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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Commission Grants Horse Race Dates for 2011 and Part of 2012**  
*Plan Results from Negotiations between Horsemen and Tracks*

Austin — In a unanimous vote, the Commission granted race dates for 2011 and part of 2012. Today's race date approval brings to a close months of work to produce a 2011 racing calendar acceptable to horse tracks and horsemen in Texas.

The plan negotiated by the tracks and horsemen and approved by the Commission provides more opportunities to horsemen than an original proposal. Sam Houston Race Park will host 27 days of Thoroughbred racing starting in January and 30 days of Quarter Horse Racing beginning in March. Sam Houston Race Park will not run its Thoroughbred dates in November and December of 2010. Lone Star Park will host 52 days of Thoroughbred racing starting in mid-April and 26 days of Quarter Horse racing starting in September 2011.

Retama Park will host 10 Quarter Horse days starting in July, a 14-day mixed meet beginning at the end of July, and 21 Thoroughbred days beginning in September 2011. Gillespie County Fair and Festivals will host its traditional eight-day mixed meet in July and August.

Commission Chair Rolando Pablos said, "I applaud the breeders, horsemen, race tracks and commission staff. All of the industry's stakeholders were fully engaged. The race date allocation process is never simple, and circumstances this year presented difficult challenges."

Pablos added, "In the end, the horsemen and tracks negotiated a compromise solution that is responsive to the needs of Texas' horsemen for opportunity and also is sensitive to the requirements of the tracks."

The Commission's Horse Race Date Calendar Committee hosted several meetings across Texas. The meetings, the first of which was held at Lone Star Park in July, provided an open forum for stakeholder discussions. Class I Tracks initially proposed to consolidate Thoroughbred racing primarily at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Under the plan, Sam Houston Race Park would have eliminated its traditional Thoroughbred meet and transferred purse money to Lone Star Park. Under the final negotiated plan, Sam Houston Race Park will not transfer money to Lone Star Park.

In the months that followed the first meeting, tracks and horsemen continued to negotiate a compromise race date calendar. Negotiations continued even after tracks submitted formal race date requests on August 18.

For more information regarding race date allocation, please email [info@txrc.state.tx.us](mailto:info@txrc.state.tx.us), or contact Bill Childs at 512-833-6699.

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