

December 14, 2023

To  
**William C. Carstanjen**  
CEO/President

## RE: REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HISPANIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY

**Churchill Downs, Inc.**  
700 Central Ave  
Louisville, KY 40208

Dear Mr. Carstanjen and Churchill Downs Executive Team,

We, the undersigned members of the National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce and other national organizations, are writing to you in the spirit of unity and recognition as Churchill Downs prepares to commemorate the historic 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby. While we acknowledge the profound significance of this milestone in American sports and culture, we wish to draw your attention to the invaluable contributions of Hispanic workers, jockeys, and the broader horse racing support team who have played an integral role in the success and legacy of this prestigious event over the decades.

**Cc:**

Churchill Downs Executive Team  
Craig Greenberg, Mayor of Louisville, KY  
Sen. Morgan McGarvey  
Gov. Andy Beshear

The Hispanic community, through its unwavering dedication, has been an essential pillar in the world of horse racing, shaping the rich tapestry of the Kentucky Derby's history. From the diligent work of stable hands and grooms to the unparalleled expertise of jockeys, such as Victor Espinoza, John Velazquez, Joel Rosario, and Fernando Jara, this community has left an indelible mark on the spirit and essence of this cherished tradition. Additionally, legendary Latino horses like Canonero II (1971) and Genuine Risk (1915) have left an indelible mark on the esteemed history of the Kentucky Derby, highlighting the enduring influence of the Latino community in this prestigious event.

As the nation embraces this significant milestone, we believe it is imperative to recognize the cultural diversity and inclusivity that have shaped the essence of the Kentucky Derby. By honoring the contributions of Hispanic workers, jockeys, and the wider support team, Churchill Downs can demonstrate its commitment to celebrating the diverse fabric that has enriched this iconic event for the past century and a half.

We respectfully urge Churchill Downs to incorporate meaningful gestures of recognition, such as spotlighting the stories and accomplishments of Hispanic individuals within the horse racing industry, into the festivities and celebrations planned for the 150th anniversary. By acknowledging their crucial role and amplifying their stories, Churchill Downs can underscore the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the historical legacy of the Kentucky Derby.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to the possibility of collaborating with Churchill Downs to ensure that the 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby serves as a testament to the enduring contributions of all individuals who have dedicated themselves to the success and splendor of this iconic event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

