



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Racing Commission

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Virginia Racing Commission Appoints Waqas Ahmed as Its Executive Secretary

(NEW KENT, VA---7/31/24) ---- The Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) announced today that it has appointed Waqas Ahmed to serve as its Executive Secretary, effective August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ahmed brings a wealth of knowledge to the Commission. Most recently, Ahmed served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, the agency charged with promoting and regulating horse racing, pari-mutuel wagering and sports wagering in Kentucky. In this role, Ahmed carried out several strategic initiatives, including the launch and implementation of sports wagering. Prior to that, Ahmed served as the Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Compliance, and oversaw the launch of several tracks, historical horse racing facilities as well as advance deposit account wagering providers. During his tenure, wagering increased to more than \$9 billion during a period of historical horse racing gaming growth, resulting in the monitoring of tax receipts of over \$140 million per year. Ahmed holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Austin Peay State University. He has served as a member on various industry boards related to racing and wagering.

Commission Chair Stephanie Nixon stated, “We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ahmed to the Virginia Racing Commission. His vast experience will continue to promote, sustain, grow, and control a native horse racing industry. On behalf of the entire Commission, we look forward to working with Mr. Ahmed for many years to come.”

Ahmed stated, “I am honored to join the Virginia Racing Commission as Executive Secretary. Virginia’s horse racing industry boasts a proud history and plays a significant role in the Commonwealth. I am committed to fostering its growth with integrity and excellence. I appreciate the Commission’s trust in me and look forward to working closely with my new colleagues and stakeholders.”

For more information, please contact Bernard Hettel at (804) 966-7404.

