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UNION REPRESENTATION: DETROIT CASINO EMPLOYEES VOTE ON A STRIKE AUTHORIZATION AND SOARING EAGLE CASINO EMPLOYEES VOTE ON WHETHER TO ORGANIZE

The employees that work at the three Detroit casinos are represented by the Detroit Casino Council, which is made up of a coalition of five unions. The collective bargaining agreements involve 6,100 plus employees at the MGM Grand Detroit Casino, MotorCity Casino, and Greektown Casino. The current labor agreements with the Detroit Casino Council expire on October 16, 2007. In connection with the expiration of the agreements, today the Detroit Casino Council held a vote of its members to authorize a strike against the three Detroit casinos, should the casinos and the labor organizations fail to reach an agreement by the 16th.

The Detroit Casino Council is made of the following union organizations:

1. UAW, which represent dealers, slot technicians, cage cashiers and money handlers;
2. Teamsters, which represent delivery, warehouse, clerks and landscapers;
3. Operating Engineers, which represent engineering staff;
4. HERE, which represent food and beverage, slot change and porter staff; and
5. Carpenters Union, which represent the carpenters at the Greektown Casino.

One hundred and fifty miles north from Detroit, the Teamsters are currently in the process of petitioning Soaring Eagle Casino employees as to whether they want to organize for purpose of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement. The Soaring Eagle Casino is a Native American casino owned and operated by the Saginaw Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The petitioning process is being overseen by the National Labor Relations Board. According to the *Morning Sun*, "30 percent of the employees can be enough to trigger a union representation election, but Teamsters organizers, say they generally like to have signed cards from at least 70 percent of the workers before asking for a union election."

(continued on next page)

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency created by the United States Congress in 1935 to administer the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing relations between unions and employers in the private sector.

MICHIGAN RACING COMMISSIONER HOLDS HEARING ON RACE DATE APPLICATIONS

On Monday, Michigan Racing Commissioner Christine White held a hearing on the race date applications of the various horse racing tracks in the state of Michigan. The following tracks, or proposed tracks, filed applications with the Commissioner's office.

HARNESS TRACKS

Hazel Park Raceway – (108)* 92 days; Apr 18 – Sep 27

Jackson Harness Raceway – (36)* 31 days; May 9 – July 19

Northville Downs – (58)* 44 days; Jan 4 – Apr 12

Northville Racing Corporation – (43)* 41 days; Oct 3 – Dec 13

Sports Creek – (30)* 53 days; Jan 4 – May 4 and (40)* 16 days; Nov 28 – Dec 31

MIXED BREED TRACK

Mount Pleasant Meadows – (35)* 37 days; May 3 – Sep 28

THOROUGHBRED TRACKS

Great Lakes Downs (Cooper Racing Corp) – (new) 86 days; May 3 – Oct 18

Pinnacle Race Course (Post It Stables) - (new) opening mid-July

Note that the date applications appearing above in parenthesis and starred, reflect that the same number of dates were granted to these respective tracks in 2007.

The Racing Commissioner will announce the final race dates on October 31st.

Notably, two new thoroughbred tracks have applied for race dates, one that proposes to operate at the Great Lakes Downs facility near Muskegon, and another, Pinnacle Race Course, that is proposing a new track facility near Detroit Metro Airport. See story below.

PINNACLE RACE COURSE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Also on Monday, Post It Stables, a Jackson Michigan company, announced the details of its plan for a new track in the Detroit Metropolitan area, the proposed "Pinnacle Race Course" to be located near Detroit Metro Airport. The company proposing the new course is led by Jerry Campbell, a successful Michigan banker and long time thoroughbred horse owner.

The proposed track will include 200,000 square feet of retail space, a large family picnic area and 20 luxury boxes. If a track license is granted quickly, and the race dates are approved, Pinnacle Race Course could open in September of 2008.

"We will position Pinnacle Race Course unlike other horse-racing facilities Michigan has seen," said Campbell. "Our vision is to have it be another location for family entertainment, much like attending a Detroit Tigers game, the Detroit Zoo or Michigan State Fair. In addition to traditional horse races, Pinnacle Race Course will include many equestrian and horse-jumping events; equine-education seminars and classes; and, many opportunities to see the horses close up. We will encourage school field trips and special tours to widen the understanding and appreciation of these athletic animals. Our facilities will include areas for tailgating and picnics so family and friends can experience a full day of being together and enjoying what surely will be a new form of sports entertainment for many."

Mr. Campbell credits Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano for his leadership and support in getting the project to its current point. "The Pinnacle Race Course project would not be at this stage without County Executive Ficano's strong encouragement and assistance," said Mr. Campbell. "He recognizes the robust economic thrust and new jobs that this would provide that portion of Wayne County and the entire state of Michigan. Mr. Ficano deserves a lot of credit for where we are today. We are pleased to be part of Wayne County's successful much-larger Pinnacle economic-development region and proud to have the Pinnacle name associated with our facility."