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PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL NYRA ADVISORY BOARD SELECTED

Mayor Scott Johnson selects local business and civic leaders

City of Saratoga Springs Mayor Scott T. Johnson has announced the selection of the City's five members to the Local Advisory Board for the Saratoga Racecourse facility. The Advisory Board is part of the State legislation passed in 2008, awarding the racing franchise to NYRA, while recognizing the local lobbying efforts for local input on any future changes proposed at the track.

The City members will join ten other members, five each selected by NYRA and Saratoga County, to meet at least twice yearly. The appointment term is for a period of two years.

"This Local Advisory Board will offer the City the greatest opportunity to advocate local business and preservationist issues for all future proposed changes, whether architecturally or operationally", said Mayor Scott Johnson. "This is exactly the oversight that was intensely lobbied for during the franchise selection, enabling the City to be an integral part of the process from the outset. To best constitute the Advisory Board, I focused on a strong sampling from our community, balancing the business interests, preservation concerns, legal perspective and insight from those already familiar and vested in the horse industry. Recognition was given to the local lobbying efforts and achievements of the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation and the Concerned Citizens for Racing, both of which extensively promoted the demand and necessity for local input."

The five individuals appointed by Mayor Johnson to the Advisory Board are Skip Carlson, for many years General Manager for the Saratoga Raceway and now Vice President of External Affairs for Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, Inc.; William Wilmot, D.V.M., owner/partner of Stepwise Farm, engaged in thoroughbred horse breeding and a member of Concerned Citizens for Racing; Cynthia Hollowood, General Manager of the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs for over 25 years; Michele Funicello, as board member of the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation and co-owner of Circular Manor Bed and Breakfast; and John Carusone Esq., of Carusone and Carusone in Saratoga Springs. "The focus and goal in choosing representatives on behalf of the City was to assemble local individuals who are already active, knowledgeable and vested in the concerns important to our City. Our representatives bring a unique balance of local insight and advocacy to the Advisory Board to further enhance the race fans' Saratoga experience. Without question, we must partner with NYRA as it continues to improve our track, while overseeing and influencing the preservation of our heritage and economy."

Under the new law establishing the Advisory Board, one of the first responsibilities will be to compile a complete, updated historic resources inventory, in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Franchise Oversight Board, to identify all buildings and landscape features and their current condition at the racecourse. All buildings and landscaped feature of historic, architectural or cultural significance at the racecourse may be advanced by the Local Advisory Board for consideration for inclusion in the National and State Registers of historic places and in local historic districts. "On a preservation level, the compilation of the inventory and potential consideration for registry as protection cannot be understated", added Mayor Johnson. "The City looks forward to continuing the partnership between the City and NYRA, being good neighbors and mutually advancing this crucial treasure."

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