

SB987_ADAMS_FAV

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City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

SB 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Testimony of Timothy Adams, Mayor, City of Bowie
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 25, 2020

On behalf of the Council of the City of Bowie I am pleased to submit testimony in favor of SB987. The City of Bowie is very interested in acquiring the former Bowie Race Track property. The City, along with former Governor O'Malley and the Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission, attempted to purchase the property years ago, but the sale fell through. Our interest in acquiring title has never waned.

The Bowie Race Track holds a special place in the history of Bowie. It opened in October of 1914. The last race was in July of 1985 and the training facility closed in 2015. After 2015 the facility and grounds have been used for County fairs and other similar events.

Prince George's County's Approved 2006 Master Plan for Bowie and Vicinity identified the desirability of acquiring land along the Patuxent River to provide both a buffer and a trail system for hikers and equestrians that would help conserve natural areas. The Plan specifically calls for acquisition of at least 50 acres behind the race track for recommended park use.

The City is very serious about its public stewardship responsibilities and providing opportunities for a wide range of community recreational amenities. However, transfer of ownership of the property, especially the parcels associated with the existing stable functions, is contingent upon any environmental hazards being fully mitigated. A Phase II Environmental Assessment will be necessary to evaluate the situation, and adequate financial resources will have to be identified for the study, as well as to complete any related remediation. If environmental problems are found to exist, the City would only be willing to take title to the property when all required remediation actions become fully funded.

We have heard directly from our constituents on this issue during a public town-hall meeting held at the Kenhill Center on January 4, 2020. During the standing-room only meeting

MAYOR Timothy J. Adams

MAYOR PRO TEM Adrian Boafu

COUNCIL Michael P. Esteve ♦ Henri Gardner ♦ Ingrid S. Harrison ♦ Roxy Ndebumadu ♦ Dufour Woolfley **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott

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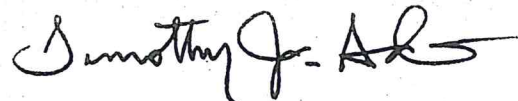
(attended by over 200 City residents), our constituents, one after the other, testified in favor of the City obtaining ownership of the Bowie Race Track property to dedicate the land to public open space and recreational uses. Our constituents have made their position clear and we agree with them.

We believe that the City is in the best position to maintain the Bowie Race Track property for recreational uses. The City currently works closely with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission concerning parcels of land near the race track that serve as parks and recreational trails. Moreover, this property is best suited for recreational purposes (as opposed to development or other uses) because the Bowie Race Track is accessible by only one road (Racetrack Road) – and Racetrack Road is already overused and subject to consistent bottlenecks.

Importantly, the City is committed to working with other parties who may be interested in the Bowie Race Track property. The City has expressed its interest in entering a long-term agreement with Bowie State University and other partners to ensure they may also use the property for public recreational activities. I recently communicated my interest in working with the University to its President. Transferring ownership of the race track property can be a win-win for the City, the County and other entities that share our constituents' vision for the use of the property.

We strongly support the language in the Bill that transfers the property to the City of Bowie and the Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission. We think its in the best interest of the public and the State funding more than compensates the owners of the property for their loss.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy J. Adams
Mayor

PGCEX_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Alsobrooks, Angela

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Guzzone, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2020

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 987**, which provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County. The bill provides for bond issuances, funding mechanisms and fund transfers, the ownership and management of racing facilities, and tax incentives. In addition, the bill specifies that the City of Bowie and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) would receive a majority of the property when the current owners divest themselves of it.

Prince George's County has played a part in Maryland's rich history of horse racing. For generations, the County has hosted races at the Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington and at the Bowie Race Track in the City of Bowie. Although the Bowie Race Track hosted its last race in July 1985 and the training facility has been closed since 2015, the City of Bowie and Prince George's County has remained focused on acquiring the land for other uses.

In Prince George's County, the City of Bowie, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission have been devoted to determining a community use for the property. The M-NCPPC intends to use the land for passive recreational activities, as specified in the bill. In addition, the City of Bowie intends to use the land for active recreational activities, which will be integral to supporting sports-related activities.

As this bill provides security that the County will be conveyed a portion of the property, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 987** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB987 and HB1056 Testimony - Miriam Barrett

Uploaded by: Barrett, Miriam

Position: FAV

missmiriam l r barrett
3819 copley road
baltimore, md 21215-7104
410.542.6979
subject: pimlico race course redevelopment

the pimlico race course located in northwest baltimore, is an asset to baltimore city and the state of maryland. serving as the preakness stakes the second leg of the horse racing industries triple crown. the economic impact of the horse industry is billions of dollars. the inclusion of educational programs as a part of the redevelopment is crucial. programs should include, but not limited to, riders, breeders, farriers, sponsors, trainers, veterinarian as well as ownership of horses. the race course facility should include a center for archival information about the complete history of horse racing. the children, are the present and the future and, must be educated about economics through financial literacy which will assist in entrepreneurship in the \$50 billion horse industry. people of color, blacks, are conspicuously lacking in this industry. in addition to the above, the race course can be utilized as an additional site for the housing of the baltimore city police horning unit, the housing of the arabbers and a horse riding school. this race course can be more than a ball field and an event center of entertainment. it can be a center of economic impact for baltimore city, especially the community closest to the race course.

ATTACHMENTS

SB987 Supplementary Document - Miriam Barrett

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1/31/2020

Seminar to Teach Black Youth the Economics of the \$50 Billion U.S. Horse Industry

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Monday, October 14, 2019

Seminar to Teach Black Youth the Economics of the \$50 Billion U.S. Horse Industry



Abdelkebir Ouaddar (Morocco) aboard Quickly de Krelsker at the 2016 Summer Olympics
Photo Credit: Tasnim News Agency

Nationwide — Economics of the \$50 billion U.S. Horse industry offer opportunities to minority youth and entrepreneurs. But, there are significant hurdles to overcome. For this reason, the 2019 Tom Bass Seminar will examine issues related to diversity in the equestrian industry, as part of the **2nd Annual Day of the African Equestrian (#DOTAE2019)**.

Scheduled for Saturday, October 19th (10am to 2pm) at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) in Mill Spring, North Carolina (USA), the seminar is presented **FREE** to the public by The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc. in association with SportsQuest International, LLC.

A world-class destination for everything equine, TIEC played host to the FEI World Equestrian Games (the official world championships of equestrian sport) in September 2018.

A legendary American Saddlebred trainer, Tom Bass (1859 – 1934) was born enslaved in Columbia, Missouri. He played a prominent role both in the establishment of the American Royal Horse Show in Kansas City and in the promotion of the city of Mexico, Missouri as the 'Saddle Horse Capital of the World'. Highlights of his extraordinary career include championships at two World's Fairs and more than 2,000 blue ribbons. For many years he was the only African-American permitted to compete at the American Royal. The Tom Bass bit, developed to give the rider control without causing pain to the horse, is still in use today. During his lifetime, Bass performed before such luminaries as Queen Marie of Romania, William Jennings Bryan, P.T. Barnum and U.S. Presidents Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Calvin Coolidge. His more prominent clients included Mr. Roosevelt, Buffalo Bill Cody, Anheuser-Busch executives Adolphus and August Busch and Will Rogers.

Panelists confirmed for the 2019 Tom Bass Seminar include: Julian Hyde, representing the Equestrian Federation of Jamaica; Stanford Moore, Publisher of *Black Reins Magazine*; Julian Seaman, Media Director of the Badminton Horse Trials (United Kingdom) and Hillary Tucker, Equine Services Specialist & Territory Sales Manager at McCauley Brothers – an Alltech company. Additional panelists will be announced in the run-up to the event.

Topics to be explored by panellists include:

- Demystifying horse sport – not for rich kids only!
- Developing broad-based community support for equestrian activities at all levels

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- Leveraging (new and traditional) media in horse focused education and promotion
- Making horses 'legit' again in lower and middle income communities
- Identifying and promoting heirs to the legendary equines of yesteryear: (Roy Roger's) 'Trigger', (The Lone Ranger's) 'Silver', (Zorro's) 'Tornado', (My Friend) 'Flicka', 'The Black Stallion', 'Mister Ed', (Gene Autry's) 'Champion the Wonder Horse', etc.
- Incorporating the rich equestrian heritages of non-white, non-European communities (including African, African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Native-American, Romani, South Asian and others) into our shared equestrian narrative

1/31/2020

Seminar to Teach Black Youth the Economics of the \$50 Billion U.S. Horse Industry

Organizers of the Tom Bass Seminar point out that horses are big business.

According to the American Horse Council, the horse industry contributes approximately \$50 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy, supporting almost one million jobs on a full-time basis¹. According to statistics presented at the 2013 FEI Sports Forum — held at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland — the horse industry has a €100 billion (\$128.151 billion) annual economic impact within the European Union. The economic impact in the United Kingdom is estimated at being over £7 billion (\$10.643 billion)².

A major challenge for an Olympic sport that promotes itself as being truly global, “clean” and fully inclusive, is a conspicuous lack of people of color. People of color are underrepresented in the ranks of riders, owners, trainers, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, nutritionists, sponsors, spectators and members of the equestrian media. Conversely, there is an overrepresentation as grooms, nannies, hot walkers and stall muckers.

To remedy this situation, equestrian sports promoters and organizations representing all facets of the industry are being urged to understand that it is good business to spend advertising dollars in minority communities. “Developing a more diverse fan base involves supporting equestrian sport training programs in those communities and working in concert with ethnic media outlets in educating members of the public about horse sport. Cultivating cooperative alliances with minority owned businesses will yield tangible benefits,” wrote #DOTAE2019 Co-Chair Melvin Cox in a 2017 editorial published by HorseNation.com.

Mr. Cox, a Lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz is the Founder and Managing Director of SportsQuest Interational, LLC — a media production and consulting business focused on the equestrian industry. Mr. Cox foresees an explosion of interest in equestrian sports throughout the United States — reaching across all socioeconomic strata. But, he warns, “the outreach to new market segments will have to be done correctly — from a position of true humility and respect, and not from one of blatant arrogance.”

“Much as motorsport has successfully built a loyal following among fans with little if any opportunity (or desire) to own a Formula One racing car,” wrote Cox. “The horse sports can be proactively marketed to all demographics. Just as Major League Baseball attracts millions who will never hit a curveball, the equestrian disciplines can find deeply loyal and very knowledgeable aficionados among persons representing all manner of humanity.”

The solution proposed by Melvin Cox and others targets a more equitable distribution of the scholarships, internships, jobs, contracts, investment opportunities and profits associated with the global horse business. A key component of this effort is to increase awareness among young people in cities, suburbs and rural communities regarding the opportunities for successful and fulfilling careers available in the horse business. Cox believes that America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities

(HBCUs) and her Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) represent an untapped "gold mine" of talent and opportunity.

"There are more ways to make money in this industry than meet the eye", says #DOTAE2019 Co-Chair Pamela Glover-Cox. "The horse world has an ongoing need for skills in many areas including: Advertising and Media, Apparel, Art, Bloodstock Management, Construction and Engineering, Course Design, Ergonomics, Hospitality, Logistics, Medicine, Safety, Security Systems, Software Design, Stable Management, Transportation and Veterinary Services."

This month's Day of the African Equestrian will be staged as an adjunct to the International Jumping Competition being held October 16 – 20 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. The tournament will include qualifying classes for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

The #DOTAE2019 gala staged on Saturday evening, October 19th (7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) at Harambee Farm will honor equestrians of African ancestry active in national and international level pursuits since 1975.

Guests at the evening soirée will feast upon a variety of treats inspired by the cuisines of North Africa and the Americas – expertly prepared by chefs from the renowned Hare and Hound Pub of Landrum, SC.

#DOTAE2019 will benefit educational programs administered by The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc.

Tickets for the 2nd Annual Day of the African Equestrian gala are available online at:

<https://dotae2019.brownpapertickets.com/>

The African Connections Research and Education Fund, Inc. (www.africanconnections.com) was created in direct response to the numerous distortions, half-truths and omissions seen almost daily in the popular media regarding Africa, her people and the African Diaspora.

The principal mission of the organization is to illuminate, to educate and to provide a balanced viewpoint that celebrates genuine achievement and service to humanity.

SportsQuest International, LLC (www.SportsQuestInternational.com) is a privately held multimedia production and consulting company specializing in the development and promotion of sports-related programming that presents positive, informationally rich themes. The company is widely known for its coverage of national and international level equestrian events.

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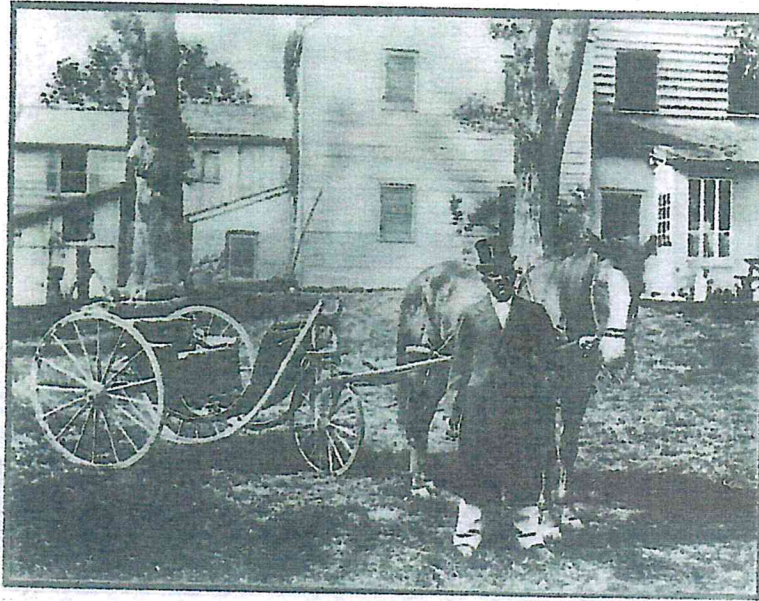


International Museum of the Horse to Develop Online 'Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry'



February 19, 2019 Noelle Maxwell Noelle Maxwell #HISTORY Leave a comment

“We believe these stories belong to everyone; they’re a reflection of American history as a whole.”



Willis Buckner & the Three Wheeled Chaise. Highland Falls New York, ca. 1900.

The International Museum of the Horse, based at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, recently announced that they received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop a website for a project called “The Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry.” We chatted with Karen Lanier, Digital Project Manager, to learn about the project and how people can get involved.

The Chronicle is described as an online, interactive archive that will house and display photos, documents, and artifacts related to the history of African Americans in the equine industry. According to Lanier, it’s a “digital history platform that makes our shared past more relevant, searchable, and accessible.” She added, “we’re focused on African Americans in the horse industry because we realize their role has been largely overlooked and their history poorly preserved.”

The project’s grant term runs from October 2018 to October 2020; however, its origins go back to 2014, according to [this blog](#) by former International Museum of the Horse director, Bill Cooke. Cooke was enthralled by the story of African American jockey Isaac Murphy, and as his knowledge and enthusiasm for the history of African Americans in the industry grew, he wanted to make a commitment to preserve that history by creating a

permanent exhibit at the Museum. After realizing the potential scope of the exhibit, the idea of a nationwide chronicle was born.



Photo by Noelle Maxwell

Per Lanier, the Chronicle has four main goals:

1. Increasing the quality and amount of African American history included in American history.
2. Connect individuals with their past.
3. Correct the record that the horse industry, particularly racing, was solely for wealthy white people.
4. Build the capacity for ongoing crowdsourcing.

Lanier stated that the project is “much broader than horse racing” and will cover all breeds, all equine-related professions, and all areas of the equine industry, saying, “from slavery to soldiers, from agriculture to professional sports, African Americans have played an integral role [in the equine industry].” The project will also cover all time periods and has no geographic boundaries. Lanier said, “We hope to make universal connections that include people today who work with horses. For now, we’re starting locally and small. We’ll build a Kentucky-based prototype website first and test it before it goes nationwide and, ultimately, worldwide.”

The project, according to Lanier, is important because, “the entire equine industry has been built

on the backs of African Americans, and recognition of their achievements and contributions is long overdue. Memory holders and storytellers are aging or passing away, or they may not feel their history is valued. We hope to provide a space for anyone to share what they know about their ancestors as well as living horse professionals. Likewise, we believe these stories belong to everyone; they're a reflection of American history as a whole. Making them accessible will open up conversations and broaden awareness about the complete story of African American horsemen and horsewomen."

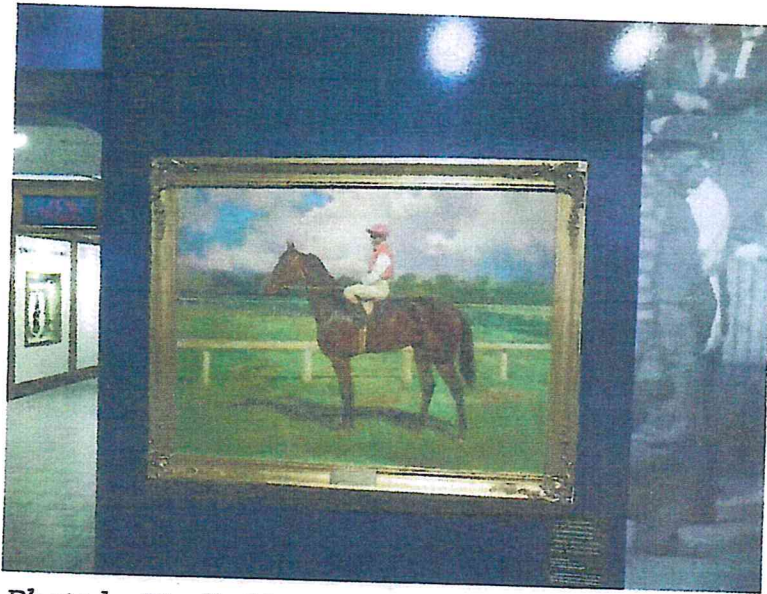


Photo by Noelle Maxwell

As for how people can get involved, simply spreading the word will help immensely. Otherwise, share your stories and knowledge and encourage others to do so. "Every story is important," said Lanier. "Share your photographs, documents, letters, or artifacts – we don't need to keep them but would love to see them."

The Chronicle has two upcoming "History Harvest" events, both at The Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center, in Lexington, KY. These events, which are free and open to the public, provide an opportunity for people to share their stories or have artifacts documented. The Chronicle is also looking for user-input on how they expect to use the site and what they'd like to see on it; the goal is to create a space where individuals can directly contribute their digital files to the project. If you have any

contributions to the project or are interested in testing the website, you can contact the Chronicle at chronicleinfo@ky.gov.

**DOES YOUR FAMILY HISTORY INCLUDE
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to be digitized for the
Chronicle of African Americans
in the Horse Industry

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History Harvest
April 13, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
May 18, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
The Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
 300 East 3rd Street, Lexington, KY 40508
Free & Open to the public

THE GOAL of the History Harvest is to uncover stories of African American people who worked or currently work with horses. All breeds and all horse-related occupations will be included.

WE INVITE everyone to share their memories and artifacts to help tell a more diverse and inclusive history of the horse industry.

YOUR MATERIALS will be scanned, photographed and documented. You'll receive a digital copy, and the museum will keep a digital copy for future use on the Chronicle website.

Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry

The Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry will be an interactive educational website that tells the story of African Americans and the roles they played, and still play, in the horse industry.

"History Harvest" Postcard

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1 2

Julian Hyde, says his focus for this year

presenting Jamaica at the highest level in

Hyde
Contributed
"I am still with the horses, but right now I am more into coaching the younger riders. We have young riders we are trying to get into the fold, and we are doing the groundwork because we lost a lot of our older riders and we are trying to get new people interested," he said.

"I never saw myself as a coach, but the sport has given me so much over the years and it's just a way to give back. We have some really good talent out there ... and other potential riders to make Jamaica proud," he added.

One of Hyde's ambitions is to get more youngsters from the wider crosssection of the society more involved in the sport.

"For the sport in general, a goal is to get more people interested, not just those from the upper echelons of society, but get everyone interested. So my goal is to spread the word and get it out there so anybody can take a chance.

"The last two to three years, we have fell off because the older ones (riders) go away to the US for boarding school. But we still have a good little crop, good facilities and good coaches who bring young riders and get a lot of people interested.

"We need to improve facilities, the ringing at Caymanas Park needs work and sand to get it level. Also I would love more international horses in Jamaica, so instead of just horses from track, we would like to get some from overseas," he added.

Hyde, who has won the category award for equestrian at the RJR National Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year Awards on four occasions, returned home last year after five years overseas and is keeping his personal ambitions in tune.

"At the same time, I want to pursue my dream. It's a lot of work, but we are getting it done. And for this year, the goal is to qualify for the 2017 FEI World Finals," he said. "I will compete and should do well enough to qualify for the finals. We also want to work towards the CAC Games, which is a more realistic goal for us now than the Olympics, but that (CAC) would be a starting point for that (Olympic) journey."

BCA_SB987_FAV

Uploaded by: BLENDY, NICHOLAS

Position: FAV



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 987

February 25, 2020

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 987 - Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 987.

SB 987 provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course (Pimlico) in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County by repurposing existing state revenue streams into a dedicated account to allow for bond issuances, funding mechanisms and fund transfers. The bill further clarifies a variety of issues of ownership and management of both racing facilities, as well as providing for tax incentives. The Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) is to oversee all issues regarding bond issuance and facility construction.

This bill has several provisions relevant and important to BCA. First, the Pimlico site will be conveyed to the City of Baltimore or a subsidiary designated by the City at a time and on conditions established in an agreement between the BCA, the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC) and the MSA. Second, the bill allows for the City or an entity designated by the city to manage and operate the Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Facility, grounds, and any facility not designated for the MJC's year-round use; the MJC will be responsible for maintaining the track surfaces and have priority use over the Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Facility and grounds for purposes related to racing, wagering, and other agreed-on uses in the agreement.

Perhaps most exciting to the BCA, SB 987 would allow for the private development of approximately 50 acres of land centered around the Pimlico track with the newly renovated facility repurposed as a year-round amenity accessible to and usable by the neighborhoods surrounding the facility.

The State of Maryland has long been a huge driver of investment in the Park Heights section of Baltimore City. The passage of SB 987 would serve as a capstone in the decades long development partnership between the State of Maryland and their Pimlico & Park Heights constituents. As Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young stated when the agreement leading to this legislation was announced in October 2019, “This is an historic moment. The Preakness Stakes is an important part of the city’s legacy and future.”¹

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 987.

¹ Jennifer Barker and Pamela Wood, The Baltimore Sun, Oct 5, 2019. “‘Historic’ deal aims to keep Preakness in Baltimore; track owner, city reach agreement after 4 months of talks.” <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-preakness-pimlico-20191005-6bn5tr3dinfezjmwltujaszgze-story.html> (last accessed Feb. 24, 2020).

SB987 Pimlico CHAI Testimony

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Position: FAV

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Lisa K. Budlow
Chief Executive Officer



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 987 (SB987) – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee February 25, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: SB987 lays out a vision for a redesigned and rebuilt Pimlico Race Course that offers modernized facilities for the Preakness, as well as ways to use the property year-round — athletic fields in the infield; spaces for community meetings, arts festivals, concerts and banquets; and parcels for mixed-use commercial, retail and residential development, such as a supermarket, family and senior housing, office space and more. The plan is the result of extensive negotiations by city leaders, the owners of the Maryland Jockey Club, and horse racing industry stakeholders.

Written Comments: The Pimlico Race Course property sits at the gateway to the Park Heights community. A year ago, when the General Assembly debated the future of the Preakness in Baltimore, northwest Baltimore community stakeholders were genuinely concerned that the Preakness would be leaving its longtime Pimlico home and the 149-year-old racetrack property would become vacant. The effects of that would have been devastating to the City of Baltimore, and especially to the Park Heights community.

Today, we enthusiastically support the package to redevelop the Pimlico Race Course Property, ensuring the historic Preakness Stakes stays in Baltimore. The Pimlico redevelopment plan creates the kind of momentum that is critical for strengthening Park Heights. Over the course of decades, CHAI has invested in Park Heights, owing and operating apartment buildings for seniors, investing in maintaining and developing housing stock and working side by side with Park Heights Renaissance, LifeBridge Health and other partners through the Northwest Baltimore Partnership to create opportunities to build value in Park Heights. We believe that the investment in the Pimlico Race Course property will be leveraged to attract redevelopment and reinvestment across the community, reinforcing and adding energy to efforts already in the works, and resulting in a benefit to all residents of Park Heights.



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Larry M. Wolf ^{z"l}

Lisa K. Budlow
Chief Executive Officer



To that end, we have worked through a collaborative process involving a variety of stakeholders including neighborhood residents and representatives from community associations, nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions, the business community and local and state government to develop a Pimlico Redevelopment Community Compact. With the proximity to the Pimlico Race Course property, community interests are integrally entwined with the future of this site. We believe that the overall success of the Pimlico redevelopment will be determined in whether and how it serves to lift up the entire Park Heights community, including supporting neighborhood-level community development.

The Community Compact provides for the establishment of a community advisory board, with notice and opportunity for the Board to have input on each step of the development process. This will ensure that the redevelopment aligns with community interests, providing benefit to the community beyond the Pimlico Race Course property borders. The Compact anticipates addressing issues such as traffic, noise and safety that may arise as a result of increased racing days at Pimlico during the Laurel Park construction. And finally, the Compact calls on Baltimore City to work collaboratively with the community advisory board to address community development issues such as jobs, housing, safety, traffic, lighting, green space and urban design across all neighborhoods of Park Heights. The Compact's signatories include the elected officials, Park Heights Renaissance, CHAI, LifeBridge Health and neighborhood association presidents from across Park Heights, and we have assurance it will be signed by the City of Baltimore.

We believe that the Pimlico redevelopment will provide community benefit by way of its beautification and utilization of the site, the confidence and hope inspired by virtue of the investment in this marquee property, the addition of recreational facilities that will be available for use by the community, and through the infrastructure improvements to be made. And we believe in the critical importance of leveraging this pivotal opportunity to invest in the whole community. SB987, when combined with the Community Compact, will serve to meet these goals.

Accordingly, CHAI urges a favorable report on SB987.



BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0987

Uploaded by: Conner, Chuck

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 987**

TITLE: **Racing and Community Development Act of 2020**

SPONSOR: **Senator Guzzone**

COMMITTEE: **Budget and Taxation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 25, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020. The bill authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375,000,000 of bonds for the redevelopment of the Laurel Park and Pimlico racing facilities.

Maryland’s rich equestrian heritage and traditions are woven deep into the State’s history and identity. Upholding this heritage is critical to the State’s character, and investments in the preservation of equestrian industries support a staple of Maryland’s tourism efforts and uplift the various communities that are intertwined with those industries.

SB 987 provides a comprehensive plan to revitalize two of horse racing’s most important sites – the Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park. Passage of this legislation will ensure that Maryland retains the Preakness Stakes. The second jewel of the Triple Crown has been held in Baltimore for almost 150 years, and losing this event would be devastating for the city. SB 987 will also make critical community development investments in Baltimore’s treasured Park Heights community, ensuring that the residents surrounding Pimlico are incorporated into the area’s revitalization.

Baltimore County also encourages the State to consider similar investments at the Timonium Fairgrounds. The old Timonium Raceway comes to life each summer for live racing during the Maryland State Fair, but the track faces aging infrastructure issues not unlike those found at Pimlico and Laurel Park. The Timonium Raceway is another important piece of Maryland’s horse racing history, and it deserves a similar revitalization.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 987. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.

CHAI_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Cricket Goodall, Dr. Michael Harrison

Position: FAV

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Lisa K. Budlow
Chief Executive Officer



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 987 (SB987) – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee February 25, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: SB987 lays out a vision for a redesigned and rebuilt Pimlico Race Course that offers modernized facilities for the Preakness, as well as ways to use the property year-round — athletic fields in the infield; spaces for community meetings, arts festivals, concerts and banquets; and parcels for mixed-use commercial, retail and residential development, such as a supermarket, family and senior housing, office space and more. The plan is the result of extensive negotiations by city leaders, the owners of the Maryland Jockey Club, and horse racing industry stakeholders.

Written Comments: The Pimlico Race Course property sits at the gateway to the Park Heights community. A year ago, when the General Assembly debated the future of the Preakness in Baltimore, northwest Baltimore community stakeholders were genuinely concerned that the Preakness would be leaving its longtime Pimlico home and the 149-year-old racetrack property would become vacant. The effects of that would have been devastating to the City of Baltimore, and especially to the Park Heights community.

Today, we enthusiastically support the package to redevelop the Pimlico Race Course Property, ensuring the historic Preakness Stakes stays in Baltimore. The Pimlico redevelopment plan creates the kind of momentum that is critical for strengthening Park Heights. Over the course of decades, CHAI has invested in Park Heights, owing and operating apartment buildings for seniors, investing in maintaining and developing housing stock and working side by side with Park Heights Renaissance, LifeBridge Health and other partners through the Northwest Baltimore Partnership to create opportunities to build value in Park Heights. We believe that the investment in the Pimlico Race Course property will be leveraged to attract redevelopment and reinvestment across the community, reinforcing and adding energy to efforts already in the works, and resulting in a benefit to all residents of Park Heights.



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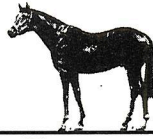
Accordingly, CHAI urges a favorable report on SB987.



MDHBA_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Cricket Goodall, Dr. Michael Harrison

Position: FAV



MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman
Budget and Tax Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB987 (Support)

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Committee:

As the President of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association (MHBA), a farm owner, a practicing veterinarian and a long-time breeder and owner of Maryland-bred horses I want to strongly support the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (SB 987). This legislation has generated enthusiastic support from the owners and operators of Maryland's horse breeding farms, as well as the general membership of the MHBA. This legislation will achieve so much good for so many Marylanders, as well as energizing the entire racing and breeding industries, and all the related agricultural businesses.

The Maryland horse industry has a significant impact on the State of Maryland with:

- More than 21,000 jobs
- Over 700,000 acres used for equine related purposes
- \$2.06 billion in economic impact for Maryland

The revitalization of the Pimlico and Laurel Park racetracks will have a direct and significant impact on Maryland's horse industry. The most valid, relevant indicator of the health of Maryland Thoroughbred breeding industry is the Annual Maryland Registered Foal Crop which, since its nadir in 2012, has been in a continuous climb to the most recent completed figures for 2018, with 672 foals produced or 3.1% of the total North American foal crop. This is a percentage last reached in 1999 [Source: 2020 Maryland Fact Book, The Jockey Club].

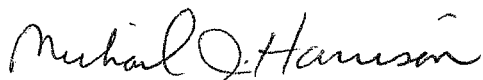
Page Two

Maryland breeding and racing faces many real challenges including stiff competition from neighboring and regional states, along with the pressing responsibilities to improve the welfare and care of our equine athletes. We applaud the plan to establish the Equine Health, Safety and Welfare Committee under the guidance of the Maryland Racing Commission (MRC). We look forward to working with MRC to produce a practical working group to formalize and validate the suggestions and steps needed to improve our equine athletes care.

We would like to conclude by thanking all of those who have worked so diligently to bring this epic opportunity for Maryland racing and breeding and for communities of Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Prince George's County to this point. Not even a year ago, no one imagined this partnership could be possible. We would particularly like to thank the Legislators and the City and County leaders for their hard work and wisdom in the creation and support of The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020.

On behalf of the MHBA we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB987.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Harrison".

Michael J. Harrison, DVM
President



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman
Budget and Tax Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB987 (Support)

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Committee:

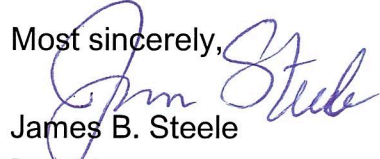
On behalf of the Maryland Million Ltd. (MML) Board of Directors I want to confirm our strong support of the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (HB 1056). The Maryland Million program encourages horse breeders and owners to come into Maryland to breed to our stallions generating business on Maryland farms and communities while creating commerce for the State of Maryland. We know that the stronger the racing program is in Maryland the stronger the breeding business is, and that translates into more business for the ag community.

All the horses that are produced by Maryland stallions are all eligible to run on Jim McKay Maryland Million Day at Laurel Park annually in the fall. The event is the largest, in terms of attendance and wagering, that is run at Laurel Park each year. With legislative support the event is now proudly named for the founder Jim McKay, who loved sports, horses and Maryland.

The Racing and Community Act of 2020 is a win-win for the horse industry, and for both signature Maryland racing events – Preakness and Jim McKay Maryland Million, but the more importantly the impact will be much broader than that. The planned first-class facilities in Baltimore and Laurel will become anchors for the surrounding neighborhoods and communities to build on. They will be partners in the revitalization that comes along with positive progress.

On behalf of the MML we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB987.

Most sincerely,


James B. Steele
President

valley” and fostered cooperation among groups with historically different opinions. As a result, we have carefully managed the VLT revenues into vastly improved health care for backstretch workers and horsemen, racetrack improvements, purses and breeders’ funds. This investment is dove-tailing with the timeline of the new construction in the legislation.

Four generations of the Pons Family have been breeding, raising, racing, and managing Thoroughbred horses for more than 100 years, with nine decades being in Maryland. We love Maryland, and enjoy living, working and raising our families here. Our Country Life Farm is the state’s oldest Thoroughbred farm, founded in 1933. Winners of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont, racing’s Triple Crown, have been conceived here. We also foaled Cigar, winner of 16-in-a-row, earner of nearly \$10M, and two-time Horse of the Year. Many superior racehorses, stallions and mares began their careers with us.

Currently, we are boarding, training, and managing more than 150 horses – all of which require: farm workers, veterinarians, blacksmiths, equine dentist, feed man, hay and straw supplier, handy/repair men, van drivers, accountants, attorneys, marketing/advertising coordinator, sales people, bloodstock agents, business consultants, pedigree experts, among many others. Horses are labor-intensive, cash intensive, and mentally intensive. Country Life’s pay top dollar for the best local hay and straw, as well as for the assistance of nearby farmers in fertilizing, reseeding and managing our pastures.

Currently, we have 25 employees, supporting their families, who live in Maryland. Our income has been revitalized by the increased funds into the Purse and Maryland-Bred Accounts from the VLT funding. Over the past decade, we have invested millions into farm improvements, stallions, breeding stock, racehorses, barns, buildings, fencing, equipment and payroll. Now, with the advent of new facilities at Pimlico and Laurel, we are poised for additional growth. Maryland is once again, attracting some of the top horse owners, breeders and fans. We are the envy of the Mid-Atlantic.

The Maryland horse industry will host a job fair at Pimlico and Laurel Park for anyone who wants a job in the horse business, working with horses, from the farms and training centers to the racetrack.

Country Life’s business is growing. Our clients love their horses and they frequently travel to Maryland to see them and participate in our races and sales, visit the farms, enjoying the crab cakes and our live style. They are diverse group, ranging from a few very wealthy supporters, to a much larger core of middle-class investors. Most are from the East Coast, but a significant portion are from literally from nearly every state in the continental U.S. Our clients love Maryland and visit here frequently. They plan return trips, not long after getting home.

My grandfather, Adolphe Pone, chose Maryland in 1930's over several nearby states, because of our wonderful horse heritage, quality of life and our infra-structure of highways, railroads and airports. At that time, Pimlico, Laurel, Havre de Grace, and Bowie provided quality near year-round racing. He found a farm with a beautiful house, ample acreage and barns, ready to move-in. He had conducted business with top local farms like Sagamore and Belair Stud, and he enjoyed considerable good fortune racing and selling horses here. Our roads and railways made his New York commute only about four hours away. Maryland was also home to many smaller horse farms, which needed quality young stallions, like the ones standing at Country Life Farm, to upgrade their mares. **Maryland has always been a wonderful place to raise a family. Hence, we too, chose to live, work and raise our families here as well.**

For more than 400 years, Maryland has been breeding and racing horses. Kentucky was just prairie when George Washington attended horse races on the streets of Annapolis. Maryland is home to a more than 100,000 horses, the most horses per square-mile (10.5 horses/square mile) in the nation. We offer a smorgasbord of equine events: the Maryland Hunt Cup began in 1894 is one of the oldest and most challenging steeplechase races in the world, Greenspring, Elkridge-Harford, Marlborough, Potomac, Howard County hunt clubs, among others are recognized nationwide, this fall, the Maryland Five-Star at Fair Hill will attract riders and spectators from all over the globe. Fair Hill Racecourse is undergoing multi-million-dollar improvements, under the direction of the Maryland Stadium Authority, transforming the facilities into a world class facility.

Maryland has always been a leader in the horse industry. 1. We established the first state-bred breeders' program. 2. We pioneered winter racing here, providing a year-round circuit for our horsemen and fans. 3. We staged the first truly International race in America, with the Washington D.C. International inviting the top horses, owners, trainers and fans from all over the world. 4. Every year, we host Jim McKay's Maryland Million, the first race-day restricted to either state-sired or state-bred horses in the nation. 5. We're building new racing facilities, being primarily funded from current resources redirected to pay for the capital improvements, which has not been done before in the U.S.

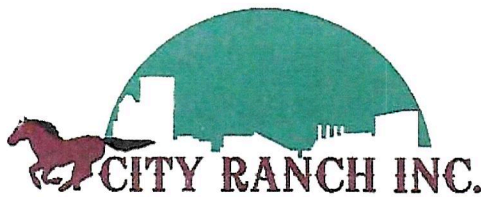
The Preakness is Maryland's largest sporting day, by far. Our horse industry's economic impact is larger than the Ravens, Orioles or Terps. We have real-life farms, more than 705,000 acres raising horses, with an economic impact of \$2.1 Billion/annually. The horse business is a worldwide industry. It's totality, the value of all the horses, farms, houses, barns, buildings, racetracks, trails, farm equipment, horse equipment, etc. makes the horse business the seventh largest business in the world. In addition, a recent economic impact study placed a multiplier of five on every dollar spent in the Maryland horse industry. So, if Country Life Farm spent \$4,000,000 in 2019, then our impact was \$20,000,000.

Laurel Park, too, will undergo a complete transformation – all new barns, dormitories, grandstand and clubhouse. A new train station is being built, which should become a popular destination stop midway between Baltimore and Washington D.C. Laurel will also install a polytrack, which combined with the outstanding dirt and turf course, will be the only racetrack in America offering all three surfaces. The new improvements will be attracted new owners, trainers and breeders to Maryland, creating new business opportunities for our long-standing farms and horsemen, and will probably encourage others to buy horse farms here as well.

This new plan for Pimlico and the Preakness, and for Laurel Park and Maryland horsemen is an incredible opportunity, which can't be missed. Marylanders, fans of the Preakness, citizens of Park Heights and Baltimore, horsemen from all over the Mid-Atlantic and others have hoped, dreamed and wished for: a new Pimlico, as a year-round multi-use facility, helping to uplift Park Heights and northwest Baltimore, and for new racetrack facilities. Now is the time. We must work together to pass this legislation. The stars are in proper alignment, vote YES in favor of this transformative plan for: Pimlico, Baltimore, Laurel and the State of Maryland.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Pons, Co-Owner, with brother, Josh, of Country Life and Merryland Farms



2601 Talbot Road, Suite 1, Baltimore, Maryland 21216 . www.thecityranch.org . 410 456 2195

February 24, 2020

To The Honorable Chairperson:

I write in SUPPORT OF SB 987.

I am Ahesahmahk EO Dahn, a citizen of Baltimore City from the age of nine, a 1965 graduate of Fredrick Douglass High School and a 1970 graduate of Morgan State College - University status came after I graduated. I am a US Army veteran, and a former Baltimore City Public Schools teacher. However, it is the work that I do now as the volunteer CEO of City Ranch, Inc. a Maryland chartered not-for-profit 501 c3 Equine Educational Organization that works to reintroduce the equine industry into Baltimore City that is the reason I wholeheartedly support this bill.

The bill before this body is a giant step towards that goal. By upgrading the Pimlico Racecourse and the surrounding neighborhoods the State of Maryland will show the world that it VALUES Baltimore City and its citizens.

I implore that this body include in this bill a provision to establish a year round equine presence in the plan whereby the citizens of Baltimore City will have access to the magnificent animals that horses are. I additionally request that an amendment to the bill be accepted and added to accomplish the above.

Finally, I request that City Ranch, Inc., the only licensed equine program in Baltimore City, be provided funding to operate such a program.

I pray that with your collective wisdom you will do what is right and just for the Citizens of Maryland and Baltimore City.

Respectfully,

SB 987 Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, February 25, 2020

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council - Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes over 40 breed, interest and discipline associations, plus horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses and race tracks, to the owners of international level competition horses, local sport horses, trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. The owner of Pimlico, Laurel and Rosecroft racetracks is a member, as are vets, tack stores, and other farms, businesses and enthusiasts throughout the state. As such, we stand for over 30,000 Marylanders.



Maryland horse people care about Maryland racing; we care about the Preakness; and we care about the communities that host our racing events. MHC supports SB 987 as an historic, innovative, and, we believe, achievable initiative that will help the Maryland racing industry as well as the local communities around Pimlico and Laurel continue to flourish and thrive.

We request, however, that the bill be amended with respect to the provisions governing the disposition of the Bowie Racetrack. Specifically, in section 11-519, (D) (1) (I), [page 9, lines 24-28) we request the following language be added to the conveyed uses:

(I) THE PORTION OF THE BOWIE RACE COURSE TRAINING CENTER PROPERTY THAT IS WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE TOP OF THE PATUXENT RIVER BANK TO THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION TO BE USED FOR PASSIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HIKING, WILDLIFE VIEWING, PICNICKING, WALKING, AND EQUESTRIAN USES; AND . . .

The Bowie Race Track was a home to Maryland racing from 1914 until 2015, and horses are an important part of Bowie's history. Permitting equestrian uses such as riding trails at the Bowie property presents an opportunity to preserve that equine legacy. Equestrian uses help preserve open space and provide outdoor recreational opportunities in the region. For example, our members know from our own experience that preparing trails for shared uses from the initial planning stage is beneficial from economic, development and environmental perspectives.

MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL
PO BOX 606
LISBON, MD 21765

Maryland is home to over 100,000 horses as part of a \$2.1 billion industry. Keeping part of the Bowie Race Course Training Center property in equine use is compatible not only with the Maryland Horse Council's Vision Statement ("To ensure that Maryland remains a state where horses and people involved with horses are welcome and can thrive"), but also with the interest of all people in Maryland in preserving our rich equestrian heritage, with all its concomitant economic, environmental and cultural benefits.



Respectfully submitted,

The Maryland Horse Council

mdhorsecouncil.org

(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)

MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL
PO BOX 606
LISBON, MD 21765

Pons_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Cricket Goodall, Dr. Michael Harrison

Position: FAV

February 25, 2020

Mike and Josh Pons, Co-Owners of Country Life and Merryland Farms

Testimony in Favor of:

Senate Bill 987, Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

House Bill 1056, Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

As longtime Maryland horse owners and breeders, and owners of two Maryland farms, the Pons Family's supports: Senate Bill 987 and House Bill 1056, the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020. Passage of this bill would be a huge win for Pimlico and the Park Heights community, for Baltimore City and Maryland, for Laurel Park and the City of Laurel, and for the three counties on which Laurel Park is located. But it's also a big win for the Preakness, Maryland's largest sporting event annually, as well as for Laurel Park, and for the entire Maryland's horse breeding and racing industry.

New facilities at Pimlico and Laurel Park will transform Maryland into a national power, attracting more business and investment into our state. In terms of attendance, pari-mutuel handle and profitability, there is significant room for growth in the Preakness Festival and for racing at Laurel Park as well. Look to the Kentucky Derby as your model. Every capital improvement at Churchill Downs results in significant growth in attendance, handle and profit.

Preakness and Pimlico are words known around the world. Since 1873, Preakness has been one of the biggest days on the Sporting Calendar. It is Maryland's Super Bowl. Last year, Pimlico's third division grandstand was closed, displacing 10,000 fans. Despite this inconvenience, bettors wagered more than \$100M nationwide on the Preakness. We need facilities commensurate with a G-I event. Passage of the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 will grant the Maryland Stadium Authority the responsibility of building first-rate facilities at both Pimlico and Laurel Park.

Maryland Racing and Breeding industry has a 10-year plan, signed by the Stronach Group, Maryland Thoroughbreds Horsemen's Association and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. This agreement, the only one of its kind nationwide, has provided "peace in the valley" and fostered cooperation among groups with historically different opinions. As a result, our industry has crafted a plan, which has been spending our Video Lottery Terminal revenues wisely. We have been invested more money into health care for our backstretch workers and horsemen, as well as making significant racetrack improvements, and increasing the size of our purses and breeders' funds. Approval of this legislation will also extend our plan for another decade, and it's dove-tailing with the timeline of the new construction.

Four generations of the Pons Family have been breeding, raising, racing, and managing Thoroughbred horses for more than a century, with nine decades being in Maryland. We love Maryland, and enjoy living, working and raising our families here. Our Country Life Farm is the state's oldest Thoroughbred farm, founded in 1933. Winners of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont, racing's Triple Crown, have been conceived here. We also foaled Cigar, winner of 16-in-a-row, earner of nearly \$10M, and two-time Horse of the Year. Many superior racehorses, stallions and mares began their careers here.

Currently, we are boarding, training, and managing more than 150 horses – all of which require: farm workers, veterinarians, blacksmiths, equine dentists, feed men, hay and straw suppliers, handy/repair men, van drivers, accountants, attorneys, marketing/advertising coordinators, sales people, bloodstock agents, business consultants, pedigree experts, among many others. Horses are labor-intensive, cash intensive, and mentally intensive. Country Life's pay top dollar for the best local hay and straw, as well as for the assistance from nearby farmers in fertilizing, reseeding and managing our pastures.

Currently, we have 25 employees, many of them have families, who live in Maryland. Over the past decade, we have invested millions into farm improvements in fencing, barns, buildings roadways and pastures. We have also purchased new stallions and mares, as well as racehorses. With new facilities at Pimlico and Laurel Park, we are poised for additional growth. Maryland is once again, attracting some of the top horse owners, breeders and fans. We are the envy of the East Coast.

The Maryland horse industry will host a job fair at Pimlico and Laurel Park for anyone who wants a job in the horse business, working with horses, from the farms and training centers to the racetrack.

Country Life's business is growing. Our clients love their horses, frequently traveling to Maryland to see them and participate in our races and sales. They visit our farms, enjoying the crab cakes and live-style of the Free-State. They are diverse group, ranging from a few very wealthy patrons, to a much larger core of middle-class investors. Most are from the East Coast, but a significant portion are from literally from nearly every state in the continental U.S. Our clients love Maryland and visit here frequently.

My grandfather, Adolphe Pone, chose Maryland in 1930's over several nearby states, because of our wonderful horse heritage, quality of life and our infra-structure of highways and railroads. At that time, Pimlico, Laurel, Havre de Grace, and Bowie provided quality near year-round racing. Adolphe had found a farm near Bel Air in Harford County, with a beautiful house, ample acreage and sturdy barns, ready to move-in. For years, he had conducted business with top local horse farms like Sagamore and Belair Stud, and he enjoyed considerable good fortune racing and selling horses here. Our roads and railways made his New York commute only about four hours away. Maryland was also home to many smaller Thoroughbred horse farms, which needed quality young stallions, like the ones standing at Country Life Farm, to upgrade their mares. **Maryland has always been a wonderful place to raise a family. Hence, we too, chose to live, work and raise our families here as well.**

For more than 400 years, Maryland has been breeding and racing horses. Kentucky was just prairie when George Washington attended horse races on the streets of Annapolis. Maryland is home to a more than 100,000 horses, the most horses per square-mile (10.5 horses/square mile) in the nation. We offer a smorgasbord of equine events: the Maryland Hunt Cup, began in 1894, is one of the oldest and most challenging steeplechase races, the Greenspring, Elkridge-Harford, Marlborough, Potomac, and Howard County fox-hunting clubs, among the best nationwide, and this fall for the first time, the Maryland Five-Star at Fair Hill race course, in Cecil County, will attract some of the world's best-eventing horses, riders, and fans, who will spend several days here competing. Currently, Fair Hill is undergoing significant improvements, under the direction of the Maryland Stadium Authority, building a brand-new clubhouse, turf course, show rings, and steeplechase course, making it a world-class facility.

Maryland has always been a leader in the horse industry, often with the assistance of the Maryland General Assembly. 1. During the 1950's, Bowie racetrack pioneered winter racing, providing for a year-round circuit for our horses, trainers, owners and fans. 2. In 1951, Laurel hosted the first annual international horse race, inviting the top horses, trainers and owners from all over the globe. 3. In 1961, the Maryland Legislature approved the nation's first state-bred breeders' incentive program. 4. Since 1986, Maryland has conducted the Jim McKay's Maryland Million, the first race-day restricted exclusively to either state-sired or state-bred horses in the nation; now copied in 28 racing states. 5. In 2020, pending successful legislation would approve the construction of new racing facilities at both Pimlico and Laurel, being

financed primarily by redirecting current industry funds to pay for the capital improvement bonds, which has never been done before in the U.S.

The Maryland horse industry's economic impact is larger than the Ravens, Orioles or Terps. Unlike baseball, we have real-life farms, covering more than 705,000 acres, where we raise horses. Our economic impact is more than \$2.1 Billion/year. The horse business is a worldwide industry. All totaled, the value of all the horses, farms, farm improvements, farm and equipment, etc. makes the horse business the seventh largest business in the world. In addition, a recent economic impact study placed a multiplier of five on every dollar spent in the Maryland horse industry. So, if Country Life Farm spent \$4,000,000 in 2019, then our impact was \$20,000,000.

Laurel Park, too, will undergo a complete transformation – all new barns, dormitories, grandstand and clubhouse. It will become Maryland's mega-track, consolidating most of the training and racing at one site. Laurel Park will have a new train station, which should become a popular destination stop, midway between Baltimore and Washington D.C. Laurel plans to install a polytrack, which combined with the outstanding dirt and turf courses, it will be the only racetrack in America offering all three surfaces. The new improvements will attract new owners, trainers and breeders to Maryland, creating new business opportunities for our long-standing farms and horsemen, as well as encouraging investment in new farms here.

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 is an incredible opportunity, which can't be missed. Imagine a new Pimlico, which is home to not only the Preakness, but to the Baltimore-area residents, it's a multi-use facility. Dream of a mega-track at Laurel Park, where all the horses, barns, dormitories, track kitchen and recreational facilities, with a new clubhouse and a polytrack, located at one place. We ask for your support to pass this legislation. The stars are in proper alignment, vote YES in favor of this transformative plan for Maryland.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Pons, Co-Owner, of Country Life and Merryland Farms

Pimlico Support Letter

Uploaded by: Delegation, 41st District Delegation

Position: FAV

SENATOR JILL P. CARTER



DELEGATE DALYA ATTAR
DELEGATE TONY BRIDGES
DELEGATE SAMUEL I. ROSENBERG

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4I
BALTIMORE CITY

February 25, 2020

Delegate Anne Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Room 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter in Support of Senate Bill 987/House Bill 1056 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Madam and Mister Chairs and Members of the Committees,

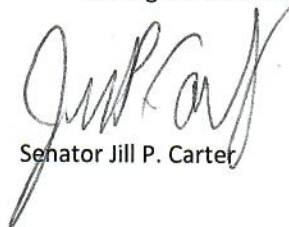
With the passage of Senate Bill 987/House Bill 1056, the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, the fence will come down around Pimlico Race Track. What is now essentially a vacant property, except for the third weekend in May, will become an attraction for Park Heights, Northwest Baltimore communities, city residents, and countless visitors.

We have reached this point because Baltimore City, the Maryland Jockey Club, and our state's horsemen have partnered to develop a win-win proposal. Our constituents, whom we have turned to for direction and advice, welcome this solution.

For years, our constituents have wanted much more out of the Pimlico property. By the end of this decade, all who call Northwest Baltimore home will look to Pimlico as a source of pride.

To ensure our constituents a role in the decision-making that will transform the asphalt that now surrounds the racetrack into a vibrant community, there will be a community compact. This will give our neighborhoods input into the decision making, which will include Sinai's new outpatient facility, residential housing, athletic fields, and commercial opportunities that promise to bring jobs and entrepreneurship to the residents of the Park Heights community.

We urge a favorable report.


Senator Jill P. Carter


Delegate Dalya Attar

Yours Truly,

Delegate Tony Bridges


Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

MFB_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Ferguson, Colby

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 25, 2020

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB987 - Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 987, legislation that provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County. Improving the tracks allows for more opportunities for our equine owners to race in Maryland.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We support the recognition of equine as part of the agricultural industry and not as companion animals. Riding lessons, boarding or training given on a farm, and pleasure horses should be considered a part of the normal agriculture practices. We support measures to improve the Maryland Bred Program within the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Industry.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 987 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

GBC_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Fry, Donald

Position: FAV

 **POSITION STATEMENT****TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE****SENATE BILL 987 – RACING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020****February 25, 2020****DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE****Position: Support**

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (Senate Bill 987), which represents a comprehensive agreement that benefits multiple communities, enhances horse racing across the state, and preserves the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore.

As business and civic leaders representing the Greater Baltimore region, the GBC honors the tradition of horse racing in Maryland and recognizes the significant economic impact that the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico brings to the Greater Baltimore region each year. Following an uncertain year for the future of horseracing in Maryland in 2019, the GBC commends the commitment and dedication of the negotiating parties to reach the agreement reflected in Senate Bill 987.

Under the provisions of Senate Bill 987, the majority of horse racing activities will be consolidated at Laurel Park, while the Preakness Stakes will continue to be run annually in Baltimore. Both facilities would be redeveloped by the Maryland Stadium Authority. The upgraded track at Laurel Park will ensure that the horse racing industry remains strong and competitive. The newly constructed mixed use facility at Pimlico will serve as a year-round community destination and other land surrounding the track will provide tremendous potential to spur need economic development in the adjacent communities, including Park Heights.

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 represents a unique opportunity to preserve the historic tradition of horseracing in Maryland, enhance the horseracing industry across the State, and spur economic development in the communities where these races have been held for decades. The GBC urges members of the Maryland General Assembly to recognize the significance of this proposal to the preservation of the state's horse racing industry and tradition.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 987.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 65-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org

SB987_Support_Sharon Middleton

Uploaded by: Green Middleton, Councilmember Sharon

Position: FAV

SHARON GREEN MIDDLETON
VICE PRESIDENT
Sixth District

Chair

Taxation, Finance, &
Economic Development
Committee

Vice-Chair

Land Use & Transportation
Committee

Member

Budget & Appropriations
Committee



Baltimore City Council
Baltimore, Maryland

City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Room 516
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Office -410-396-4832
Fax -410-244-5343
Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov

2/25/20

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 987- Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

First, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you to the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton, of Baltimore City Council District 6. I'm here today to testify in strong support of SB 987. I have represented Southern Park Heights for over 12 years.

Keeping the Preakness in Baltimore and more importantly, in the Pimlico and Park Heights community, is critical to the City as a whole, and the Northwest area. This plan paves the way for an holistic, equitable approach for further redevelopment. It will stimulate the local economy through real estate projects, streetscape programs, and provide partners with several community organizations, and comprehensive education and outreach programs, that lead into the building of our long waiting, Park Heights Library. It will also provide diverse segments of the regional population with access to Cultural District activities. This will be a driving force of an innovative, diverse social, racial, and economic community strategy that intertwines neighborhoods lead by and in partnership with the Park Heights Renaissance. This vital asset will not only create jobs, but pride, visibility, and a unique identity for unity in the Northwest region and throughout Baltimore.

I leave you with this Black History thought:

The Sanfoka Children's Museum just moved to Park Height, in January. An awesome addition to the community. The only African Children's Museum in the Country. Sankofa teaches us that we must constantly monitor the present by going back to our roots in order to move forward. We should critically examine the past and gather the best of what it has to teach us. Reclaiming what we have lost or been stripped of through modernity, and preserving it as we engage the present in view of the future, is critically imperative for both the present and the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon G. Middleton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sharon Green Middleton, VP/Councilwoman, District 6

cc: Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, Maryland House of Delegates

VisitBaltimore_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Hutchinson, Al

Position: FAV

February 20, 2020

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Visit Baltimore
RE: **SB987 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the official destination marketing organization for the City of Baltimore, Visit Baltimore's mission is to generate economic benefits through the attraction of conventions, events and leisure visitors.

On behalf of our 800-strong member network— and the more than 85,000+ area residents in their employ – Visit Baltimore urges you to support **SB987** authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to issue up to \$375,000,000 in bonds to redevelop the Laurel Park and Pimlico racing facilities.

The Preakness Stakes at Pimlico generates significant economic benefits for the State of Maryland and for the Baltimore region's tourism community. According to the MSA's own reports, the event supports 620 jobs and adds \$2.7 million in tax revenue at the local level. Overall, Preakness has an economic impact of \$48.8 million.

We believe the Pimlico plan outlined in the MSA's 2018 study provides a feasible path forward for this beloved Baltimore tradition. We're pleased that The City of Baltimore and the Stronach Group came to this historic agreement, and we urge you to support this plan to ensure that Preakness remains in Baltimore.

Submitted respectfully,



Al Hutchinson
President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

SB987_Support_Racing and Community

Uploaded by: Jiggetts, Yolanda

Position: FAV

February 24, 2020

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Dear Senator Guzzone:

On behalf of Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. (PHR), I submit this letter of support of SB 987 which will designate the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375,000,000 of bonds for the redevelopment of the Laurel Park and Pimlico racing facilities. The redevelopment of the Pimlico Racecourse is a vital component to the revitalization efforts for the Park Heights community and will be a catalyst for continued investment in this community. Not only is it vital to supporting economic growth in the Park Heights community, but it is equally as important in supporting economic growth for the State of Maryland.

PHR was formed based on a recommendation in the Park Heights Master Plan, which was finalized in 2006 and revised in 2008. The Master Plan recommended the creation of a Park Heights-based community development corporation (CDC) with the capacity to:

- effectively manage the components of the Park Heights Master Plan related to housing, economic development and human services;
- to serve as a positive and effective bridge and communication link between and among community residents, elected officials, other stakeholders, investors and the City; and
- to conduct monitoring and evaluation of all implementation activities related to the Park Heights Master Plan.

In line with the mission of the organization, PHR understands the importance of the Pimlico redevelopment project, but are focused on ensuring the residents, businesses, faith based organizations, and other stakeholders of Park Heights have the opportunity to participate in the planning and redevelopment efforts that will impact their community. We have worked diligently with community partners to finalize a Community Compact that will be signed by representative community leaders and stakeholders in the Park Heights community. We are grateful to Mayor Young, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the MD Jockey Club for their commitment to be signatories of this agreement and to understanding that the community at large must have a voice about decisions made that will impact their lives.

**BOARD OF
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Executive Director

Yolanda Jiggetts

While, the community wholeheartedly supports the redevelopment of the Pimlico and maintaining the Preakness in this community, there is equal concern that the annual \$3.5m reduction in the Pimlico Local Impact Aid for the Park Heights Master Plan area may impact progress on other capital projects such construction of a community library that has long been promised to the community.

PHR commits to being a leader in driving community investment to Park Heights and is working to unite the community around a shared vision and goals. This will allow us to utilize the limited resources available most effectively and leverage opportunities to collaborate and fundraise to support continued momentum on other major development and human services priorities such as a community library.

We are pleased that this legislation also recommends funding to strengthen capacity for the organization by dedicating sufficient operating funds to support the community in these efforts. These improvements will positively change the trajectory of a community that has historically been underserved and underrepresented in major areas vital to its success.

Thank you for your commitment to empowering the community of Park Heights with this important legislation. Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. is proud to be a supporter of SB 987.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Jiggetts
Executive Director

MJC_FAV_SB987_

Uploaded by: Johansen, Mike

Position: FAV

Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Support

Senate Bill 987

House Bill 1056



Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Mike Johansen – RWL for Maryland
Jockey Club & TSG

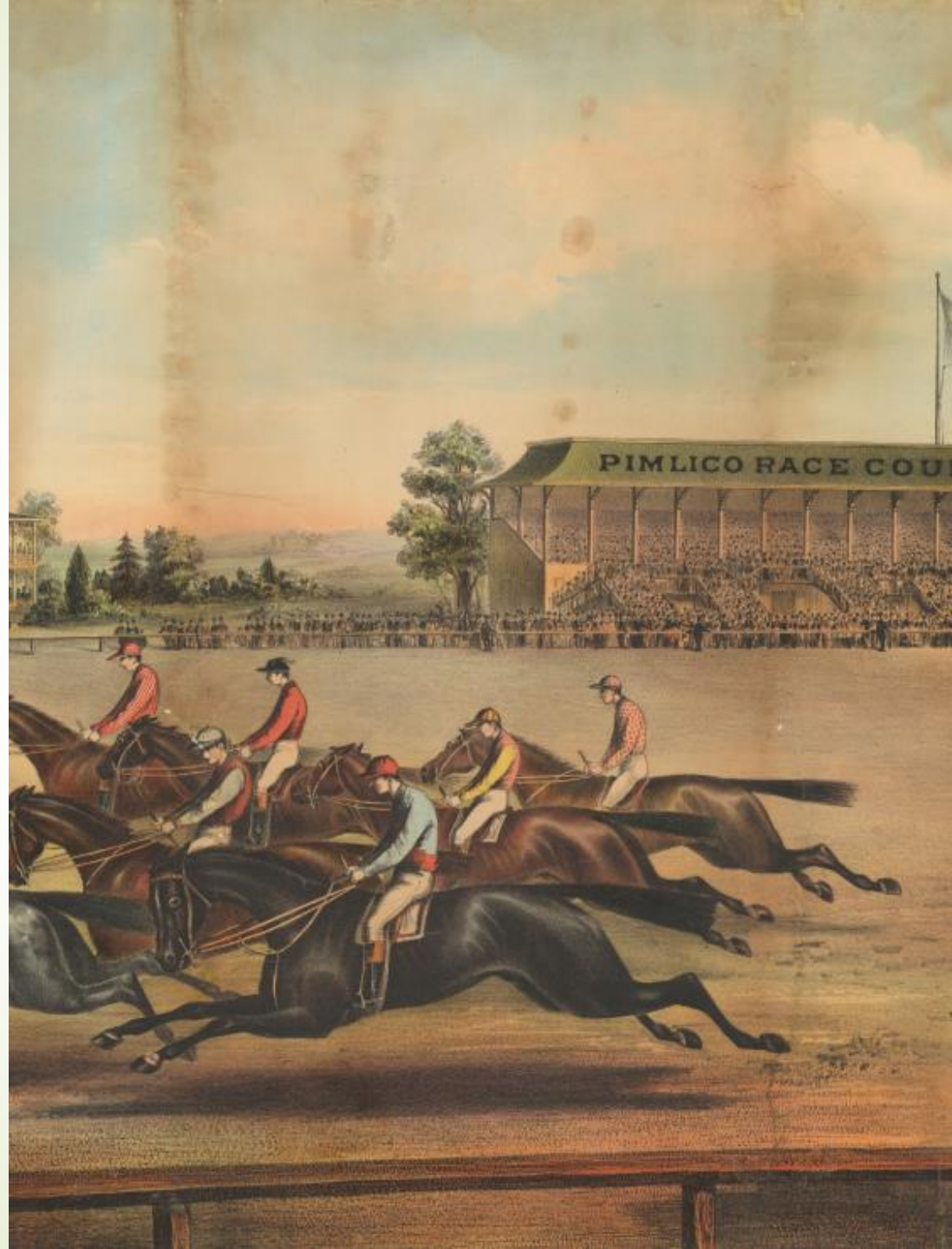
Bill Cole – for City of Baltimore

Alan Foreman – for Maryland
Thoroughbred Horsemen's Assoc

Todd Gralla – Racing Facilities
Architect, Populous

Craig Fravel – CEO Racing
Operations, TSG

Joe Bryce – Manis Canning for
Maryland Jockey Club



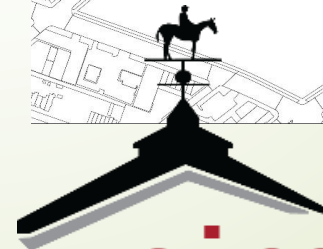
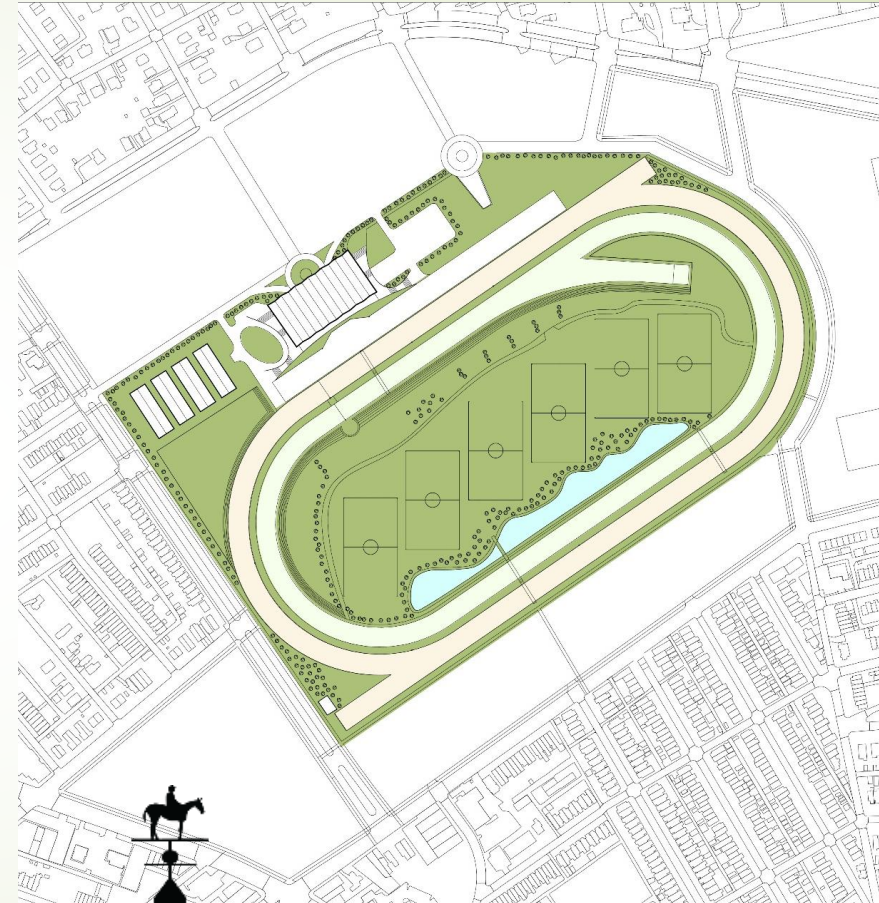
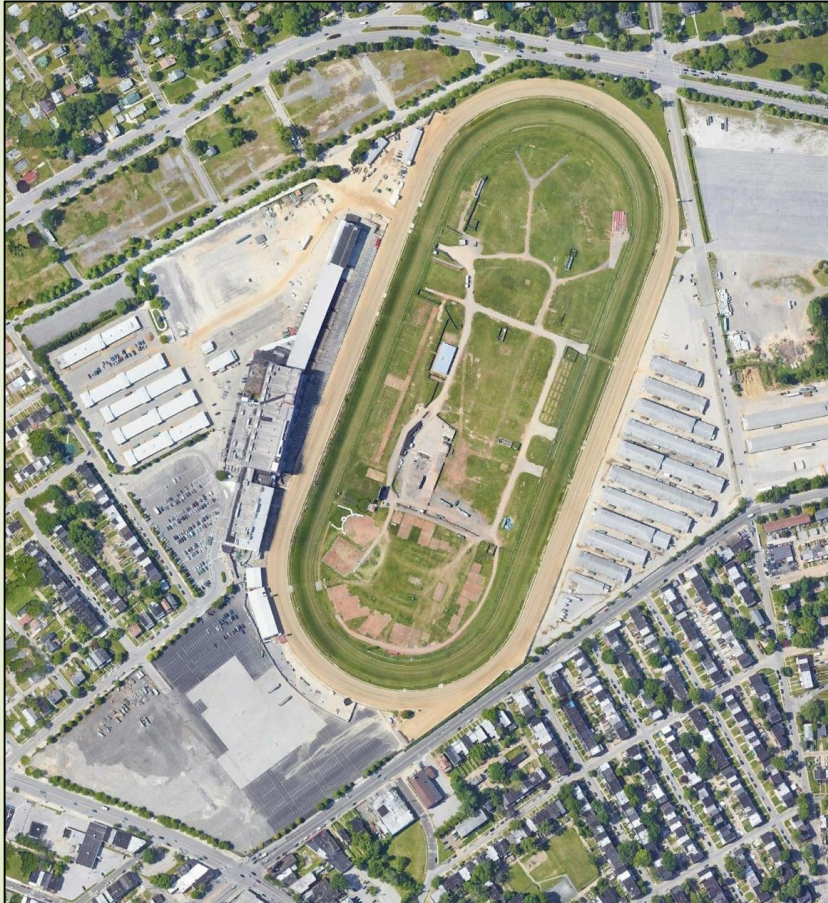
Racing & Community Development Act of 2020 – Major Objectives

- **Preserve** the Preakness Stakes® at Pimlico
- **Redevelop** Pimlico as a major center for events and community activities, including the Preakness Stakes
- **Enhance and revitalize** the communities around Pimlico
 - **Activate and energize** the Pimlico site
 - **Complement** planned investments already in the pipeline
 - LifeBridge Health
 - Redevelopment south of the Property
- **Redevelop** Laurel Park as the year-round center for racing
 - **Modernize** racing and training facilities
 - **Establish** Maryland as epicenter of thoroughbred horse racing
 - **Support** Maryland's billion dollar racing industry

**Redevelopment plan and related transactions subject by Act to mutually agreeable definitive documents.*

4

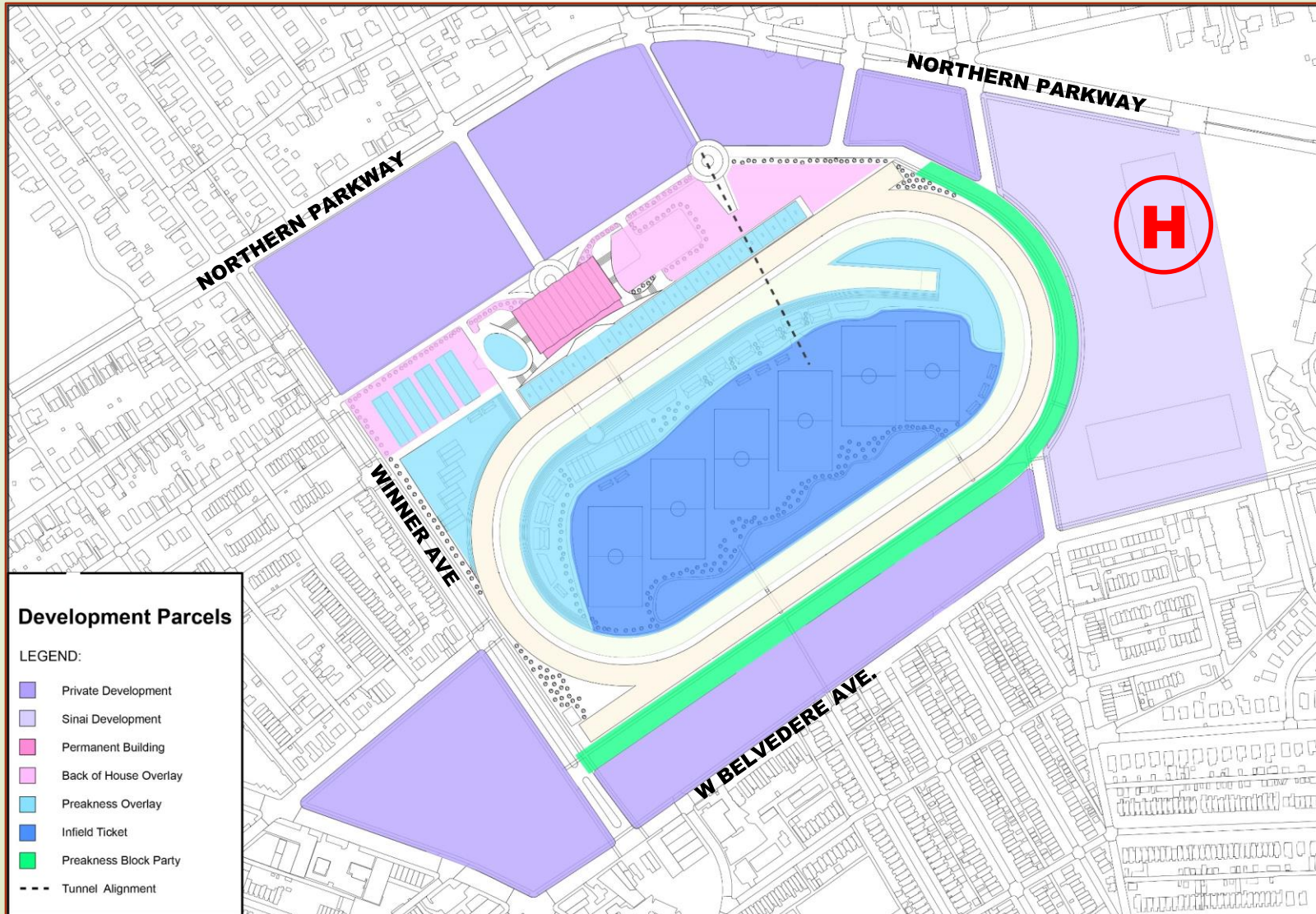
Pimlico Concept Plan



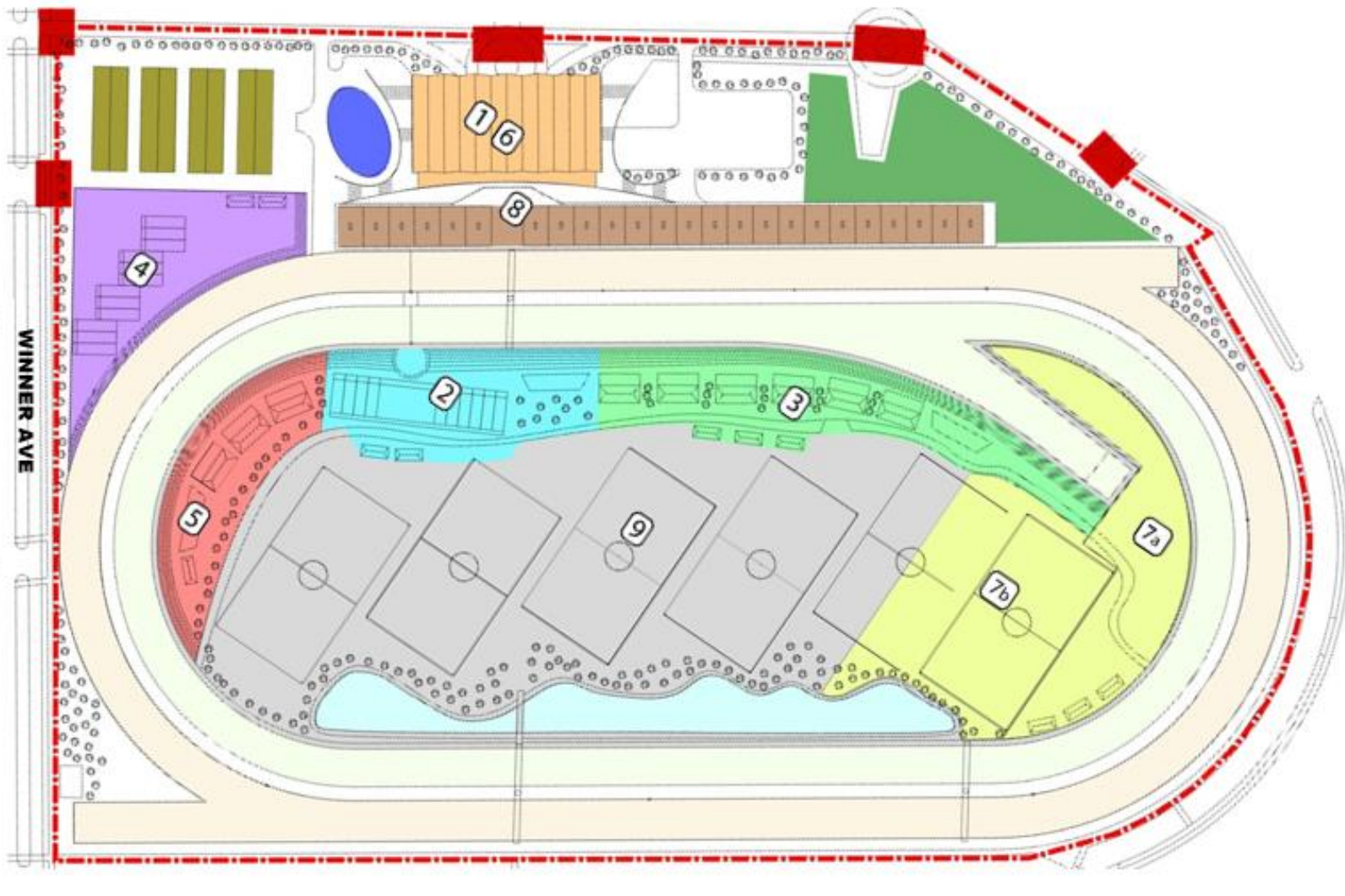
pimlico[®] 2/25/2020
Home of The Preakness Stakes[®]

Pimlico Outparcels Connecting Communities of Interest

5



Racing Facilities and Inlay



7

Community & Recreational Facilities



Concept Plans for Additional Public Spaces & Facility Access



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES



THE BERM



PUBLIC SPACES

Modern State-of-Art Overlay Facilities



10

Preakness Stakes® Overlay





Rendering of Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Center – “New Hilltop”



Rendering of Pimlico Clubhouse and Events Center – “New Hilltop”

Laurel Park Concept Plan



Modern Racing & Training Facilities



Modern Clubhouse, Racing & Training Facilities

15

Clubhouse Site Plan

LEGEND:

- 1 Clubhouse – Everyday
- 2 Clubhouse - Special Event
- 3 Paddock
- 4 Winner's Circle
- 5 Track Apron
- 6 Service Yard (Screened)
- 7 Drop-Off
- 8 Parking
- 9 Historic Paddock (Existing)
- 10 Park
- 11 Track View Lawn
- 12 Dirt Track - 70'
- 13 Turf Track - 100'
- 14 Synthetic Track - 70'
- 15 Tote / Video Board (Existing)
- 16 MARC Station
- 17 Camera Towers (Existing)





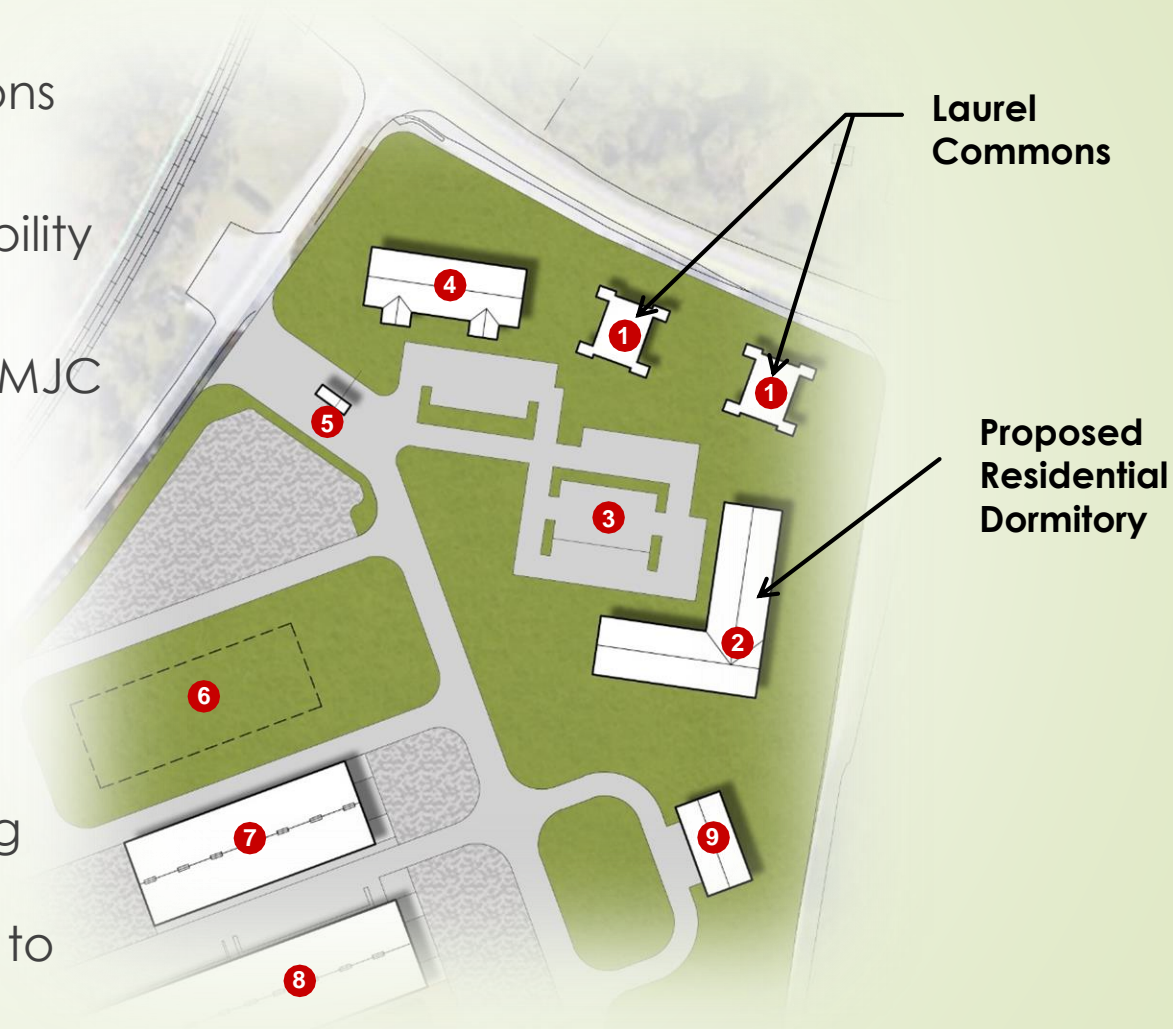
Laurel Park Clubhouse – Concept

Multi-level Clubhouse – Paddock view



Laurel Park Workforce Housing

- Copy the Laurel Commons 'nonprofit' model
- Independent Accountability & Oversight
 - Land Dedicated by MJC
 - RFI/RFP to be issued
 - Selection of housing partner
 - Financial Assistance from Horsemen
 - One track for training enhances ability for workers and families to reside in one place



Tentative Transition & Construction Timeline

Preakness Stakes Remains at Pimlico Throughout

- Aug '20 – Construct Temp Barns*
- Aug '21 Demo Laurel; move all live racing to Pimlico
- Dec '21 – Construct Laurel Track, Backstretch & Clubhouse
- Jun '23 – Open Laurel Park – horses return
- Jun '23 – Demo Pimlico & Rotate Track
- May '24 – 1st Preakness on New Racing Surface (Temporary Clubhouse)
- May '25 – 1st Preakness in New Clubhouse

Considerations:

1. Live Racing & Training occurs year round – no interruption
2. Transition Options for Training – Bowie, Pimlico, Laurel (half/half)

Sources of Funds

Why Use Lottery?

- Stable Revenue Source as compared to VLT funds
- Proven Marketability to Investors
- RaceTrax
 - a simulated horse race wager at Lottery retailers
 - has annual sales \$200+m and net to State of \$45m

Dedicated Funds to Replenish Lottery

- \$17m paid out of Lottery fund each year
- Replenished with:
 - \$5m from T-Bred Purses
 - \$3.5 m from Balto. City
 - \$8.5 m from T-Bred RFRA (winds down at 2032)

Representative Capital Investment & Financing Plan

Sources of Funds

➤ Bond Proceeds	\$348 m
➤ 1 st Year Lottery Trans.	17 m
➤ RFRA Trans.	<u>24 m</u>

TOTAL \$389 m

Project Expenditures

➤ Pimlico	\$205 m
➤ Laurel Park	167 m
➤ Transit. & Pre-constr.	13 m
➤ Cap Ex. Res.	<u>4 m</u>

TOTAL \$389 m

**Redevelopment plan and related transactions subject by Act to mutually agreeable definitive documents. Plan and transition costs reflect current estimates.*

TSG and MJC are Committed to the Future of Maryland Racing

- Maryland horse industry has seen substantial growth over the last five years:
 - Live Racing Days 35%
 - Live Races 33%
 - Overnight Purses 14%
 - Handle – In State & Export 48%
 - Preakness Day Handle 20%

- And, Nationally,
 - Special Event Days getting bigger
 - Total Handle is Flat – but stable
 - TSG Share of national handle has grown

SB 987 / HB 1056 Addresses the Industry's Needs

- Modernize and right-size the racing operations in Maryland
 - Recognizes that two tracks cannot be supported on one handle
 - Establishes Pimlico as a major events center – no year round training
 - New Laurel Park – show place for day to day racing; designed around the horse
- The Plan accomplishes our goals
 - Consolidation of Operations
 - Modernize Infrastructure & Facilities
 - Improve safety and conditions for horses and workers
- True Partnership with State, Local Gov'ts, Horsemen and the Tracks



HowardLibit_FAV_SB987

Uploaded by: Libit, Howard

Position: FAV

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Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
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Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai – Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
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Jewish Women International
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Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Eemunah Congregation
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Winands Road Synagogue Center
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 987 (SB987) – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee February 25, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: SB987 lays out a vision for a redesigned and rebuilt Pimlico Race Course that offers modernized facilities for the Preakness, as well as ways to use the property year-round — athletic fields in the infield; spaces for community meetings, arts festivals, concerts and banquets; and parcels for mixed-use commercial, retail and residential development, such as a supermarket, family and senior housing, office space and more. The plan would also provide for a new clubhouse, training facilities, stables and housing for track workers at Laurel Park, and donate the Bowie Training Center to government and education entities for primarily recreational uses. The plan is the result of extensive negotiations by city leaders, the owners of the Maryland Jockey Club, and horse racing industry stakeholders.

Written Comments: Northwest Baltimore faces a pivotal moment for its future, and this legislation promises to bring a renaissance of economic opportunities and resources to the Northwest Baltimore community. HB1056 ensures the historic Preakness Stakes stays in Baltimore, offers a clear vision for horse racing's future in Maryland, and creates the kind of momentum that is critical for redeveloping and strengthening Central Park Heights and beyond. The redevelopment of the Pimlico site is an extraordinary job-creating opportunity during construction and the many years that follow.

The Jewish community has long believed that Pimlico and the Preakness play critical roles in the economic vitality of both the nearby neighborhoods of Northwest Baltimore and greater Baltimore City. Over the last 30 plus years, tens of millions of public, private and foundation dollars have been invested in strengthening the neighborhoods of Park Heights. Less than a mile away from Pimlico, The Associated maintains multimillion dollars of investment in the Jewish Community Center, as well as offices for such agencies as Jewish Community Services, the Baltimore Jewish Council and CHAI (Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.). Also within a mile of the track, CHAI owns and operates a number of apartment buildings for seniors, and has millions of dollars on loan to homeowners who purchased and/or renovated their houses with CHAI's assistance. CHAI is investing in maintaining and developing housing

stock in the area through its Senior Home Repair, Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors and acquisition and rehab programs.

This is about more than just racing. It's about community investment. This plan will help ensure that Pimlico — and the communities of Park Heights — will be a vital part of the future of Baltimore City for many decades to come.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on SB987.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BaltimoreCityCouncil_FAV_SB987_

Uploaded by: Scott, Brandon

Position: FAV



Brandon M. Scott
President
Baltimore City Council

100 Holliday Street, Suite 400 · Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-4804 · Fax: 410-539-0647
e-mail: councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov

SB 987

February 25, 2020

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President of the Baltimore City Council

RE: SENATE BILL 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

I write to you in **support** of Senate Bill 987. Through improvements to racing facilities and the surrounding community, this important bill will ensure that the Preakness continues to be run in Baltimore City.

I grew up in Park Heights, one of the neighborhoods surrounding the Pimlico Racetrack. Growing up, I lived in the forgotten Baltimore. Park Heights was overlooked and ignored by City and State officials, and I have experienced firsthand, the disinvestment in my neighborhood. There is a desperate need for community redevelopment in this portion of Baltimore City. I am pleased that the Preakness will stay at Pimlico Racetrack, maintaining its rich and storied history in Baltimore. More importantly for me, I am glad that this bill will support much needed community redevelopment in the neighborhoods surrounding Pimlico.

I think of my grandmother who has lived in Park Heights for over 50 years and the positive impact this bill will have on her and the many others who have stayed in the area, in spite of hardships. These improvements to Pimlico will open it up to the surrounding communities and make it a place of activity and interaction year round, not just on one day a year. I am glad that the neighborhoods surrounding the Pimlico Racetrack are finally getting the attention that they deserve from the City and State. It is past time that they receive the investment desperately needed and deserved. Moving forward with this investment, it must be done inclusively and equitably, working hand in hand with the community to ensure their voices are an integral part of the work ahead.

I am optimistic that this bill to improve Maryland's racetracks and invest in surrounding neighborhoods will be the starting point for much needed change. It is my hope that in the future, we will look back on this moment and the people of Northwest Baltimore City will be able to say, "This is how Park Heights started to turn the tide."

As this bill will provide much needed community development and investment as well as maintains the Preakness in Baltimore, I urge you to move for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 987.

SB 987 Bowie State testimony FWA Feb 25 2020

Uploaded by: Breaux, Dr. Aminta

Position: FWA



SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 987

Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

February 25, 2020

Favorable with Amendment

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D., President

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 987. As president of Bowie State University, I fully appreciate the significant work that went into Senate Bill 987 and commend the General Assembly on its efforts to enhance the racing industry in Maryland and preserve the Preakness©. My interest in Senate Bill 987 relates to the provision that requires part of the Bowie Race Course Training Center to be conveyed to the City of Bowie. The training facility property is located less than two miles from the Bowie State University campus. Bowie State is very much interested in this property.

Early last fall, I became aware of the Stronach Group's interest in potentially donating a portion of the Bowie Racetrack property to Bowie State University as part of the overall plan to strengthen racing and preserve the Preakness© and, quite naturally, I was and remain, interested in such a donation. As Maryland's first historically black college or university, and the only one located in Prince George's County, Bowie State University would benefit greatly from having this property as it would allow us to enhance our academic programs and connect the university to the larger community.

Bowie State needs more land to continue to grow in this ever more competitive higher education environment. The fact that Bowie State is growing our enrollment while so many other universities across the state and the country are experiencing declining enrollment is both something to be proud of and should serve as a reminder of the need to continue to make smart investments. We need to offer our students the same opportunities as our peer institutions, including recreational and athletic opportunities. The Bowie Training Center property would allow us to locate these critical but more passive uses off campus and free up space on the main campus for additional student housing and academic uses. The university would build indoor and outdoor recreational facilities to enhance the experience of our growing student population and to deepen our connection to the City of Bowie and the surrounding community. Our desire is for multi-purpose athletic fields, which we would make available to the local community, consistent with our mission as a public university. We would also pursue innovative community-based initiatives connected to the environment and supportive of sustainable best practices in the areas of water quality, natural resource conservation, and "farm-to-table" programs to complement our academic programs in the

natural sciences. In addition, we would use this property to support our popular Sport Management program. We would also offer academic camps and sports camps along with other summer enrichment activities for families and local nonprofits.

We need to accommodate our growing Army ROTC program. Currently, our cadets have to travel up to two hours from campus, as far away as Virginia, to complete mandatory field training (at a cost of approximately \$9,000 per year) because we lack the appropriate outdoor spaces to meet their needs. This property would be a huge asset for our ROTC program.

The university utilized part of the Bowie race track property for overflow parking for our 2019 spring commencement ceremony which played a significant role in assessing the feasibility of bringing the ceremony back to our campus after years of holding it at the University of Maryland, College Park. This partnership with the owners contributed to our successful commencement, and I am extremely grateful for the owners' willingness to assist the university in this way.

We are proud of our history as a good neighbor and community partner. We would ensure that the neighboring community and the larger community have access to the various amenities this land would afford the university. This is part of our mission as a public university for the public good and we very much want to integrate our historic institution more with the community.

For over 150 years, we have continued to ensure access and affordability to a quality educational experience and with our vision and strategic plan entitled *Racing to Excellence*, the campus community is diligently working to keep pace with the rapidly changing workforce needs. As one of the nation's top HBCUs according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and one of the fastest growing institutions in the state of Maryland, Bowie State University is poised to contribute even more to the region. Our strategic priorities include ensuring the long-term viability of the institution. As a regional economic engine, Bowie State is one of the largest employers in the Bowie vicinity. We want to help create an environment that encourages businesses and organizations to see our community as a vital and innovative place to live, work and learn.

Acquisition of the Bowie Training Facility Property would help us fulfill our public purpose and transform the university from a hidden treasure in Prince George's County to an even larger educational and economic driver in the community. I am pleased to have the support of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association and the Board of Directors of our Foundation, as well as the head of our Army ROTC program. I urge your consideration for Bowie State to receive this gift.



REPLY TO

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
14000 JERICHO PARK ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715-9465**

January 16, 2020

Dear President Breaux,

I strongly recommend adding more land to the campus of Bowie State University. This addition would benefit the Reserve Officer' Training Corps (ROTC) Program by significantly reducing costs and enhancing training. By reducing costs and enhancing training, the BSU ROTC program will be able to better accomplish our mission of recruiting, training, and commissioning Second Lieutenants in to the United States Army, U.S. Army Reserves, and the Maryland National Guard. With better quality training, we can continue to grow and improve the BSU ROTC program, as well as surrounding Junior ROTC High School programs, to ensure our cadets and students are prepared for the challenges they will face either in the Army or in their civilian professional careers.

Currently, the BSU ROTC program must travel outside of campus to conduct required training to prepare our cadets to be commissioned officers. Due to the limited land on campus to conduct most military training, we typically travel to either Gunpowder Military Reservation (1-hour commute) or Marine Corps Base Quantico (2-hour commute). We use these two training areas approximately 7-8 times a year due to our land constraints on the Bowie State Campus. The ability to train on campus would save the program approximately 2-4 hours of transit time that can be used for additional training or quality of life for the cadets. Additionally, the BSU ROTC program is required to pay for administrative and transportation costs to these locations. These expenses typically cost the program approximately \$9,000 a year to train our 86-cadets.

With additional campus area, we could begin using the campus for our critical training events, reducing the costs to the program, as well as the cadet's time traveling to and from distant training areas. Additionally, the program could reinvest those transportation and land use costs to enhance training for the cadets and build necessary military training aids such as obstacle courses and rappel towers. These enhancements and training aids would better prepare the cadets for other ROTC training, and most importantly, for their careers as Army officers.

In summary, additional land will immensely benefit the BSU ROTC program by saving time, money, and resources that will be applied elsewhere. Please consider ROTC in making this key decision.

If there are any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 301-323-3341 or wknight@bowiestate.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley N. Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "N".

WESLEY N. KNIGHT
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Professor of Military Science



February 24, 2020

Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate
Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House
Maryland General Assembly
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

As you may be aware, the Bowie State University Foundation's (the "Foundation") primary purpose is to facilitate fundraising programs and contributions from private (and public) sources to promote and support Bowie State University's (the "University") academic and programmatic goals. As such, I am writing on behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors to express our strong support for the current proposal being debated before the General Assembly to transfer -- what is commonly referred to as -- the "Bowie Horse Training Facility" to the University. As discussed in greater detail below, we strongly believe that the land transfer aligns perfectly with the University's goals and, most importantly, enable it to enhance program offerings to current students, which is a key objective for the Foundation's activities.

The University has made great strides in recent years. The physical plant continues to improve with the addition of the new Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing building. At the same time, there are still areas for improvement. For example, it is our understanding that a portion of the land will be used to support the University's Reserve Officers Training Corps ("ROTC") program. Currently, ROTC candidates travel over 50 miles to the Quantico Marine base for certain aspects of their training. If the current proposal is approved, the University plans to develop a ropes course which will eliminate the need for students to travel for this key component of their training. Though a new ropes course may appear to be a small thing, the ability to train on campus and minimize disruptions to other academic pursuits will be invaluable to those future defenders of our nation. This is just one worthy example of how the University will use the land transfer to make Bowie State a first-class institution in our great state.

*14000 Jericho Park Rd, Bowie, Maryland 20715
P: 301-860-4314 F:301-860-4159*

Again, all of the Foundation's programming is dedicated to providing the University with the resources it needs to be successful, and, in our opinion, this current land transfer proposal is an important piece of the overall strategy for success. Thus, in the end, it is our hope that the General Assembly will do its part to help President Breaux and her team as they "Race towards Excellence" and support the land transfer proposal.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration of this letter and, if you have questions regarding the letter on any aspect of the role that the Foundation can play in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Sampson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gordon Sampson
Foundation Chair



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.



February 3, 2020

2018-2020
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Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate
Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House
Maryland General Assembly
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Bowie Horse Training Facility

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

The Bowie State University National Alumni Association (BSUNAA) fully supports all efforts by Bowie State University to acquire and develop the property known as "the Bowie Horse Training Facility" in connection with the plan to keep the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore. Donation of the Bowie facility would further the mission and goals of the University by allowing it to enhance student academic and recreational programs and increase the University's outreach to the community.

BSUNAA encourages unified efforts by the Bowie State University Administration, City of Bowie, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland to maximize the opportunity to make this property available to the broader community in support of programs, facilities and functionality that will allow for uses that support the goals of the University and increase community quality of life.

Sincerely,

Ricardo C. Mitchell

Ricardo C. Mitchell, President
BSUNAA, Inc.

Cc: Honorable Angela Alsobrooks
Honorable Tim Adams
Honorable Guy Guzzone
Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Prince George's County Delegation
Dr. Aminta H. Breaux