

Parx Casino

**Request to Reduce Shuttle Bus
Hours of Operation**

PGCB Meeting June 13, 2012

INITIAL SHUTTLE SERVICE

- When PGCB approved the new Parx Casino for operation in December 2009, it required that Parx institute and maintain a shuttle bus service between the existing racing grandstand building (now known as Parx East) and the new Parx Casino.
- The conditions of operation imposed in 2009 were:
 - Had to be operated at all times there was simulcast or live racing.
 - Had to be provided via a shuttle bus which was handicap accessible, and with a capacity of no less than 20 passengers.
 - Had to provide service between the buildings at no less than 20 minute intervals.
- Parx complied with those conditions and commenced shuttle bus operations in 2010.

SHUTTLE BUS OPERATION

- The shuttle bus service has been in operation in full compliance with the Board's requirements for almost two and one half years.
- In fact, due to the lease arrangement with the operator, the shuttle has been running at 10 minute intervals – more frequent than the 20 minute intervals required by the Board.
- The shuttle bus service is currently provided by Sterling Transportation at a cost of \$120,000 per year.

SHUTTLE BUS DEMAND

- The original PGCB approval requiring the shuttle bus operation also contemplated that demand for the service might not be strong and included a provision allowing Parx to seek reduction or elimination of the service after not less than six months of operation.
- Since the inception of the shuttle bus service, ridership has been very light.
- As an example, the average number of passengers riding each shuttle bus trip for the 17 month period from January 1, 2011, through May 31, 2012, ranges from 2.2 (Mondays and Wednesdays) to 3.4 (Saturdays), with a weekly average of 2.5 passengers per bus trip.
- While there is some seasonal variation in demand due to weather, the shuttle is never subject to high demand and is almost always close to empty.

INITIAL REQUEST TO ELIMINATE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

- Parx originally filed the instant petition to request that the Parx shuttle bus be completely eliminated.
- Such proposed elimination raised concerns on the part of our Horsemen and the Office of Enforcement Counsel.
- Parx entered into discussions to address the concerns of both parties.

AGREEMENT REACHED

- Parx, the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and the Office of Enforcement Counsel have come to an agreement to reduce the shuttle service from the present schedule of about 12 hours per day, seven days per week, to the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on live race days only. (Parx averages four race days per week.)
- This would eliminate shuttle coverage during simulcast periods when live racing is not being conducted.

RESULTS OF AGREEMENT

- The reduction in shuttle service will not have an adverse impact on Parx patrons.
- Simulcast wagering is available in both the Parx East and Parx Casino buildings, so on days when live racing is not being conducted, the only racing product available (simulcast wagering) is available in both buildings.
- On days when live racing is not being conducted, a shuttle service is not required to enable patrons in each building to have identical access to the simulcast horse wagering product available on those days.

CONCLUSION

- The settlement between Parx, the PTHA and OEC is in the public interest and should be adopted by the Board.