Meeting of
11 August 2026

A meeting of the Commission was conducted in Schenectady and New York, New York.

1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

Executive Director Robert Williams called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. Establishment of a quorum was noted by Secretary Kristen Buckley. In attendance in New York were Members John Crotty, Marissa Shorenstein, and Jerry Skurnik. Chairman Brian O'Dwyer and Member Peter Moschetti participated in Schenectady, while Member Martin Mack appeared by videoconference, but as his location was not noticed, his participation was not considered for quorum establishment or voting purposes. Bilaterial oral and visual communication between noticed sites was maintained throughout the meeting.

2. Consideration of Minutes for the Meeting of 23 July 2026

The Commission considered previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting conducted on 23 July 2026. Commissioner Skurnik has requested his presence at the Resorts World New York groundbreaking be stricken, as he did not attend. The minutes were accepted as amended.

3. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director provided an update regarding the closure of Aqueduct Racetrack and the impending opening of the redeveloped Belmont Park, and discussed the comments received and future staff action regarding the two draft regulations proposing safeguards to protect youth and implement additional responsible gaming practices.

4. Interim Report of the Backstretch Fire and Safety Panel

Chairman O'Dwyer observed that following the June 16, 2026 barn fire claimed the lives of 17 horses at Saratoga Casino Hotel he appointed three fellow Commission Members – Marty Mack, Peter Moschetti and Jerry

Skurnik – to review barn fire prevention measures and evaluate what appeared to be a substantive deficiency: the lack of installed and functioning detection devices. The Chairman noted that the Panel had been substantively engaged, undertaking research, and making visitations to inspect racetrack barns throughout the State.

Commissioner Mack outlined the communications made to each racetrack and provided an overview of the Panels visits and planned future visits to various racetracks throughout the State. He indicated desire to have findings and recommendations available for consideration at the Commission's November meeting. Commissioners Moschetti and Skurnik also provided an overview of their experiences while serving on the Panel.

5. Rulemaking

a. ADOPTION: SGC-22-26-00020-P, Lotto Lottery Game

The Commission considered adoption of an amendment to correct a scrivener's error in one of the prize-level odds in the Lotto lottery game.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Shorenstein
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of adopting the proposed rule had he been present.

b. ADOPTION: SGC-23-26-00011-P, Millionaire for Life Lottery Game Prize Payment

The Commission considered adoption of a rulemaking to adjust one prize level of the new multi-jurisdictional Millionaire for Life lottery draw game.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Moschetti
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of adopting the proposed rule had he been present.

c. ADOPTION: SGC-23-26-00012-P, Surface Changes in Thoroughbred Racing

The Commission considered is adoption of a rulemaking to address the addition of a new racing surface at the redeveloped Belmont Park.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Crotty
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of adopting the proposed rule had he been present.

d. PROPOSAL: Adjustments to Coupling in Thoroughbred Racing

The Commission considered proposed amendments to Thoroughbred coupling rules.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Moschetti
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of proposing the rule had he been present.

e. PROPOSAL: Methods of Furnishing Information in Thoroughbred Racing

The Commission considered proposed amendments regarding the furnishing of information.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Shorenstein
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of proposing the rule had he been present.

f. PROPOSAL: Licensing of Non-Managing Owners in Thoroughbred Racing

The Commission considered a proposal to change the thresholds of when a non-managing owner is required to be licensed.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Moschetti
APPROVED: 5-0

Commissioner Mack indicated he would have voted in favor of proposing the rule had he been present.

6. Adjudications

a. In the Matter of Orlando Quinones

The Commission duly deliberated and considered this matter and determined, upon a 6-0 vote, to adopt the findings and sustain the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations that Orlando Quinones' occupational license be revoked for a period of 365 days.

b. In the Matter of Christopher Elliott

The Commission duly deliberated and considered this matter and determined, upon a 6-0 vote, to adopt the findings and sustain the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations that Christopher Elliott's occupational license be suspended for three racing days.

c. In the Matter of Paul Stafford

The Commission duly deliberated and considered this matter and determined, upon a 6-0 vote, to adopt the findings and sustain the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations that Paul Stafford's occupational license be revoked for 60 days and that he be fined $1,000.

d. In the Matter of William Tarby

The Commission duly deliberated and considered this matter and determined, upon a 6-0 vote, to adopt the findings and sustain the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations that William Tarby's application for a standardbred owner's license be denied.

e. In the Matter of 2604 Family Deli Grocery

The Commission duly deliberated and considered this matter and determined, upon a 6-0 vote, to adopt the findings and sustain the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations that 2604 Family Deli Grocery Corp.'s Lottery agent license be revoked and accepted the exceptions to the Hearing Officer Report filed by Commission counsel.

7. New and Old Business

No Old or New Business was presented.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

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