



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Mayor Joanne D. Yepsen
Commissioner Michele Madigan
Commissioner Anthony Scirocco
Commissioner Christian Mathiesen
Commissioner John P. Franck

WHEREAS, the Saratoga Race Course is one of the most significant and important landmarks in the City of Saratoga Springs; and

WHEREAS, our City's national and international reputation, local economy, and identity is directly connected to the track, and has been so connected for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the New York Racing Association (NYRA) is currently led by the NYRA Reorganization Board, a temporary reorganization board with a limited tenure, put into place in 2012 to ensure the New York Racing Association Inc. works in the best interests of all stakeholders in horse racing, including fans, owners and breeders by managing the racing franchise with transparency and accountability.

WHEREAS, NYRA recently announced significant plans for renovation and/or expansion of existing facilities at the track. While this City Council is encouraged to hear that NYRA will be acting to improve track facilities, to date the City has been given no opportunity to participate in any discussion regarding specific improvements. This is a significant concern for this Council. A change in track facilities will impact surrounding neighborhoods, established vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns, public safety, water and sewer infrastructure, and historic buildings and structures. The City's input and suggestions in developing new track facilities will save unnecessary effort for both the City and NYRA, and result in a better, safer improvement. The City Council is also concerned that NYRA, under the auspices of a temporary reorganization board, may implement permanent policy changes in track

operations, such as revised fees, reservations processes, track events, or a new track meet schedule. Such changes could affect daily attendance and City traffic patterns, and cause a significant impact on City economy and character.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows

1. This Council respectfully requests that NYRA promptly establish regular, timely communication with all members of this City Council regarding its specific plans for improvements at the track, and keep those Council members informed as construction progresses.
2. This Council respectfully requests that NYRA promptly establish regular, timely communication with all members of this City Council regarding any changes in the policy and procedure of track operations and keep those Council members informed as new ideas are being considered.
3. This Council respectfully requests that the status of the NYRA Reorganization Board be resolved so that a permanent and fully functioning steward of the Saratoga Springs Race Course is established as soon as possible to serve its best interests and the interests of all its stakeholders.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the NYRA Board, Governor's Office, NYS Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering, and NYS Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering.

Ayes: ____ Nays: ____

Dated: *July 21, 2015*

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

By _____
John P. Franck, City Clerk