

CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN 55379

Canterbury Park Temporarily Ceases Operations Due To State Shutdown

For Immediate Release:

Friday, July 1, 2011

Contact: Jeff Maday

Media Relations Manager

(952) 496-6408

jmaday@canterburypark.com

Shakopee, MN -- Effective at midnight, Canterbury Park temporarily suspended all of its gaming operations. This action was taken because of the inability of Minnesota's Governor and Legislature to reach an agreement on the State's budget. The lack of a budget agreement forced the shutdown of many state government agencies and functions, including the Minnesota Racing Commission (MRC), the agency which regulates Canterbury Park's pari-mutuel and Card Casino gaming operations.

"I am extremely disappointed and frustrated that we are forced to suspend operations due to the state government shutdown," Canterbury President Randy Sampson said. "The MRC is entirely funded by the racing industry, receives no money from the general fund, and has already received reimbursement for expected July expenses. However it is still subject to a shutdown," Sampson said.

"The money is already there, paid by the industry, for the MRC to regulate this business," Sampson said. "Because of this, 1,000 employees' lives will be needlessly impacted in a negative way."

Canterbury Park began distributing notices Thursday to employees indicating they would be placed on a temporary unpaid leave of absence until operations were allowed to resume.

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"We are hopeful that this government shutdown is short-lived and that a budget solution will soon be found. However, should the stalemate continue for another week or two, there is the real possibility that owners and trainers will start moving their horses from Canterbury to other racetracks. Once they leave, it is unlikely they will return. If the budget impasse continues beyond early July the impact could be devastating for Canterbury and the horse industry. It is possible that Canterbury and its horsemen could lose the remainder of their racing season," Sampson said.

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