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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Walkway Over the Hudson nonprofit organization and Dutchess Tourism, Inc. announced today the 2018 Walkway Race Series that had originally been slated for Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Race partners were up against a number of scheduling and logistics difficulties that impacted this year's race planning and execution.

Although the races will be postponed this year, there are still many exciting programs and events during 2018 that will help us remain one of NY's top tourist destinations. Runners of all abilities have many excellent local race options for 2018. Dutchess County, along with the Mid-Hudson Road Runners community, look forward to celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dutchess County Classic. This year's event is set for Sunday, September 16, 2018 in Town of LaGrange. The Think DIFFERENTLY Dash, the one-mile walk/run for individuals of all abilities introduced in 2016, is expected to take place in 2018 with date and location to be determined.

Walkway Executive Director Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart said, "The Walkway Marathon and Race Series has been a top-quality race event since its inception. With the construction about to begin on the much anticipated Dutchess Welcome Center, it would be very challenging to meet the standard of excellence we have set for this race series. In 2019, as we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Walkway Over the Hudson, we look forward to continuing our partnership with Dutchess County Government, Dutchess Tourism and all of our other partners to plan a series of exciting events and programs that could include a walk, run or race series."

Dutchess Tourism President Mary Kay Vrba said, "Dutchess County has been established as a world-class destination for runners with the Walkway Race Series. While we will not have the Walkway Race Series in this year, we are fortunate to be able to offer runners a great alternative with the Dutchess County Classic. As the Classic celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is another great event providing a quality road race that is 'Distinctly Dutchess'."

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro said, "We are committed to hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> ThinkDIFFERENTLY Dash in 2018, an event that participants of all ages and abilities truly look forward to. We look forward to showcasing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dutchess County Classic September and celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walkway Over of the Hudson with exciting events in 2019."