

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PLAINVILLE TOWN HALL

190 South Street

Plainville, MA 02762

October 31st, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE RACING LICENSE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY
PLAINVILLE GAMING AND REDEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR HORSE RACING TO BE HELD
AT PLAINRIDGE RACECOURSE

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein

Commissioner Gayle Cameron

Commissioner Bruce Stebbins

TRANSCRIPTION BY HRI-CART, LLC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: So good morning, everyone. Today is Thursday, October 31st, 2019. And this is a public hearing before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. I am Commissioner Gayle Cameron. With me is Commissioner Bruce Stebbins and our Chair of the Commission, Cathy Judd-Stein. This hearing is being convened pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 128A, Section 3. We are here today to accept public comment on the racing license application submitted by Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC for horse racing to be held at Plainridge Racecourse. Before we begin, the Commission would like to thank all of you for being here today.

This is a public hearing, and it is critically important that you, the public, be part of the process to

ensure that the Commission achieves the best possible results. The purpose of this public hearing is to offer any interested person or group an opportunity to comment on the racing license application. This is not a question and answer period or a debate. Once again, we will take comments in the order of the sign-up list. When your name is called, you may proceed to the podium and offer your comment.

The Commission requests that all speakers identify themselves prior to commenting, and please be sure to keep your voices up at this hearing because it's being recorded. I'm going to reiterate that because typically we'll have microphones here. We do not. So the only microphone is over by the camera. So if you don't mind projecting, keeping your voices up, that would be most helpful. Thanks.

With that, we will now open up the floor for comment. Mr. O'Toole is here to testify first.

Mr. O'Toole.

MR. O'TOOLE: Thank you, Commissioners, and thanks for coming up to OUR new town hall, our first application hearing here.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Mr. O'Toole, I'm just going to ask you to speak a little louder. Thank you.

MR. O'TOOLE: My name is Steven O'Toole, the

Director of Racing at Plainridge Racecourse. Thank you all for coming down to Plainville today. We have the chiefs that will testify, the police chief and the fire chief. Normally we'd take them out of order. But since they live in the building, I'm not sure when they would like to testify. It's up to them. So I'll defer to them if they want to wait.

MR. ALFRED: We'll wait.

MR. O'TOOLE: They'll wait.

I'd like to present the application for racing season 2020. This is actually the 22nd season. For me it's the 20th application that I've prepared for the Commission. And Penn National Gaming has completed six seasons at the end of this year, 2019. So it would be Penn National Gaming's seventh application, actually. So time does fly by. The application consists of the completed application, MGC12 under \$25,000 bond continuation, \$2,100 fee, and 16 exhibits. We believe that this application does meet the criteria set out in the statute; the financial ability to operate a racetrack; the maximization of state revenues; the suitability of the racing facility for operation at the time of year for which the dates that you grant; the accommodation of large groups of spectators in a safe and convenient environment; affording the public racing competition that is honestly

managed and of good quality; having the proper physical facilities for racing meetings and the necessity to accord fair treatment to the economic interests and investments of those who have in good faith provided for racing at Plainridge.

Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment's parent company, Penn National Gaming, continues to be a leader in the racing industry, which reflects the financial ability to operate Plainridge as well as 12 other racetracks in eight other jurisdictions across the country. Recently the addition of The Meadows Standardbred Racetrack in Pennsylvania and Retama Park came aboard in the Pinnacle acquisition.

To highlight some of the points that are in Exhibit 25 why this application is beneficial to the public and Commonwealth and the applicant, Penn National Gaming takes pride in all of their properties and creating an inviting racing atmosphere by investing deeply in both the customer-facing side and the racing operations side. The physical facilities for our racing managers are well maintained and provide a convenient and safe atmosphere for our customers and horsemen. We also continue to offer our racing officials the absolute latest technology to perform their duties honestly and manage the racing in the most proficient manner that we can. I think a lot of you

have seen that operation and could attest to that firsthand.

While racing at Plainridge has been moving in a positive direction recently, we addressed head on a few years ago the concern with participation and field size. And I think we found somewhat of a sweet spot, conducting around 110 days of racing a year. The average number of races per day and the average field size have stabilized over the past couple of seasons, providing for a better quality product. With purses well over \$10 million this season, the economic generator that racing at Plainridge has created is maximizing state revenues.

So again, in this application, we propose a 110-day, 33-week schedule, racing three days a week, similar to this year, Monday, Thursday, Friday, and some four-day weeks with Sundays in there as well. The April through November schedule is consistent with the past seasons, and the facility is suited for the time of year that we've applied for. We believe there is sufficient evidence provided in this application that granting these dates benefits our horsemen and the public and in return provide for the fair treatment and economic interest of Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment.

And thanks again for the opportunity to present today. I can answer any questions you may have regarding

the testimony, the application, submissions, or just racing, in general.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Mr. O'Toole, you added Sunday this year to the schedule, and I know the horsemen were interested in racing on a weekend. Could you tell us a little bit about how that worked out?

MR. O'TOOLE: So it's -- it's a little bit of a -- it's tough to compare Sunday racing with other days of the week because of the outlets that are available to take our signals on Sundays in the fact that -- the course of most of the season. We really don't have the horse supply to do the four days, but during the fall, we just got done doing the Sundays. We did four or five Sundays, I believe. It's during the stake season. And so those added races really help out. So it gave the breeders the chance to race on Sundays -- some of the Sundays as well, and we did have sufficient horse supply to go eight or nine, sometimes ten races each day.

However, harness racing is not as popular as the Patriots. And on Sundays, even -- you know, and the traffic isn't an issue because the traffic begins on 495 down by Luciano's and towards the stadium, there's never any backup to get into the track. But the popularity of the Patriots -- and we've seen that in the handle over the years. We don't have the participation on Sundays that

we have when the Patriots are playing. We don't have the people in the building, and I think the casino has even seen that as well, so it's a very tough thing to gauge.

I do want to talk to the breeders and see if maybe this year they'd rather maybe race some of their races on Saturday. So maybe switch back to a Saturday. Because this application comes in on September 29th, we really haven't tried the Sundays. And so we kind of wanted to get through this season and take a look at it. So I might come back at a future time and ask for -- submit a supplemental application asking for maybe a few Saturdays to replace those Sundays. But I do want to talk to them first to see what their stakes schedule is going to be next year.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. And I know you now have a long-term purse agreement. I commend you for that. I know that it's been year to year for a number of years. So I think the collaboration from the track officials as well as the horsemen -- horsemen and women makes a difference. So I think that's a positive point.

MR. O'TOOLE: It's a seven-year contract, and in that agreement, we kind of identified pretty much what the schedule would be each year so we don't have to, you know, wrestle what the dates would be. This is pretty much the schedule that works. It seems to have worked, and

hopefully it will continue to work.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Last question. Anything new that you're planning for this year, whether it be improvements or new events? Anything that you think might be a little different with this upcoming application and racing season as opposed to last year?

MR. O'TOOLE: Yeah. I've been talking to the Hambletonian Society about maybe adding another event if there's a hole in the schedule like there is for the Clara Barton Pace and the Spirit of Massachusetts Trot. There's not too many holes in the national calendar for those types of horses, but we did run some different types of series this year in conjunction with a couple of the horsemen that met with my race secretary and identified maybe some strong points with our horse population. So the answer right now is we still have the Spirit of Mass scheduled -- this year it's scheduled for July 26th. July 26th and the Clara Barton on that day, and that's a Sunday. That will remain a Sunday because that's where it falls in the national calendar. The day before is the adios at now our sister track, The Meadows. So drivers and horsemen, they tend to have these horses that are all on the -- make the rounds of the national -- you know, to all the different racetracks across the country. So the drivers wouldn't be available if we raced it on Saturday. So that date is

set in stone. The Sunday date is set in stone. You know, we're always looking to add different things to the program, and it seems like every year there's a different strong point of horses that my racing secretary can write events for. And so we've committed to work with the horsemen on that and get their ideas which have worked out well this year.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. O'Toole?

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Just a quick follow-up. Can you remind the public about the attendance at the Spirit of Massachusetts event and its success this year? Two years before you had your first one, if I remember correctly?

MR. O'TOOLE: So the attendance seemed to be -- it's very tough to -- difficult to figure the attendance because it's not a paid gate. However, our handle was up about \$10,000. So we were up on track about \$10,000, which was about a 20% bump from 2017. So we were very pleased with the attendance and the handle for the event.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: And then -- and I'm sorry I had to go to a memorial service. I did not get to go to that, but I know -- I believe Commissioner Cameron was there, and so it's a great event.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Excellent event.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: But I did want to also, because nationally it's been a topic on safety concerns, anything that we need to hear that you want to report on with respect to the horses or the record?

MR. O'TOOLE: So what you're hearing nationally is the safety concerns with the thoroughbred industry, which is much a different industry than our industry. The thoroughbred horses are a different animal, even though a horse is a horse, but they're built a lot different, and that's the outcry, you know, especially with the Santa Anita issue that's going on.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: So you're making the distinction between the standardbred versus a thoroughbred, and in terms of your operations --

MR. O'TOOLE: We have very few catastrophic breakdowns in harness racing. We've had two in the past five years. We've had more horses die of natural death than actually have been euthanized because of a broken bone. And all horses are made up in that way. There are certain bones that they break. You know, there's just no -- it's actually cruel to keep them standing on those broken bones. We don't have that many in the thoroughbreds. Unfortunately at all tracks do suffer those, but the Santa Anita problem is different.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Is different.

MR. O'TOOLE: It's different and they're trying to figure that out. They're having a difficult time trying to figure it out because at Santa Anita, I think they've had over 35. And when the meet went to Hollywood for two months, they didn't have any. And then they came back to Santa Anita and suffered a couple more. You know, they're trying to figure out what it is, and they're doing all their surfaces exactly the same. But for some reason there's something going on there. But it's a little bit of a different story.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: And what you just reported shows in terms of the overall safety, the numbers are so low of any. Excellent. Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you. Questions?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Yeah. A couple quick questions. I echo Commissioner Cameron and kind of congratulating and the horsemen on this seven-year agreement. That gives you some level of comfort of where the next seven years are going to be. But as you professionally look at the harness racing market up and down the Northeast, how does that potentially impact you?

MR. O'TOOLE: So when we talk about the harness racing market, from the tip of Maine at Bangor down through Scarborough, and then there's Plainridge and then Yonkers

and Meadowlands, The Meadows, Pocono, and those are down in Pennsylvania, that's kind of -- is that the landscape that you're referring to?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Yep.

MR. O'TOOLE: If it is, then Scarborough Downs is probably -- right now has been sold to be developed. They're trying to keep the racetrack in that scheme, but it doesn't look like it's going -- it doesn't look like it has longevity. That property is right near Old Orchard Beach. It's very developable, and it has been a prime piece of real estate for many years, and they kept it going for many years, but it looks like it might be on its way out. There is a couple of projects that might replace it in Cumberland and Sanford but don't know. And we even get a lot of our participants come from the Scarborough area and all throughout Maine. So that would limit their ability to race up there. It probably wouldn't affect us that much. It would actually maybe drive a few more horses into our program.

Yonkers is a little bit of a different animal than us because their purses are much, much higher than ours. And New Jersey -- The Meadowlands has recently gotten an infusion of purse money into their program. So, you know, we don't draw a lot from that area. We do draw from Saratoga Harness because they're a similar racetrack

to us. And that's a smaller racetrack. That's a half-mile racetrack. So sometimes guys have horses that don't run over the turns as well. So instead of going around four turns, they like to go around three turns and bring those horses to race with us.

So, you know, it's a pretty stable area for racing, and I think it will remain stable other than the Scarborough situation. But all the racetracks in the Northeast have pretty healthy purse structures. You know, the annual sale is next week at Harrisburg, and it's packed with, you know, a lot of quality horses. And there is a number of Mass.-bred yearlings that are offered for sale at that national auction as well which hasn't existed in the last three or four years.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: My next question -- I'm not asking you this because today's Halloween, but what keeps you up at night?

MR. O'TOOLE: What keeps me up at night? Weather. It's always the weather.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Yeah. Okay. On the flipside, positive, what would be some of the things you'd like to see over the next few years with respect to your on track?

MR. O'TOOLE: With respect to on track?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Mm-hmm.

MR. O'TOOLE: Obviously, we strive every year to have our handle raised. E.J., my race secretary, and Lenny, who announces all of our new wagers and everything, and Andrew who has to deal with the customers who they get shut out, they've done a great job at maybe identifying some wagers. I think we're going to talk to you when we break about the one that's pending, the Pick 5 that we want to do with the jackpot. That wasn't in the regs, but it has been adopted. We did the Wicked High 5 over the last few years. This year we had the high jackpot of -- I believe it was \$52,000?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: \$55,000

MR. O'TOOLE: \$55,000 jackpot, which is a wager where the customer picks five finishers to finish one, two, three, four, five. Difficult to do, but ironically enough, a lot of races have multiple people that hit that. But the trick to this wager is you have to be the only person that does it. So if there's --

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Or else it rolls over?

MR. O'TOOLE: Right. Half the pool rolls over, and if Commissioner Stebbins and Commissioner Cameron each hit it, then half of the pool gets distributed to those two people, but they get the jackpot. That keeps carrying over. So we've had it in the \$20,000 range a couple times this year. It's been hit for 22, \$24,000, and then it kept

growing. And it just got hit before the Spirit of Mass day. So we were hoping -- I think it was the week before. So we were hoping that it would carry into that day, but it fell short.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: I didn't hear the answer to what keeps you up at night.

MR. O'TOOLE: Weather.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Weather. Just what we were talking about in terms of...

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Any other questions? Okay. Thank you, Mr. O'Toole. I know we have some other public officials waiting to testify. The chiefs are in the house. We can hear from you next. Thank you. Good morning.

MR. ALFRED: Good morning, Madam Chairman, Councilors and Commissioners. I guess I'll go first. It's funny, I just thought of the fact this morning that we've been policing the racing at Plainridge for over 20 years now. And I'm happy to report that once again, we're not seeing any appreciable change in incidents or crimes at the racetrack side of the building. We work in combination, of course, with the state police and the troopers assigned to racing. But having a uniform presence there every day for 20 years, and we actually have

never missed a day of not having a uniform on the property during racing and simulcasting as well. So we have not seen any changes in the types of incidents or numbers. And that goes for the surrounding properties as well. So not just on the property but the neighborhoods that are attached. We haven't seen any change in the area.

We work well with management on the racing side as well as the casino side. Greg DeMarco, head of security, does a great job. We have pre-planning whenever we have live events at the racing side. This past summer we saw a few concerts that were held actually on the racetrack and a combination of security, uniform police, state police in plainclothes. We really had no incidents whatsoever with large crowds there. So once again, it just seems to be a success on the law enforcement side, anyway. So no real effects or changes with so many more people coming to the property on a daily basis. And I think that's what's interesting is here we have a much larger crowd coming to that property, and we're still not really seeing any increases in problems or crimes.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Very good news. Good to hear that. Questions for Chief Alfred?

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Just thank you for your service.

MR. ALFRED: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thanks, Chief. Another chief is in the house. Chief Alexander?

MR. ALEXANDER: Actually, you can translate and echo what Chief Alfred just said. Over at the fire department, the relationship is very strong with management. We work very well together. No real issues to report. Typically the only type of incidents we do have up there are medical emergencies, and those on the racing side of things are very minimal. We don't typically have very much in there. We see much more in the casino than we do on the racing side. So the impact of racing on the fire department and the town, in general, is minimal. And it's all positive from my perspective for the fire department. So I want to just repeat everything Chief Alfred said because he so eloquently said it, and I appreciate it. And thank you for coming down to Plainville today.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. How's that small fire truck doing?

MR. ALEXANDER: Excellent.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: It's useful?

MR. ALEXANDER: It is.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Okay. Glad to hear it. Thank you, Chief.

MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Any questions for Chief Alexander?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thanks, Chief.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. Thank you both.

MR. ALFRED: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I know that we have a couple of other public officials here from the town of Plainridge -- I'm sorry, the town of Plainville. Ms. Thompson. Good morning.

MS. THOMPSON: Good morning. So I'm Jennifer Thompson. I'm the Town Administrator. First of all, welcome. So great to see you here. You know, I was just thinking as I was sitting back there, Commissioner Cameron, you were literally putting a shovel in the ground right where we're sitting a few years ago.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Yes.

MS. THOMPSON: So this is exciting. And, you know, a reminder to anyone that might be watching the meeting that these facilities, both the Town Hall and the public safety facility, were built solely with funds from our host community agreement with Plainridge, so no tax dollars. So it's incredible to see us here having a meeting, and I look forward to seeing you here next week as well. We have another meeting.

So I just wanted to make a few comments. As you

know, we have a wonderful relationship with Penn National. It's wonderful to see the progress that's been made in terms of racing. As you know, that's a very important part of our culture here in Plainville, and support of the Horsemen's Association and the horsemen and women is very important to the background and the current culture in Plainville. And it's wonderful to see that the numbers have increased. The Spirit of Massachusetts is always such a wonderful event.

So, you know, we've -- we have a wonderful relationship. I think the Horsemen's Association will probably speak at some point during the hearing. And I would just say the only feedback we get is that sometimes people don't realize that there's racing there, which is surprising to me because we -- you know, it's so natural to us being in and around here. But, you know, there's been a focus recently that us and our surrounding towns in the region are really trying to drive tourism in the area. So we do sometimes get folks that are visiting the area that have no idea that there's a racetrack there. They know there's a casino, but they don't necessarily know that there's a racetrack.

So I think over the next years we'll probably focus on partnering with Penn to see if we can kind of help get that message out a little bit better and market it or,

you know, whatever it is. And whatever the town can do to help with that, we'll certainly do it because anything we want to promote, people coming to the racing and, you know, we want to promote continued success. So I'm not sure what that might entail, and it's something we can talk about directly with Penn.

Maybe some more signage that indicates that there's a racetrack there, things -- marketing efforts that we can assist with on the town side, and some of the efforts that we've talked about through the mitigation fund in terms of promoting that tourism. We can include racing as part of that. And that's it. Otherwise everything's wonderful.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: You're welcome.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you very much. It is nice to be in your beautiful new building, by the way. And I know it's just a couple years ago that it was -- the groundbreaking was here. Both facilities are beautiful. We typically have these hearings in the senior center, so this is really nice. There's no square dancing in the background. So thank you for your testimony. Any questions?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: I, for one, miss the square dancing. No. Jennifer, just thanks for your time

and playing host to us not only today but next week.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Yes. And thank you again for all of you for making your way up to our offices -- maybe about two months ago, right, Jennifer -- to really present to us the final result of this wonderful public safety and municipal complex. So thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: You're welcome.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: It was really very strategic how -- I know it was your predecessor who worked on the host agreement to really have a vision that you've executed. So thank you.

In terms of the cross-marketing, I was just making a note to my fellow Commissioner about the Community Mitigation Fund. Is Plainville part of the Foxborough? Is it the three regions?

MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: With Wrentham.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: And there's no reason horse racing can't be part of that, or would there need to be a new application for that?

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: It's -- I think -- and Jennifer will correct me if I'm wrong -- the mitigation money we approved was for those three communities, and they're three very, you know, high-profile assets: Penn

National, Plainridge Park, Patriot Place, and the Wrentham Outlets to work together to figure out, again, as Jennifer pointed out, how do you make this area of the state kind of a destination with everything that's already here? It will be interesting to see what that strategy comes back and says and see how we can take it to the next step.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: That's right. So just, again, we support that cross-marketing, and we like the regionalization. And so to the extent that that can help on the horse racing side to make sure they know about the events, we're happy that that's under way, and we look forward to your report on that. But otherwise just, again, thank you. And thank you for my earlier big tour, and thank you for hosting us next week. We recognized right away when we were down here what a great facility, and we take advantage of it.

MS. THOMPSON: It's yours any time you want it. We'd love to have you.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you very much. And do we have one other public official here? We typically go with our public officials, and then we get to everybody else on the list. Is there someone else from the town of Plainville who is representing? You work with the town, sir?

MR. WHITE: Yes.

MS. THOMPSON: He's a member of the Board of Selectmen.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Oh, good. Sir, please come speak.

MR. WHITE: You can't tell by my attire.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: No, it's okay.

MR. WHITE: My name is Stanley White. I've lived here since the '50s. And my sisters used to ride their horses where the racetrack is now. And we were born up right next to the racetrack. And trafficwise, there is no problem. There's no problem with traffic. There's no problem with crime. Basically, Plainville opened its arms up to Plainridge, and it's been a win-win for the town of Plainville and for the state of Massachusetts. And as long as it continues that way, everybody will be happy. And that's all I have to say.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Sir, so you're a longtime resident, obviously.

MR. WHITE: In the '50s, yeah.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: You've seen all of the changes from a brand-new track --

MR. WHITE: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: -- to all the other development and then to the new casino in addition to the

racetrack. And you're giving us the positives.

MR. WHITE: All positives.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: It's all positives.

MR. WHITE: All positives. Being on Mirimichi Street, and that's the closest residential street to the racetrack.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Yeah.

MR. WHITE: Okay?

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Traffic is not --

MR. WHITE: There's no problem with traffic. There's no problem with anything in that area. They come off 495, they get on, they come off, they go. And there's no impact whatsoever. So that's -- and because we're sitting in this building, like I say, we were open arms. The little town of Plainville is the biggest taxpayer in the state of Massachusetts to the state. So it's a plus-plus.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great.

MR. O'TOOLE: Mr. White has been a member of the planning board for all the years that Plainridge has been there, and being a resident, he made sure that there were no problems or issues.

MR. WHITE: That's right. And I was on the planning board when we signed the original permits for that. And the idea is that we've had no problems with it.

And they -- you know, they kept their word on everything they were going to do. And like I said, we've had no problem whatsoever.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: But it sounds as though you were a zealous advocate, and it turned out okay?

MR. WHITE: Well, yeah.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Any ancillary measures?

MR. WHITE: Right. I think the host agreement was crucial in the beginning, and there was a few gentlemen -- one of them's not even with us anymore -- but there was a few gentlemen that knew what to do with the monies and stuff like that and put it to something like this here, and so that's why it's, you know, been positive-positive. So -- and that's -- you know, if it was negative, I would tell you, but I can't say anything negative. The only thing is my sisters can't ride their horses down in their the pen anymore, and that's about it.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you, sir. Any questions for Mr. White?

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Thank you for your contribution.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you very much.

MR. WHITE: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I believe that's our last

public official. So we'll now go to Mr. McHugh.

MR. MCHUGH: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: From the Horsemen. How are you, sir?

MR. MCHUGH: Good. How are you?

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good. Thank you.

MR. MCHUGH: I wasn't going to speak because of the way I was dressed, but I think I'm just going to stand.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: You're fine.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: We're overdressed.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: No one cares about that.

MR. MCHUGH: Yeah. I just wanted -- since we are talking about promoting the racetrack, I really want to emphasize that I worked with Mr. O'Toole for the Spirit of Massachusetts Trot. Per that contract, we spend -- I believe it's \$25,000 each on marketing. P&G spends -- by the way, it was a great job. It was monitored well. But they spent all their money, their side, on marketing. We did spend less than that. But according to that contract, we can spend \$25,000 on everything.

While the Spirit of Massachusetts Trot is a great event, it's one day a year. You know, we recognize that we are responsible, being the HHANE, for all the marketing. We have just contracted with a very reputable social media company who's going to redo our website, and

we're hoping to promote something -- you know, he's -- I'm very -- you know, it's early on, but the person we have is very energetic. He knows the business. He's promoted a lot of events. So we plan on promoting the track. Because, I mean, Plainridge came to us this year with a -- putting something that's in the -- what's the local -- "Sun-Sentinel"? "Sun Chronicle," the local paper.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Yes.

MR. MCHUGH: Entries every day with results. We concluded -- when I came to Boston -- I'm retired now. I realized that -- I went on the train. Nobody has ties on anymore, and no one reads the paper. So we realized that social media is the way to go. So we're really excited about that. It's going to be a long-term process. But we've probably lost a generation of racing, so we've got to get people more involved.

We got on the backside. We've had some issues. We do have some issues including the condition of the track. We did meet last week with Mr. O'Toole, Dr. Lightbown and Mr. Bedrosian. We do think some progress was made. We did see some improvements. But we've got some other issues. We've got some other issues. In fact, we're meeting today to talk about them.

You know, I did this because I want to prove the

law to the loss man, and I do think we're making steps. There's obviously a tension between -- at times, I understand, between us and management. Their job is to keep overhead down as much as they can. And our job -- personally, my job is to be their conscience, and that's what I'm trying to do. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention. And we look forward to continue to work with you, the Gaming Commission, and the director of racing in a mutual effort to make things better for the Horsemen.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. Thank you for that. And, again, we do recognize and appreciate the fact that you have worked collaboratively to -- whether it be a purse agreement or other issues around the track itself, whatever the issues are, we do appreciate the collaboration.

MR. McHUGH: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Anything else for Mr. McHugh?

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Thank you. I echo that. We like that the channels of communication are open and the dialogue is continuing, so thank you.

MR. McHUGH: Yeah. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. McHugh. Why don't we -- at this point we will go to the list. We

have some folks here from Plainridge Park Racing that signed up to speak. We have Mr. Savastano.

MR. SAVASTANO: Yes. Correct.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: You would be next to testify, sir.

MR. SAVASTANO: I actually have no question.

MR. BEDROSIAN: I think they just signed up.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Oh, you just signed up? I'm sorry. So you don't -- okay. So why don't I read this list, and you will tell me whether or not you have comments to make. How's that? So, sir, you're not going to make comments at this time?

MR. SAVASTANO: No.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Mr. Tavares?

MR. TAVARES: I'm all set. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: You're not going to speak? Okay. And Mr. Calderone?

MR. CALDERONE: Yeah. I would just like to say --

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Please move up and introduce yourself.

MR. CALDERONE: My name is Lenny Calderone. I'm the Racing Services Manager at Plainridge. And I sit before you not to blow smoke in that direction. That's not my intention. But I've worked with Steve for a long,

long time. And I just want to say that, you know, he's the one that steers the ship as far as racing is concerned. And, you know, the minute we walk in the door, as all of us know, you know what hits the fan. Some days less than others. Some days more than others. But this guy does a wonderful job, and I'm just proud to be part of -- you know, working with him for all these years. I really appreciate him.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Great. I suspect you're in support of this application?

MR. CALDERONE: Absolutely. Absolutely. Yep.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

MR. CALDERONE: Yep.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Any questions? Thank you for your testimony.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR JUDD-STEIN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Going down the list. Alice Tisbert? Ms. Tisbert? Am I saying that properly? I never -- I'm sorry, I always refer to you as Alice.

MS. SZPILA TISBERT: That's okay.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: But I want to be proper.

MS. SZPILA TISBERT: No, I'm here to --

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Would you like to speak?

MS. SZPILA TISBERT: No. I'm good. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Okay. Very good. Thank you. Mr. McHugh spoke. Mr. O'Toole. I believe we've hit everyone on the list. Is there anyone else that would like to speak at this time? Okay.

What we'll do now is we will suspend the meeting to give folks, in case they did not have an opportunity to get here in a timely manner, we will reconvene at 11:00 to see if there's anyone else that wanted an opportunity to speak. Thanks. Everybody will reconvene in a little less than 20 minutes. Thank you.

So we are reconvening. It's now 11:00. We are reconvening this public hearing in -- the reason for the hearing today, as we stated earlier, was to accept public comments on the racing application submitted by Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment. And we wanted to give people a chance in case they were not able to get here earlier. I'll ask one more time before we close the meeting if there's anyone else that would like to speak regarding this application. Okay. Hearing no one additional, it is now 11:02, and we will -- we will close the meeting at this point. Thank you all for your comments.

MR. O'TOOLE: Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Karla Ray, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription to the best of my knowledge and ability on the 13th of November, 2019.

Karla Ray