***For Immediate Release*:**

**Salisbury’s Planning and Zoning Commission and the Lime Rock Citizen’s Council set to Appeal Judge’s Decision Curtailing Town’s Ability to Regulate Sunday Racing at Lime Rock Park**

In a lengthy decision on “motions for reconsideration” brought by all parties in the case of *Lime Rock Park LLC* *v.* *Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury*, The Judge in Litchfield Superior Court, affirmed his previous decision holding that a Connecticut State statute, section 14- 164a of the General Statutes, prohibits town’s from banning racing everywhere in the state at all times except before noon on Sunday. Last night, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to appeal the Court’s decision. The Lime Rock Citizens Council, standing in alliance with the PZC, also authorized its attorney, Tim Hollister of Shipman and Goodwin, to join in the Town’s appeal on behalf of the Track’s concerned neighbors, Trinity Church, the Trinity Cemetery Association and Music Mountain.

The Judge’s interpretation of State Statue 14- 164 puts at serious risk the authority of Salisbury’s PZC to impose reasonable regulations on Lime Rock Race Track. For the first time in sixty years, the Track would be allowed to race every Sunday of the year and could run races late into the night under the bright lights already installed at Lime Rock Park. The PZC—the Town’s local administrative body elected to regulate land use within its borders—will have no authority to stop this extraordinary expansion. Indeed, the Judge’s ruling, if left to stand, will deny every municipality in Connecticut the ability to reasonably regulate racing.

This decision represents a reversal of established policy on which the Town has relied, organized and developed over many years. Sixty years ago, the same Court held that if the Track were allowed to operate without regulation, the impacts would be incompatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood. The Court issued an injunction banning Sunday racing and limiting the Track’s hours of operations. The injunction represents a longstanding promise to this Community: the Track’s right to operate, and its pursuit of profit, does not trump the Community’s right to exist. This promise, until recently, was respected by a long succession of Track owners.

Nonetheless, we expect that the Track will continue to pursue its lawsuits against the Town and the LRCC, as it seeks to bring in long-weekend events like NASCAR and IMSA races that draw big crowds and television contracts. The Track’s court filings leave no doubt that it wants unlimited Sunday racing, more unmufflered racing and longer hours of operation, regardless of the impact that unfettered expansion will have on the surrounding community. The Judge’s decision will embolden the Track’s pursuit of that expansion.

The LRCC and the PZC do not want to put the Track out of business. We all recognize the benefits a *reasonably regulated* business brings to our community. We stand for the simple proposition that the Track itself is part a community, next door to a church, down the valley from a historical concert hall, and literally feet from hundreds of residential homes. It, like all of us, must respect its neighbors. The LRCC will continue to support the PZC’s efforts to preserve the status quo and protect the promise to our Community. While we have the utmost respect for the Court, its interpretation of the statute is flawed and we believe that the higher courts ultimately will find in favor of the Town and its citizens.