



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE OFFICE OF RACING COMMISSIONER
LANSING

CHRISTINE C. WHITE
COMMISSIONER

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MICHIGAN RACING COMMISSIONER BANS KARAM AND MANNI FROM ALL MICHIGAN RACETRACKS

LANSING – Racing Commissioner, Christine C. White, today signed orders prohibiting Mitchell Karam and Ghazi Manni from all five of Michigan's pari-mutuel race tracks in response to a federal indictment that includes bribing jockeys and race fixing.

Commissioner White had ruled off Richardo Alfredo Valdes, a jockey named in the indictment, in 2007 from Michigan's horse tracks, indefinitely suspending his Michigan jockey's license.

"We have been conducting our own investigation into the race fixing allegations and have shared what information we can with other law enforcement agencies assigned to this case. Protecting our betting public is extremely important to us," Commissioner White said.

While the U.S. District Court has ruled that Mr. Manni may not be on the grounds at Hazel Park Raceway or Northville Downs, the Michigan Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC) is extending this ban to include all five tracks and Mr. Karam as well.

The ORC will continue its own investigation and offer what assistance it can to the federal prosecutors.

The Office of Racing Commissioner is the official state agency charged with regulating, promoting and serving the horse racing industry in Michigan. For more information about upcoming events, the five pari-mutuel horse race tracks, racing schedules, licensing and Michigan horse racing, visit www.michigan.gov/horseracing.

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