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## Ohio State Racing Commission

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www.racing.ohio.gov

**John Kasich**  
Governor

**Robert K. Schmitz**  
Chairman

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### **Minutes of the OSRC Meeting held February 22, 2017**

1-The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting February 22, 2017 at the Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, Room 1960, at 10:00 am.

2-OSRC Chairman Robert K. Schmitz called the meeting to order. Commissioners Gary Koch, Todd Book, Mark Munroe and Thomas Winters were present.

3-Commissioner Winters moved to approve the January 17, 2017 OSRC meeting minutes. Commissioner Book seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

4-Commissioner Munroe moved to approve the ratification of the Executive Director's report. Commissioner Koch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

5-Commissioner Winters moved to approve the distribution of casino tax revenue by the OSRC in 2017. Commissioner Koch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

6-Michael Rzymek, Assistant Attorney General, gave an update on the status of Advance Deposit Wagering (ADWs) platforms in Ohio. Rzymek related that approximately \$100 million a year is wagered via ADW companies on Ohio races and that amount is expected to grow annually. Under the current law there is no tax or licensing on ADWs, Mr. Rzymek said. Chairman Schmitz suggested an OSRC meeting and open forum for the public and stakeholders to discuss ADWs on March 27 at the Riffe Center, Room 1960 at 1 pm.

7-OSRC consulting veterinarian James Robertson gave an update on medication thresholds that were suggested and adopted by the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC) in order to establish a National Uniform Medication Policy. At that time there were 26 substances with withdrawal guidelines, thresholds and dosing specification—a list that was created by the Scientific Committee of the RMTC. In April 2015 input was received by OSRC-licensed veterinarians representing both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds. Now, there are 30 substances on the list, and nation-wide 20 states have adopted these thresholds that represent 94% of the national Thoroughbred handle. The OSRC will consider amendments to the current regulatory thresholds this year and seek input in doing so via an April 5 OSRC meeting and open forum at the Riffe Center, Room 1960 at 10 am.

8-Michael Rzymek, Assistant Attorney General, talked about out-of-competition testing—both in regards to investigators visiting locations where a race meeting is not being conducted to look for violations and in regards to veterinarians pulling blood and urine randomly on horses who are both training and racing, to catch those individuals seeking to have a pharmacological edge in medicating their horses.

9-Dr Jim Robertson, OSRC consulting veterinarian gave an update on horse fatalities in Ohio for January 2017 when there were four catastrophic breakdowns during Thoroughbred racing events—three racing and one training--and none at the harness racing events. In February 2017 to date there have been one Thoroughbred catastrophic breakdown and one Standardbred catastrophic breakdown.

10-Sherry White, OSRC Fiscal Officer, presented the monthly financial report, explaining that January is always a good month for the OSRC fiscally. Casino revenue, along with the onslaught of licensing, makes for very positive revenue income in January traditionally, and 2017 has been no exception.

11-Chairman Schmitz stressed that the OSRC plans to focus on three items in 2017: ADWs, out of competition testing, and the revamping of medication thresholds.

12-There were no public comments.

13-Assistant Attorney General Michael Rzymek recommended that trainer Thomas Harmer remained suspended until the financial judgement against him is resolved. Commissioner Monroe moved to suspend Mr. Harmer's 2016 license until he satisfies his financial obligation. Commissioner Koch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

14-There being no further business, Commissioner Winters moved to go into executive session to consider the hiring, promotion or compensation of public employees. Commissioner Munroe seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. The public meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

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Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting  
March 27, 2017 @ 1am  
77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1960  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Robert K. Schmitz, Chairman

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William Crawford, Executive Director