that?

5 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: What day is that?

6 CHAIR NIXON: December 6th, which is a
7 wednesday. If nothing else, then the meeting is
8 adjourned. I believe we're going to enjoy the
9 races. Thank you, everybody.

10
11 NOTE: The meeting of the Virginia Racing
12 Commission is concluded at 11:35 a.m.

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Sandra G. Spinner, hereby certify that I, having been duly sworn, was the court reporter for the meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission on August 17, 2023, at the time of the meeting herein.

I further certify that the foregoing transcript is, to the best of my ability, a true, accurate and full record of the incidents of the meeting herein.

Given under my hand this 1st day of December, 2023.

Sandra G. Spinner

Sandra G. Spinner
Court Reporter