

Contact: Nina Sveinson, [nsveinson@nemerfiieger.com](mailto:nsveinson@nemerfiieger.com), 406-640-0991

## **Running Aces Halts \$9 Million Hotel Development Over Potential Neighboring Asphalt Plant**

*Hotel project expected to bring 50+ jobs to Columbus, MN and surrounding communities*

**COLUMBUS, MN (8/16/17)** — [Running Aces Casino & Racetrack](#) has halted plans to construct a \$9 million hotel next to their current facilities over the potential construction of a Bituminous Roadways asphalt plant. If approved, the asphalt plant would bring more than 500 open bed asphalt trucks past the site of the proposed hotel and existing casino/racetrack everyday, posing a significant threat to the success of the project. Mayor Dave Povolny and the Columbus, Minnesota City Council will have the final say on whether or not the asphalt plant is approved.

Critics point out that the asphalt plant breaks with the Columbus 2030 Comprehensive Plan, endangering millions of dollars in future economic development and hundreds of jobs for the city. The Comprehensive Plan designates the land along the I-35 corridor, including the site of the proposed asphalt plant, for commercial uses such as retail, office, restaurant, hospitality and entertainment space. Should the plant be approved, the envisioned commercial development would likely fail to take off. Running Aces leadership says that future development of any hotel will not move forward until the full effect of the asphalt plant can be thoroughly studied.

“We love Columbus and support the citizens in their overwhelming desire to stop the asphalt project,” said Taro Ito, CEO of Running Aces Casino and Racetrack. “The Mayor and City Council must recognize a very simple fact, the current site for the Asphalt Plant is not in the best interest of the community, will cost area residents jobs, limit further economic development and will put into immediate jeopardy the long-term City Comprehensive Plan that has been painstakingly developed, adopted and communicated to business leaders and city residents alike.”

### About Running Aces® Casino & Racetrack

Running Aces is the Twin Cities' premier card room and entertainment destination, with live harness horse racing in the summer and unbeatable entertainment and cuisine year round. The *Trout Air Fishing Experience* is a “You Catch'em, We Cook'em” facility, an unbeatably-fresh dining experience offered only at Running Aces. More than 650 dedicated employees have been serving up the best in food, cards, simulcast and entertainment since 2008. Open 24/7, Running Aces is located one exit past the 35E and 35W merge, just 20 minutes north of 694.