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January 17, 2017

Via email: bonacic@nysenate.gov
And First Class Mail

Senator John J. Bonacic
Chair, New York Senate Racing and
Wagering Committee
Room 503
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Re: New York State Racing and Wagering Committee: Future of NYRA

Dear Senator Bonacic;

By way of introduction, I am the Deputy Mayor of Floral Park and the Chairman of the Inc. Village Floral Park's Belmont Task force¹. As you may know, the Inc. Village of Floral Park has shared a border with Belmont Park for over 108 years. During this time there have been many changes to Belmont as well as Floral Park in which we both have benefitted and subsequently grew from. As we share this common bond, we would like to continue to participate in the decision making process as to the use of Belmont Park as well as to continue our excellent relationship with NYRA whether it be as a public or private enterprise.

We understand, by way of an article in the January 15, 2017 Bloodhorse.com, that today, January 17, 2017, the New York Senate Racing and Waging Committee will be taking testimony on what the thoroughbred industry envisions for the potential future of NYRA which may include the ending of State control of NYRA. We also understand that two of the invited speakers are a member of the Saratoga Race Course Community Advisory Board and the president of the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, and we commend your committee for allowing that local community to share their input.

¹ Group of residents appointed by the Mayor of Floral Park to review various proposed uses of Belmont Park and their potential effect on Floral Park

However, there is no representation from any of the local communities that surround Belmont Park at this meeting. To that end, we would like to request that a board similar to the Saratoga Race Course Community Advisory Board be established for Belmont Park so that those communities surrounding Belmont, including Floral Park, are able to participate in discussions such as the ones that are occurring today.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and we look forward to hearing from you inclusive of allowing our comments on the future of NYRA.

Sincerely,



Kevin Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor
Inc Village of Floral Park

Cc:

Honorable Elaine Phillips NY State Senate 7th District
Honorable Michaelle Solages NY State Assembly 22nd District
Honorable Edward Ra NY State Assembly 19th District
Honorable Thomas J. Tweedy, Mayor of Floral Park