UNTERMYER PERFORMING ARTS

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TIMOTHY J. ROONEY & THE ROONEY FAMILY OF EMPIRE CITY CASINO TO BE HONORED BY UNTERMYER PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL FOR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

(Yonkers, NY – May 15, 2012)…. The Untermyer Performing Arts Council (UPAC) will honor Timothy J. Rooney and the Rooney Family at a gala reception aptly billed as 'A Night at the Races' , parodying the popular Marx Brother movies of the 30s and 40s. The event is set for Thursday, May 31st, 6:30 p.m. at Empire City Casino's Empire Terrace Restaurant overlooking the popular harness racetrack. Gala tickets and more information are available at www.untermyer.com or by calling (914) 375-3435.

"The UPAC family is pleased to honor the Rooney Family and Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway for their continued support of UPAC and the Arts. Through their generosity we are able to continue our 36-year tradition of providing free outdoor summer concerts at historic Untermyer Park, enjoyed by tens of thousands of citizens from Westchester and beyond," said Stephen Sansone, UPAC President.

In addition to its summer concert series, UPAC provides support for activities throughout the city of Yonkers, such as National Night Out, An Evening of Irish Tradition, Rock n Rods Events, Jazz at Runyon Heights and more. UPAC also contributes each year, through its Theresa Fund, to Yonkers Idol benefiting talented Yonkers Youth.

"It is certainly an honor to receive this recognition from UPAC, an organization that continues to do so much to support the arts in our communities," said Timothy J. Rooney, President of Empire City Casino. "We are part of the fabric of this City, having been here for four decades, and its organizations such as UPAC that help ensure that the City we all love continues to flourish. We are pleased to be able to partner with them and will continue to do so."

Passionate philanthropists, the Rooney family is known for its continuous support of community programs and organizations and regularly makes Empire City Casino available for charitable functions and fundraising activities. In recognition of his extensive philanthropic contributions, the Rooney Family has been the recipient of several awards and accolades. Most recently, on April 19, 2012, the Rooney Family was inducted into the Westchester Business Council's Hall of Fame as a recipient of The Family Business Award. In 2008, Timothy J. Rooney was inducted into the Living Hall of Fame for Harness Racing and in March of 2005, Rooney had the honor of walking up Fifth Avenue as the Grand Marshall of the New York City's Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Additionally, Rooney has been honored by the United Irish Counties Association of New York, United States Harness Writers, Police Emerald Society of Westchester as Irishman of the Year, National University of Ireland, and the Police Athletic League of Yonkers as Man of the Year. He was inducted into the Westchester Sports Hall of Fame, presented with the Terence Cardinal Cooke Award at the New York City Catholic Youth Organization Annual Club of Champions Dinner, received the Founders Award for his dedication and commitment to the concern of Ireland and the American Irish by the American Irish Association of Westchester, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Knights of Saint Patrick.

Timothy J. Rooney has served as president of Yonkers Racing Corporation since 1972, when the Rooney family purchased Yonkers Raceway, the historic Westchester County racing track originally founded in 1899. In 1981, in an effort to sustain the track and horse racing industry, Rooney founded the Greater Westchester County Fair and Exposition, which was the first comprehensive county fair in the New York metropolitan area. The beloved event quickly burgeoned into one of the largest county fairs in the East.

In 2001, New York State passed legislation to permit video lottery terminals at the racetrack and so the Westchester County Fair was discontinued in 2002 to make way for the transformation of the 98-acre property into a racetrack casino. Yonkers Raceway closed its doors in 2005 for a complete redesign and reopened in October 2006 as Empire City Casino. Under Rooney's leadership, Empire City Casino has become one of New York State's premier entertainment facilities and has generated more than $1.5 Billion for New York schools in the past five years and supports more than 3,000 jobs regionally through direct and indirect employment. Looking to the future, Empire City is in the midst of a $50-million expansion that will bring two new restaurants featuring Michelin starred chefs, more gaming space and a dramatic new sculptural entrance.