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Dave

2009/07/07 PM 04:59

Subject Hong Kong Jockey Club's proposals for increased race days

The Hon Ip Kwok-him
Chairman
Home Affairs Panel

July 7, 2009

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing as an individual to voice my support to the Hong Kong Jockey Club's proposal to add five extra race days and 20 simulcasts for each racing season.

I have years of experience working for non profit organizations including fund raising campaigns for the Po Leung Kuk and as the Founding Chairman of the Foreign Correspondents' Club Charity Fund. I therefore have great admiration for the Hong Kong Jockey Club for its unique not-for-profit model of operation.

Unlike racing clubs in many overseas jurisdictions, every dollar generated from horse betting in Hong Kong goes either to the Government as tax or directly to the community as charitable donations.

There is every reason for the community to support the proposal to increase race days and simulcasts as these will result in tens of millions of dollars of revenue for Hong Kong that benefit the community as a whole.

I am also a keen racing fan and a horse owner.

I understand that the frequency of racing in Hong Kong is the lowest in Asia. In leading racing jurisdictions such as Japan, Australia and Korea, horse racing is available all year round.

I believe it's time for Hong Kong racing to increase more race days to enhance its business sustainability and to align itself with the international racing world with the broadcast or more well-known international races.

I hope the Home Affairs Panel will kindly take into consideration my personal views.

Yours sincerely

Dave Garcia
Founding Chairman
Foreign Correspondents' Club Charity Fund
Tlf: +852 2802 1336
Fac: +852 2802 2821

cc The Hon Tanya Chan, Deputy Chairman, Home Affairs Panel
 Betty Fong, Secretariat, Legco Home Affairs Panel