

New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc.

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Anthony Spadea

A National Organization

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Bruce P. Patten

Directors: Owners
Randy Andrews
Susan Clark
Shirley Dullea
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Directors: Trainers
Jay Bernardini
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February 11, 2015

Attorney Catherine Blue, General Counsel, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street 23rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: 2015 racing season plan

Dear Attorney Blue:

On behalf of the New England HBPA Board of directors and the owners and trainers of thoroughbred horses racing in Massachusetts, we are hereby responding to your letter of January 30, 2015 requesting a statement on our plans for the 2015 racing season.

As you are aware NEHBPA applied for a 2015 placeholder racing license and was awarded the license by the MGC. Subsequently and with the cooperation of Sterling Suffolk Racecourse LLC (SSR), the NEHBPA filed a supplemental license, fully intending to conduct 65 days of live racing in 2015. The supplemental license filing was, shortly thereafter, retracted by NEHBPA when we came to the conclusion that negotiations with SSR became increasingly more complex.

As you are aware, the NEHBPA currently has a pending request to transfer its 2015 placeholder license to the New England Horsemen's Agricultural and Racing Corporation (NEHARC). While the Gaming Commission is processing the license transfer, SSR, NEHBPA and NEHARC are negotiating an arrangement to lease the Suffolk Downs racetrack or an agreement to operate the racing facilities that would permit either the NEHBPA or the NEHARC (if the license is transferred) to conduct less than 65 days of racing at Suffolk Downs.

The issues under negotiation are complex and the number of live race days is difficult to project, at this point, since a portion of the financial component is dependent on legislative action and subsequent action by the Gaming Commission. SSR and the NEHBPA have recently stepped up the intensity of the negotiations with the objective of reaching a positive outcome for both parties. It clear that the parties are at a critical juncture and that negotiations are rapidly approaching conclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Anthony Spadea, President

Cc: Stephen Crosby, Chairman, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Gail Cameron, Commissioner, Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Dr. Jennifer Durenberger, Director of Racing, Massachusetts Gaming Commission