

# **FAIRMOUNT PARK**

August 4, 2017

Eddie Essenpreis, President  
Pete Scalcione, Secretary-Treasurer

Gentlemen,

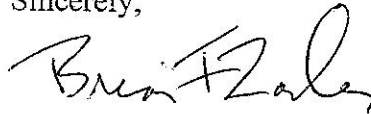
Yesterday, I met with Fairmount Park's Board of Directors to discuss the tracks future and financial position. We have come to the conclusion, that we will not be able to have winter training after our current meet closes. I appreciate your efforts of trying to come up with ways to address this situation, such as charging individual stall rent. However, we have come to the conclusion, as you know, that it simply is not a viable way to proceed. Collecting stall rents from owner/trainers that have intentions of paying but are not able to do so, creates strained relations. Consequently, we plan to have the track open for training until, Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and close the backstretch entirely by, Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I have spoken with Hawthorne President, Tim Carey, recently and he reiterated his offer of stall space with adjoining tack rooms for all horses coming in from Fairmount. I hope you urge your members to except this offer and help support Illinois Thoroughbred Racing.

We plan to reopen the stable area at Fairmount on, Monday, February 26, 2018, a full nine (9) weeks, prior to our anticipated opening day of, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, by opening the backstretch at that time, many horses could be ready for Hawthorne's spring meet.

I am hopeful we can get together very soon to discuss 2018 racing dates and a new contract.

Sincerely,



Brian F. Zander  
President - General Manager

cc:

William Stiritz, Director Fairmount Park  
Rob Vitale, Director Fairmount Park  
Tim Carey, President – Hawthorne Race Course  
Domenic DiCera, Executive Director – Illinois Racing Board