



DAUPHIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2 SOUTH SECOND STREET, 4th FLOOR
HARRISBURG, PA. 17101
(717) 780-6300

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Testimony in Support of Penn National Race Course
Dauphin County Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III, Chairman of the Board
August 28, 2024

On behalf of Dauphin County and our 286,000 citizens, I welcome this opportunity to express my wholehearted support for Penn National Race Course (PNRC) in their quest for license renewal. I can attest to the fact that PNRC has been a true partner in every sense of the word. By leveraging their support each year, we have been empowered to expand and enhance services to countless residents facing human service challenges and meet other critical needs in enduring and impactful ways.

Since the inception of the county's Local Share Municipal Gaming Grant Program, a total of **\$113,003,530** has been awarded to a litany of worthwhile and results-oriented initiatives.

Penn National has even gone above and beyond their statutory obligations to give far more than required for Dauphin County residents. When Penn National was not mandated to contribute to county initiatives, they still gave to the cause. Most notably, in 2017, the courts ruled that local share payments were unconstitutional and asked the Legislature to debate and decide the question of their constitutionality. The General Assembly delayed this issue at a time when gaming payments were required. Despite these delays, PNRC still stepped up and met their obligation even though their contributions were not currently enacted into law, since they felt a responsibility to do so. It was a risk they weren't sure would be rewarded, as much uncertainty surrounded the Legislature's future actions. PNRC's willingness to contribute even when not required to do so solidified the strength of our partnership and demonstrated in the most convincing way their genuine spirit of cooperation and community-mindedness.

For the past 16 years, Penn National has been a staunch ally and strong community partner who has helped us contribute to solutions addressing such causes as veterans' homelessness, hunger and food insecurity, health and hospice care, and other worthy initiatives that have enriched the quality of life for countless residents struggling to make ends meet in this inflationary economy.

Causes we have been able to support in expanded ways include Cocoa Packs, Downtown Daily Bread, Hamilton Health Center, Hospice of Central PA, Penn State Health Community Outreach, Heroes Grove Memorial, and Veterans Outreach of PA's Tiny Home Village in south Harrisburg. Without the partnership and leadership of Penn National, we would never have been able to leverage Local Share dollars to help advance these initiatives from drawing board to reality.

In overseeing the Human Services Department in Dauphin County since 2004, I am truly grateful for this opportunity to underscore the major, enduring financial and humanitarian impact of the Penn National Race Course partnership. Their civic-mindedness and leadership have transcended their statutory obligations, allowing us to leverage gaming dollars to serve our neighbors in need in lasting and life-altering ways.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our thoroughgoing support. As a consistently responsible and responsive community partner who has gone above and beyond to serve the greater area, Penn National is well-deserving of license renewal.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George P. Hartwick, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G" and a clear "III" at the end.

George P. Hartwick, III, Chairman