

In The Matter Of:
VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Transcript of Proceedings
October 15, 2024

ORTEGA INTERNATIONAL REPORTING
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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

1 VIRGINIA:

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VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

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7

PUBLIC HEARING

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Tuesday, October 15, 2024

11

12

11:00 a.m.

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When heard at:

16

17

Patrick Henry Building

18

East Reading Room

19

1111 East Broad Street

20

Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Reported by:

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JUAN ORTEGA, CCR

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Stephanie B. Nixon, Chair
- John F. Tanner, Jr., Vice Chair
- Stuart C. Siegel
- Bette Brand
- Gillian Gordon-Moore

COMMISSION STAFF:

- Waqas Ahmed, Executive Secretary
- Kimberly C. Mackey, Director of Operations
- Ada K. Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical Director

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

- Elizabeth B. Myers, Esquire

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I N D E X

PAGE

1	Call to Order and Roll Call	4
2	Opening Remarks	5
3	Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting of the VRC	6
4	New Business	8
	a. Revocation of Virginia Gold Cup Association's Limited License	
	b. License to Own a Satellite Facility and Offer Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Historical Horse Racing	
	c. Authorization of Historical Horse Racing Terminals Pursuant to Chapters 1197 and 1248 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020	
5	Public Comment*	51
6	Adjournment	66

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 October 15, 2024

3

4 CHAIR NIXON: Good morning. I'm
5 going to go ahead and call this meeting
6 to order.

7 I call this October 15th, 2024,
8 meeting of the Virginia Racing
9 Commission to order.

10 The first item on the agenda is
11 to call the roll of the commissioners.
12 Vice Chair Tanner.

13 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Present.

14 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Brand.

15 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Present.

16 But participating remotely because my
17 residence is more than 60 miles from
18 the meeting location.

19 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
20 Gordon-Moore.

21 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE:
22 Present.

23 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
24 Siegel.

25 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Present.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIR NIXON: And myself, Chair
3 Nixon. Let the record reflect that we
4 have a quorum with all of the members
5 present physically or virtually.

6 Next on the agenda is opening
7 remarks.

8 On behalf of the Virginia Racing
9 Commission, we extend our heartfelt
10 condolences to the family, friends, and
11 loved ones of Cathy Rutherford who
12 passed away on September 28th, 2024,
13 after a brave battle with breast
14 cancer.

15 Cathy was an integral part of the
16 racing community not only as a skilled
17 horseman but also as a dedicated USTA
18 Paddock Judge at Shenandoah Downs and
19 Oak Grove. Her commitment, passion,
20 and kindness left an indelible mark on
21 all who had the privilege of working
22 with her.

23 Secondly, Rhonda, would you like
24 to stand up?

25 We'd also like to take a moment

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 to recognize Rhonda Davis, our director
3 of Pari-Mutuel Licensing --

4 Pari-Mutuels and Licensing who has been
5 an invaluable part of the Virginia
6 Racing Commission for the past seven
7 years.

8 Rhonda's dedication, guidance,
9 and support have made a lasting impact
10 on both our team and the industry. She
11 will be with us through the end of the
12 month before moving on to her next
13 adventure and while we will miss her,
14 we wish her nothing but the best in her
15 future endeavors.

16 Thank you, Rhonda, for all that
17 you have done at the VRC.

18 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIR NIXON: Next on the agenda
21 is the approval of the minutes from the
22 previous meeting of the VRC.

23 I would like to entertain a
24 motion to approve the proposed minutes
25 of the September 12th, 2024, Virginia

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Racing Commission meeting.

3 Is there a motion from The
4 Commission?

5 COMMISSIONER TANNER: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: I
7 moved.

8 CHAIR NIXON: Is there a second
9 from The Commission?

10 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Second.

11 CHAIR NIXON: Executive Secretary
12 Ahmed is assigned the floor.

13 MR. AHMED: Thank you,
14 Madam Chair.

15 In front of you are the minutes
16 from the September 12th, 2024, meeting
17 of the VRC. The only change in the
18 format is that they're a little bit
19 more detailed just so we can reference
20 them and not go back to the 100-page
21 transcripts that we've done. So other
22 than that, the staff recommends
23 approval of these minutes.

24 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

25 Are there any additions or

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 corrections from The Commission?

3 All commissioners in favor of
4 approving the proposed minutes of the
5 September 12th, 2024, Virginia Racing
6 Commission meeting as presented please
7 indicate by responding yes.

8

9 NOTE: Commissioners respond yes.

10

11 CHAIR NIXON: All commissioners
12 opposed please indicate by responding
13 no.

14 Motion carried. Minutes approved
15 as presented.

16 Next on the agenda is our new
17 business. We will start with the
18 revocation of Virginia Gold Cup's
19 associated -- Association's limited
20 license. I would like to entertain a
21 motion to address the revocation of
22 Virginia Gold Cup Association's limited
23 license.

24 Is there a motion from The
25 Commission?

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So moved.

3 CHAIR NIXON: Is there a second
4 from The Commission?

5 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Second.

6 CHAIR NIXON: Executive Secretary
7 Ahmed is assigned the floor.

8 MR. AHMED: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair.

10 Members of The Commission, the
11 Virginia Racing Commission granted the
12 Virginia Gold Cup Association a limited
13 license for 2024 back in February of
14 this year allowing them to hold races
15 on May 4th, and October 20 -- 26 at the
16 Great Meadow Events Center.

17 The spring race took place
18 successfully on May 4th. However, in
19 mid-September, The National
20 Steeplechase Association reviewed this
21 race course and determined it was
22 unsuitable for the October 26th event.
23 The VGCA communicated this to The
24 Commission and issued a press release
25 announcing the cancellation of the race

P R O C E E D I N G S

1 meeting.

2
3 They then submitted a formal
4 letter stating that they will not be
5 able to conduct parimutuel races as
6 required under their license. This
7 places us in a situation where the VRC
8 must consider the obligations tied to
9 that license. Under Virginia code, The
10 Commission has the authority to revoke
11 a license if the conditions under which
12 it was granted can no longer be met.
13 And in this case, the VGCA's inability
14 to host races at the approved venue
15 falls under those conditions.

16 Given that there's no feasible
17 corrective action within the timeframe,
18 staff is recommending the revocation of
19 the 2024 license. It's important to
20 note that this recommendation is based
21 solely on VGCA's failure to meet its
22 obligations for 2024. Any future
23 applications or suitability to withhold
24 races in 2025 will be evaluated
25 separately and independently from this

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 decision.

3 I believe Jeb Hannum is here as
4 well if there's any questions but it's
5 a pretty straightforward item here.

6 CHAIR NIXON: Any questions?

7 All the commissioners in favor of
8 revoking Virginia Gold Cup
9 Association's limited license for 2024
10 please indicate by responding yes.

11 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Yes.

14 CHAIR NIXON: All commissioners
15 opposed please indicate by responding
16 no.

17 Motion carried. Thank you.

18 Next under new business is the
19 license to own a satellite facility and
20 all for parimutuel wagering on
21 historical horse racing -- historical
22 horse racing.

23 I would like to entertain a
24 motion to address Colonial Downs
25 Group's, LLC application to own a

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 satellite facility and offer a
3 parimutuel wagering on historical horse
4 racing.

5 Is there a motion from The
6 Commission?

7 COMMISSIONER BRAND: So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE:
9 Second.

10 CHAIR NIXON: Is there a
11 second from The Commission?

12 Oh, okay, thank you.

13 Executive Secretary Ahmed and
14 representatives from Colonial Downs
15 Group, LLC are assigned the floor.

16 MR. AHMED: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.

18 This is the exciting one. This
19 memo relates to the application
20 submitted by Colonial Downs Group, LLC
21 over the summer for a license to own
22 and operate a satellite wagering
23 facility at The Rose in Dumfries,
24 Virginia.

25 Additionally, they seek approval

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 to conduct parimutuel wagering on
3 historical horse racing at this
4 facility. Since receiving the
5 application, VRC staff along with
6 several commissioners, I've conducted a
7 thorough review of the application and
8 the submissions.

9 This included input from the
10 director of licensing in Pari-Mutuels,
11 the compliance officer, the HHR
12 compliance specialist, and myself as
13 the executive secretary.

14 The staff's detailed review has
15 focused on ensuring that all regulatory
16 requirements as stipulated by both
17 Chapters 40 and 47 of our regulations
18 have been met.

19 Importantly, the town of Dumfries
20 had previously approved the conduct of
21 parimutuel wagering by a referendum in
22 2019 and Colonial Downs Group already
23 holds a necessary significant
24 infrastructure limited license. The
25 Rose's position to be a full-service

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 entertainment venue offering 1,650 HHR
3 terminals for historical horse racing,
4 a simulcast room, along with other
5 player services and amenities.

6 The VRC staff, after reviewing
7 all submissions, has recommended
8 approval of this request with specific
9 conditions outlined in the attached
10 report. We will also hear from the --
11 from CDG representatives through their
12 presentation to address any further
13 questions by The Commission.

14 Ultimately, we're looking to The
15 Commission to side on granting the
16 license considering the staff's
17 recommendation within the report and
18 the application's compliance with all
19 required regulations.

20 And now, Bobbi Sample, who is the
21 general manager for The Rose, will be
22 presenting a slide deck.

23 MS. SAMPLE: Can I get the
24 microphone?

25 MR. AHMED: Yes, please.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. SAMPLE: Good morning.

3 CHAIR NIXON: Good morning.

4 MS. SAMPLE: So I'm Bobbi Sample.

5 I'm the general manager for The Rose
6 Gaming Resort and also for Rosie's
7 Gaming Emporium in Dumfries, Virginia.
8 So this is right along I-95 is the
9 location for The Rose.

10 It's a 175,000-square-foot gaming
11 facility. We plan on installing -- we
12 have already installed 1,650 games at
13 that location.

14 We will also be continuing to
15 operate at Rosie's Dumfries with 150
16 games at that location for the maximum
17 total currently allowed in the
18 regulation of 1,800 games in Dumfries,
19 Virginia. We'll have eight bars and
20 restaurants which will include 1,609
21 in -- in reference to the regulation
22 that allowed us to come into the game.
23 That will be our -- oh, it's really
24 loud. Let's stand over here.

25 We'll also have a sports bar, a

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Playbook Sports Bar, and a food court
3 distributed by five different venues
4 including a Corner Store, a Southern
5 Spin, which features southern cuisine.

6 Mamma Mia's which will feature
7 pizza and pasta. And an R'Burger which
8 we cannot have a Rose or Rosie's
9 facility without an R'Burger, and Crab
10 Tastic which we'll focus on creole
11 seafood. So largely that is the
12 presence in our property.

13 Our OTB has an occupancy of 171
14 people. It's the largest boutique in
15 the network. Very well appointed.
16 We'll have 102 hotel rooms with 3,300
17 square feet of gaming rooms and small
18 events spaces.

19 Our parking garage is sized for
20 not only this space but also any
21 additional potential expansion in the
22 future so we built for 2,500 parking
23 spaces in our parking garage. All of
24 the parking in the property is in the
25 parking garage. There is no

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 service-level parking.

3 I have to be patient, not one of
4 my -- not one of my strong suits.

5 Okay. There we go. So this is an
6 overview of the property. Along the
7 right-hand side, you can see the
8 parking garage.

9 The gaming floor is in the center
10 in the red and beige and burgundy. The
11 burgundy area is actually -- was
12 originally an event space and we would
13 have had 1,150 games on the property.
14 We were concerned whether that would be
15 enough for the market and I'll go into
16 the details of the market in a moment.

17 So back in April, we went back to
18 the town of Dumfries and got approval
19 to basically do away with that space
20 for now and add 500 games to the
21 project. So that's how we came to the
22 grand total of 1,650 games. All along
23 the edges are the food and beverage.
24 Our play services. Our OTB, the
25 Playbook Sports Bar, those are right

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 next to each other.

3 So that hopefully will introduce
4 a whole new component of people to the
5 horse racing industry. And we also
6 have a promotional booth where we can
7 roll out all of our promotions.

8 The hotel is at the top right in
9 kind of a greenish color. And then the
10 two gray areas are future expansion
11 that could include an additional hotel
12 tower, it could include entertainment
13 space, it could include a lot of things
14 and that will all be based on what our
15 experience is upon our opening.

16 All right. So here are some
17 pictures during construction of our
18 OTD. It's very large, lots of TVs. As
19 I said, right next to our Playbook
20 Sports Bar. So on Kentucky Derby day,
21 for example, we have windows that we
22 can open so that both sides are
23 connected together so we can really,
24 you know, highlight horse racing
25 throughout that entire area.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Here are some renderings of our
3 food and beverage areas. At the top is
4 the Playbook Sports Bar. Our 1609
5 Restaurant with the highlighted chef's
6 table in the exposition kitchen.

7 Down the lower left is that
8 market street food court. And lower
9 right is just another rendition of the
10 bar area with the lighting on top and
11 1609. And these are some renderings of
12 our hotel lobby, the sitting space, and
13 one of our meeting rooms. We have four
14 meeting rooms and a board room in
15 addition to a fitness center.

16 These are some renderings of the
17 hotel space. The bottom left is -- the
18 bottom two are our suite and then in
19 the top right is our standard guest
20 room. We'll have kings -- one single
21 king, double queens, and several
22 different options.

23 Okay. Our opening date, first
24 soft opening is next Wednesday the
25 23rd. We're going to do a friends and

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 family day on the 21st. That is
3 literally the friends and family of our
4 team members so that we can work out
5 all of our kinks when our players come
6 in, make sure there aren't any changes
7 that we need to make.

8 Our biggest challenge in this
9 project has been utilities. As it was
10 a landfill prior to us coming on board,
11 there were no utilities run to this
12 land at all. So we have had to bring
13 in everything to the property and as of
14 yesterday, we are on our permit
15 electric power which has been the last
16 challenge that we had to overcome.

17 As a result of that, our -- every
18 area has had a good opportunity to
19 train because we have been utilizing
20 Rosie's Dumfries as a training ground
21 for the new team members we are
22 bringing on board which is a luxury we
23 don't generally have in an opening.
24 The one area that's been more impacted
25 by the lack of full electric in the

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 building has been our food and beverage
3 team.

4 So the reason we are doing this
5 soft opening is that we are going to
6 open with limited food and beverage at
7 the beginning and then within the first
8 two to three weeks of operation, we'll
9 bring all of our food and beverage
10 venues online so that -- so we're doing
11 a soft opening so that we're not
12 overwhelming the facility when we don't
13 have all of the food -- food and
14 beverage amenities to offer.

15 Some of this was caused -- some
16 of the delays was also caused by some
17 heavy rainfall that we had that created
18 a concern in one of the retaining walls
19 between us and the neighboring
20 neighborhoods. So those have been
21 repaired and we're actually working on
22 a long-term solution to that even
23 though that is not necessarily on our
24 property.

25 It came from next to our property

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 but we're going to work on a way to
3 make sure that we can protect our
4 retaining wall going forward. So
5 below -- the bottom is the overall
6 schedule with our soft opening in
7 October and then our grand opening will
8 be held in early November.

9 All right. So what are the
10 competitive advantages of the Rose
11 Gaming Resort? It's a little upscale
12 from all the Rosie's. You'll see a lot
13 of familiar brand markers when you come
14 in our facility in comparison to the
15 Rosie's.

16 But you also see it elevated a
17 bit. We have 11 HHR manufacturers,
18 more than any other HHR facility in
19 Virginia and probably pretty close to
20 more than most HHR facilities in the
21 country.

22 As I mentioned, we have a large
23 food and beverage footprint. We are
24 the only CDG property in a state with a
25 hotel and meeting space currently. Our

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 location is ideal, right next to I-95
3 and Route 1. That area in Northern
4 Virginia as we all know has a large
5 population density and per capita
6 income is -- is rather high. We're
7 also very close to some more mature
8 gaming markets because our -- our
9 location is close to Maryland and even
10 Delaware.

11 I'm being patient. You know if I
12 hit again, it's going to rise forward.

13 All right. So this is just a
14 visual representation of the population
15 density of this property and also what
16 other properties are close to us. So
17 you see MGM is only a 45-minute drive
18 from our property.

19 So that's probably where a lot of
20 business could come from that don't
21 want to make the drive that far. But
22 you can see with the dark blue,
23 everywhere north and east and some
24 south of our property gives us a very
25 good opportunity in this location.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Again, there we go. So this is
3 just a map to show some of our other
4 competitors in addition to MGM National
5 Harbor. Life Casino and Horseshoe
6 Casino Maryland are not very far.
7 Hollywood Charles Town is not all that
8 far either. So all of that is to our
9 north, both northwest and northeast.

10 So these are some area
11 demographics that really just show in
12 our approximate area, 1.6 million
13 people of age 21 and over that are
14 potential customers and in each of
15 these areas in the counties and the
16 cities have very healthy median
17 household incomes. So they should
18 have -- I'm zoning on the word that I'm
19 looking for -- discretionary income.
20 That's the word I'm looking for.

21 All right. This is our year 1
22 projection highlighting the tax and
23 purse money that should come from this
24 facility. Overall total all revenue
25 including food and beverage and other

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 revenues of 195 million, almost
3 \$196 million and 29 million in taxes,
4 10 and a half million in purses, and
5 231,000 in simulcast taxes and fees.
6 So that handle in that first year,
7 we're expecting to be about 2.2 billion
8 and simulcast, almost 2 million.

9 So one thing that I really like
10 about this company is that we do a lot
11 of community engagement. We have our
12 Rosie's Gives Back program with every
13 facility having a commitment of what
14 they're giving back to the local area
15 and local charities.

16 We've also done a lot of
17 marketing efforts since we -- most of
18 this in 2024, but even some of it in
19 late 2023, we were at the
20 Prince William County Fair. The Taste
21 of NOVA last fall. We sponsored a
22 Montclair Lions poker tournament.

23 I personally participated in the
24 Polar Plunge. And I'm sorry you
25 weren't there to see it because I don't

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 know that that will happen again. I've
3 had fondly told someone else to do that
4 this year.

5 We participated in a lot of
6 events with the town of Dumfries. We
7 had a club in the Christmas parade and
8 most recently we participated in the
9 Red Sand Project with them to -- which
10 is very interesting, very educational,
11 and highlighted the concerns of human
12 trafficking in our area. And we have a
13 lot of team member volunteer
14 opportunities with all of our local
15 charities.

16 Security and safety are probably
17 two of the most important things to any
18 gaming facility. Within our property
19 right near our security dispatch
20 entrance of our team members is
21 Dumfries police substation. That was
22 part of the town profer with -- with
23 the town of Dumfries. So we will have
24 a police presence in our property.

25 We have installed the Evolv

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 weapons detection system at all of our
3 public entrances to the gaming floor.
4 We have done lots of training. We've
5 had plenty of time to do lots of
6 training with all of our team members.

7 Both Title 31, printing and money
8 laundering, responsible gaming. We
9 also took in September was responsible
10 gaming education month and we had
11 activities and partnered with the
12 Prince William County on some
13 activities for our team members.

14 Everyone in our property has
15 gotten education on human trafficking.
16 That's a require -- federal requirement
17 for our hotel staff but we educated all
18 of our team members on that and will on
19 an ongoing basis. They come through
20 orientation. We've had, sadly, active
21 shooter training, which is a necessity
22 in today's day and age. Alcohol
23 awareness, emergency awareness, fire
24 safety, and workplace violence.

25 Again, I need to be patient.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 So as far as hiring, in total we
3 will have 480 new team members. We're
4 offering highly competitive wages for
5 our area. We have about 100 of those
6 positions are in a supervisor or above
7 position. And in most areas, we built
8 in steps for progression and job growth
9 for those coming in at front line
10 level.

11 We have partnered with the Town
12 of Dumfries on, I believe it's nine job
13 fairs that we had with them. We also
14 held a job fair in Manassas Park and
15 we -- here we had one with the
16 community -- Community College of
17 Northern Virginia. We've done
18 leadership training. We've done an
19 intensive course for opening
20 supervisors and managers.

21 And then once we open, we will
22 have on an ongoing basis throughout the
23 year opportunities for newly promoted
24 or newly hired supervisors and managers
25 to go through and learn, you know, how

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 to give good feedback, how to issue
3 discipline, and how to manage people.
4 Because you promote people to those
5 positions because they are good at what
6 they do but that doesn't necessarily
7 mean they have the knowledge of those
8 skills. So we're going to make sure
9 that we're continually offering that to
10 our team.

11 We've also done lots of
12 department-specific training for HHR
13 player services and security and the
14 like. We've done safety-related
15 training for everyone. Money handling,
16 obviously, for all of our money
17 handling, cash handling positions,
18 and -- and educating them in all of our
19 regulations and our standard operating
20 procedures.

21 All right. And that is my
22 presentation. I'm happy to answer any
23 questions that anybody may have.

24 COMMISSIONER TANNER: IS CPR
25 training part of the emergency

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 awareness, Ms. Sample?

3 MS. SAMPLE: It was not part of
4 that. All of our security personnel
5 are trained in CPR and they were also
6 trained in the ADs that we have
7 throughout the property, but that is
8 available to all of our team members
9 but not a mandatory training for all of
10 our team members.

11 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So will the
12 entire property open simultaneously in
13 November, the hotel?

14 MS. SAMPLE: Yes, other than, you
15 know, a limited amount of our food and
16 beverage outlets being open, when we
17 open next week, the hotel and the whole
18 property will open at the same time.

19 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: In
20 November, will the grand opening have
21 everything running then?

22 MS. SAMPLE: Everything will be
23 running by the grand opening, yes.

24 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Including
25 all of the restaurants?

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. SAMPLE: Including all of the
3 food and beverage areas.

4 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Another
5 question. You mentioned that this is
6 the first hotel that Churchill has ran
7 in Virginia. Do you have other hotels
8 in other states?

9 MS. SAMPLE: Oh, they have many
10 hotels in many other states and we
11 definitely --

12 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: It's been
13 running --

14 MS. SAMPLE: -- utilize that
15 knowledge.

16 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: And having
17 a hotel leased to one of the major
18 flags, under The Rose name, you're
19 running it yourselves?

20 MS. SAMPLE: We're running it
21 ourselves, yes. And that's what
22 Churchill typically does.

23 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: In
24 your in-house advertising or signage,
25 is there any reference that HHR

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 actually says "Historical horse
3 racing"?

4 Is there any connection to the
5 horse?

6 MS. SAMPLE: We're still putting
7 up all of our internal signage, so I
8 can't state absolute sure that we have
9 that in place. But I do know from all
10 of our employee manuals, that is
11 referenced and I also talk about it to
12 each orientation group about exactly
13 what a historical horse racing machine
14 is versus a traditional slot machine
15 and what those differences are, what
16 parimutuel wagering is. So we do offer
17 that to all of our team members.

18 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I think
19 it's important to distinguish between a
20 slot machine and HHR even though to
21 most folks they look alike and smell
22 alike, it's more or less the same
23 operating system. But I think to her
24 point, I think in Virginia at least
25 it's important people understand that

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 it's parimutuel.

3 MS. SAMPLE: Yes. Agreed.

4 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE:

5 Sometimes I've taken people into the

6 racing machine rooms and they said,

7 "Well, where is the horse?"

8 "This is historical horse

9 racing." There are no horses. There's

10 very little reference to it and it just

11 seems like an easy advertising fix that

12 some smart person in media marketing

13 could put something up to tie the two

14 together rather than this is a slot

15 machine, this is an HHR machine,

16 although they look alike, they have to

17 be different.

18 And I'd just like to see more

19 reference to actual horses and horse

20 racing because that's what promotes all

21 of this.

22 MS. SAMPLE: Understood. And I

23 can definitely take that back to our

24 marketing team to try and make sure

25 that we have more signage --

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Thank
3 you.

4 MS. SAMPLE: -- that advertises
5 that.

6 MR. AHMED: Just going along
7 those lines and just to add to those
8 comments. I agree. Unfortunately,
9 what you see is 99 percent of the
10 population playing these games, they
11 are at the end of the day playing a
12 competitive product to slots. But
13 where it does come up is when there's
14 patron disputes and somebody questions,
15 "Hey, I didn't get paid out the right
16 amount."

17 And the way that those are
18 handled in a Class 3, Class 2 gaming
19 environment is very different from how
20 it's done in HHR because what a
21 horse -- historical horse racing -- and
22 this is for the general public, too.
23 For historical horse racing, we have to
24 look at it to make sure that the actual
25 database of races contains correct

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 races and things like that.

3 So, you know, it's -- whenever a
4 patron complains and in Kentucky we
5 used to have this all the time, I'm
6 fairly new in Virginia so I'm sure
7 we're going to have that here as well.
8 But that education almost always takes
9 place when the regulator gets
10 complaints from the patron and things
11 like that and we're able to communicate
12 with them what's actually happening and
13 stuff. But I wholeheartedly agree with
14 your comments on that.

15 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Brand,
16 do you have any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Yes, I do,
18 thank you, Chairman, or Chairwoman.

19 I was curious about the community
20 involvement. I know you listed things
21 that you've done in the past but are
22 your plans -- do you already have some
23 commitments to do similar things in the
24 future? What are they?

25 Or are you going to be even

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ramping it up since it's a much larger
3 organization?

4 MS. SAMPLE: Yes, most of the
5 things I've listed -- we did not just
6 do this last year but the Rosie's
7 Dumfries facility has been involved
8 with the Town of Dumfries doing these
9 things for all of the years that
10 they've been operating.

11 We are going to ramp up a lot of
12 these efforts. All of our time has
13 been taken up quite a bit in the
14 construction and the preparations. We
15 are going to continue with
16 Rosie's Gives Back. We are going to
17 continue supporting all of those town
18 events.

19 We are putting together a
20 committee to ensure that all of our
21 team members have many different
22 opportunities at different local
23 organizations that they can volunteer
24 their time with so that everyone has an
25 organization they can find that's

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 meaningful to them.

3 So we are definitely going to
4 continue what we've been doing and also
5 increase that for the local area.

6 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Based on
8 your projections, those numbers make
9 this project pretty profitable. And
10 that's fine. But I would think that
11 Rosie's Gives Back has the numbers
12 connected to it.

13 But to the commissioner's point,
14 I think that those numbers are -- grow
15 as the profit grows, does that mean the
16 community needs it, is entitled to it?

17 MS. SAMPLE: Agreed.

18 CHAIR NIXON: I have one quick
19 question. I know you had mentioned the
20 ongoing -- ongoing struggle a little
21 bit with the retaining wall. Do you
22 foresee any other issues arising before
23 opening in November?

24 MS. SAMPLE: I almost hate to say
25 no because the -- you know, whenever I

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 thought before everything is fine and
3 we had some little things come up here
4 and there.

5 We're down really to just paving
6 and landscaping on the outside of the
7 facility. We have all of our utilities
8 and those have really been a headache.
9 We know what caused the issue with the
10 retaining wall and not only did we fix
11 that issue but we reinforced that wall
12 so that while we are determining a
13 long-term fix, we shouldn't have that
14 issue again.

15 So I don't, at this point,
16 foresee anything that could happen that
17 would derail our opening date.

18 CHAIR NIXON: Are you able to
19 give us a more precise date for opening
20 in November?

21 MS. SAMPLE: Until we just got
22 the final -- the full power to our
23 property yesterday. So the only reason
24 I can't give you an exact date right
25 now is that I want my food and beverage

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 team to make sure that they are fully
3 prepared for that opening and make sure
4 every outlet is not only open but it's
5 also providing the best product that
6 they can.

7 So I anticipate we'll be ready
8 for that by November 7th but if we're
9 getting close to that date and there's
10 not been a comfortable place, then it
11 may end up being November 14th. But
12 I'm fairly comfortable that
13 November 7th will be the date.

14 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

15 MS. SAMPLE: You're welcome.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Any other
17 questions, Commissioners?

18 Mr. Ahmed, do you have a comment?

19 All right.

20 MS. SAMPLE: Thank you.

21 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

22 All commissioners in favor of
23 approving Colonial Downs Group, LLC's
24 application to own a satellite facility
25 and offer a parimutuel wagering on

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 historical horse racing as submitted
3 and presented please indicate by
4 responding yes.

5 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Yes.

8 CHAIR NIXON: All commissioners
9 opposed please indicate by responding
10 no.

11 Motion carried.

12 Congratulations.

13 Next on the agenda is the
14 authorization of historical horse
15 racing terminals pursuant to Chapters
16 1197 and 1248 of the Acts of Assembly
17 of 2020.

18 I would entertain a motion to
19 address the authorization of historical
20 horse racing terminals pursuant to
21 enabling legislation in the 2020 Acts
22 of the Assembly.

23 Is there a motion from The
24 Commission?

25 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So moved.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIR NIXON: Is there second?

3 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Second.

5 CHAIR NIXON: Executive Secretary

6 Ahmed and Assistant Attorney General

7 Myers are assigned the floor.

8 MR. AHMED: Thank you, Madam

9 Chair.

10 Commissioners, for this item
11 we'll be addressing Colonial Downs'
12 current status regarding the authorized
13 HHR terminals and the tax implications
14 as they approach the 3,000 terminal
15 threshold.

16 As you all know, back in 2020,
17 the Code of Virginia was amended to
18 increase the authorized number of HHR
19 terminals from 3,000 to 5,000. With
20 this increase, a tier tax structure was
21 introduced. The handle from the first
22 3,000 terminals were taxed at
23 1.25 percent and the newly authorized
24 2,000 terminal handle at a higher rate
25 of 1.6 percent.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 So far, Colonial Downs in its
3 satellite wagering facility has
4 maintained fewer than 3,000 terminals
5 deployed but it's expected that this
6 number will soon exceed the threshold
7 based off of today's approval of The
8 Rose.

9 As we approach the deployment of
10 over 3,000 terminals, The Commission is
11 faced with deciding on a tax
12 calculation method that is absent from
13 the statutes. This decision needs to
14 align both with the statutory
15 requirements as well as the legislative
16 intent of the Acts of the Assembly in
17 2020.

18 So we considered many options and
19 this has been an ongoing conversation
20 amongst stakeholders. But in the end,
21 there were two options that came up.
22 And the first one is a
23 terminal-specific taxation which would
24 involve assigning each terminal a
25 unique tax ID and tracking wagers per

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 terminal.

3 And as that terminal moves, it
4 would require subtract the wagers with
5 those terminals. However, this would
6 create -- this would be
7 administratively burdensome and could
8 lead to fluctuations in tax revenue as
9 terminals are regularly moved or
10 serviced and taken offline.

11 The second option was a
12 proportional taxation based off of the
13 numbers -- number of terminals deployed
14 which calculates a tax based on the
15 ratio of terminals deployed in each
16 tier. For example, if the 1,452
17 terminals after the approval of The
18 Rose today, those would be the
19 terminals that exceed the 3,000
20 terminal threshold, that would be 33
21 percent of the total handle across
22 Virginia that would be taxed at 1.6
23 percent, and 67 percent of the handle
24 would be taxed at 1.25 percent.

25 As Colonial Downs prepares to

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 deploy, and once they are approved by
3 The Commission, the full 5,000
4 terminals over the next few months, we
5 will eventually have 60 percent of the
6 handle taxed at 1.25 percent and 40
7 percent taxed at 1.6 percent and that's
8 the ideal split of the 3,000 and 2,000
9 terminals that were approved in the
10 legislation.

11 So after careful consideration,
12 the VRC staff as well as the attorney
13 general's office, we'd recommend option
14 two, the proportional -- proportional
15 approach. This method is more
16 practical and aligns with the intent of
17 the 2020 statutory amendments and
18 reduces the complexity of tracking
19 individual terminals. It's
20 transparent, simple, and it prevents
21 potential manipulation of the system to
22 minimize any tax revenues.

23 So in terms of next steps, the
24 Virginia -- the VRC staff has proposed
25 that The Commission, one, approve the

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 proportional tax methods for the HHR
3 terminals, two, delegate authority to
4 the executive secretary to approve
5 maximum per location limits which is
6 different than the amount of terminals
7 that are deployed.

8 Maximum per location is -- is
9 outlined in the table here in that memo
10 and it's basically a permission by The
11 Commission. It will be within the
12 statutory limits for each location
13 subject to locality limits and things
14 like that. But it also doesn't mean
15 that they're going to -- if they're
16 authorized for, let's say, 1,200
17 terminals in Richmond, they're not
18 going to be required to deploy those
19 1,200 at any given time.

20 So that deployment will be a
21 separate approval that comes from The
22 Commission. And in delegating this
23 authority, the outline -- the option --
24 there is the option for The Commission
25 to rescind those approvals if needed.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 So any approval that the staff gives,
3 The Commission has the ability to come
4 back and rescind that.

5 Then the third recommendation is
6 that there's going to be a method that
7 ensures that terminal counts used for
8 tax calculation, so the sliding tax
9 scale there, do not decrease unless
10 it's due to approved reasons like
11 repairs or force majeure and beyond
12 that, they have to be impactful to the
13 tune of 30 days or more.

14 So this is -- at the end of the
15 day, we want to make sure that this
16 is -- we want to align with the intent
17 of the legislation that was passed.
18 And it's, you know, it's a unique set
19 of statutes that were put in front of
20 us and we believe that the intent was
21 to keep it at 60, 40 percent and not to
22 go up and down. Not to go to
23 80 percent and 20 percent handle.

24 So we believe that by having
25 this -- this condition in there, if due

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 to an act of God, there's a hurricane
3 that shuts down a location for more
4 than 30 days, it will come to us and
5 we'll approve that and it'll reset the
6 scale. So based off of that, the staff
7 recommends approval.

8 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
9 Siegel, do you have any questions?

10 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I'm sure
11 I'm not the only one in the room that
12 doesn't fully understand but I do trust
13 in our executive secretary and our
14 attorney -- attorney general's office.
15 They've done a lot of work on this and
16 I feel confident that it's the right
17 way for us to go.

18 COMMISSIONER TANNER: I agree
19 that I think the intent was to provide
20 a consistent taxing structure. The
21 question around the procedure for
22 either rescinding approval for a
23 certain number of machines, I gather if
24 it's the operator's choice, they would
25 simply apply to us, correct?

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. AHMED: Yes, so the method
3 would be -- they typically send us a
4 floor change request and it's got --
5 it'll vary from removing two terminals
6 or adding two terminals to hundreds of
7 terminals.

8 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Which is
9 essentially what we have in place.

10 MR. AHMED: Correct. Yeah. Yes.
11 And this just -- this makes sure
12 that -- I noticed that -- and I
13 referenced this in the minutes earlier,
14 this method hasn't been put in front of
15 The Commission before about the actual
16 approvals. And I think it's important
17 just because it's not outlined in the
18 regulations to actually delegate that
19 authority to the executive secretary.

20 It's very normal to do that.
21 It's a day-to-day administrative item.
22 But it allows there to be a chain of
23 custody there and the commissioners
24 reserve the right to always revoke
25 that. So that's very important for,

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 you know, regulatory bodies to have
3 that safety mechanism there.

4 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Thank you.
5 You answered the question behind the
6 question.

7 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I think the
8 important thing for us in discussing
9 with our executive secretary is not to
10 allow Churchill to have a slow-moving
11 location and decide to shut down 100
12 terminals because they're not needed.
13 That would be contrary to what we're
14 trying to accomplish here. So I think
15 this -- this particular choice
16 eliminates that possibility.

17 CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Brand,
18 any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER BRAND: No, thank
20 you. But I will say though that I
21 really appreciate all the hard work
22 that was done on this and it has been
23 studied and considered, all of the
24 unintended consequences, and I agree
25 that this is the best solution.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

3 MR. AHMED: And I just want to
4 say thank you to Liz Myers as well as
5 Deputy Secretary Travis Rickman. I
6 don't know if he's in the crowd right
7 now but certainly has helped aligning
8 all the parties, the governor's office,
9 attorney general, and everybody was
10 very important. And Churchill Downs
11 and the -- and the -- they -- they also
12 are on the same page with this and I
13 think this is -- this is something that
14 everybody agrees on. So very very good
15 for the industry.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Well, thank you for
17 all of the hard work. It's
18 appreciated.

19 All commissioners in favor of
20 approving the recommendations presented
21 by the staff and outlined under item C
22 as they related to the authorization of
23 historical horse racing terminals
24 please indicate by responding yes.

25 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Yes.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Yes.

4 CHAIR NIXON: All commissioners
5 opposed please indicate by responding
6 no.

7 Motion carried. Thank you.

8 Last thing on the agenda is
9 public comment.

10 The Commission will now open the
11 floor for comments from the public.
12 Comments are limited to three minutes
13 each and I'll instruct the executive
14 secretary to keep track of this.

15 While The Commission may
16 sometimes address issues raised in the
17 public comment section, we cannot
18 respond to each and every
19 comment/question during this period.
20 Feedback and input -- and input from
21 the public is invaluable to The
22 Commission and each public comment will
23 be recorded into the public record of
24 this meeting.

25 A draft of that record will be

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 available within 10 business days of
3 the meeting's conclusion. And I
4 believe there is a mic.

5 Yes. Go right ahead.

6 MR. HANNUM: Thank you,
7 Commissioners.

8 Two comments about the
9 presentation of The Rose. First thing
10 is, obviously, very exciting that it's
11 going to be opening and it looks like
12 it's going to be a fabulous facility.
13 In the spirit of being positive, I just
14 feel that the OTB area probably
15 presents an opportunity for some
16 enhanced marketing.

17 The sports bar and other aspects
18 of the facility look like they have a
19 lot of pop to them. The OTB looked
20 like, again, there's some opportunity
21 to perhaps set up. I think if we want
22 to encourage people to come out to the
23 races, we need to promote racing and we
24 need to promote the horses and so what
25 better place to do that than the OTB.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 So I would encourage the
3 Churchill staff to think about perhaps
4 naming the room after one of the great
5 Virginia racehorses that we've had over
6 the years and perhaps have some
7 pictures of horses and maybe even some
8 win pictures in the room. So I just
9 think there's a lot of opportunity for
10 that just based on the one picture that
11 I saw. So thank you for taking that
12 into consideration.

13 The second thing which I think
14 it's a little bit more important is
15 that with the delayed opening of The
16 Rose which I know has been very
17 frustrating for Churchill Downs as much
18 as it has been for all of us, you know,
19 it has put a very significant amount of
20 pressure on the revenues that we are
21 going to have for horses going forward.
22 So I just want to be very clear about
23 that. I just want The Commission to
24 understand that. So what I'm hearing
25 is November 7th which -- let's hope it

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 is the 7th if not earlier, but that
3 means, you know, we're looking at three
4 weeks of November versus a month.

5 So our financials when we started
6 the year were based on a September 1st
7 opening and then they revised October
8 1st and now we're looking at, you know,
9 three weeks of November. So, you know,
10 we know we are going to have a problem
11 going forward so I just want The
12 Commission to be aware of that.

13 Just so the commissioners
14 understand how we've done things with
15 the VEA since the HHR machines started,
16 we would have a full year of revenue
17 collection from the -- from the HHR
18 machines and then that money would be
19 used for the purses for the next year.

20 So for 2025, in order to pay
21 purses and pay for the special dates in
22 March, you know, we're going to be
23 drawing on 2025 funds for 2025 purses.
24 Which is fine, there's nothing wrong
25 with that, but it just means that it's

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 cutting in half the amount of revenue
3 we're going to have for 2026 and 2027.

4 So, you know, I just wanted
5 everyone to be aware that this is a
6 looming problem and it's a big problem.
7 So if there's going to be any more of a
8 delay to the opening of The Rose,
9 that's going to be something that all
10 parties are going to have a serious
11 conversation about because it will
12 leave us with very diminished funds
13 going forward.

14 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

15 Any other public comment?

16 MS. EASTER: Just to speak to
17 your concern about -- about their
18 community giving. Unless the --

19 MR. AHMED: Could you speak into
20 the mic?

21 MS. EASTER: Sure.

22 MR. AHMED: Because we have a
23 commissioner online.

24 MS. EASTER: Debbie Easter,
25 president of Virginia Equine Alliance.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 I just wanted to further back up.
3 If the plan is still the same, and I'm
4 not sure all of us realize that as far
5 as community giving, if Churchill still
6 has the same plan as they did with the
7 Peninsula Pacific that the community is
8 getting a lot of benefit from them
9 shutting down this dump and the money
10 that the community would have had to --
11 to spend itself to cap this on and
12 maybe -- I don't know if there's still
13 plans for the future for athletic
14 fields and those kind of things.

15 But those are things I think that
16 we probably out there are a lot better
17 than around the state. Those are
18 things we ought to market also because
19 that was going to be a huge cost to the
20 community and it was happening in about
21 ten years unless things have changed.

22 One other question I had, is The
23 Rose unique as far as an HHR facility,
24 one big facility and with a hotel in
25 this country?

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 I mean, I know it's very similar
3 to a casino, but is there anyplace else
4 in the country that has this kind of
5 facility with just HHR machines?

6 MS. SAMPLE: Yes. Churchill
7 Downs.

8 MS. EASTER: Yeah. With a hotel
9 and all that?

10 I didn't -- I didn't know. And
11 maybe you'll tell everybody how
12 successful those have been.

13 MS. SAMPLE: So, yes. So
14 Churchill Downs has done this before.
15 So Derby City Gaming in Kentucky has a
16 hotel and a purely HHR facility. Derby
17 City downtown has a hotel and purely
18 gaming facility.

19 Oak Grove has actually built a
20 standard dirt track and has a hotel and
21 an amphitheater and everything in the
22 HHR facility. So while
23 Peninsula Pacific Entertainment is the
24 one that supported this plan, Churchill
25 Downs has the expertise to really pull

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 this over the finish line and do it
3 well.

4 And I do want to -- and thank
5 you. I focused so much of the gaming
6 portion of this project, I did not
7 highlight anything about our -- so the
8 construction landfill has been capped.
9 We hydro-seeded a number of times so
10 that should start taking root.

11 And some point in time in the
12 near future, there will be a park on
13 top of the landfill. It's about 7
14 acres that will be -- that will be used
15 for a park, for children, a dog park,
16 and there will be space for either a
17 regulation soccer field or a multiple
18 use soccer field that will -- we will
19 be doing and paying for all of the
20 environmental testing and things that
21 need to be done in a situation like
22 this.

23 But the town of Dumfries will be
24 utilizing that space for the town
25 residents and I think there's also

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 going to be some walking trails along
3 there as well. And then in ten years
4 when the landfill is fully capped, all
5 of the environmental testing and
6 requirements are done, that will be
7 given to the Town of Dumfries.

8 So -- so, yes, this is a
9 significant investment and the totality
10 of this project is nearly half a
11 billion dollars. So we have made a
12 very large investment in this facility
13 and in the Town of Dumfries.

14 COMMISSIONER TANNER: I have a
15 question.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Go ahead.

17 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Is there
18 going to be pickleball?

19 COMMISSIONER BRAND: That was my
20 question, too.

21 COMMISSIONER TANNER: How
22 conservative are your financial
23 estimates for top line for the coming
24 year?

25 MS. SAMPLE: The first year

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 there's a ramp up. You know, as -- as
3 people get to know that we are there
4 and they come and try our facility.
5 You know, it should come to maturity
6 typically by about year three from what
7 we see in other facilities. It could
8 ramp up more quickly than that. So
9 time will tell whether they're
10 conservative or not.

11 I don't think they're -- it's not
12 a low ball. But considering, you know,
13 around the mutual market around us and
14 certainly by the number of phone calls
15 that we get at Rosie's Dumfries on a
16 daily and hourly basis about when The
17 Rose is open, I think there's certainly
18 excitement in the area about it coming.
19 So it could ramp up faster than that.

20 COMMISSIONER TANNER: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Just a
22 follow-up to Debbie's point and my
23 question earlier. That community
24 outreach. It seems to be the only
25 number or item on the budget that

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 doesn't have a number and I think in
3 the future, I think we'd like to see
4 how much that community outreach, how
5 much of that actually happens and what
6 those numbers look like. I think it
7 would be nice to have some association,
8 even a small percentage that can be
9 tied to that. I don't know if that's
10 all and counted there.

11 MS. SAMPLE: Duly noted. I can
12 tell you that Rosie's Dumfries has an
13 annual giving for Rosie's Gives Back of
14 \$100,000 to the local community. In
15 fact, I just -- the resolution going
16 out soon about the \$23,000 that we
17 donated in the third quarter of this
18 year.

19 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Great.

20 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.

21 And I believe there's another
22 young gentleman there that would like
23 to comment.

24 DR. ALLISON: Madam Chair,
25 Commissioner members, Gold Cup wants to

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 apologize for all the chaos surrounding
3 our regions. And we wanted the
4 commissioners to know that we tried
5 everything we could to help them solve
6 their problems. But they were
7 rejected. But we want to reassure The
8 Commission that this will never happen
9 again. So we thank you for your
10 consideration.

11 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Have you
12 reached an agreement with them just yet
13 for next year?

14 DR. ALLISON: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So you
16 expect to be up and running back at
17 Great Meadow next year?

18 DR. ALLISON: Yes.

19 CHAIR NIXON: That's good news.
20 Thank you.

21 Mr. Berman.

22 MR. BERMAN: Yes, ma'am.

23 I want to talk about the public
24 comment period. As some of you know,
25 I've been attending these Racing

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Commission meetings since 1999. I can
3 probably name all the meetings I've
4 ever missed with one hand.

5 For the first 15 or 16 years, I
6 constantly complained that the public
7 comment period was at the end of
8 meetings. And it was after all the
9 votes had been taken. And to a certain
10 extent, it's useless to get up and
11 offer our opinion about some of the
12 agenda items.

13 I guess it was about seven or
14 eight years ago, Sarge Reynolds
15 recognized that that was true and he
16 moved the public comment period from
17 the end of the meetings to the
18 beginning of the meetings which would
19 give you an opportunity to express your
20 opinion and then hopefully have it
21 considered before you voted.

22 I heard you say that public
23 comment was important in this
24 Commission and I'd like to request that
25 the public comment be changed back to

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 the beginning of the meetings so that
3 the public would have an opportunity to
4 offer some meaningful, you know,
5 opinions about what was on the agenda.

6 As it is now, what's the use
7 after you've already voted for a member
8 of the public to stand up here and
9 voice their opinion about the agenda
10 items?

11 So that's -- that's what I'd like
12 for you to consider, to restore the
13 public comment to the beginning of the
14 meetings instead of the end.

15 And the only reason that I could
16 imagine that you would want to have the
17 public comment at the end of the
18 meeting instead of the beginning would
19 be -- would be to stifle public comment
20 and render it useless. So I'd just
21 like you to take that into
22 consideration in the future.

23 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you. I
24 appreciate that and we will definitely
25 take that under consideration. Thank

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 you, Mr. Berman.

3 One more.

4 MR. HANNUM: So, Madam Chair and
5 Commissioners, I just wanted to clarify
6 one point of Dr. Allison's. So the
7 Virginia Gold Cup Association and Great
8 Meadow are having discussions right now
9 about a deal agreement but a formal
10 agreement has not yet been reached but
11 that's obviously the goal is for a new
12 contract to be drafted as soon as
13 possible and to get the Gold Cup back
14 to Great Meadow. So that's the process
15 that is going on right now.

16 CHAIR NIXON: Thank you for that
17 clarification.

18 MR. HANNUM: Yes.

19 CHAIR NIXON: Any others for the
20 public comment?

21 Before we adjourn the meeting,
22 are there any other comments from my
23 fellow commissioners?

24 COMMISSIONER TANNER: I have a
25 couple.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 First of all, good luck to you in
3 the future. I wish you well.

4 Dr. Allison, I appreciate the
5 apology. I want to say I'm really
6 going to miss it being at Great Meadow
7 this year. I'm really looking forward
8 to the new venue. And I think it would
9 be -- it would be nice to have the --
10 that break and that change. But I do
11 urge you to rectify the relationship
12 with Great Meadow and let's get that
13 event back to being a landmark event
14 for all of Virginia.

15 CHAIR NIXON: Any other comments
16 from the commissioners?

17 All right. That is it then.
18 Thank you, everyone, and meeting
19 adjourned.

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21 HEARING CONCLUDED

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF VIRGINIA)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF RICHMOND)

I, JUAN ORTEGA, a Notary Public
within and for the State of Virginia,
do hereby certify:

THAT SAID PROCEEDINGS is a
transcript of the Virginia Racing
Commission Public Hearing, when held on
October 15, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in
Richmond, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true
and accurate transcript to the best of
my ability to hear and understand the
proceedings and other incidents of the
hearing herein as set down to the best
of my ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 23rd day of October
2024.



JUAN ORTEGA, CCR

				11:18;23:20;52:2
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\$100,000 (1) 61:14 \$196 (1) 25:3 \$23,000 (1) 61:16	Agreed (2) 33:3;37:17 agreement (3) 62:12; 65:9,10 agrees (1) 50:14 ahead (3) 4:5;52:5; 59:16 Ahmed (16) 7:12,13; 9:7,8;12:13,16;14:25; 34:6;39:18;41:6,8; 48:2,10;50:3;55:19, 22 Alcohol (1) 27:22 align (2) 42:14;46:16 aligning (1) 50:7 aligns (1) 44:16 alike (3) 32:21,22; 33:16 Alliance (1) 55:25 ALLISON (4) 61:24; 62:14,18;66:4 Allison's (1) 65:6 allow (1) 49:10 allowed (2) 15:17,22 allowing (1) 9:14 allows (1) 48:22 almost (4) 25:2,8; 35:8;37:24 along (7) 13:5;14:4; 15:8;17:6,22;34:6; 59:2 although (1) 33:16 always (2) 35:8;48:24 amended (1) 41:17 amendments (1) 44:17 amenities (2) 14:5; 21:14 amongst (1) 42:20 amount (5) 30:15; 34:16;45:6;53:19; 55:2 amphitheater (1) 57:21 announcing (1) 9:25 annual (1) 61:13 answered (1) 49:5 anticipate (1) 39:7 anyplace (1) 57:3 apologize (1) 62:2 apology (1) 66:5 Applause (1) 6:19 application (5) 11:25; 12:19;13:5,7;39:24 applications (1) 10:23 application's (1) 14:18 apply (1) 47:25 appointed (1) 16:15 appreciate (3) 49:21; 64:24;66:4 appreciated (1) 50:18 approach (3) 41:14; 42:9;44:15 approval (11) 6:21;	7:23;12:25;14:8; 17:18;42:7;43:17; 45:21;46:2;47:7,22 approvals (2) 45:25; 48:16 approve (4) 6:24; 44:25;45:4;47:5 approved (6) 8:14; 10:14;13:20;44:2,9; 46:10 approving (3) 8:4; 39:23;50:20 approximate (1) 24:12 April (1) 17:17 area (14) 17:11; 18:25;19:10;20:18, 24;23:3;24:10,12; 25:14;26:12;28:5; 37:5;52:14;60:18 areas (5) 18:10;19:3; 24:15;28:7;31:3 arising (1) 37:22 around (4) 47:21; 56:17;60:13,13 aspects (1) 52:17 Assembly (3) 40:16, 22;42:16 assigned (4) 7:12;9:7; 12:15;41:7 assigning (1) 42:24 Assistant (1) 41:6 associated (1) 8:19 Association (4) 9:12, 20;61:7;65:7 Association's (3) 8:19, 22;11:9 athletic (1) 56:13 attached (1) 14:9 attending (1) 62:25 Attorney (5) 41:6; 44:12;47:14,14;50:9 authority (4) 10:10; 45:3,23;48:19 authorization (3) 40:14,19;50:22 authorized (4) 41:12, 18,23;45:16 available (2) 30:8; 52:2 aware (2) 54:12;55:5 awareness (3) 27:23, 23;30:2 away (2) 5:12;17:19	bar (7) 15:25;16:2; 17:25;18:20;19:4,10; 52:17 bars (1) 15:19 based (9) 10:20; 18:14;37:7;42:7; 43:12,14;47:6;53:10; 54:6 basically (2) 17:19; 45:10 basis (3) 27:19;28:22; 60:16 battle (1) 5:13 beginning (5) 21:7; 63:18;64:2,13,18 behalf (1) 5:8 behind (1) 49:5 beige (1) 17:10 below (1) 22:5 benefit (1) 56:8 Berman (3) 62:21,22; 65:2 best (3) 6:14;39:5; 49:25 better (2) 52:25;56:16 beverage (11) 17:23; 19:3;21:2,6,9,14; 22:23;24:25;30:16; 31:3;38:25 beyond (1) 46:11 big (2) 55:6;56:24 biggest (1) 20:8 billion (2) 25:7;59:11 bit (5) 7:18;22:17; 36:13;37:21;53:14 blue (1) 23:22 board (3) 19:14; 20:10,22 Bobbi (2) 14:20;15:4 bodies (1) 49:2 booth (1) 18:6 both (6) 6:10;13:16; 18:22;24:9;27:7; 42:14 bottom (3) 19:17,18; 22:5 boutique (1) 16:14 Brand (13) 4:14,15; 11:12;12:7;22:13; 35:15,17;37:6;41:4; 49:17,19;51:3;59:19 brave (1) 5:13 break (1) 66:10 breast (1) 5:13 bring (2) 20:12;21:9 bringing (1) 20:22 budget (1) 60:25 building (1) 21:2 built (3) 16:22;28:7; 57:19 burdensome (1) 43:7 burgundy (2) 17:10,11 business (4) 8:17;	calculates (1) 43:14 calculation (2) 42:12; 46:8 call (3) 4:5,7,11 calls (1) 60:14 came (3) 17:21; 21:25;42:21 can (17) 7:19;10:12; 14:23;17:7;18:6,22, 23;20:4;22:3;23:22; 33:23;36:23,25;39:6; 61:8,11;63:2 cancellation (1) 9:25 cancer (1) 5:14 cap (1) 56:11 capita (1) 23:5 capped (2) 58:8;59:4 careful (1) 44:11 carried (4) 8:14; 11:17;40:11;51:7 case (1) 10:13 cash (1) 29:17 Casino (3) 24:5,6; 57:3 Cathy (2) 5:11,15 caused (3) 21:15,16; 38:9 CDG (2) 14:11;22:24 Center (3) 9:16;17:9; 19:15 certain (2) 47:23;63:9 certainly (3) 50:7; 60:14,17 chain (1) 48:22 CHAIR (46) 4:4,12,14, 19,23;5:2,2;6:20;7:8, 11,14,24;8:11;9:3,6, 9;11:6,14;12:10,17; 15:3;35:15;37:18; 38:18;39:14,16,21; 40:8;41:2,5,9;47:8; 49:17;50:2,16;51:4; 55:14;59:16;61:20, 24;62:19;64:23;65:4, 16,19;66:15 Chairman (1) 35:18 Chairwoman (1) 35:18 challenge (2) 20:8,16 change (3) 7:17;48:4; 66:10 changed (2) 56:21; 63:25 changes (1) 20:6 chaos (1) 62:2 Chapters (2) 13:17; 40:15 charities (2) 25:15; 26:15
		B		
		back (17) 7:20;9:13; 17:17,17;25:12,14; 33:23;36:16;37:11; 41:16;46:4;56:2; 61:13;62:16;63:25; 65:13;66:13 ball (1) 60:12		

<p>Charles (1) 24:7 chef's (1) 19:5 children (1) 58:15 choice (2) 47:24; 49:15 Christmas (1) 26:7 Churchill (10) 31:6, 22;49:10;50:10;53:3, 17;56:5;57:6,14,24 cities (1) 24:16 City (2) 57:15,17 clarification (1) 65:17 clarify (1) 65:5 Class (2) 34:18,18 clear (1) 53:22 close (5) 22:19;23:7, 9,16;39:9 club (1) 26:7 code (2) 10:9;41:17 collection (1) 54:17 College (1) 28:16 Colonial (8) 11:24; 12:14,20;13:22; 39:23;41:11;42:2; 43:25 color (1) 18:9 comfortable (2) 39:10, 12 coming (4) 20:10; 28:9;59:23;60:18 comment (15) 39:18; 51:9,17,22;55:15; 61:23;62:24;63:7,16, 23,25;64:13,17,19; 65:20 comment/question (1) 51:19 comments (8) 34:8; 35:14;49:18;51:11, 12;52:8;65:22;66:15 Commission (35) 4:9; 5:9;6:6;7:2,4,9;8:2,6, 25;9:4,10,11,24; 10:10;12:6,11;14:13, 15;40:24;42:10;44:3, 25;45:11,22,24;46:3; 48:15;51:10,15,22; 53:23;54:12;62:8; 63:2,24 COMMISSIONER (61) 4:13,14,15,19,21,23, 25;7:5,6,10;9:2,5; 11:11,12,13;12:7,8; 29:24;30:11,19,24; 31:4,12,16,23;32:18; 33:4;34:2;35:15,17; 37:6,7;40:5,6,7,25; 41:3,4;47:8,10,18; 48:8;49:4,7,17,19; 50:25;51:2,3;55:23; 59:14,17,19,21;60:20, 21;61:19,25;62:11, 15;65:24</p>	<p>commissioners (20) 4:11;8:3,9,11;11:7, 14;13:6;39:17,22; 40:8;41:10;48:23; 50:19;51:4;52:7; 54:13;62:4;65:5,23; 66:16 commissioner's (1) 37:13 commitment (2) 5:19; 25:13 commitments (1) 35:23 committee (1) 36:20 communicate (1) 35:11 communicated (1) 9:23 community (14) 5:16; 25:11;28:16,16; 35:19;37:16;55:18; 56:5,7,10,20;60:23; 61:4,14 company (1) 25:10 comparison (1) 22:14 competitive (3) 22:10; 28:4;34:12 competitors (1) 24:4 complained (1) 63:6 complains (1) 35:4 complaints (1) 35:10 complexity (1) 44:18 compliance (3) 13:11, 12;14:18 component (1) 18:4 concern (2) 21:18; 55:17 concerned (1) 17:14 concerns (1) 26:11 CONCLUDED (1) 66:21 conclusion (1) 52:3 condition (1) 46:25 conditions (3) 10:11, 15;14:9 condolences (1) 5:10 conduct (3) 10:5;13:2, 20 conducted (1) 13:6 confident (1) 47:16 Congratulations (1) 40:12 connected (2) 18:23; 37:12 connection (1) 32:4 consequences (1) 49:24 conservative (2) 59:22;60:10 consider (2) 10:8; 64:12 consideration (5) 44:11;53:12;62:10;</p>	<p>64:22,25 considered (3) 42:18; 49:23;63:21 considering (2) 14:16; 60:12 consistent (1) 47:20 constantly (1) 63:6 construction (3) 18:17;36:14;58:8 contains (1) 34:25 continually (1) 29:9 continue (3) 36:15,17; 37:4 continuing (1) 15:14 contract (1) 65:12 contrary (1) 49:13 conversation (2) 42:19;55:11 Corner (1) 16:4 corrections (1) 8:2 corrective (1) 10:17 cost (1) 56:19 counted (1) 61:10 counties (1) 24:15 country (3) 22:21; 56:25;57:4 counts (1) 46:7 County (2) 25:20; 27:12 couple (1) 65:25 course (2) 9:21;28:19 court (2) 16:2;19:8 CPR (2) 29:24;30:5 Crab (1) 16:9 create (1) 43:6 created (1) 21:17 creole (1) 16:10 crowd (1) 50:6 cuisine (1) 16:5 Cup (6) 8:22;9:12; 11:8;61:25;65:7,13 Cup's (1) 8:18 curious (1) 35:19 current (1) 41:12 currently (2) 15:17; 22:25 custody (1) 48:23 customers (1) 24:14 cutting (1) 55:2</p>	<p>day-to-day (1) 48:21 deal (1) 65:9 Debbie (1) 55:24 Debbie's (1) 60:22 decide (1) 49:11 deciding (1) 42:11 decision (2) 11:2; 42:13 deck (1) 14:22 decrease (1) 46:9 dedicated (1) 5:17 dedication (1) 6:8 definitely (4) 31:11; 33:23;37:3;64:24 Delaware (1) 23:10 delay (1) 55:8 delayed (1) 53:15 delays (1) 21:16 delegate (2) 45:3; 48:18 delegating (1) 45:22 demographics (1) 24:11 density (2) 23:5,15 department-specific (1) 29:12 deploy (2) 44:2;45:18 deployed (4) 42:5; 43:13,15;45:7 deployment (2) 42:9; 45:20 Deputy (1) 50:5 derail (1) 38:17 Derby (3) 18:20; 57:15,16 detailed (2) 7:19; 13:14 details (1) 17:16 detection (1) 27:2 determined (1) 9:21 determining (1) 38:12 differences (1) 32:15 different (7) 16:3; 19:22;33:17;34:19; 36:21,22;45:6 diminished (1) 55:12 director (2) 6:2;13:10 dirt (1) 57:20 discipline (1) 29:3 discretionary (1) 24:19 discussing (1) 49:8 discussions (1) 65:8 dispatch (1) 26:19 disputes (1) 34:14 distinguish (1) 32:19 distributed (1) 16:3 dog (1) 58:15 dollars (1) 59:11 donated (1) 61:17 done (16) 6:17;7:21; 25:16;27:4;28:17,18; 29:11,14;34:20;</p>	<p>35:21;47:15;49:22; 54:14;57:14;58:21; 59:6 double (1) 19:21 Down (6) 19:7;38:5; 46:22;47:3;49:11; 56:9 Downs (13) 5:18; 11:24;12:14,20; 13:22;39:23;42:2; 43:25;50:10;53:17; 57:7,14,25 Downs' (1) 41:11 downtown (1) 57:17 DR (5) 61:24;62:14, 18;65:6;66:4 draft (1) 51:25 drafted (1) 65:12 drawing (1) 54:23 drive (2) 23:17,21 due (2) 46:10,25 Duly (1) 61:11 Dumfries (18) 12:23; 13:19;15:7,15,18; 17:18;20:20;26:6,21, 23;28:12;36:7,8; 58:23;59:7,13;60:15; 61:12 dump (1) 56:9 during (2) 18:17; 51:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>earlier (3) 48:13;54:2; 60:23 early (1) 22:8 east (1) 23:23 EASTER (5) 55:16,21, 24,24;57:8 easy (1) 33:11 edges (1) 17:23 educated (1) 27:17 educating (1) 29:18 education (3) 27:10, 15;35:8 educational (1) 26:10 efforts (2) 25:17;36:12 eight (2) 15:19;63:14 either (3) 24:8;47:22; 58:16 electric (2) 20:15,25 elevated (1) 22:16 eliminates (1) 49:16 else (2) 26:3;57:3 emergency (2) 27:23; 29:25 employee (1) 32:10 Emporium (1) 15:7 enabling (1) 40:21 encourage (2) 52:22; 53:2 end (9) 6:11;34:11;</p>
--	--	--	---	---

<p>39:11;42:20;46:14; 63:7,17;64:14,17 endeavors (1) 6:15 engagement (1) 25:11 enhanced (1) 52:16 enough (1) 17:15 ensure (1) 36:20 ensures (1) 46:7 ensuring (1) 13:15 entertain (4) 6:23; 8:20;11:23;40:18 entertainment (3) 14:2;18:12;57:23 entire (2) 18:25;30:12 entitled (1) 37:16 entrance (1) 26:20 entrances (1) 27:3 environment (1) 34:19 environmental (2) 58:20;59:5 Equine (1) 55:25 essentially (1) 48:9 estimates (1) 59:23 evaluated (1) 10:24 even (7) 21:22;23:9; 25:18;32:20;35:25; 53:7;61:8 event (4) 9:22;17:12; 66:13,13 Events (4) 9:16; 16:18;26:6;36:18 eventually (1) 44:5 everybody (3) 50:9, 14;57:11 Everyone (5) 27:14; 29:15;36:24;55:5; 66:18 everywhere (1) 23:23 Evolv (1) 26:25 exact (1) 38:24 exactly (1) 32:12 example (2) 18:21; 43:16 exceed (2) 42:6;43:19 excitement (1) 60:18 exciting (2) 12:18; 52:10 Executive (10) 7:11; 9:6;12:13;13:13; 41:5;45:4;47:13; 48:19;49:9;51:13 expansion (2) 16:21; 18:10 expect (1) 62:16 expected (1) 42:5 expecting (1) 25:7 experience (1) 18:15 expertise (1) 57:25 exposition (1) 19:6 express (1) 63:19 extend (1) 5:9 extent (1) 63:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>fabulous (1) 52:12 faced (1) 42:11 facilities (2) 22:20; 60:7 facility (26) 11:19; 12:2,23;13:4;15:11; 16:9;21:12;22:14,18; 24:24;25:13;26:18; 36:7;38:7;39:24; 42:3;52:12,18;56:23, 24;57:5,16,18,22; 59:12;60:4 fact (1) 61:15 failure (1) 10:21 Fair (2) 25:20;28:14 fairly (2) 35:6;39:12 fairs (1) 28:13 fall (1) 25:21 falls (1) 10:15 familiar (1) 22:13 family (3) 5:10;20:2,3 far (7) 23:21;24:6,8; 28:2;42:2;56:4,23 faster (1) 60:19 favor (4) 8:3;11:7; 39:22;50:19 feasible (1) 10:16 feature (1) 16:6 features (1) 16:5 February (1) 9:13 federal (1) 27:16 feedback (2) 29:2; 51:20 feel (2) 47:16;52:14 fees (1) 25:5 feet (1) 16:17 fellow (1) 65:23 few (1) 44:4 fewer (1) 42:4 field (2) 58:17,18 fields (1) 56:14 final (1) 38:22 financial (1) 59:22 financials (1) 54:5 find (1) 36:25 fine (3) 37:10;38:2; 54:24 finish (1) 58:2 fire (1) 27:23 first (11) 4:10;19:23; 21:7;25:6;31:6; 41:21;42:22;52:9; 59:25;63:5;66:2 fitness (1) 19:15 five (1) 16:3 fix (3) 33:11;38:10,13 flags (1) 31:18 floor (8) 7:12;9:7; 12:15;17:9;27:3; 41:7;48:4;51:11</p>	<p>fluctuations (1) 43:8 focus (1) 16:10 focused (2) 13:15; 58:5 folks (1) 32:21 follow-up (1) 60:22 fondly (1) 26:3 food (14) 16:2;17:23; 19:3,8;21:2,6,9,13,13; 22:23;24:25;30:15; 31:3;38:25 footprint (1) 22:23 force (1) 46:11 foresee (2) 37:22; 38:16 formal (2) 10:3;65:9 format (1) 7:18 forward (6) 22:4; 23:12;53:21;54:11; 55:13;66:7 four (1) 19:13 friends (3) 5:10; 19:25;20:3 front (4) 7:15;28:9; 46:19;48:14 frustrating (1) 53:17 full (4) 20:25;38:22; 44:3;54:16 full-service (1) 13:25 fully (3) 39:2;47:12; 59:4 funds (2) 54:23;55:12 further (2) 14:12;56:2 future (10) 6:15; 10:22;16:22;18:10; 35:24;56:13;58:12; 61:3;64:22;66:3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>game (1) 15:22 games (7) 15:12,16, 18;17:13,20,22;34:10 Gaming (15) 15:6,7, 10;16:17;17:9;22:11; 23:8;26:18;27:3,8,10; 34:18;57:15,18;58:5 garage (4) 16:19,23, 25;17:8 gather (1) 47:23 general (5) 14:21; 15:5;34:22;41:6;50:9 generally (1) 20:23 general's (2) 44:13; 47:14 gentleman (1) 61:22 gets (1) 35:9 Given (3) 10:16; 45:19;59:7 gives (6) 23:24;25:12; 36:16;37:11;46:2; 61:13 giving (4) 25:14;</p>	<p>55:18;56:5;61:13 goal (1) 65:11 God (1) 47:2 Gold (7) 8:18,22; 9:12;11:8;61:25;65:7, 13 Good (10) 4:4;15:2,3; 20:18;23:25;29:2,5; 50:14;62:19;66:2 Gordon-Moore (9) 4:20,21;7:6;11:13; 12:8;31:23;33:4; 34:2;40:6 governor's (1) 50:8 grand (4) 17:22;22:7; 30:20,23 granted (2) 9:11; 10:12 granting (1) 14:15 gray (1) 18:10 Great (8) 9:16;53:4; 61:19;62:17;65:7,14; 66:6,12 greenish (1) 18:9 ground (1) 20:20 Group (5) 12:15,20; 13:22;32:12;39:23 Group's (1) 11:25 Grove (2) 5:19;57:19 grow (1) 37:14 grows (1) 37:15 growth (1) 28:8 guess (1) 63:13 guest (1) 19:19 guidance (1) 6:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>half (3) 25:4;55:2; 59:10 hand (1) 63:4 handle (7) 25:6; 41:21,24;43:21,23; 44:6;46:23 handled (1) 34:18 handling (3) 29:15,17, 17 Hannum (4) 11:3; 52:6;65:4,18 happen (3) 26:2; 38:16;62:8 happening (2) 35:12; 56:20 happens (1) 61:5 happy (1) 29:22 Harbor (1) 24:5 hard (2) 49:21;50:17 hate (1) 37:24 headache (1) 38:8 healthy (1) 24:16 hear (1) 14:10 heard (1) 63:22 hearing (2) 53:24;</p>	<p>66:21 heartfelt (1) 5:9 heavy (1) 21:17 held (2) 22:8;28:14 help (1) 62:5 helped (1) 50:7 Hey (1) 34:15 HHR (19) 13:11;14:2; 22:17,18,20;29:12; 31:25;32:20;33:15; 34:20;41:13,18;45:2; 54:15,17;56:23;57:5, 16,22 high (1) 23:6 higher (1) 41:24 highlight (2) 18:24; 58:7 highlighted (2) 19:5; 26:11 highlighting (1) 24:22 highly (1) 28:4 hired (1) 28:24 hiring (1) 28:2 historical (14) 11:21, 21;12:3;13:3;14:3; 32:2,13;33:8;34:21, 23;40:2,14,19;50:23 hit (1) 23:12 hold (1) 9:14 holds (1) 13:23 Hollywood (1) 24:7 hope (1) 53:25 hopefully (2) 18:3; 63:20 horse (20) 11:21,22; 12:3;13:3;14:3;18:5, 24;32:2,5,13;33:7,8, 19;34:21,21,23;40:2, 14,20;50:23 horseman (1) 5:17 horses (5) 33:9,19; 52:24;53:7,21 Horseshoe (1) 24:5 host (1) 10:14 hotel (16) 16:16;18:8, 11;19:12,17;22:25; 27:17;30:13,17;31:6, 17;56:24;57:8,16,17, 20 hotels (2) 31:7,10 hourly (1) 60:16 household (1) 24:17 huge (1) 56:19 human (2) 26:11; 27:15 hundreds (1) 48:6 hurricane (1) 47:2 hydro-seeded (1) 58:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>I-95 (2) 15:8;23:2 ID (1) 42:25</p>
---	---	--	---	--

<p>ideal (2) 23:2;44:8 imagine (1) 64:16 impact (1) 6:9 impacted (1) 20:24 impactful (1) 46:12 implications (1) 41:13 important (10) 10:19; 26:17;32:19,25; 48:16,25;49:8;50:10; 53:14;63:23 Importantly (1) 13:19 inability (1) 10:13 include (4) 15:20; 18:11,12,13 included (1) 13:9 including (4) 16:4; 24:25;30:24;31:2 income (2) 23:6;24:19 incomes (1) 24:17 increase (3) 37:5; 41:18,20 indelible (1) 5:20 independently (1) 10:25 indicate (8) 8:7,12; 11:10,15;40:3,9; 50:24;51:5 individual (1) 44:19 industry (3) 6:10;18:5; 50:15 infrastructure (1) 13:24 in-house (1) 31:24 input (3) 13:9;51:20, 20 installed (2) 15:12; 26:25 installing (1) 15:11 instead (2) 64:14,18 instruct (1) 51:13 integral (1) 5:15 intensive (1) 28:19 intent (5) 42:16; 44:16;46:16,20;47:19 interesting (1) 26:10 internal (1) 32:7 into (7) 15:22;17:15; 33:5;51:23;53:12; 55:19;64:21 introduce (1) 18:3 introduced (1) 41:21 invaluable (2) 6:5; 51:21 investment (2) 59:9,12 involve (1) 42:24 involved (1) 36:7 involvement (1) 35:20 issue (4) 29:2;38:9, 11,14 issued (1) 9:24 issues (2) 37:22; 51:16 item (6) 4:10;11:5;</p>	<p>41:10;48:21;50:21; 60:25 items (2) 63:12;64:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jeb (1) 11:3 job (3) 28:8,12,14 Judge (1) 5:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>keep (2) 46:21;51:14 Kentucky (3) 18:20; 35:4;57:15 kind (3) 18:9;56:14; 57:4 kindness (1) 5:20 king (1) 19:21 kings (1) 19:20 kinks (1) 20:5 kitchen (1) 19:6 knowledge (2) 29:7; 31:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>lack (1) 20:25 land (1) 20:12 landfill (4) 20:10;58:8, 13;59:4 landmark (1) 66:13 landscaping (1) 38:6 large (4) 18:18;22:22; 23:4;59:12 largely (1) 16:11 larger (1) 36:2 largest (1) 16:14 last (4) 20:15;25:21; 36:6;51:8 lasting (1) 6:9 late (1) 25:19 laundry (1) 27:8 lead (1) 43:8 leadership (1) 28:18 learn (1) 28:25 leased (1) 31:17 least (1) 32:24 leave (1) 55:12 left (3) 5:20;19:7,17 legislation (3) 40:21; 44:10;46:17 legislative (1) 42:15 less (1) 32:22 letter (1) 10:4 level (1) 28:10 license (12) 8:20,23; 9:13;10:6,9,11,19; 11:9,19;12:21;13:24; 14:16 Licensing (3) 6:3,4; 13:10 Life (1) 24:5</p>	<p>lighting (1) 19:10 limited (8) 8:19,22; 9:12;11:9;13:24; 21:6;30:15;51:12 limits (3) 45:5,12,13 line (3) 28:9;58:2; 59:23 lines (1) 34:7 Lions (1) 25:22 listed (2) 35:20;36:5 literally (1) 20:3 little (6) 7:18;22:11; 33:10;37:20;38:3; 53:14 Liz (1) 50:4 LLC (3) 11:25;12:15, 20 LLC's (1) 39:23 lobby (1) 19:12 local (6) 25:14,15; 26:14;36:22;37:5; 61:14 locality (1) 45:13 location (12) 4:18; 15:9,13,16;23:2,9,25; 45:5,8,12;47:3;49:11 longer (1) 10:12 long-term (2) 21:22; 38:13 look (5) 32:21;33:16; 34:24;52:18;61:6 looked (1) 52:19 looking (6) 14:14; 24:19,20;54:3,8;66:7 looks (1) 52:11 looming (1) 55:6 lot (13) 18:13;22:12; 23:19;25:10,16;26:5, 13;36:11;47:15; 52:19;53:9;56:8,16 lots (4) 18:18;27:4,5; 29:11 loud (1) 15:24 loved (1) 5:11 low (1) 60:12 lower (2) 19:7,8 luck (1) 66:2 luxury (1) 20:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>ma'am (1) 62:22 machine (6) 32:13,14, 20;33:6,15,15 machines (4) 47:23; 54:15,18;57:5 Madam (6) 7:14;9:8; 12:17;41:8;61:24; 65:4 maintained (1) 42:4 majeure (1) 46:11 major (1) 31:17 makes (1) 48:11</p>	<p>Mamma (1) 16:6 manage (1) 29:3 manager (2) 14:21; 15:5 managers (2) 28:20, 24 Manassas (1) 28:14 mandatory (1) 30:9 manipulation (1) 44:21 manuals (1) 32:10 manufacturers (1) 22:17 many (4) 31:9,10; 36:21;42:18 map (1) 24:3 March (1) 54:22 mark (1) 5:20 markers (1) 22:13 market (5) 17:15,16; 19:8;56:18;60:13 marketing (4) 25:17; 33:12,24;52:16 markets (1) 23:8 Maryland (2) 23:9; 24:6 mature (1) 23:7 maturity (1) 60:5 maximum (3) 15:16; 45:5,8 May (5) 9:15,18; 29:23;39:11;51:15 maybe (3) 53:7; 56:12;57:11 Meadow (6) 9:16; 62:17;65:8,14;66:6, 12 mean (4) 29:7;37:15; 45:14;57:2 meaningful (2) 37:2; 64:4 means (2) 54:3,25 mechanism (1) 49:3 media (1) 33:12 median (1) 24:16 meet (1) 10:21 meeting (15) 4:5,8,18; 6:22;7:2,16;8:6;10:2; 19:13,14;22:25; 51:24;64:18;65:21; 66:18 meetings (7) 63:2,3,8, 17,18;64:2,14 meeting's (1) 52:3 member (2) 26:13; 64:7 members (14) 5:4; 9:10;20:4,21;26:20; 27:6,13,18;28:3;30:8, 10;32:17;36:21;61:25 memo (2) 12:19;45:9 mentioned (3) 22:22; 31:5;37:19</p>	<p>met (2) 10:12;13:18 method (5) 42:12; 44:15;46:6;48:2,14 methods (1) 45:2 MGM (2) 23:17;24:4 Mia's (1) 16:6 mic (2) 52:4;55:20 microphone (1) 14:24 mid-September (1) 9:19 miles (1) 4:17 million (6) 24:12;25:2, 3,3,4,8 minimize (1) 44:22 minutes (8) 6:21,24; 7:15,23;8:4,14;48:13; 51:12 miss (2) 6:13;66:6 missed (1) 63:4 moment (2) 5:25; 17:16 money (6) 24:23; 27:7;29:15,16;54:18; 56:9 Montclair (1) 25:22 month (3) 6:12;27:10; 54:4 months (1) 44:4 more (17) 4:17;7:19; 20:24;22:18,20;23:7; 32:22;33:18,25; 38:19;44:15;46:13; 47:3;53:14;55:7; 60:8;65:3 morning (3) 4:4;15:2, 3 most (7) 22:20;25:17; 26:8,17;28:7;32:21; 36:4 motion (12) 6:24;7:3; 8:14,21,24;11:17,24; 12:5;40:11,18,23; 51:7 moved (7) 7:5,7;9:2; 12:7;40:25;43:9; 63:16 moves (1) 43:3 moving (1) 6:12 much (5) 36:2;53:17; 58:5;61:4,5 multiple (1) 58:17 must (1) 10:8 mutual (1) 60:13 Myers (2) 41:7;50:4 myself (2) 5:2;13:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name (2) 31:18;63:3 naming (1) 53:4 National (2) 9:19;24:4 near (2) 26:19;58:12 nearly (1) 59:10</p>
---	---	---	---	---

<p>necessarily (2) 21:23; 29:6 necessary (1) 13:23 necessity (1) 27:21 need (5) 20:7;27:25; 52:23,24;58:21 needed (2) 45:25; 49:12 needs (2) 37:16; 42:13 neighborhoods (1) 21:20 neighboring (1) 21:19 network (1) 16:15 new (8) 8:16;11:18; 18:4;20:21;28:3; 35:6;65:11;66:8 newly (3) 28:23,24; 41:23 news (1) 62:19 Next (17) 5:6;6:12,20; 8:16;11:18;18:2,19; 19:24;21:25;23:2; 30:17;40:13;44:4,23; 54:19;62:13,17 nice (2) 61:7;66:9 nine (1) 28:12 NIXON (39) 4:4,14,19, 23;5:2,3;6:20;7:8,11, 24;8:11;9:3,6;11:6, 14;12:10;15:3;35:15; 37:18;38:18;39:14, 16,21;40:8;41:2,5; 47:8;49:17;50:2,16; 51:4;55:14;59:16; 61:20;62:19;64:23; 65:16,19;66:15 normal (1) 48:20 north (2) 23:23;24:9 northeast (1) 24:9 Northern (2) 23:3; 28:17 northwest (1) 24:9 NOTE (2) 8:9;10:20 noted (1) 61:11 noticed (1) 48:12 NOVA (1) 25:21 November (11) 22:8; 30:13,20;37:23; 38:20;39:8,11,13; 53:25;54:4,9 number (8) 41:18; 42:6;43:13;47:23; 58:9;60:14,25;61:2 numbers (5) 37:8,11, 14;43:13;61:6</p>	<p>52:10;65:11 occupancy (1) 16:13 October (6) 4:2,7; 9:15,22;22:7;54:7 off (3) 42:7;43:12; 47:6 offer (6) 12:2;21:14; 32:16;39:25;63:11; 64:4 offering (3) 14:2;28:4; 29:9 office (3) 44:13;47:14; 50:8 officer (1) 13:11 offline (1) 43:10 once (2) 28:21;44:2 one (22) 12:18;17:3, 4;19:13,20;20:24; 21:18;25:9;28:15; 31:17;37:18;42:22; 44:25;47:11;53:4,10; 56:22,24;57:24;63:4; 65:3,6 ones (1) 5:11 ongoing (5) 27:19; 28:22;37:20,20;42:19 online (2) 21:10; 55:23 only (11) 5:16;7:17; 16:20;22:24;23:17; 38:10,23;39:4;47:11; 60:24;64:15 open (10) 18:22;21:6; 28:21;30:12,16,17, 18;39:4;51:10;60:17 opening (20) 5:6; 18:15;19:23,24; 20:23;21:5,11;22:6,7; 28:19;30:20,23; 37:23;38:17,19;39:3; 52:11;53:15;54:7; 55:8 operate (2) 12:22; 15:15 operating (3) 29:19; 32:23;36:10 operation (1) 21:8 operator's (1) 47:24 opinion (3) 63:11,20; 64:9 opinions (1) 64:5 opportunities (3) 26:14;28:23;36:22 opportunity (7) 20:18; 23:25;52:15,20;53:9; 63:19;64:3 opposed (4) 8:12; 11:15;40:9;51:5 option (4) 43:11; 44:13;45:23,24 options (3) 19:22; 42:18,21 order (3) 4:6,9;54:20</p>	<p>organization (2) 36:3, 25 organizations (1) 36:23 orientation (2) 27:20; 32:12 originally (1) 17:12 OTB (5) 16:13;17:24; 52:14,19,25 OTD (1) 18:18 others (1) 65:19 ought (1) 56:18 ourselves (1) 31:21 out (6) 18:7;20:4; 34:15;52:22;56:16; 61:16 outlet (1) 39:4 outlets (1) 30:16 outline (1) 45:23 outlined (4) 14:9; 45:9;48:17;50:21 outreach (2) 60:24; 61:4 outside (1) 38:6 over (7) 12:21;15:24; 24:13;42:10;44:4; 53:5;58:2 overall (2) 22:5;24:24 overcome (1) 20:16 overview (1) 17:6 overwhelming (1) 21:12 own (4) 11:19,25; 12:21;39:24</p>	<p>past (2) 6:6;35:21 pasta (1) 16:7 patient (3) 17:3; 23:11;27:25 patron (3) 34:14;35:4, 10 paving (1) 38:5 pay (2) 54:20,21 paying (1) 58:19 Peninsula (2) 56:7; 57:23 people (9) 16:14; 18:4;24:13;29:3,4; 32:25;33:5;52:22; 60:3 per (4) 23:5;42:25; 45:5,8 percent (14) 34:9; 41:23,25;43:21,23,23, 24;44:5,6,7,7;46:21, 23,23 percentage (1) 61:8 perhaps (3) 52:21; 53:3,6 period (4) 51:19; 62:24;63:7,16 permission (1) 45:10 permit (1) 20:14 person (1) 33:12 personally (1) 25:23 personnel (1) 30:4 phone (1) 60:14 physically (1) 5:5 pickleball (1) 59:18 picture (1) 53:10 pictures (3) 18:17; 53:7,8 pizza (1) 16:7 place (6) 9:17;32:9; 35:9;39:10;48:9; 52:25 places (1) 10:7 plan (4) 15:11;56:3,6; 57:24 plans (2) 35:22;56:13 play (1) 17:24 Playbook (4) 16:2; 17:25;18:19;19:4 player (2) 14:5;29:13 players (1) 20:5 playing (2) 34:10,11 please (9) 8:6,12; 11:10,15;14:25;40:3, 9;50:24;51:5 plenty (1) 27:5 Plunge (1) 25:24 point (6) 32:24;37:13; 38:15;58:11;60:22; 65:6 poker (1) 25:22 Polar (1) 25:24 police (2) 26:21,24 pop (1) 52:19</p>	<p>population (3) 23:5, 14;34:10 portion (1) 58:6 position (2) 13:25; 28:7 positions (3) 28:6; 29:5,17 positive (1) 52:13 possibility (1) 49:16 possible (1) 65:13 potential (3) 16:21; 24:14;44:21 power (2) 20:15; 38:22 practical (1) 44:16 precise (1) 38:19 preparations (1) 36:14 prepared (1) 39:3 prepares (1) 43:25 presence (2) 16:12; 26:24 Present (5) 4:13,15, 22,25;5:5 presentation (3) 14:12;29:22;52:9 presented (4) 8:6,15; 40:3;50:20 presenting (1) 14:22 presents (1) 52:15 president (1) 55:25 press (1) 9:24 pressure (1) 53:20 pretty (3) 11:5;22:19; 37:9 prevents (1) 44:20 previous (1) 6:22 previously (1) 13:20 Prince (2) 25:20; 27:12 printing (1) 27:7 prior (1) 20:10 privilege (1) 5:21 probably (6) 22:19; 23:19;26:16;52:14; 56:16;63:3 problem (3) 54:10; 55:6,6 problems (1) 62:6 procedure (1) 47:21 procedures (1) 29:20 process (1) 65:14 product (2) 34:12; 39:5 profer (1) 26:22 profit (1) 37:15 profitable (1) 37:9 program (1) 25:12 progression (1) 28:8 project (6) 17:21; 20:9;26:9;37:9;58:6; 59:10 projection (1) 24:22 projections (1) 37:8</p>
O		P		
<p>Oak (2) 5:19;57:19 obligations (2) 10:8, 22 obviously (3) 29:16;</p>		<p>Pacific (2) 56:7;57:23 Paddock (1) 5:18 page (1) 50:12 paid (1) 34:15 parade (1) 26:7 parimutuel (8) 10:5; 11:20;12:3;13:2,21; 32:16;33:2;39:25 Pari-Mutuel (1) 6:3 Pari-Mutuels (2) 6:4; 13:10 Park (4) 28:14;58:12, 15,15 parking (7) 16:19,22, 23,24,25;17:2,8 part (5) 5:15;6:5; 26:22;29:25;30:3 participated (3) 25:23; 26:5,8 participating (1) 4:16 particular (1) 49:15 parties (2) 50:8;55:10 partnered (2) 27:11; 28:11 passed (2) 5:12;46:17 passion (1) 5:19</p>		

<p>promote (3) 29:4; 52:23,24 promoted (1) 28:23 promotes (1) 33:20 promotional (1) 18:6 promotions (1) 18:7 properties (1) 23:16 property (18) 16:12, 24;17:6,13;20:13; 21:24,25;22:24; 23:15,18,24;26:18, 24;27:14;30:7,12,18; 38:23 proportional (4) 43:12;44:14,14;45:2 proposed (3) 6:24; 8:4;44:24 protect (1) 22:3 provide (1) 47:19 providing (1) 39:5 public (20) 27:3; 34:22;51:9,11,17,21, 22,23;55:15;62:23; 63:6,16,22,25;64:3,8, 13,17,19;65:20 pull (1) 57:25 purely (2) 57:16,17 purse (1) 24:23 purses (4) 25:4;54:19, 21,23 pursuant (2) 40:15,20 put (4) 33:13;46:19; 48:14;53:19 putting (2) 32:6;36:19</p>	<p>ran (1) 31:6 rate (1) 41:24 rather (2) 23:6;33:14 ratio (1) 43:15 R'Burger (2) 16:7,9 reached (2) 62:12; 65:10 ready (1) 39:7 realize (1) 56:4 really (10) 15:23; 18:23;24:11;25:9; 38:5,8;49:21;57:25; 66:5,7 reason (3) 21:4; 38:23;64:15 reasons (1) 46:10 reassure (1) 62:7 receiving (1) 13:4 recently (1) 26:8 recognize (1) 6:2 recognized (1) 63:15 recommend (1) 44:13 recommendation (3) 10:20;14:17;46:5 recommendations (1) 50:20 recommended (1) 14:7 recommending (1) 10:18 recommends (2) 7:22; 47:7 record (3) 5:3;51:23, 25 recorded (1) 51:23 rectify (1) 66:11 red (2) 17:10;26:9 reduces (1) 44:18 reference (5) 7:19; 15:21;31:25;33:10,19 referenced (2) 32:11; 48:13 referendum (1) 13:21 reflect (1) 5:3 regarding (1) 41:12 regions (1) 62:3 regularly (1) 43:9 regulation (3) 15:18, 21;58:17 regulations (4) 13:17; 14:19;29:19;48:18 regulator (1) 35:9 regulatory (2) 13:15; 49:2 reinforced (1) 38:11 rejected (1) 62:7 related (1) 50:22 relates (1) 12:19 relationship (1) 66:11 release (1) 9:24 remarks (1) 5:7 remotely (1) 4:16 removing (1) 48:5</p>	<p>render (1) 64:20 renderings (3) 19:2, 11,16 rendition (1) 19:9 repaired (1) 21:21 repairs (1) 46:11 report (2) 14:10,17 representation (1) 23:14 representatives (2) 12:14;14:11 request (3) 14:8;48:4; 63:24 require (2) 27:16;43:4 required (3) 10:6; 14:19;45:18 requirement (1) 27:16 requirements (3) 13:16;42:15;59:6 rescind (2) 45:25;46:4 rescinding (1) 47:22 reserve (1) 48:24 reset (1) 47:5 residence (1) 4:17 residents (1) 58:25 resolution (1) 61:15 Resort (2) 15:6;22:11 respond (2) 8:9;51:18 responding (8) 8:7,12; 11:10,15;40:4,9; 50:24;51:5 responsible (2) 27:8,9 Restaurant (1) 19:5 restaurants (2) 15:20; 30:25 restore (1) 64:12 result (1) 20:17 retaining (4) 21:18; 22:4;37:21;38:10 revenue (4) 24:24; 43:8;54:16;55:2 revenues (3) 25:2; 44:22;53:20 review (2) 13:7,14 reviewed (1) 9:20 reviewing (1) 14:6 revised (1) 54:7 revocation (3) 8:18, 21;10:18 revoke (2) 10:10; 48:24 revoking (1) 11:8 Reynolds (1) 63:14 Rhonda (3) 5:23;6:2, 16 Rhonda's (1) 6:8 Richmond (1) 45:17 Rickman (1) 50:5 right (23) 15:8;17:25; 18:8,16,19;19:9,19; 22:9;23:2,13;24:21; 26:19;29:21;34:15; 38:24;39:19;47:16;</p>	<p>48:24;50:6;52:5;65:8, 15;66:17 right-hand (1) 17:7 rise (1) 23:12 roll (2) 4:11;18:7 room (6) 14:4;19:14, 20;47:11;53:4,8 rooms (5) 16:16,17; 19:13,14;33:6 root (1) 58:10 Rose (14) 12:23; 14:21;15:5,9;16:8; 22:10;31:18;42:8; 43:18;52:9;53:16; 55:8;56:23;60:17 Rose's (1) 13:25 Rosie's (13) 15:6,15; 16:8;20:20;22:12,15; 25:12;36:6,16;37:11; 60:15;61:12,13 Route (1) 23:3 run (1) 20:11 running (6) 30:21,23; 31:13,19,20;62:16 Rutherford (1) 5:11</p>	<p>seems (2) 33:11; 60:24 send (1) 48:3 separate (1) 45:21 separately (1) 10:25 September (6) 5:12; 6:25;7:16;8:5;27:9; 54:6 serious (1) 55:10 serviced (1) 43:10 service-level (1) 17:2 services (3) 14:5; 17:24;29:13 set (2) 46:18;52:21 seven (2) 6:6;63:13 several (2) 13:6;19:21 Shenandoah (1) 5:18 shooter (1) 27:21 show (2) 24:3,11 shut (1) 49:11 shuts (1) 47:3 shutting (1) 56:9 side (2) 14:15;17:7 sides (1) 18:22 Siegel (22) 4:24,25; 7:10;9:2;30:11,19,24; 31:4,12,16;32:18; 37:7;40:5,25;47:9,10; 49:7;51:2;60:21; 61:19;62:11,15 signage (3) 31:24; 32:7;33:25 significant (3) 13:23; 53:19;59:9 similar (2) 35:23;57:2 simple (1) 44:20 simply (1) 47:25 simulcast (3) 14:4; 25:5,8 simultaneously (1) 30:12 single (1) 19:20 sitting (1) 19:12 situation (2) 10:7; 58:21 sized (1) 16:19 skilled (1) 5:16 skills (1) 29:8 slide (1) 14:22 sliding (1) 46:8 slot (3) 32:14,20; 33:14 slots (1) 34:12 slow-moving (1) 49:10 small (2) 16:17;61:8 smart (1) 33:12 smell (1) 32:21 soccer (2) 58:17,18 soft (4) 19:24;21:5,11; 22:6 solely (1) 10:21 solution (2) 21:22; 49:25</p>
S				
<p>quarter (1) 61:17 queens (1) 19:21 quick (1) 37:18 quickly (1) 60:8 quite (1) 36:13 quorum (1) 5:4</p>				
R				
<p>race (3) 9:17,21,25 racehorses (1) 53:5 races (7) 9:14;10:5, 14,24;34:25;35:2; 52:23 Racing (27) 4:8;5:8, 16;6:6;7:2;8:5;9:11; 11:21,22;12:4;13:3; 14:3;18:5,24;32:3,13; 33:6,9,20;34:21,23; 40:2,15,20;50:23; 52:23;62:25 rainfall (1) 21:17 raised (1) 51:16 ramp (4) 36:11;60:2, 8,19 ramping (1) 36:2</p>				

<p>solve (1) 62:5 somebody (1) 34:14 someone (1) 26:3 Sometimes (2) 33:5; 51:16 soon (3) 42:6;61:16; 65:12 sorry (1) 25:24 south (1) 23:24 Southern (2) 16:4,5 space (9) 16:20; 17:12,19;18:13; 19:12,17;22:25; 58:16,24 spaces (2) 16:18,23 speak (2) 55:16,19 special (1) 54:21 specialist (1) 13:12 specific (1) 14:8 spend (1) 56:11 Spin (1) 16:5 spirit (1) 52:13 split (1) 44:8 sponsored (1) 25:21 sports (6) 15:25;16:2; 17:25;18:20;19:4; 52:17 spring (1) 9:17 square (1) 16:17 staff (11) 7:22;10:18; 13:5;14:6;27:17; 44:12,24;46:2;47:6; 50:21;53:3 staff's (2) 13:14;14:16 stakeholders (1) 42:20 stand (3) 5:24;15:24; 64:8 standard (3) 19:19; 29:19;57:20 start (2) 8:17;58:10 started (2) 54:5,15 state (3) 22:24;32:8; 56:17 states (2) 31:8,10 stating (1) 10:4 status (1) 41:12 statutes (2) 42:13; 46:19 statutory (3) 42:14; 44:17;45:12 Steeplechase (1) 9:20 steps (2) 28:8;44:23 stifle (1) 64:19 still (4) 32:6;56:3,5,12 stipulated (1) 13:16 Store (1) 16:4 straightforward (1) 11:5 street (1) 19:8 strong (1) 17:4 structure (2) 41:20; 47:20</p>	<p>struggle (1) 37:20 studied (1) 49:23 stuff (1) 35:13 subject (1) 45:13 submissions (2) 13:8; 14:7 submitted (3) 10:3; 12:20;40:2 substation (1) 26:21 subtract (1) 43:4 successfully (1) 57:12 successfully (1) 9:18 suitability (1) 10:23 suite (1) 19:18 suits (1) 17:4 summer (1) 12:21 supervisor (1) 28:6 supervisors (2) 28:20, 24 support (1) 6:9 supported (1) 57:24 supporting (1) 36:17 sure (14) 20:6;22:3; 29:8;32:8;33:24; 34:24;35:6;39:2,3; 46:15;47:10;48:11; 55:21;56:4 surrounding (1) 62:2 system (3) 27:2; 32:23;44:21</p>	<p>15,17,19;44:4,9,19; 45:3,6,17;48:5,6,7; 49:12;50:23 terminal-specific (1) 42:23 terms (1) 44:23 testing (2) 58:20;59:5 third (2) 46:5;61:17 thorough (1) 13:7 though (3) 21:23; 32:20;49:20 thought (1) 38:2 three (5) 21:8;51:12; 54:3,9;60:6 threshold (3) 41:15; 42:6;43:20 throughout (3) 18:25; 28:22;30:7 tie (1) 33:13 tied (2) 10:8;61:9 tier (2) 41:20;43:16 timeframe (1) 10:17 times (1) 58:9 Title (1) 27:7 today (1) 43:18 today's (2) 27:22;42:7 together (3) 18:23; 33:14;36:19 told (1) 26:3 took (2) 9:17;27:9 top (6) 18:8;19:3,10, 19;58:13;59:23 total (5) 15:17;17:22; 24:24;28:2;43:21 totality (1) 59:9 tournament (1) 25:22 tower (1) 18:12 town (13) 13:19; 17:18;24:7;26:6,22, 23;28:11;36:8,17; 58:23,24;59:7,13 track (2) 51:14;57:20 tracking (2) 42:25; 44:18 traditional (1) 32:14 trafficking (2) 26:12; 27:15 trails (1) 59:2 train (1) 20:19 trained (2) 30:5,6 training (9) 20:20; 27:4,6,21;28:18; 29:12,15,25;30:9 transcripts (1) 7:21 transparent (1) 44:20 Travis (1) 50:5 tried (1) 62:4 true (1) 63:15 trust (1) 47:12 try (2) 33:24;60:4 trying (1) 49:14 tune (1) 46:13 TVs (1) 18:18</p>	<p>two (11) 18:10;19:18; 21:8;26:17;33:13; 42:21;44:14;45:3; 48:5,6;52:8 typically (3) 31:22; 48:3;60:6</p>	<p>visual (1) 23:14 voice (1) 64:9 volunteer (2) 26:13; 36:23 voted (2) 63:21;64:7 votes (1) 63:9 VRC (8) 6:17,22;7:17; 10:7;13:5;14:6;44:12, 24</p>
	T		U	
			<p>Ultimately (1) 14:14 under (8) 10:6,9,11, 15;11:18;31:18; 50:21;64:25 Understood (1) 33:22 Unfortunately (1) 34:8 unintended (1) 49:24 unique (3) 42:25; 46:18;56:23 unless (3) 46:9;55:18; 56:21 unsuitable (1) 9:22 up (19) 5:24;32:7; 33:13;34:13;36:2,11, 13;38:3;39:11;42:21; 46:22;52:21;56:2; 60:2,8,19;62:16; 63:10;64:8 upon (1) 18:15 upscale (1) 22:11 urge (1) 66:11 use (2) 58:18;64:6 used (4) 35:5;46:7; 54:19;58:14 useless (2) 63:10; 64:20 USTA (1) 5:17 utilities (3) 20:9,11; 38:7 utilize (1) 31:14 utilizing (2) 20:19; 58:24</p>	W
				<p>wagering (7) 11:20; 12:3,22;13:21;32:16; 39:25;42:3 wagers (2) 42:25;43:4 wages (1) 28:4 waging (1) 13:2 walking (1) 59:2 wall (4) 22:4;37:21; 38:10,11 walls (1) 21:18 wants (1) 61:25 way (3) 22:2;34:17; 47:17 weapons (1) 27:2 Wednesday (1) 19:24 week (1) 30:17 weeks (3) 21:8;54:4,9 welcome (1) 39:15 weren't (1) 25:25 what's (2) 35:12;64:6 whenever (2) 35:3; 37:25 whole (2) 18:4;30:17 wholeheartedly (1) 35:13 William (2) 25:20; 27:12 win (1) 53:8 windows (1) 18:21 wish (2) 6:14;66:3 withhold (1) 10:23 within (6) 10:17; 14:17;21:7;26:18; 45:11;52:2 without (1) 16:9 word (2) 24:18,20 work (5) 20:4;22:2; 47:15;49:21;50:17 working (2) 5:21; 21:21 workplace (1) 27:24 wrong (1) 54:24</p>
				Y
				<p>year (16) 9:14;24:21; 25:6;26:4;28:23; 36:6;54:6,16,19; 59:24,25;60:6;61:18; 62:13,17;66:7 years (7) 6:7;36:9;</p>

53:6;56:21;59:3;63:5, 14 yesterday (2) 20:14; 38:23 young (1) 61:22	21 (1) 24:13 21st (1) 20:2 231,000 (1) 25:5 23rd (1) 19:25 26 (1) 9:15 26th (1) 9:22 28th (1) 5:12 29 (1) 25:3			
Z				
zoning (1) 24:18	3			
1				
1 (2) 23:3;24:21 1,150 (1) 17:13 1,200 (2) 45:16,19 1,452 (1) 43:16 1,609 (1) 15:20 1,650 (3) 14:2;15:12; 17:22 1,800 (1) 15:18 1.25 (3) 41:23;43:24; 44:6 1.6 (4) 24:12;41:25; 43:22;44:7 10 (2) 25:4;52:2 100 (2) 28:5;49:11 100-page (1) 7:20 102 (1) 16:16 11 (1) 22:17 1197 (1) 40:16 1248 (1) 40:16 12th (3) 6:25;7:16;8:5 14th (1) 39:11 15 (2) 4:2;63:5 150 (1) 15:15 15th (1) 4:7 16 (1) 63:5 1609 (2) 19:4,11 171 (1) 16:13 175,000-square-foot (1) 15:10 195 (1) 25:2 1999 (1) 63:2 1st (2) 54:6,8	3 (1) 34:18 3,000 (7) 41:14,19,22; 42:4,10;43:19;44:8 3,300 (1) 16:16 30 (2) 46:13;47:4 31 (1) 27:7 33 (1) 43:20			
	4			
	40 (3) 13:17;44:6; 46:21 45-minute (1) 23:17 47 (1) 13:17 480 (1) 28:3 4th (2) 9:15,18			
	5			
	5,000 (2) 41:19;44:3 500 (1) 17:20			
	6			
	60 (3) 4:17;44:5; 46:21 67 (1) 43:23			
	7			
	7 (1) 58:13 7th (4) 39:8,13;53:25; 54:2			
2	8			
2 (2) 25:8;34:18 2,000 (2) 41:24;44:8 2,500 (1) 16:22 2.2 (1) 25:7 20 (2) 9:15;46:23 2019 (1) 13:22 2020 (5) 40:17,21; 41:16;42:17;44:17 2023 (1) 25:19 2024 (11) 4:2,7;5:12; 6:25;7:16;8:5;9:13; 10:19,22;11:9;25:18 2025 (4) 10:24;54:20, 23,23 2026 (1) 55:3 2027 (1) 55:3	80 (1) 46:23			
	9			
	99 (1) 34:9			