

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RACING FAN ADVISORY COUNCIL HOSTING OCTOBER 19 FORUM AT BELMONT PARK WITH DRF HANDICAPPERS DAN ILLMAN AND MIKE BEER

The New York State Racing Fan Advisory Council will host a question-and-answer session at Belmont Park from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 19 on the Second Floor of Grandstand near the Clubhouse Entrance.

The New York State Racing Fan Advisory Council is charged with collecting ideas, concerns and issuing formal recommendations on improving horse racing to state government and policymakers. The event will be a great opportunity for race fans to share ideas on how to make racing more attractive and appealing to new fans, and how to improve the sport for current fans.

Daily Racing Form handicapping experts Dan Illman and Mike Beer will also provide their insights on the racing fan experience in New York and handicapping insights on the New York Showcase Stakes Races.

Attend and provide your input on how the fan experience can be improved at New York race tracks.

WHAT: Racing Fan Advisory Council Fan Forum with Daily Racing Form's Dan Illman and Mike Beer

This event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

WHEN: Saturday, October 19, 2013, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Second Floor of Grandstand near the Clubhouse Entrance.
Belmont Park
2150 Hempstead Turnpike
Elmont NY 11003

*****OPEN PRESS*****

The Racing Fan Advisory Council was established by the former New York State Racing and Wagering Board to provide input and advice to the Gaming Commission on horse racing and wagering matters in New York State. The council consists of individuals steeped in both Thoroughbred and harness racing as well as off-track betting enterprises. The council will examine the "total racing experience" and report its findings to the Board. The members include:

- **Chair: Patrick M. Connors, Professor of Law, Albany Law School:** Professor Connors has been an avid fan of horse racing since 1989 and has made several presentations at Albany Law's annual Saratoga Institute on Racing and Gaming Law. He has been a law professor for 20 years at both Syracuse University College of Law and Albany Law School. A prolifically published scholar, he has been an active member of

several New York State Bar Association Committees and has given dozens of legal presentations across the state. Professor Connors resides in Saratoga Springs, graduated from Georgetown University and obtained his law degree at St. John's University School of Law.

- **Vice Chair: Michael F. Amo, Chair and Co-Founder, Thoroughbred Racing Fan Association, Inc. (ThoroFan):** Mr. Amo has been a Thoroughbred horseracing enthusiast for over 30 years. He was first introduced to the sport by a friend who took him to the 1978 Belmont Stakes and soon began traveling the country attending racing meets as his regular vacation away from a career as a hospital administrator. Mr. Amo has served on the Board of several not-for-profit organizations and is co-owner of a health care consulting business, as well as a published author. A Central Valley resident, Mr. Amo also serves as an Orange County legislator.
- **Allan Carter, Historian, The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame:** Since 2003, Mr. Carter has worked at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. For more than 20 years prior, Mr. Carter was a legal librarian at the New York State Library. Mr. Carter served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1967 and worked as a technical writer at Knolls Atomic Power Plant. A Glens Falls native, Mr. Carter resides in Saratoga Springs and received a Master's Degree in Library Science from SUNY Albany.
- **Michael C. Mills, Village Administrator, Village of Elmsford (Westchester County):** Mr. Mills fell in love with horse racing in 1973 when he attended the Whitney Handicap at Saratoga at the age of ten and witnessed the great Secretariat run and has been an avid fan of racing ever since. A 1986 graduate of the University of Louisville, Mr. Mills has spent the past 23 years working in the field of local government management for the Villages of Elmsford, Ellenville, and the City of Kingston. Mr. Mills has served on several civic committees, boards, and task forces, including the Tappan Zee Bridge I-287 Mass Transit Task Force.
- **M. Kelly Young, Associate Director of National Affairs, New York Farm Bureau:** Ms. Young has been an active participant in the world of harness racing since 1995, when she worked as an office assistant at the Goshen Historic Track during the summer. Ms. Young is a member of the Saratoga Harness Hall of Fame's Board of Directors and a former Executive Director of the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State. She has written several award-winning articles on Standardbred racing. An Albany resident, Ms. Young has a B.A. in Biology from Boston University.

The racing fan advisory council's mission is to grow of the fan base of horse racing by:

- Recommending procedures to ensure that the fan's opinion is a central part of the regulation of horse racing and advising the Commission on issues related to racing and wagering
- Advising the Commission on appropriate actions to encourage fan attendance and wagering at the state's thoroughbred and harness racetracks and off-track betting corporations
- Visiting Commission-regulated racetracks and facilities during race times, workouts, and during hours when members of the media are permitted to be present at the facilities
- Advising the Commission on the creation of an "I LOVE NY Racing" promotion
- Giving an annual, non-monetary award to both a Thoroughbred and Standardbred breeding farm in New York State that has worked to promote horse racing in New York

- Recommending changes to the rules of the Commission and to the laws affecting horse racing
- Preparing an annual report to the Commission regarding the operation of the state's Thoroughbred and harness racetracks and the state's off-track betting corporations

Questions, ideas and concerns may also be submitted to racingfan@gaming.ny.gov.

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