In The Matter Of: VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Transcript of Proceedings July 25, 2024

ORTEGA INTERNATIONAL REPORTING 6933 Commons Plaza, Suite 119 Chesterfield, VA 23832 (202) 681-5140



Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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1	VIRGINIA:
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4	VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION
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6	
7	PUBLIC HEARING
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10	Thursday, July 25, 2024
11	
12	11:00 a.m.
13	
14	
15	When heard at:
16	
17	Colonial Downs
18	Ballroom, 4th Floor
19	10515 Colonial Downs Parkway
20	New Kent, Virginia 23124
21	
22	
23	
24	Reported by:
25	JUAN ORTEGA, CCR

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APPEARANCES:
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3
    COMMISSION MEMBERS:
4
    Stephanie B. Nixon, Chair
5
    John F. Tanner, Jr., Vice Chair
6
    Stuart C. Siegel
7
    Bette Brand
8
    Gillian Gordon-Moore
9
10
    COMMISSION STAFF:
    David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary
11
12
    Kimberly C. Mackey, Director of Operations
    Ada K. Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical
13
    Director
14
15
    ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:
16
    Elizabeth B. Myers, Esquire
17
18
19
20
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22
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	July 25, 2024
3	
4	CHAIR NIXON: Good morning.
5	I'd like to go ahead and call the
6	meeting to order.
7	First on our agenda is, I'd like
8	to welcome our interim executive
9	secretary, Bernie Bernard Hettel.
10	He currently was in this position, I
11	believe, 2010, 2016; is that correct?
12	MR. HETTEL: That's correct.
13	CHAIR NIXON: And I'd like to
14	thank him for coming in to assist us
15	while we continue our search for our
16	new executive secretary.
17	So thank you.
18	MR. HETTEL: You're very welcome.
19	It's a pleasure to be back. I missed
20	you all greatly. Wait, is it not on?
21	Can you hear me now?
22	I missed you all greatly.
23	I've I've really enjoyed the
24	second visit and I can't tell you
25	how how the conditions at this

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	racetrack, overall outlook on
3	Virginia Racing has improved with the
4	addition of the new old. It's it's
5	been perfect. It's great. It's a good
6	relationship. Let's continue to grow
7	and get better.
8	Also today, I've got I got
9	some great news yesterday. The
10	Gold Cup is going to have an additional
11	Grade 1 race for the fall race meeting.
12	And the rest of the good news is, that
13	race is going to be named after William
14	H. Allison.
15	William H. Allison states
16	
17	NOTE: Audience applauds.
18	
19	MR. HETTEL: And we'll be going
20	on October 26th and we'll all go there
21	to enjoy it.
22	So congratulations, Doctor. It's
23	an honor and well deserved. Let's get
24	a good race and a good safe race.
25	Would you have a comment?

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	DR. ALLISON: Well, thank you for
3	your kind words. And we're delighted
4	to have you back.
5	MR. HETTEL: Thank you.
6	DR. ALLISON: So I have wonderful
7	confidence in our commission and all
8	moving in a great race
9	CHAIR NIXON: Is it on?
10	DR. ALLISON: It's on. Thank
11	you.
12	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
13	Thank you, Mr. Hettel.
14	MR. HETTEL: You're very welcome.
15	CHAIR NIXON: All right.
16	Next on the agenda is the
17	approval of the May 22nd, 2024, meeting
18	minutes. The meeting the minutes
19	from May 22nd are included in your book
20	behind tab 1.
21	Have the commissioners had a
22	chance to review the minutes?
23	COMMISSIONER TANNER: I move
24	approval.
25	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Second.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIR NIXON: All those in favor?
3	
4	NOTE: The Commission votes aye.
5	
6	CHAIR NIXON: All those opposed?
7	
8	NOTE: No audible response.
9	
10	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
11	Next on the agenda is the public
12	comment period. And I believe is
13	there anyone that would like to get up
14	and speak? We have microphones up
15	here, I believe. No one? Okay.
16	Next on the agenda is new
17	business which oh, I'm sorry. No,
18	he said no.
19	Next is the new business which is
20	none. So we will move on to number 6
21	which is the update on the Virginia
22	Industries Strategic Planning
23	Committee. And Jill Byrne of the VEA
24	will be speaking.
25	MS. BYRNE: Good morning,

1 PROCEEDINGS

2.1

everybody. And great to be here with an update on our marketing initiative from the VEA for Virginia Horse Racing. And as you all know, we started a full campaign maybe about September.

At this time of last year, we started creating the content for this campaign for Virginia's Economy Wins With Horses was our main, kind of, goal of this campaign. So that was the first part of it. So we'll start going through the slide quickly here.

So here was our objective as I just mentioned to basically highlight how important the entire Virginia horse industry and specifically all racing and breeding in the state is to the Commonwealth's economy. And this has been a statewide campaign with a lot of focus on Northern Virginia, this area, central, really throughout the entire State of Virginia.

And you'll see this is our media plan that we had presented at the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 beginning of this with -- with Virginia with a population of over 8 million 3 people, but we're looking at an 4 5 estimated delivery of over 71 million impressions. So you can do the math on 6 7 that and see how much that we 8 anticipated and we have actually far exceeded that number. 9 We're over 80-plus million impressions at this 10 11 point in time. So we created a lot of custom 12 13 content. Our first campaign, as I 14 mentioned, Virginia's Economy Wins With That one we have just sort of 15 Horses. 16 completed the TV part of that, the radio. And now, we just launched our 17 new campaign which still is Virginia's 18 Economy Wins With Horses, but now we're 19 20 drilling down more into the specifics, 2.1 so how does it, and this particular 22 campaign focuses on jobs, careers, and

The first lady of Virginia has been a huge support and lent a great

agriculture.

23

24

25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 deal of her time, and all of her 3 passion for this industry to this campaign. 4 5 So you can see some of the numbers that we have up here. And this 6 7 is just through May. We did not have 8 June's numbers or July's at this point. So this is the total value that we're 9 getting for this campaign, over 2 10 11 million in value in media buy. That's 12 not what we're spending by any means, 13 we've only spent about 300,000 on this, 14 but this is the value that you get from 15 all of the TV and radio that we are 16 producing. Again, kind of looking at our 17 flowchart and May's numbers didn't pop 18 19 Those are the months up on there. that -- that have run. Again, we'll 20 2.1 have June and July is coming up soon as 22 So you can kind of see where well. 23 this is just TV and radio, the 24 locations where -- where this is taking 25 place since we started this.

PROCEEDINGS

2.1

This is digital or over the top as it's also called, so more of your streaming services, digital, online, and those are the numbers for that as well. And as you see, the numbers are kind of -- sort of holding steady a little bit. We started in April. We took the campaign just down a little bit and then ramped it back up again in May as we were getting closer to Colonial Downs racing and also, we had already done a lot of promotion for Shenandoah.

Again, just kind of showing how
the chart -- we also do a lot of
magazine ads and we did a big ad with
Virginia Business magazine. And
actually, our second one for their next
edition is just coming out and they
have a very large readership, and this
hits a lot of really high-level
business people. We were in their big
business magazine which was great
because that's their biggest one as far

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 as amount of people that get that. monthly readership over 88,000. 3 felt that this was a very good way to 4 5 get this message out to a much larger audience and also a large Virginia 6 business audience. 7 8 So this is the summary as of May. Again, the total value and the cost of 9 that over 300,000 that we've spent. 10 11 Total impressions, as I mentioned, we are now over 90 million with a total 12 13 value of this content of over 2 14 million. Additional things -- and this 15 is more what we do -- what we call earned media and I really have to give 16 a really big shout-out to both 17 Aidan Turnage-Barney and Darrell Wood 18 who have been out and about the 19 community. NBC, CBS, Darrell went down 20 2.1 to, I believe, Hampton and did a piece 22 for television. So these have been 23 very much strategically placed for promoting the Colonial Downs race meet. 24 25 We also want to really show some

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 of the organizations in the State of Virginia. And of course, we support 3 Horses in Healing. So this was a -- a 4 5 nice piece that we had done in the Richmond Times Dispatch on how horses 6 7 are used to help with equine therapy 8 and we plan to also start doing a social media campaign on that angle as 9 10 part of the importance of the Virginia 11 horse industry as well. We also have a lot of additional 12 13 magazines, Advise, Horse Times, 14 Virginia Agriculture Magazine, 15 Virginia's Sportsman, HR and Radio, and Steve Byk, and the one that is not on 16 there is the Racing Biz which we do a 17 lot of marketing with. 18 We spent over 15,000 with them and that really is a 19 lot of promotion of Shenandoah Gold Cup 20 2.1 and Colonial Downs Racing. 22 Technology. And we also started 23 a new website this year. So this was a 24 great project for 25 virginiahorseracing.com. I'm very

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 proud of how this turned out. encourage everybody to check out our 3 new website. And we worked with a 4 5 company called Culture Foundry based out of Texas, who also is doing the 6 7 Nyro -- the new Nyro website, the 8 Kentucky Derby website, Churchill Downs, as well as a lot of other 9 businesses. So they helped us create a 10 whole new look. The website also has 11 much more capability to show video 12 13 content as well as hosting on the news. 14 I want Aidan just to quickly tell 15 you all a little bit about it because Aidan and Darrell, they -- they did all 16 of the legwork as far as really making 17 this something that they were going to 18 be comfortable -- with how we could 19 20 present Virginia Horse Racing. 2.1 MR. TURNAGE-BARNEY: Good 22 morning, everybody. Yes, so for the 23 last seven, eight months, we have been 24 working on this Agriculture Foundry as 25 Jill talked about. You know, when we

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 think of the Virginia Horse Racing website, we really want it to be a 3 bucket that is something that anybody 4 5 who has any interest in the sport would use to visit. 6 7 So fans, horsemen, experience, 8 first time coming out, want to go to We want them to be able to the races. 9 10 access everything from our website. 11 trying to push it in with a new modern 12 look, cleaner, and hopefully, it gets 13 everybody where they need to go. 14 MS. GORDON-MOORE: And it also 15 has -- we have really invested through the website and the search -- SEO, 16 search engine optimization. So when 17 18 people do Google Virginia Horse Racing, this would be number one that they 19 should find and Google. And out -- off 20 2.1 of this website, you still have all the 22 links to Virginia Gold Cup, to 23 Virginia Harness, Shenandoah Downs, 24 Colonial Downs. So all that -- and 25 Virginia Thoroughbred Association,

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	virginiabred.org easily accessible
3	through this website. So we are very
4	proud of how this has turned out.
5	So we'd like to show you this
6	is the can we get audio?
7	
8	NOTE: Video playing.
9	
10	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Just hold on
11	for one second.
12	So this is a radio and social
13	media part of the new campaign that
14	we're doing. These are ten 30-second
15	social media pieces that we'll be
16	pushing out and putting into rotation
17	and they're also complemented by ten
18	radio spots so the audio you hear on
19	those social media pieces are the radio
20	ads that you'll be hearing throughout
21	the state as well.
22	So we'll play one more of those
23	and then our 60-second new TV ad.
24	
25	NOTE: Video playing.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	
3	MS. GORDON-MOORE: And then we'll
4	play our 60-second TV ad and this just
5	came out last week.
6	
7	NOTE: Video playing.
8	
9	MS. GORDON-MOORE: So in addition
10	to this, we actually have some breaking
11	news that we just got this morning and
12	I think we got it through on an e-mail.
13	But the first TV ad commercial that we
14	ran, the Virginia's Economy Wins With
15	Horses, just won a national Telly
16	Award.
17	So that's really really exciting.
18	BES, the company that we work with, one
L9	of the best production companies I've
20	ever worked with, and I've worked with
21	a lot, and we all worked together to
22	put this content, and this TV ad. And
23	so, they were notified of a
24	Telly Award. So we'll be getting a
25	trophy for that And hopefully the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	second one will have as equal an
3	impression.
4	Any questions?
5	COMMISSIONER TANNER: Will you be
6	getting a the trophy in a media
7	circle with lots of good social media
8	coverage?
9	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Absolutely.
10	No. Since we get a copy of that
11	trophy, it'll be like what was it?
12	The Flat Stanley. We'll take it
13	everywhere. And we're getting pictures
14	everywhere.
15	Now that sounds I think
16	it's it's great. But, you know,
17	it's a huge team effort and all the
18	people who let us into their barns and
19	at the track to get all of this
20	content, and all of these people that
21	have lent their time for the
22	interviews. But really look forward to
23	what's to come down the road for our
24	next campaign as well.
25	We plan to shoot at Shenandoah

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 this fall when it's beautiful and the leaves are changing, a lot of content 3 there, and the interviews. It's the 4 5 same with a lot of the Harness people. Go to one of the standard bred farms 6 7 and get content from there. We're also 8 trying to schedule -- see if we can 9 work it out to shoot at Gold Cup as well. 10 11 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So kudos to 12 VEA for making such a huge investment 13 in the horses and horse racing. great to see. And I know the Colonial 14 15 and the Churchill has done a great job 16 in promoting as well. So with everything combined, it's going to be a 17 big plus for Racing Virginia. 18 MS. GORDON-MOORE: That's what 19 we're hearing, everybody. And I think 20 2.1 Mr. Hettel said in the beginning of 22 Virginia Horse Racing and the last five 23 years and Virginia itself has really 24 made a huge statement and impact

nationally from where it stands now.

25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 COMMISSIONER BRAND: Jill, let me add my congratulations, too. 3 trophy and -- and the amazing amount of 4 5 exposure in all mediums across -you -- you're going to hit every person 6 in the population, I would think. 7 8 But as I was looking through the board package and reviewing this and 9 10 just amazed at all the -- the media 11 that was used, it occurred to me, at 12 the end of the day, how do we measure, 13 to say well, all this money was 14 well-spent, it was put in the right 15 places? And I'm sure we talked about that 16 early on, but can you refresh my memory 17 18 about, how are we going to measure how successful it's been? 19 20 MS. GORDON-MOORE: Yes, you know, 2.1 and I think sometimes it's hard to put, 22 you know, a definitive, you know, black 23 and white measurement so to speak on I think when you look at it's 24 25 really, you know, a lot of things.

PROCEEDINGS

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how were we with Colonial Downs? Will we see an increase, you know, of people coming out to the races because of something that they saw? Same with Shenandoah. That's one metric that you could look at.

I mean, another is certainly, you know, understanding people may be, you know, realizing the economic impact that the entire industry has on the state. So maybe it's a recognition of down the road there might be something that needs to be voted on or something that needs to be supported that because they now understand how valuable this industry is to the State of Virginia. That will help make their mind up more and supporting just, you know, farms and all of these various industries that we talked about.

But I think, you know, working with our team that's doing this is maybe seeing how they can get some definitive numbers, you know, down.

i	
1	PROCEEDINGS
2	This is so new, this campaign. So I
3	think, you know, we'll start collecting
4	more and more numbers and be able to
5	turn that into something more of a, you
6	know, exactly what you want to see in
7	a, maybe a financial
8	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Thank you.
9	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Mm-hmm.
10	Anything else?
11	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: I
12	just think it's really nice that you're
13	connecting the far-flung horse industry
14	with the haymakers and every all
15	people who are involved in this.
16	Because a lot of people don't
17	understand how farfetched it really is
18	and it takes everybody to make it
19	happen. So, well done.
20	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Thank you.
21	Yes, that is definitely one of the
22	primary goals.
23	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I'll
24	I'll make one additional comment,
25	follow-up to the question of how you

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	measure it.
3	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Mm-hmm.
4	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: It's pretty
5	well documented that the state
6	legislature over the years has done a
7	big bang on how they feel about horse
8	racing and the return to the
9	Commonwealth. I think if these
10	these folks see this promotion and
11	and hopefully they will, I think it
12	gives us additional support. It may
13	change some minds.
14	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Now, that's
15	definitely, you know, well, there's
16	there's our Telly Award, right?
17	I I absolutely agree, that was
18	one of the primary goals with our
19	entire five-year strategic plan was to
20	really educate legislators and people
21	that make decisions on how important
22	the entire industry is to the economy
23	in the State of Virginia.
24	CHAIR NIXON: Only thing I have
25	to add is the obviously,

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	congratulations on the Telly Award.
3	And this presentation is wonderful.
4	But also, congratulations to you
5	and your team. The daily social media,
6	I think I get on, and I see two or
7	three things every day, and I I
8	think it's Darrell, maybe, and Aidan.
9	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Darrell and
10	Aidan are the stars behind the social
11	media account.
12	CHAIR NIXON: I mean, it's
13	fantastic to, you know, learn about the
14	various horsemen that are accomplishing
15	things or just seeing the photos in the
16	morning, you know, of them training.
17	So congratulations to them as well.
18	MS. GORDON-MOORE: Absolutely.
19	Full full team effort by
20	everybody and the support that we get
21	from the commissioner.
22	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
23	Next on the agenda is the update
24	on the Colonial Downs race meeting.
25	And I believe Frank Hopf from Churchill

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	will be presenting.
3	Yes?
4	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: I was I
5	was hoping to go before Frank.
6	CHAIR NIXON: Well, I think he is
7	on the agenda first and then we'll have
8	you go after him.
9	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Okay.
10	Thank you.
11	CHAIR NIXON: Mm-hmm.
12	MR. HOPF: Thank you, Madam
13	Chair. Commissioners. I don't have a
14	presentation today. Obviously, we're
15	in the middle of the race season. It's
16	been a little up and down. Mother
17	nature has not been on our side so far.
18	Obviously, we had a short, a small
19	power outage this morning that delayed
20	racing one hour today. But we are
21	running and the plan is to be on the
22	turf. Overall, the way this season has
23	gone to this point, I think we've had
24	some positives. I think we've had some
25	things that haven't gone according to

PROCEEDINGS plan.

2.1

I think some of the positives again, in addition to some of the work the VEA has done, we've also done some things that kind of correlate the same companies, same stations, same media partners. We're getting a lot of positive feedback from them. I can certainly send you guys some of the stuff we have done as well. I'll have a presentation, either next commission meeting or in December to go over that.

I think some of the other items
that probably haven't gone so well.
Obviously, we've set some lofty goals,
had pretty high expectations. We
haven't hit those yet. We've had a lot
of turnover discussions with our team
members to make sure some of these
things will go a little better.
Some -- some things that we've had some
issues with, and I know Glen was going
to talk about this. So I'll just kind
of touch on them from my side.

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 We changed -- we kept our same manure company. Tried to change that 3 plan and make it a little less 4 5 intrusive with some of the cleaning up around there. That had not gone 6 according to plan so we kind of 7 8 reverted back to that plan that we did 9 last year. So they're getting back 10 with the manure pick up there. Obviously, I think we have a few more 11 horses this year on site than we 12 13 probably did last year. So I think 14 that was a part of that issue. 15 Trash in the dorm area hasn't 16 gone completely smooth. Our stable area manager was sick, was ill for a 17 week, and he lost his assistant who was 18 called up for the Army. So I lost two 19 20 people in -- about for about eight to 2.1 ten days. That certainly did not help 22 the process back there. 23 Working on a few other things. Ι 24 think ice is another item that's out

there that we need to improve on.

25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 Moving on over to the front side, I think there's been some things with 3 some food service that we've been 4 5 addressing. Ticketing we've been addressing. And with the racing 6 7 surfaces, I know this is something 8 that, you know, we've been working hard 9 on. 10 The main track, again, in my 11 opinion, I will say that part of the 12 issue has probably been the weather. We've gotten a lot of rain. 13 I think 14 the way the track was maintained was 15 probably maintained the -- the similar 16 process we had in the past. We've had Alfredo Laureano, who 17 is the track superintendent for 18 19 Keeneland. He's been here every week. 20 He got with Kelly last week after Tony and I talked with him and made sure 2.1 22 that some adjustments were made which 23 were done prior to Saturday's race car. 24 So we're hopeful that that will 25 continue to kind of slow down the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 We do realize that they have been pretty fast. So we'll continue. 3 Alfredo is in town. I believe today 4 his flight made it so we'll meet with 5 him again today to see how -- how 6 7 things are progressing there. 8 The turf course, obviously, Leif is new to the team. We got the track. 9 10 We surveyed back at April. Got with the G-max. We're trying to maximize 11 12 every part of that turf course that we 13 have and, obviously, we're going to 14 take a look at gaps and some other spots around the tracks to -- to 15 16 continue to put races where we can and use the turf as much as we can. 17 But I think on opening weekend, 18 we had some issues with -- a 19 miscommunication between Leif and --20 2.1 and the G-max system on -- on the rails 22 and where they were set. The gates 23 were set which caused a lot of run-up 24 issues which have been resolved last 25 week and, obviously, moving forward. Ι

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 don't believe -- that should not be an issue either. 3 So a lot of things that, you 4 5 know, haven't met my expectations. Hopefully, you know, after today's 6 7 weather we can get back on a -- on a 8 positive note. I will say Friday's -the first Friday that we did run, the 9 weather was fantastic. I think we had 10 11 a very nice crowd here, the live music, 12 the racing was good, the track lights 13 looked good. I thought everything 14 turned out well there. 15 And, again, I'm very very excited 16 about this season. Nominations just closed for the festival. 17 They have 18 come in very strong. And, you know, we'll get past these first two weeks 19 and, hopefully, everything will be back 20 2.1 to -- to my expectations. 22 So just wanted at least bring 23 some of those up. I know Glen may have 24 some other things he might bring up. 25 But I'm happy to answer any question

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	now or after the meeting.
3	CHAIR NIXON: Okay. Before I
4	open it up for commissioner's comments,
5	Mr. Berman, do you have any
6	MR. BERMAN: Well, I got I
7	wanted to talk about the VEA.
8	CHAIR NIXON: Okay. Well, do
9	does anyone the commissioners have
10	any comments for Mr. Hopf?
11	COMMISSIONER BRAND: I have a
12	question. And it and it may be
13	be directed to the wrong person but I
14	was curious. Last week, I read an
15	article about the criticism that
16	Churchill was receiving from the
17	facility and Henrico, the HHR Facility.
18	And just curious, you know, I'm
19	reading the press, but I'd like to
20	know, is that how is the update on
21	that? Where are you standing where
22	does Churchill stand on it? Because I
23	understand they're proceeding and that
24	was just one individual, or can you
25	elaborate on that.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MR. HOPF: So I can answer on
3	that question. Obviously, we have
4	applied with the county and working
5	with the administrators there.
6	Now, in regards to the articles
7	and maybe some of the pushback that we
8	have gotten, that's probably not
9	something that I can answer. I believe
10	if Jack Sours is here, if if
11	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Oh, okay.
12	MR. HOPF: If he'd like to answer
13	those questions, he certainly
14	probably a lot more privy than I am.
15	MR. SOURS: Yes. Thank you for
16	the question. It is public knowledge
17	we did apply for the license until a
18	week ago.
19	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Can you grab
20	the microphone, please?
21	MR. SOURS: Yes. Absolutely.
22	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Thank you.
23	MR. SOURS: Can you hear me?
24	Yes, so we did apply for the
25	licenses not license. The building

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 permit in Henrico for -- for the HHR under the buy right provisions. 3 that is -- that building application is 4 5 a process. There was an article out. Some of the folks in Henrico weren't 6 7 happy with our process. 8 We are working with those authorities now to -- to, you know, 9 10 come to an understanding. Get the -get the building permit through. 11 12 it is -- it is progressing. It's going 13 to be 175 HHRs and we expect it to be 14 able to build the next facility. 15 Kind of the breakdown on that. It's a -- it's a rehab of a -- a 16 furniture manufacturing facility there. 17 So we'll have to go and rehab it and --18 and get up it. So working with the 19 20 Henrico authorities there to get that 2.1 building permit approved. 22 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: As a -- as 23 a Richmonder myself, I'm familiar with 24 that site. Was there opposition to the 25 site specifically, or to the fact that

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	you made make application in Henrico
3	County in general?
4	MR. SOURS: I I believe
5	there the one person's opposition
6	was they were working through a
7	process to revise the building codes.
8	Okay? We submitted the application.
9	They felt like we submitted the
10	application well, we did submit the
11	application before they had a chance
12	to to revise the code.
13	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: And and
14	a few days before the new change that
15	would have prohibited that, as I
16	understand that, right?
17	MR. SOURS: I'm not sure that
18	would or would not have.
19	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Well, they
20	were saying it would have.
21	MR. SOURS: It would have? Okay.
22	Yes. I think that's their intent to
23	to revise the code.
24	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: We we
25	have some optimism that it might get

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	worked out.
3	MR. SOURS: Well, I think I
4	think we are working with the
5	authorities. We're addressing their
6	concerns. Again, the building permit
7	is filed with them so they are going to
8	work through that building permit with
9	us and we'll we'll continue
10	collaborating on that effort.
11	Thank you for the question.
12	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Just just
13	one comment. It's Henrico instead of
14	Henrico and that might help.
15	MR. SOURS: Henrico. Got it.
16	Thank you very much.
17	CHAIR NIXON: Yes. Does anyone
18	else have any questions or comments for
19	Mr. Hopf?
20	Thank you, Frank.
21	MR. HOPF: Thank you.
22	CHAIR NIXON: Mr. Berman, HBPA.
23	MR. BERMAN: Hi, I'm Glen Berman
24	from the Virginia HBPA. I just want to
25	talk a little bit about what we have

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 been doing and our work with the training. 3 So, you know, in the big picture, 4 5 the HBPA represents the owners and trainers racing here. So we deal with 6 7 the contract issues, we deal with the 8 legislative issues, and the micro 9 issues, the race track. We're very involved on the backstretch. And so, I 10 11 just want to let you know some of the 12 things we have done and continue to do. 13 We purchased a grill top. A new 14 grill top for the track kitchen. 15 provide meals to people on the 16 backstretch that need help, more than \$100 a day in meals we pay. 17 purchased a -- what they call a donut 18 It's a -- it's a golf cart that 19 dolly. has donuts and snacks and coffee that 20 2.1 the track kitchen sends someone around 22 the backstretch to sell during the day, during the -- during training. 23 24 We secured our 12-passenger van 25 and a driver for it to take people

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 where they need to go. We provide medical services for people that need 3 We provide through -- through Med 4 5 Express and dental service. And so, the van will drive these people to a 6 7 doctor, to the dentist. To Walmart if 8 they need to go shopping. To the laundromat if they need to go to the 9 10 laundromat. 11 We -- we've purchased bed frames, 12 mattresses, particularly for the 13 temporary mobile dorm for people that come in on the shuttle, that shuttle 14 15 in, and -- and ship in and need to have 16 a place to stay overnight. We purchased air-conditioners for 17 broken air-conditioners. 18 We keep them stocked in our office for when they go 19 20 down, we don't have to -- they don't 2.1 need to wait. We've got them in stock. 22 We purchased a washing machine this 23 year, the beginning of this season for 24 a broken washing machine and then 25 realized that the problem on a lot of

PROCEEDINGS

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these washing machines that weren't working were broken latches, a lot of switches.

So now we've purchased switches and gotten the backstretch maintenance people to install those switches and we keep those in stock for when they break down again. We have a chaplain in our offices who is there five days a week providing his services and we pay his fees. And he provides -- and also, he has a bible study class every Tuesday night at our offices.

We did an open house at the beginning of the season, that was well attended with great barbecue from Richmond. Aidan does a cornhole tournament every Wednesday night. We provide awards to grooms, they call the best turned-out award every race and the horse that gets the award gets \$50 cash.

We also have the golf tournament coming up on August 11th which is the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	fundraiser for Shannon Campbell and the
3	Disabled Jockey's Fund, Permanently
4	Disabled Jockey's Fund. And,
5	hopefully, everybody will attend. A
6	lot of donations have come.
7	Stephanie commissioner chairman is
8	involved in that also. Very very
9	helpful.
10	Now, to the racetrack issues. We
11	were extensively involved in the in
12	the drafting of book one. We're
13	currently working on book two. And
14	it's been a very collaborative
15	relationship between us and the
16	racetrack. They they consult us on
17	issues, like, should we take the races
18	off the turf? Should we cancel the
19	day? That kind of stuff we're being
20	consulted on and and we appreciate
21	the again, the collaborative nature
22	of our relationship.
23	Some of the problems on the
24	backstretch that Frank mentioned, at
25	the beginning, there was a problem with

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 overflowing trash, overflowing manure bins, mostly resolved. We keep an eye 3 on it. 4 Aidan rides around the 5 backstretch multiple times a day. I go 6 7 around the backstretch at least once a 8 day to see how things are going, ask people how things are going, and -- and 9 I think those issues have pretty much 10 11 been resolved. 12 Broken washing machines, I think 13 we've resolved it and we're prepared to 14 address it as they happen. There's 15 been a little bit of a problem with overzealous, what I would call 16 overzealous security. There was an 17 issue with a trainer who was told he 18 couldn't have his 11-year-old son with 19 him while he worked. 20 2.1 It's been resolved. The rules 22 say that -- the track rules say that 23 the children can be there, they just 24 can't stay overnight. But for a couple

of days there, there were some anxious

25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 times for the trainer and his family and others who have their kids, 3 worrying that they were going to -- not 4 5 be able to stay. And I just would like to make a 6 This could come up in the 7 comment. 8 future, these children on the 9 backstretch question, if there is a 10 question. And, you know, we -- we're 11 at a place where we got a casino that doesn't allow children. So security on 12 13 the front side is used to saying, "No kids." 14 15 On the backside, it is a different story and, you know, racing 16 is a different story. Kids, they grow 17 up on the backstretch, wind up going 18 into the business, and that's where we 19 20 get our future trainers and future 2.1 owners by having children who grow up 22 seeing their parents do this business and fall in love with it like everybody 23 24 else does. 25 As far as the racing goes, we

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 have had very fast times and complaints of the track being hard. 3 addressed it. The first week, we had 4 5 two new track records with horses that probably shouldn't be setting track 6 7 records. So, you know, I'm not sure if 8 they -- if they figured out where it 9 is, but I know they're working on it. There was an issue with the 10 run-ups. The run-ups is the distance 11 12 from where the gate is -- where they 13 come out of the gate, so the spot where 14 the timing starts. That's the run-up. 15 And just for reference, 330 feet is 1/16th of a mile. We have run-ups 16 on the first day of 265, 380, 380, 17 18 520 feet. That was -- that was opening day. So we have a mile and six two 19 20 threes, that was actually more than a 2.1 mile a day, almost a mile 3/16s. 22 Day three, we had a 200. 23 Day four, we had three 175s. 24 Day five, we had a couple of 25 175s. And even on Saturday, the 175,

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	that's the mile on the inner turf that
3	seems to be set at 175 run-up. I'm not
4	sure they can be adjusted or not. I
5	I don't know what the issue is there.
6	Mile and 16th was 200 and another
7	mile and 16th was 310. So that race on
8	Saturday was practically a mile on the
9	8th race. So and it affects a lot
10	of things. It affects the horse, it
11	affects the betters and, you know, what
12	shows up in the past performances.
13	Hopefully, that can be addressed.
14	And there was some problems with
15	outer turf versus inner turf. The
16	program being wrong the first couple of
17	weeks. And I'm told that that has been
18	addressed so that the correct turf
19	course is in the program. That's it.
20	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you,
21	Mr. Berman.
22	Other commissioners, do you have
23	any questions or comments?
24	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Yes.
25	Talking about the safe times.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	What about the safety factors? They're
3	running fast, but were they coming home
4	okay?
5	MR. BERMAN: I've I've asked
6	many trainers, "How are your horses?
7	Are they okay?"
8	I've had one or two people say
9	that they may be a little bit sore,
10	either on their foot or on their the
11	back of the ankles. But not much
12	complaint about that.
13	I really haven't gotten the kind
14	of complaints that I'm I'm used to
15	from trainers about the condition of
16	the track. But their the complaint
17	is, it's fast. But I haven't gotten
18	any soft tissue injury types and
19	certainly nothing worse than that
20	complaint-wise. So I don't know.
21	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: What
22	would be the average run-up run-up
23	distance you'd be aiming for?
24	MR. BERMAN: Okay. So typically,
25	the track here, 50 feet, 30 feet,

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 sometimes as low as 10. Sometimes as high as 80. I've looked at Saratoga on 3 Saturday and their numbers were 40, 53, 4 80, 53, 45, and 80, 53, 45. But then 5 they also had a 90 in a 120, then an 6 7 80, and then they had a 165 for a mile and a half on the turf. So their 8 largest was 165. 9 10 Certainly, 380 and 520 is -- is 11 was way way too much. The 175 mile in 12 the turf, I don't know, it's -- it's 13 getting -- getting up there. 14 COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: 15 the purpose of being a safer track, we 16 don't want the gate the same place every single time. So we need to sort 17 18 of have an average that we're looking for parameters within which they --19 well, they must stay. 20 2.1 MR. BERMAN: Well, I mean, if --22 if -- when you're out in the turf, 23 you -- you, obviously, want to mix it 24 up a little bit so you're not wearing 25 out the -- the ground where the gate

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	goes and where the boards go.
3	So you would think that, you
4	know, and this is a Frank issue, not
5	mine. But you would think that they
6	would move it periodically to make sure
7	they're not overwearing a certain part
8	of the turf course.
9	But, how far away it is from the
10	electric eye where the timer starts?
11	That's to me a little bit of a
12	different issue.
13	CHAIR NIXON: Well, it seems like
14	you have some concerns that at this
15	time you're working with Churchill on.
16	Possibly, at the next meeting, you can
17	get on the agenda and give us an update
18	of of where you are on those.
19	MR. BERMAN: Surely. Thank you.
20	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
21	MS. EASTER: Can I make one
22	comment?
23	CHAIR NIXON: Oh, I'm sorry. I
24	didn't see you over there.
25	MS. EASTER: Don't be sorry.

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 Just one question. And -- and, obviously, the fast times are of -- of 3 concern to horsemen. We've had a -- a 4 5 wonderful history of -- of a very safe dirt track at this -- at this here over 6 7 the years and that's something none of 8 us would like to see changed. 9 Obviously, the great thing is 10 that Glen and Frank, and everybody are 11 working together on it. The weather 12 has to be an issue because when they're 13 having to seal the tracks like they're 14 having to do. 15 My only question, and I hope that -- and it wasn't for lack of 16 trying, it's -- it's -- is finding 17 18 people with experience, but not having a full-time dirt maintenance guy who 19 20 had a lot of experience. We've got a 2.1 great guy coming in from Keeneland, but 22 only partial days of the week. 23 So I want -- as we evaluate that, 24 I think we need to take that into 25 account, too, in the whole -- in the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	whole part of it. Is is that an
3	issue or just, you know, just the
4	weather?
5	So anyways. Just wanted to make
6	sure we're looking at the whole thing.
7	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
8	Next on the agenda is StrideSAFE
9	presentation. And I believe our equine
10	director, Dr. Caruthers, will get us
11	started on this and make the
12	introductions.
13	DR. CARUTHERS: Thank you.
14	First of all, I just want to
15	thank the Virginia Racing Commission
16	for funding StrideSAFE. I think it's a
17	fantastic opportunity to help save some
18	horses and prevent catastrophic
19	injuries.
20	Secondly, I'd like to say the
21	trainers have been very receptive to
22	StrideSAFE. I've been going from barn
23	to barn and handing out cards and
24	telling trainers how to sign up for
25	their reports. And they're very

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 curious and interested. And I think 3 Greg has received quite a few signups at this point. So I'm excited about 4 5 that. And thirdly, I'd like to thank 6 7 Greg for all of his hard work for 8 implementing this and talking to all 9 the trainers because they get on the 10 phone with him for hours at a time 11 asking questions. 12 So now Greg can take --13 MR. PACHMAN: Hi, everyone. 14 behalf of StrideSAFE, I just want to 15 say thanks for having me here and 16 giving me a chance to speak to you. I've had the opportunity to speak 17 to a lot of viewers, be confronted by a 18 19 lot of viewers. So I'm going to try to 20 keep this short. I'm going to treat it 2.1 more like an update of what we are 22 doing with StrideSAFE here at Colonial. 23 However, give a quick review of 24 the sensor and a couple of other items 25 and try to gain some time for questions

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 at the end. But, I'm going to try to make it fast. 3 For those that don't know, this 4 5 is a sensor. It's about the size of a medium size iPhone. It measures 6 acceleration and actually, 9 -- it 7 measures 9 accesses of information. 8 degrees of acceleration. We use three 9 10 of them. Forward, backward, 11 longitudinal in veterinary terms or 12 surge in engineering terms. Up down, 13 dorsiventral, veterinarian terms. 14 heath in engineering terms. And left, 15 right, mediolateral in veterinary 16 terms, and sway in veterinarian terms. So those are the three degrees of 17 freedom that we -- that we use 18 currently in the algorithm. 19 We also 20 measure pitch, roll, and yaw like an 2.1 airplane does. Those all act around 22 the center of gravity of any vehicle. 23 Currently, our electrical engineers and 24 the sort of math people are -- are 25 minding that information.

PROCEEDINGS

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We also have three measurements of heading for the -- for the units that we are using. So we're measuring 9 degrees of -- or 9 acts as a measurement every time.

We take 800 samples per second.

So we generate 2,400 samples per second if you include all three axises.

That's how much data -- that's how many data samples, basically, we take in a second.

And that's necessary because we have a quadruped that's running. If you go to a -- an NBA game or an NFL game, you see an athlete like that and they tend to run at about 30 samples per second because they have some advantages. They only have two legs. And they can talk to them after the event and see what was going on with them.

So with a horse, a quadruped, you have to have a lot of measurements in order to decipher what's going on with

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 the strides. It's a very intricate So when you're looking at 3 sensors in general, you need to make 4 sure that the sensor was designed for 5 equine purposes and not necessarily a 6 7 repurposed sensor from another --8 another area. And this is, obviously, an important design sensor. 9 It's a 10 little longer than I want to go. 11 But it fits in the saddle cloth. 12 I -- I invite anyone in the commission 13 or anyone interested. Kaleel is 14 running the system here at Colonial. 15 If you go into the jockey's room, go in 16 the entrance, you make a right, go past the purpose sales office, we are right 17 there in the next office. Feel free to 18 19 stop by. 20 Kaleel is a great guy and he'll 2.1 be glad to show you how they download, 22 how they upload, how he puts them in the saddle cloth, and how the whole 23 24 system runs if you actually want to go 25 and take a look at it.

PROCEEDINGS

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So why does it exist? I'm really fast. Let me go through this. Equine Analysis is a StrideMASTER.

StrideMASTER is an Australian company.

A lot like Trakus or G-max. They were operating for 11 years, you know, in Australia which is a man -- gentleman named David Hawke, Dr. David Lambert.

Equine Analysis has been around for 40 years in Lexington and probably best known for hard standing in sales but also has done genetic testing, wind testing, and all other kind of things.

They both met in 2019 right about the time that the -- the incidents happened in St. Anita. Dr. Lambert had done a ton of work on gate analyses but he didn't have a sensor that was accurate enough to get what he needed.

It turns out he runs into David
Hawke who does have a sensor that's
accurate enough and who was smart
enough to -- 11 years earlier, turned
the sensor on completely and database

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 and everything that happened in Tasmania from 2010 to 2019 which gave 3 us 30,000 runs to mine right on day one 4 5 of the company. So the company is a technology 6 7 startup. We run it that way. But the 8 two companies behind it are -- are 9 experienced equine companies and they 10 have been around for years. So that's 11 how we came to exist. 12 Like I said, we had a strong 13 initial database. And, fortunately, 14 Dr. -- David Hawke had put the sensor 15 in an area on the saddle cloth that is basically on the lumbar spine of the 16 horse which is by complete luck, the 17 18 perfect place to put it if you're trying to measure the horses on all 19 20 four legs. 2.1 You can almost think of the spine 22 as being a drive shaft of a horse and 23 the engine is in the rear. It is 24 driving from the rear. So by putting 25 the sensor right there on the -- on the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 lumbar spine, we get a good reading through all the limbs about what the 3 horse is doing. 4 5 Now, obviously, we don't have sensors on the hoofs. So any force 6 7 that happens when a -- when a horse's 8 hoof hits the ground, it goes through 9 its -- through its leg, part of its 10 scapula, through the spine, and it's 11 all measured there on the -- on the 12 lumbar spine. 13 How is that done? Lots and lots 14 of math. We have a whole staff of --15 of electrical engineers and 16 mathematicians and programmers who -who decipher the -- the signals. 17 Unfortunately, this is no different 18 than -- well, a couple of our guys who 19 20 do space work for NASA -- an -- an 2.1 electronic signal -- a radio signal or 22 this type of signal is similar 23 regardless of where it's generated 24 from. 25 So, for example, I'll give you an

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	example, if you watch the horses gallop
3	by, you're going to see the back of the
4	saddle cloth going like this
5	(indicating) the entire stretch of it.
6	And you have to think to yourself,
7	"These guys are measuring horse motion.
8	How are you dealing with the fact that
9	the whole saddle cloth is flapping?"
10	Well, it flaps at a very precise
11	frequency. So when you talk to the
12	electrical engineer and say, "How are
13	we going to fix it?" That's not a
14	problem, we just turn off that
15	frequency and it goes away.
16	So they analyze this.
17	Fortunately, our mathematicians and
18	and, you know, the whole staff of that
19	varies. But the mathematicians, they
20	can just do signal. They process it
21	like any other kind of signal. And
22	they write software like any other kind
23	of software.
24	So basically, we have an entire
25	set a team of veterinarians and

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 equine motion experts. We have a sensor group, and we have the 3 electrical engineers and mathematicians 4 to do -- integrate everything and turn 5 it into a report. Next slide. 6 7 So the purpose itself -- it's an 8 injury screen. So what we're trying to do is we're trying to identify horses 9 10 that have an increased probability of 11 serious injury by identifying the 12 normal -- the abnormal gait at high 13 speed. I'm going to tell you what 14 abnormal is in a second. 15 So originally, in 2019, remember, we were having issues with horses that 16 were going through enhanced veterinary 17 screens and places like the 18 Greeters Cup, yet still breaking down. 19 20 So clearly, there's a -- a cohort of 2.1 horses that break down without having 22 any of the classic signs of lameness. They don't have inflammation. 23 24 don't have problems flexing. 25 don't have -- they are not limping at

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 the -- at the crop. So there are horses that slip 3 through the veterinary net and still 4 5 have injuries. And a lot of them have pre-existing conditions but they have 6 7 pre-existing conditions with -- in 8 areas that are very very difficult for traditional medicine to find because 9 there isn't any sign of it, there's no 10 inflammation, there's no swelling, 11 12 there's no heat, there's no anything. 13 So that's what we are designed to do. 14 The simple answer of what we are 15 designed to do is we're the only 16 product right now that is designed to measure what's going on with the horse 17 at 40 miles an hour. So every 18 veterinary exam that's out there and 19 20 even when they are in a PET scanner or 2.1 scintigraphy machine, they're all at 1G 22 and they are all sitting there and not 23 moving, or they are jogging down the 24 shedrow. 25 We're the only piece of equipment

1 PROCEEDINGS

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that gives you a representation of what's going on with the horse when it's going full speed. And anybody who knows anything about physics will tell you, "When you're going 40 miles an hour, the forces on the legs are quite a bit different than what you're going to have in a shedrow, for example. So we're giving the vets and the trainers an opportunity to see what's going on at full speed.

Now, we'll be the first to tell you and this has been miss -- misspoken of and I'm fighting this battle all the time. All we can do is provide information to decision-makers. That's it.

There's -- there was a -- when we started in Kentucky a year ago, there was a concern that the people were going to make decisions or that the sensors would make a decision for the veterinarian. We do not believe that can happen. We don't want that to

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happen.

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All we want to do is provide information to the trainers, the vets, the regulatory vets, the racetrack, whoever needs it, so that those humans can make decisions about what should be done. Whether a horse should go on the vet's list or come off the vet's list, or race in this track.

Whatever it is, we are not a part of that decision-making process, we are an information source for those people. It is built on a catastrophic fatal injury model. Meaning that when we built the mathematical model, we focused on bone breaks because those are the hardest to heal from. Those are the most traumatic. Those are the most troubling to the industry.

It does see soft tissue injuries, so when a horse bows a tendon, we're going to see it. But I'll tell you that the soft tissue injuries and things like muscle soreness or

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 suspensory ruptures are very very hard to predict. They don't have a lot of 3 lead up to them. They just tend to 4 5 happen. So although we can see them and I'll show you where we do that with 6 7 Dr. Caruthers after an injury in a 8 race, the model was not actually designed for that. 9 10 It's not a lameness predictor and 11 it can't on its own diagnose lameness. 12 But there are some correlations because 13 we've been in -- on every horse in 14 Kentucky for the past year. We've done 15 16,000 runs in all of the racetracks in 16 Kentucky. And I'm going to show you some slides of what we've learned there 17 18 over the past year. The finish position, the speed 19 figure doesn't matter. So -- I know I 20 2.1 talk to trainers all the time but he 22 ran his best speed figure of his life where he -- he won that race. 23 24 hasn't won in two months. You know,

why are you saying that his gait was

25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 off? It doesn't really have to do with 3 that. We're looking primarily at a 4 5 welfare screen. So it doesn't necessarily have anything to do with 6 7 where the horse finished or anything. 8 It's just what the horse's strides is 9 at. 10 And post-race condition may not 11 matter. If the horse is sore after a 12 race and he's -- he's struggling to --13 to walk around the barn and he gets a 1 14 in our system which is a low risk. 15 Some people question that. But again, 16 if it's a muscle soreness issue, it's not something that we're modeled to --17 18 to measure. So that has to be kept in mind whenever it may be involved. 19 There we go. So this is the 20 2.1 trainer report. It's generated via 22 algorithm after every race. So every race at the Colonial. We've been on 23 24 the horses already so there's a -- one 25 of these in a trainer folder for every

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 horse that has raced at Colonial. a relatively simple report right now. 3 Although it is going to change here 4 5 pretty soon. So we have five categories of 6 7 The lowest is a category 1. 8 There is no such thing as a category 0. A horse can break down with a category 9 10 It's just statistically less likely 11 than a category 5. So you can think of 12 it almost like the hurricane scale, 1 13 being the lowest and 5 being the 14 highest. And as a horse's stride gets 15 away from what's considered optimum, 16 all the algorithm does is score. it gives it a score. 17 So there's no humans. 18 There's no "our opinion" of that horse. 19 That's 20 not even in there. The algorithm is 2.1 four pages long. We've had to build AI 22 systems now to monitor it because it is 23 getting so complicated that we have to 24 have an AI police force in there to 25 make sure that if we make a change to

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 the algorithm, it doesn't go off reservation as they say. 3 So we have no real input what --4 5 you know, other than to change it and -- and research it. This is done 6 7 automatically after every race. 8 is -- like I said, page 1, if you look at the bottom. It's hard to see. 9 the risk categories have increased risk 10 11 associated with it. One thing to remember is 12 13 breakdowns are still very very rare. 14 They're very rare occurrences. So even 15 if a 50 percent increase in the breakdown, if you have something that 16 17 happens .001 times per, you know, percent, to -- even if you multiply 18 that 50, that by 50, doesn't make that 19 20 a frequent occurrence. 2.1 So there's -- anybody who has had 22 medical issues and had to deal with tests and things like that know that 23 24 when there's a low incidence, let's say 25 a certain type of cancer, you can

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 double your risk but really not increase your -- your -- the chances 3 that you personally are going to get 4 5 it. So you run into that same kind of 6 7 thing when you are dealing with any kind of statistics that deal with 8 9 something that happens in a very rare 10 occurrence. So that's page 1. 11 Page 2 is the next one. And this 12 we just give to the trainers because 13 it's interesting and we have it. 14 stride length and frequency for each of 15 the furlongs that the horse runs. 16 First furlong is one and it goes on. We also have a speed figure -- or 17 18 a speed and a miles per hour. you wanted to and you had an assistant 19 20 who is math-inclined, you can do a 2.1 velocity curve with it. You could 22 scrape it and do a velocity curve. We 23 also do averages. 24 This is not a welfare thing, but 25 we collect it and we thought, "Let's

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	just give it to the trainers because
3	stride length and frequency in the last
4	couple of years has gotten more popular
5	as a metric." And so, we just give it
6	to them as part of the report. So
7	every race, the horse has it'll
8	it'll have it'll give them this as
9	well.
10	And also, at every track that
11	we're at, it will all go into one file.
12	So if the horse runs at Ellis Park
13	where we are operating right now, and
14	then comes to Colonial, that last draft
15	that you saw will include Ellis Park's
16	race and Colonial's race. If we have a
17	sensor on the horse, it'll show up in
18	the training report wherever that is.
19	Yes.
20	Real quick on a single stride
21	one more time
22	COMMISSIONER BRAND: While that's
23	coming up, can I ask you a question?
24	MR. PACHMAN: Sure.
25	COMMISSIONER BRAND: So what

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	percentage of horses racing here at
3	Colonial wear that device?
4	MR. PACHMAN: All of them.
5	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Is it
6	voluntary or is it mandatory?
7	MR. PACHMAN: I assume it's
8	mandatory. They they all have it
9	on.
10	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Who pays for
11	it?
12	MR. PACHMAN: You do. Okay.
13	Yes. I believe. Was that was there
14	anything else you'd like to
15	COMMISSIONER BRAND: I have
16	another question but I'll wait.
17	MR. PACHMAN: Okay. Sounds good.
18	So this is a single stride. I'm
19	going to jump over to this side to try
20	and help you. And just to give you a
21	quick idea, this is almost normally,
22	like, an hour to an hour-and-15-minute
23	brief. So I'm not going to not
24	going into this.
25	But this isn't what we considered

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 an optimal stride. So this is generated by, generally, 700 to 1,000 3 Grade 1 winning horses who were sound 4 in -- in all estimation. And you can 5 see from an engineering standpoint, 6 7 there's two axises here. This is G 8 forces. OG being at the center. 9 Positive and negative don't necessarily 10 mean negative G like in an airplane. 11 It means, usually, left or right or up 12 So up will be a -- a G and or down. 13 then down will be the corresponding 14 negative to the positive G. 15 So this stride graph is measured -- is basically broken into 16 three parts. The first third -- or, 17 18 actually, with this horse, is the first 40 percent is the hind limb stance. 19 20 the -- the graph starts with the 2.1 hind -- first hind limb touching the 22 ground. 23 So what you see is the first 24 40 percent is the two hind limbs 25 touching the ground and at this second

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 40 percent is when the front limbs touch the ground. Now, obviously, 3 which one is first depends at what type 4 5 of horse gallop the horse is in, whether it is rotary or normal, and 6 7 which lead the horse is in. So it's hind limbs, front limbs, and then from 8 about 80 percent onto the end of the 9 10 graph is airborne. 11 One of the more surprising things 12 is how much a horse rotates its pelvis and trunk when it's in the air. 13 14 horses naturally and especially -- and 15 that's something we look at to sense discomfort in the horse. 16 They will -horses that are moving their pelvis 17 quite a bit in mid-flight are trying to 18 adjust their position so that when 19 their hind limbs hit the ground, 20 2.1 they're probably in the most 22 comfortable place for them to hit the 23 ground. 24 So that's a sign that something 25 might be bothering the horse in the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 hind end because the ones, you know, that struggle, we've seen a lot more 3 pelvic motion there, in mid-air. 4 5 again, all this stuff is happening in milliseconds which is why we have to 6 7 take 800 samples per second to be able 8 to capture it. 9 Next slide. The very next. 10 There you go. B. So what we've done 11 here is a, basically, a sound \$10,000 12 claimer. So we've gone from a Grade 1 13 horse to a \$10,000 dollar claimer but 14 you'll notice the graph is relatively 15 similar. And from an engineering standpoint, what I like to see is a 16 person who has a pretty extensive 17 18 engineering background, is I love low 19 G, right? 20 So if you design any kind of 2.1 vehicle at all. Bicycle, car, any --22 any vehicle that's in motion and you 23 want it to stay together, one of the 24 things you want to do is -- is make 25 sure it has low G. Because the higher

PROCEEDINGS the G-force is on it, the more chance that you have to damage it. Whether it a horse or anything else.

2.1

So ideally, a horse's stride is very low G. Obviously, when the front legs hit the ground, the horse pitches forward and hits the ground, there's going to be G-force generated. You can't avoid that. But ideally, we want to see a low G in a -- in a well-timed stride.

If you'll go to slide C, this is what we consider -- go forward. Oh, yes. There we go. All right. So this is a horse that broke down in the briefs after we recorded it on this race.

If you want to think of this as the worst-case scenario, that's probably fair. So what the algorithm does, if you consider this the best case scenario and this the worst case scenario, the algorithm will score in between there. And that's how we do

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	it.
3	It's based on standard
4	deviations. So the a horse that
5	gets a category is within two standard
6	deviations of the norm. So it's not
7	like we expect every horse to run like
8	this because they all have different
9	weights and different sizes and
10	different limb lengths. And there's a
11	ton of reasons that there's going to be
12	differences in stride variations with
13	all horses because they're individuals.
14	So what we've done is we built a
15	model that the first two standard
16	deviations absorbs the differences from
17	a tall horse, to a short horse, to a
18	heavy horse, to a light horse. Once
19	they get above two standard deviations
20	from optimum, which anybody who is
21	familiar with statistics knows, two
22	standard deviations is quite a bit.
23	Now, we're a skewed we're
24	not we're not a normal distribution.
25	We are a skewed distribution. So two

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 standard deviations for us is about 70 percent whereas in a normal 3 distribution, you can cover about 4 5 96 percent. But that's a lot. And so, after that, every 6 7 standard deviation you get away, that's 8 when your category score goes up. horse that gets a 2 is within three 9 standard deviations. A horse gets a 3 10 11 is within a four standard deviations. When a horse gets up to a 5, his 12 13 stride is five standard deviations away 14 from what we consider optimum. And so, 15 that's pretty far. And that usually 16 indicates something is not right. Some horses -- when you have 17 18 10,000 horses, you're going to have a couple of horses, a few horses that --19 20 that will generate a 5 because their 2.1 stride is just a 5. And they survive 22 and they actually do well with it. those horses are outliers. We've got 23 about 100,000 runs in the system now. 24 25 And so, we can tell, you know, what the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	norm is nationwide.
3	We've been at 11 different
4	tracks, Relato, Saratoga, Belmont,
5	Aqueduct, here, all the all the
6	Kentucky Track fairgrounds, Emerald
7	Downs, Wyoming Downs. So we have a
8	a breadth of tracks, turf and dirt.
9	And we also have a large deviation from
10	horses, Grade 1 at Saratoga to \$3,000
11	claimers at Emerald Downs. So we've
12	seen a lot and so we're able to make
13	judgments I think pretty well on that.
14	CHAIR NIXON: Maybe one
15	second. Have you been able to get any
16	data this early in the meet?
17	MR. PACHMAN: Yes. Let's
18	let's talk again, small sample side.
19	We have only been here a couple of
20	weeks, right?
21	CHAIR NIXON: That's okay.
22	MR. PACHMAN: So let's talk about
23	that. I think that's coming up next.
24	Challenges real quick. Yes.
25	Speed, when they go faster, the forces

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 are higher and that's a challenge. Mobility. Some horses have better 3 strides than others, naturally. So we 4 5 have to allow for that. The conformation we talked about. 6 One thing we tried to do was -- was 7 8 model all the potential fracture sites. So let's say, for example, we have 9 decided to just model -- because 10 11 fetlocks were 50 percent or so of the fractures, we could have just done a 12 13 fetlock model that ignored scapula fractures and pelvic fractures. But we 14 15 decided to try and incorporate all of 16 them. Now, if you go to a room full of 17 18 horsemen and say, "How many of you guys have had a pelvic fracture in a race?" 19 20 You know, I've been in rooms with 50 2.1 guys and no one has raised their hands. 22 So -- things like a pelvic fracture are 23 really really hard to model because 24 they just don't happen very often. 25 The biggest thing, again, putting

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 my engineering hat on. Variations of raw materials. I've got a big 3 background in aviation. Obviously, 4 5 every airplane that Boeing makes comes out of a factory, it's exactly the 6 7 Same material, same G-force, you 8 know, same rivets, same carbon fiber. It's all standardized. There's 9 10 engineering diagrams and everything. 11 And so, when you take an airplane and put it in the sky and you put six Gs on 12 13 it, you'll know exactly how much that 14 wing is going to bend and you know to 15 the 0.1G whether that is excessive or 16 not. However, with horses, there's 17 18 just a huge variation as to what they I mean, we all -- a lot of 19 can take. people in this room probably have bred 20 2.1 horses and raced horses, I would 22 imagine. They know that 30 percent of 23 a full crop never makes it to the 24 races. Primarily for musculoskeletal 25 reasons.

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 Another 10 or 15 percent have a racing career that's about three races. 3 So these horses have a tremendous 4 5 variation as to what they can take before they break. And, again, a lot 6 7 of people try and judge us on "Did you find the horse that broke?" 8 9 Well, we can show you the forces that if you look at 100,000 horses in 10 11 our database, are forces to be concerned about. Whether the horse 12 actually breaks is down to whether that 13 14 individual horse can handle the forces 15 that -- that were introduced on it. Engineer 101 is, things break 16 because the forces involved exceeded 17 design load of the -- of the object. 18 Obviously, with a manufactured object, 19 20 the design load is known. With a 2.1 biological object, like a horse, the 22 design load is -- is unknown and it's 23 tremendously variant. Go to the next 24 one.

This

So this is our herd health.

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2.1

is actually a Kentucky slide. But what we do as part of our work with Kentucky is we give them slides every week that talks about -- basically, since we know the categories that we've given, we -- we monitor all of the categories and we give them an -- an indication of their herd health. There's a number of things that you can do with this.

And I think we'll go into the next slide. We'll go into the -- yeah. Okay. This is you. So it's been a couple of -- a couple of weeks now. A small sample size, please take that into account. We would not say this is statistically significant yet, but it's interesting.

So what we have here is an amalgamation since we don't want to release other track's data. We basically have some sort of an average that we generate so that tracks can compare themselves to what other tracks are doing nationwide.

2.1

So, obviously, this is for dirt.

You guys don't run on the dirt quite a bit. So you can see, like, next to, maybe the Kentucky tracks, you have fewer runs per day. But on the CAT 1 scale, you're slightly lower than the average. So 50 -- 62.7 CAT 1s are about 53.9. CAT 2 dirt, slightly up. CAT 3 dirt -- so each category is divided by weeks.

So this is week 1 and week 2 of your meet. CAT 5 dirt, week 1 you had none. Okay. That's the -- the -- the most serious one, but that's backed up by maybe slightly more CAT 2s. Okay? And we monitor three to five or three to six -- six is an internal thing.

You have no CAT 6s which is good. That's our next category that we haven't actually introduced to the public yet. We're monitoring it. And this is 3 to 6. You had a drop and then a gain. But still, you're underneath what's considered the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	average.
3	Now, you can say, you know,
4	what why is that? And Dr. Caruthers
5	and I had a discussion the other day
6	about that. What why is that?
7	And you can go to the next slide.
8	This is turf. Okay. So you're pretty
9	much average on CAT 1s. You're
10	slightly high on CAT 2s. You went down
11	at the second week. Slightly high on
12	CAT 2s, went down the second week in
13	CAT 3s. And then CAT 4s and 5s, you
14	were below. Okay. So why is why
15	So, again, as the worst the
16	higher categories get up, the more away
17	from a from a standard that the
18	stride gets. So if you want to think
19	of it as a measure of stride quality,
20	that's probably a good way to think of
21	it.
22	What are the things that generate
23	a lower or a higher? There's a number
24	of things that could do it. One is
25	aggressive vetting is one of them. If

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 you're scratching a lot of -- if you're -- if your regulatory vets are 3 aggressive. Obviously, that is going 4 5 to do a lot to keep your numbers down. If the weather is friendly. 6 That's 7 going to help. 8 Santa Anita took a pretty extreme position last year where basically, if 9 it rained hard, they canceled. 10 11 maybe for a numbers of reasons, that 12 day had not been a great decision from 13 a business perspective. But from a safety perspective, it helped their 14 15 numbers. You have horses that maybe 16 are pointed towards this meet, so they have more rest coming into this. 17 There's just a number of safety 18 reasons why -- and you can't point at 19 the track. You can't point at one 20 2.1 thing and say, "Oh, that's an 22 indication that there's something wrong with this." Because it's usually a 23 24 combination of issues that lead to a

reduction or an increase.

25

2.1

We have seen tracks where -where -- when you seal the track, the
risk spikes goes up pretty
aggressively. We've seen tracks where
if they aren't maintained properly in
the winter and you get a freeze and a
lot of snow, the risk goes up.

So there's a lot of things that
we -- and we've had tracks -- again, I
don't want to release other track's
information. We've gotten calls from
tracks to say, "What are you seeing on
the turf course? Are you seeing
anything that is concerning you?"

And we look at the stats and go,
"Yeah, we are. It's starting to spike
the last four days." And they were
seeing stuff on the ground they didn't
like so they made adjustments to the
racing schedule based on that.

So, again, our data did not make that decision but it backed up what they were seeing on the -- what they were seeing with their own eyes. And

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 that's what we're really here for, to back up the decision-makers, to give 3 them more information so that they can 4 5 make good decisions. But we're not a decision-maker. 6 Next. 7 The other thing we do, 8 Dr. Caruthers is familiar with this. Is we do forensic analysis on any horse 9 which gets manned off. So if a horse 10 11 gets manned off and it's a -- for a 12 reason other than he was tired, we will 13 go through and we will analyze every 14 single stride that the horse took. 15 So in effect, it's a plane crash 16 investigation if a horse gets manned off. So one of the -- some of the 17 slides we use is a 10-stride graph. 18 that is the first 10 strides that the 19 horse took out of the gate. 20 2.1 In Kentucky, we might have seven 22 or eight races with that horse. So we can take the last race that it had and 23 24 overlay it against this race and we can 25 say if anything has changed between the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 two races. Has the horse's stride changed? 3 Assuming they're on the same 4 5 track and it's a fast track and they're at the same racetrack. One thing we 6 7 can analyze, is the horse having trouble from the minute he left the 8 gate? Meaning, something probably 9 10 happened before the race. Axis per second graphs. It's the 11 12 same three axises but it's cut up, 13 chopped up by seconds. And you can see 14 this horse broke down at 91 seconds. 15 You can see that this is a relatively 16 standard graph up to this point right here. You can see this massive change 17 18 and there was an injury that took place there. 19 20 So we can identify, usually 2.1 within the second, what happened. 22 lot of the times, that's misleading. There's horses that break down at 23 24 eighth of a mile from the point they 25 normally stop. But those are some of

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 the graphs and Dr. Caruthers can speak to what that means to her as a vet. 3 But we do basically -- our goal 4 is to have it out by the next morning. 5 So if a horse gets manned off in the 6 7 afternoon, by the next morning, our 8 goal is for her to have a complete 9 report as to what happened to that 10 horse, including its history. 11 Next, this is Phil Schoenthal, 12 one of the trainers. I've known Phil 13 for a long time. He is the guy who 14 calls me after every race and has a --15 that has a sensor on it, regardless of how the horse does, and we have a long 16 conversation about what the sensor is 17 telling him. 18 So thanks, Phil, I'm sure you 19 wouldn't mind that. 20 2.1 Determined Kingdom. This is the 22 race that he won the stake at last week. He was the one in that race. 23 So 24 the vets get a report. His risk 25 category history. If he had run four

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 times in Kentucky, his fourth Kentucky races would be here overlaid. 3 he runs back here, the next time, it 4 5 will have that race, too. These are the actual stride 6 7 graphs. Dorsoventral, up, down. 8 in the straights and the turns and the difference. So we have all three 9 10 axises here. And we measure them both in the turns and in the straights. 11 12 Because as I said earlier, horses that 13 are running in a straight line have a 14 lot of freedom to move their body 15 around in flight. They have a lot of 16 freedom to move their body around in general. 17 18 Once a horse gets into a turn and he starts fighting centrifugal force, 19 he -- he doesn't -- he doesn't have 20 2.1 that freedom anymore because if he 22 actually lets his body go, he's going 23 to get pushed out to the outside of the 24 turn. 25 So a horse, much like a

2.1

motorcycle, has to lock itself down in order to drag itself around the corner and it locks its body down and doesn't give itself as much freedom to adjust. So a lot of times, we might see a horse change late going to the turns and it's going to look completely different from a stride analysis standpoint because what he was doing to alleviate his discomfort in the straight, he can no longer do that on the turn.

So he is trapped, in effect. And that's why we always sample on the turn to get leads, both right and left leads. And also to see if he is hiding something in the straight. So that's why you see a turn and a straight, turn and a straight, and then a difference there. Next.

So here's the retrospective analysis. This is from Kentucky last year. 400 horses. So what this is, is the percentage of horses that were off training and racing for more than 30 or

2.1

60 days within three months of a flag race. So this is every horse that got -- well, in this case, 400 horses because it was pile study.

But for every horse in the study that got a green flag, 9 percent of them were off for 30 days and about 4 percent were off for 60 days within three months. An Amber flag, which in this case is a 2, category 2, about 15 percent were off for 30 days and about 12 were off. And if you got a red flag, 58 percent were off for 30 days within three months and almost 30 percent were off for 60 days within three months.

So, again, we're not a lameness detector but what we're finding is that there's a pretty strong correlation between horses that get high category races and they're taking -- having to take a break from training within two months or three months. An extended break.

2.1

Now, again, we can't track every horse so we are doing things with the sample size to avoid -- you know, horses go for their winter break because they're a turf horse, it's obviously going to throw those numbers off. So we're doing everything we can to eliminate -- you know, to eliminate some of the other variables that could happen that could lead to this kind of number. But you can see a definite correlation between a red flag and a horse that is going to need a break here in a couple of months. Next slide.

Similar thing. This is a two-year-old slide. This is all the 2-year-olds that we had in the database between 2021 and 2023. So -- and what this is showing is how many horses were retired, because it was 2023, how many horses were retired off of a certain flag.

So the changes -- if we set the

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 number of horses that were retired after getting a green flag. The last 3 race they got was a green flag and won, 4 5 they were four times as likely to retire off of a red flag. Two and a 6 7 half times off a category 5. Category 5 is somewhere in between these. 8 it's about three times of the average 9 10 number as likely to retire off a red 11 flag and never race again as they were 12 off the green flag. 13 So what we're seeing, again, not 14 built, not modeled to -- to try and 15 predict lameness issues. But what's 16 happening in Kentucky is, we've been there a long time. So now they're like 17 18 "Hey, that was great. Now can you do this? Now can you do this?" 19 20 And so, now we're talking about 2.1 horses that are barely lying and going 22 on the vet's list. And, you know, 23 we're trying to analyze. They burrowed 24 down that far. So that's what we are

looking at. So, again, we're seeing a

25

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	pretty strong correlation between
3	horses that get red flags and horses
4	that have to retire.
5	Now, again, this are overall
6	number is small. Not many horses
7	retire right away. But it's pretty
8	clear from the difference between the
9	first bar and the last bar that there's
10	quite a difference in between them.
11	Next.
12	Yeah. Obviously, you know, like
13	Dr. Caruthers said, trainers can call
14	me as much as they want. There are
15	trainers in Kentucky that say, "Just
16	give me the number. I'll work on it.
17	Like that?"
18	But I'm on the overnight. My
19	phone number is very easy to find. You
20	know, we are here for the trainers and
21	for the vets and for the Racing
22	Commission. Anybody can call me at any
23	time if they need a horse analyzed.
24	Even if they got a 2 and they want to
25	know why, we can do that.

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 So all they have to do is give me a call, send me an e-mail and we will 3 do -- we will give them a full report. 4 5 Now, I will say that we had a meeting with Churchill this week and we're 6 7 probably, in the near future, going to 8 go from the trainer report you saw with the category numbers to an actual 9 10 textual report where we are just going 11 to say, "This is what the stride graph 12 is saying." 13 Because I found when I talked to 14 trainers, the number doesn't really 15 matter. They want to know what are we seeing and we, you know, we dig into it 16 and we work together to try and share 17 18 information and give them something they don't know and then they tell me 19 stuff that I don't know. 20 That's how it 2.1 works. So anybody can reach me any

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Next.

That's it.

I have

Any questions there?

COMMISSIONER SIEGEL:

I think that's it.

22

23

24

25

time.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	several questions.
3	MR. PACHMAN: Yes, go ahead.
4	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: At least
5	for me, I've been ignorant of
6	StrideSAFE. But this is valuable
7	information. No question about it.
8	But you have to use it.
9	MR. PACHMAN: Right.
10	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Utilize it.
11	MR. PACHMAN: Correct.
12	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: And to
13	veterinarians and in particular, it's
14	going to be great information for her
15	here at Colonial.
16	But what percentage of the
17	trainers out there buy into it?
18	And if so, what can they do to
19	implement change to avoid some of the
20	pitfalls?
21	MR. PACHMAN: What can the
22	trainers do or what can the
23	organization
24	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Yes.
25	MR. PACHMAN: Well, I mean, you

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 know, we have about 45 to 47 percent of the trainers in Kentucky are connected. 3 It's somewhere around -- it's hard to 4 say with Dropbox. And I don't want to 5 get too much in the weeds here. 6 7 when we started last summer, they said, 8 "You have two weeks to build a system that can get these reports to the 9 10 trainers and have no security issues 11 and it's private and it's" -- you know, and as a guy who developed software for 12 13 a living I'm, like, "Okay." 14 So the way we did that is we 15 piggybacked that Dropbox in security. 16 Basically, the system generates a 17 report, it goes to a private Dropbox 18 folder. The trainer calls me, he gets an initial link to that folder, and 19 20 then after every race, that folder gets 2.1 updated and he -- he sees it. 22 So we know -- I think somewhere -- and I don't know the 23 24 recent numbers. Around 50 percent of 25 the trainers are connected to their

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 folders. Right now, I can't say how much they're using the information. 3 One of the things -- again, we 4 5 had a meeting with Churchill, it was about trainer engagement. So we think 6 7 that going to a textual report might 8 generate more engagement that way. 9 Initially, we were -- and again, the 10 goal post -- not making excuses for 11 StrideSAFE. 12 But the goalposts have moved. 13 They tend to move quite a bit with us. 14 They want something, like, when you are 15 in the throes of a crisis like last 16 summer in Saratoga or at Churchill, what they want is completely different 17 18 from eight months later when things have calmed down and they are not 19 20 having -- they are having safe meets 2.1 and everything is going better. 22 So they're constantly changing 23 about what they want from us. 24 COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Do most 25 trainers buy into it even though they

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	may not be using it? Do they believe
3	in it? Because, I mean, it's pretty
4	scientific.
5	MR. PACHMAN: Right.
6	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Maybe a lot
7	of trainers, like me, don't really
8	understand it or care to.
9	MR. PACHMAN: Right.
10	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: So they can
11	ignore it or they can get on board but
12	it's up to you guys, I guess, to train
13	these people
14	MR. PACHMAN: Right.
15	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: to
16	understand it and utilize it and to
17	make differences that can save a horse.
18	MR. PACHMAN: Right. And we've
19	given numerous briefings. We gave a
20	briefing to the HBPA on day one when we
21	were here a few weeks ago. And we do
22	our best to get out there. But, you
23	know, again, we can't force people to
24	use it.
25	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Right.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MR. PACHMAN: And the
3	racetracks haven't you now,
4	Churchill has been great. In some
5	ways, they introduced it and they have
6	not used it as a regulatory tool. You
7	know, they have not used it as part of
8	their decision-making.
9	And so, that's been you know,
10	the trainers, initially, last summer,
11	when we started, were scared. You
12	know, they were, "Who is going to get
13	this information?" And we've been
14	there a year and you have there
15	hasn't been any problems. Right?
16	But, again, I can't make people
17	do that. There's things that, you
18	know, some trainers are not
19	technologically interested. You know,
20	they've been doing this for 40 years.
21	They don't need us. "I know when a
22	horse is sore. I know when a horse is
23	lame." And, you know, I can't argue
24	with that.
25	You know, all I can do and in

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	the best case, like, with a guy like
3	Phil Schoenthal, you know, you almost
4	act as a little bit of an assistant
5	trainer to. You tell him, "Hey, this
6	is what the thing is seeing."
7	Now, I will tell you this, the
8	sensor has been tested in terms of what
9	it's seeing is reality. Whether the
10	trainer wants to hear it or not, that's
11	another question. Or if the trainer
12	wants to accept it.
13	What I'm saying is, if we see an
14	AG front limb impact on a horse, it's
15	an AG front limb impact. The trainer
16	wants to ignore that? That's fine.
17	We you know, we can't control
18	we're not a regulatory organization.
19	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: But you
20	make the trainer aware.
21	MR. PACHMAN: Yes, we do. With
22	the I mean, a guy gets a 5, he my
23	phone number, if you go back to that,
24	is on there.
25	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: He has to

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	read it to see the 5.
3	MR. PACHMAN: Yes, he does.
4	MS. EASTER: Hey, can I interrupt
5	a minute just on that point? I have a
6	list of the 5s and the 4s that I made
7	and I've been calling the trainers and
8	asking them, "Are you familiar with
9	StrideSAFE?
10	We have a horse that just raced
11	last Friday come back with a score of
12	5. If you want your vet to take a look
13	at this horse and sign up for
14	StrideSAFE reports, you can call Greg.
15	He has more information." So I'm
16	calling them directly.
17	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Good.
18	MR. PACHMAN: Yes. And like I
19	said, we're trying to spread the
20	information in order to sign up with
21	everybody that we possibly can.
22	Dr. Caruthers has given out cards
23	during the morning exams. I'm on the
24	overnight every night and I came to the
25	presentation on day 1. You know, the

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	website, there's a one-button click to
3	try and get connected. We're trying to
4	make it as simple as possible for the
5	trainers that are interested.
6	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you, Greg.
7	Are there any other commissioner
8	comments or questions? I think you had
9	one more.
10	COMMISSIONER BRAND: I just have
11	one more question. Late last year, I
12	read an article I don't know if it
13	was an opinion piece or don't remember
14	a lot about it but except they were
15	questioning the impact or the effects
16	of the device itself, the frequency
17	negatively impacting the horse.
18	And I don't know a lot about it.
19	I think there's great information but I
20	kind of think of it, like, are horses
21	more sensitive to those just like
22	straight voltage with cattle and
23	horses, were they more sensitive than
24	humans?
25	Is there any research done on

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 that? MR. PACHMAN: I know the article 3 you're talking about. There was 4 another article that came out later 5 that a scientist wrote that debunked 6 7 And plus, the article that you 8 read was completely false because it assumed that we have transmitters and 9 we do not have transmitters. 10 11 not connect to Bluetooth. It does not 12 connect to cell towers. 13 Now, we have a model that could. But these do not connect to anything. 14 15 The way that the information is 16 transferred to us is via a physical connection when the -- when the sensor 17 is taken out of the saddle towel, it's 18 plugged into a case that has a serial 19 20 port connector and the information is 2.1 downloaded directly from the sensor 22 into the laptop. So there's no communication --23 the article you're talking about was 24 25 saying that potentially cell tower --

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	like the same thing where people
3	holding cell phones to their heads can
4	cause brain damage and things like
5	that. There's no there's no
6	communication going from the sensor to
7	anything.
8	So that was the mistake that they
9	made when they wrote their article. He
10	assumed there was Bluetooth. They
11	assumed there was cell towers. There
12	is none of that in the system. So it's
13	completely false.
14	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Thank you.
15	CHAIR NIXON: Any other questions
16	or comments?
17	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Yes.
18	Is this only done on racing?
19	It's not the analysis is not
20	being on horses galloping in the
21	morning?
22	MR. PACHMAN: Yeah. The AAP is
23	doing a study right now. They asked
24	for they had an RFP and we're
25	participating in that and they're

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 making a decision here pretty soon about how they want to run the program. 3 I will say that because of the 4 5 nature of the racing, you have a horse that comes in, you have a horse 6 7 identifier that confirms that this is the correct horse, you have all of the 8 9 saddle towels that run through the 10 jockey's room and through the ballots. 11 It's easy for Kaleel to manage 90 12 horses a day. When you go out the 13 backstretch in the morning to try and 14 get a sensor on a horse, it's extremely 15 time-consuming. It's extremely labor-intensive. 16 There's a ton of mistakes that can be made. You put a 17 saddle towel out for a horse and the 18 wrong exercise rider grabs it and puts 19 it on a different horse. 20 2.1 Logistically, it's very very 22 difficult and expensive to try and do this in a breezing scenario. We have 23 24 always been supportive of that. 25 industry hasn't said how they want to

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	do it. We've thrown out a couple of
3	ideas on how we could do it for things
4	like in Kentucky for horses coming off
5	the vet's list.
6	We can do things like that where
7	we are doing three or four. But to
8	have mass breezing analysis going on,
9	it's incredibly labor intensive and
10	that's what's stopping it right now.
11	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Thank
12	you.
13	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you very
14	much.
15	Oh, I am sorry, Jeff. I didn't
16	see you.
17	MR. TANNER: So yes, so thank
18	you, Commissioners. I just want to say
19	on behalf of the VEA to thank the
20	commission for paying for this study.
21	So I think it's really important
22	and I know I've learned a lot. And I
23	think a study like this puts, you know,
24	Colonial, you know, at the forefront of
25	the leadership position of the tracks

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	doing this sort of work.
3	So thank you to the commission
4	for enabling this study to take place
5	this summer. So thank you.
6	CHAIR NIXON: You're welcome.
7	Thank you, Greg.
8	Next on the agenda is the
9	overview of the Spectrum Gaming Group.
10	And I believe Commissioner Brand is
11	going to give us an overview.
12	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Yes. Thank
13	you.
14	So I think on July, we recently
15	have hired the Spectrum Gaming Group to
16	help us with addressing some
17	operational issues. To review some of
18	our recent audits and reviews that we
19	had and give us recommendations on how
20	to change things operationally, how to
21	be maybe more efficient, address some
22	of those concerns that were brought up
23	in those reviews.
24	And the Gaming Group, I don't
25	know how many people were familiar with

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 them, but they are specialists in the 3 economics, regulation, and policy of legalized gambling worldwide. 4 5 So they have a pretty good experience, pretty good across the 6 7 board. And also -- so Stephanie and I 8 are working -- or Commissioner Nixon 9 and I are working with the -- very 10 closely with the secretary of 11 agriculture and his team to make sure 12 that we follow up on everything and 13 then they will be working with 14 communicating with commissioners and 15 the commission. 16 So we'll keep you all abreast, but we did want you to know and it's 17 18 probably going to be a 10 to 12-week. 19 We met with them on the 15th of July and turned over a lot of the 20 2.1 information we had on some of these 22 previous reviews and hope to have some 23 feedback very soon on that. 24 Any questions on that? Thank 25 you.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you,
3	Commissioner Brand.
4	Next on the agenda is the update
5	on the executive search.
6	I would just like to say that
7	we've had very positive applicants.
8	We've had close to 20.
9	MR. HETTEL: 13.
10	CHAIR NIXON: 13 that have come
11	in all across the country. And pretty
12	much everyone is very excited about
13	what's going on in Virginia.
14	Hopefully, we'll have an
15	update I don't have a date any time
16	soon but, hopefully, within the next
17	couple of weeks, we'll be able to make
18	an announcement of our new executive
19	position.
20	Any other commissioner's
21	comments?
22	COMMISSIONER BRAND: I have one.
23	It's a follow-up from our last
24	meeting. The May 22nd meeting.
25	Larry Smith talked to us about the shoe

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	rule and I have questions about where
3	we stand on that, what the decision
4	was, and perhaps request an update that
5	the horsemen and Colonial Churchill
6	will get together on what that would be
7	and and report back to us in our
8	next meeting.
9	I believe that's September?
10	CHAIR NIXON: Yes.
11	September 12th, yes.
12	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Glen, are
13	you able to do that?
14	MR. BERMAN: Sure.
15	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Thank you.
16	CHAIR NIXON: Next on our agenda
17	is oh, I'm sorry.
18	Did any other commissioners have
19	comments?
20	I'm so sorry, Stuart.
21	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: That's
22	okay.
23	This particular meeting didn't
24	have a lot of issues for us to
25	undertake in terms of us passing any

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	applications or whatnot. But I think
3	it's been a very informative meeting.
4	We have learned a lot across the board.
5	There's several issues as well. It's
6	always very helpful.
7	Again, thanks to the VEA for
8	their commitment in advertising the
9	support they're getting from Churchill.
10	Everybody seems to be dancing to the
11	same music which I think is a big plus
12	for Virginia.
13	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
14	Gordon-Moore, any comments?
15	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: It
16	looks like we have had a few stumbling
17	blocks but everybody is getting
18	together and working it out. So it
19	looks very positive for the rest of the
20	meet going forward.
21	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
22	Tanner? No. Okay.
23	Next on the agenda is the closed
24	session which we will go into.
25	I have a motion to go into closed

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	session. I move that we convene and
3	close the meeting in accordance with
4	the Virginia Freedom of Information
5	Act.
6	The purpose of this meeting is to
7	discuss prospective candidates for
8	employment. The subject of this
9	meeting is to discuss candidates for
10	the position of executive secretary.
11	The applicable exemption from opened
12	meeting requirements under the Freedom
13	of Information Act is 2.2-3711.A.1.
14	Do I hear a motion?
15	MS. MYERS: So moved.
16	CHAIR NIXON: All those in favor?
17	
18	NOTE: The Commission votes aye.
19	
20	CHAIR NIXON: All those opposed?
21	
22	NOTE: There is no response.
23	
24	CHAIR NIXON: Thank you.
25	MS. EASTER: You want to set a

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	date while we're all here or do you
3	want to wait?
4	CHAIR NIXON: Oh, we can go ahead
5	and do that if you September 12th.
6	Thank you.
7	
8	NOTE: There is a recess while
9	the Commissioners are in closed
10	session; thereafter, the Commission
11	returns to open session and reconvenes
12	as follows:
13	
14	CHAIR NIXON: All right. Motion
15	to return to open session.
16	I move that we vote and record
17	our certification that to the best of
18	each member's knowledge, only public
19	business matters lawfully exempted from
20	open meeting requirements under this
21	chapter and only such public business
22	matters as were identified in the
23	motion by which the closed meeting was
24	convened or heard, discussed, or
25	considered in the meeting by the public

Ī	1
1	PROCEEDINGS
2	body.
3	Do I hear a motion?
4	COMMISSIONER TANNER: So moved.
5	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Second.
6	CHAIR NIXON: All in favor?
7	
8	NOTE: The Commission votes aye.
9	
10	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Brand.
11	COMMISSIONER BRAND: Aye.
12	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
13	Siegel.
14	COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: Aye.
15	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
16	Tanner.
17	COMMISSIONER TANNER: Aye.
18	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner
19	Gordon-Moore.
20	COMMISSIONER GORDON-MOORE: Aye.
21	CHAIR NIXON: Commissioner Nixon.
22	Aye.
23	All those in favor?
24	
25	NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	
3	CHAIR NIXON: We're done.
4	
5	NOTE: This concludes the July
6	25, 2024, meeting of the Virginia
7	Racing Commission.
8	
9	HEARING CONCLUDED
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF VIRGINIA)
4	: ss.
5	COUNTY OF NEW KENT)
6	I, JUAN ORTEGA, a Notary Public
7	within and for the State of Virginia,
8	do hereby certify:
9	THAT SAID PROCEEDINGS is a
10	transcript of the Virginia Racing
11	Commission Public Hearing, when held on
12	July 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in
13	New Kent, Virginia.
14	I further certify this is a true
15	and accurate transcript to the best of
16	my ability to hear and understand the
17	proceedings and other incidents of the
18	hearing herein as set down to the best
19	of my ability.
20	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
21	set my hand this 6th day of August
22	2023.
23	Juan Ortega
24	
25	JUAN ORTEGA, CCR

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