

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND HORSE PARK SITE PROPOSALS RECEIVED

BALTIMORE, MD. (Monday, August 1, 2005) The Maryland Stadium Authority today announced the receipt of six (6) site proposals for a proposed Maryland Horse Park. By the 2:00 p.m. deadline today, site nominations were received from:

- o Annapolis/Crownsville

City of Annapolis,
Ellen Moyer, Mayor
410-263-7997

1,032 acre site bisected by I-97 includes the State-owned Crownsville Hospital site, the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds and the City of Annapolis-owned water works park.

(MORE)

- o Carroll County

Department of Economic Development

Lawrence F. Twele, Director

410-386-2070

600.36 acres on the Neal property in northwest Carroll County between Westminster and Taneytown. Access via Route 140.

- o Cecil County/Fair Hill

Vernon Thompson/Joanne Richart-Young

410-996-6292

5,613 acre State-owned facility located on I-95 between Baltimore and Philadelphia near the intersection of SR 273 and SR 213.

- o Frederick County

Colby Ferguson

301-631-2340

Mt. St. Mary's University/Trinity United Methodist Church

603 acres in the northern area of Frederick County with potential to expand up to 934 acres with satellite site at the Deer Creek Valley Farm. Located on Route 15 in close proximity to Thurmont, Emmitsburg, the City of Frederick and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

(MORE)

- o Harford County

J. Thomas Sadowski, Director
C. John Sullivan, III Agriculture Coordinator
Harford County Office of Economic Development
410-638-5058

997 acres located in Havre de Grace and near the site of the former "The Graw" racetrack. Located near exits 85 and 89 of I-95. Direct access to the Chesapeake Bay, Susquehanna River and to the Susquehanna State Park.

- o Wicomico County

Gary Mackes
410-548-4906

867 acre site near Hebron located near Route 50.

It is the goal of the selection committee, composed of representatives of the Stadium Authority, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (a division of the Department of Agriculture) and the Department of Business and Economic Development to make a final site choice by mid-September. Once the site is identified, a conceptual plan of that site will be developed. It is intended that the plan as well as the economic impact and cost studies will be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly at the 2006 Session by the Stadium Authority with a request for authorization of a bond bill.

(MORE)

"We are optimistic about the Legislature's support for this project," stated Carl A. J. Wright, Chairman of the Maryland Stadium Authority. "The experience of the horse park in Kentucky and the beneficial economic impact generated by that facility certainly give credence to our sponsorship of this undertaking. It also will further Governor Ehrlich's initiative to preserve open space."

Competitive riding events, including show ring sports, steeplechase, eventing, endurance riding, dressage and other equestrian activities account for approximately 60 percent of horse industry activities. The proposed Maryland Horse Park will be able to accommodate all of these activities as well as appeal to those with an interest in Maryland's rich horse industry history.

"Maryland horsemen and women have shown full support of this concept for years and the variety of sites shows that the entire State is behind this project as well," noted J. Robert Burk, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

The Kentucky Horse Park generates over \$163 million per year in total expenditures with almost \$18 million in state and local taxes and over 4,000 full time equivalent jobs. More than \$6 million in revenues are collected by Kentucky's horse park each year.

(MORE)

"The Maryland Horse Park will have a tremendous impact on tourism in Maryland, boosting an already growing \$9.1 billion industry," said Maryland Business and Economic Development Secretary Aris Melissaratos. "We expect that this park, which will feature a 5,000 seat arena, a museum and stables for retired famous thoroughbreds, will further solidify Maryland's reputation as an outstanding home for all facets of the equine community."

###

Contact:

Alison L. Asti, Executive Director
Maryland Stadium Authority
410-333-1560