



ARCS: 292-30
File: PSS-2011-01525

November 4, 2011

Sent via email:

Dear

Re: Request for Access to Records
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Your request is for:

“Incident reports regarding the delayed first race at Hastings Racecourse on September 10, 2011 after an incident involving Mazel Print (horse number 6) and a steward.”

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. These records are provided to you in their entirety.

The horse, Mazel Print, did unseat its' rider and got loose while the gate crew was starting to load the horses into the starting gate for the start of the race. The horse, then without its rider, ran down the race track in front of the grand stands (to the cheering of the crowd) to the end of the chute where there is a solid wooden wall. The horse stopped sharply putting up a cloud of dust. It did not “crash hard” and it never “hurdled the wall”, but rather stopped, turned around and ran back towards the starting gate where one of the two outriders caught it. When the horse originally ran away from its handler at the starting gate, an outrider (not a Steward) gave chase on his horse and in the process when reaching to catch the bridle reins on the runaway horse; the outrider lost his balance and fell. He got back on his horse and proceeded to give chase to Mazel Print and caught it. This time, he broke a stirrup leather on his saddle, causing him to leave the track and repair his saddle.

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The outrider, when he fell the first time did land under the inside rail. He hit his head on the rail however, due to the fact that these riders wear protective helmets and flak jackets, he was not injured.

After the horse was caught by the outrider, it was briefly checked by the veterinarian and then removed from the race track to the paddock where it was unsaddled and taken back to the barn. The horse was scratched from the race and its number and betting information was removed from the tote system by the Stewards. This is customary when a horse is scratched on the race track prior to the running of the race.

There was nothing out of the ordinary regarding this horse getting loose or the short delay in the start of the race. The horse was not injured during this incident. The reason for its scratch from the race is that when a horse runs hard like this prior to the race, this exertion would place the horse at an unfair disadvantage during the running of the race. This would not be fair to the betting public, so the decision is made by the Stewards to scratch the horse from the race.

For your knowledge, the Stewards, during the races, are located in the Stewards' stand on the top of the grandstand roof, and are nowhere near the racetrack surface. The duties of the outriders (of which there are two, mounted on horses), on the track during the parade to post and the running of the race, is to provide assistance to riders that have problems prior to the race and in pulling up after the race, and for incidents such as this one to catch any horses that get loose prior to, or unseat their rider during the running of or after the race.

The race was delayed by 8 minutes from the original post time until the horses were reloaded and the race started. This time delay allows for the horse to be removed from the track and returned to the barn area, the betting information removed from the tote system and allows time for the betting public to obtain refunds and replace the bets that they had originally made on this horse.

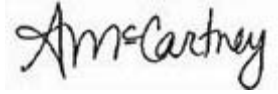
Your file is now closed.

These records will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of 72 hours after it is released electronically or a minimum of five business days after it has been released by mail in hardcopy. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: <http://www.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/ibc/index.page>

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Karine Bordua, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250-387-5584. This number can be reached toll-free by calling from Vancouver, 604-660-7867, or from elsewhere in BC, 1-800-663-7867 and asking to be transferred to 250-387-5584.

You have the right to ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Hudson", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

For:
Vicki Hudson, Manager
Justice / Social Team
Information Access Operations

Enclosures

<p>How to Request a Review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</p>
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If you have any questions regarding your request please contact the analyst assigned to your file. The analyst's name and telephone number are listed in the attached letter.

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In order to request a review please write to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8W 9A4
Telephone 250-387-5629 Fax 250-387-1696

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. A copy of your original request;
2. A copy of our response; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.