

Ysaura Rodriguez

From: JoAnn diFilippo
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:01 PM
To: COB mail
Cc: District1; DIST2; District3; District5; Jan Leshar
Subject: BOS Meeting 1/24/23: Consent 2 Appointment to the Pima County Fair Racing Commission

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COB: please include a copy of this email as a comment letter to Consent Item 2 - Appointment to the Pima County Fair Racing Commission

To: Supervisor Sharon Bronson / District 3

About Rillito Park Foundation

The Rillito Park Foundation (RPF) was formed in 2011 to provide a solution to an impasse between local soccer and horse racing interests that has stymied the future of Rillito Park for years. RPF believes that through a public/private partnership with Pima County Government, private donations and investments can enhance County assets to provide amenities the public deserves, while preserving Tucson's heritage for future generations.

At over 90 acres located in the heart of Tucson, Rillito Park consists of Rillito Downs Race Track, the J. Rukin Jelks Stud Farm Historic Site, and eight Pima County Parks and Recreation soccer fields. The Park also serves as a festival site year round. In 2012, Rillito Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Executive Committee



Russell True Director, Chairman

The True family has owned the White Stallion Guest Ranch in Tucson since 1965. Mr. True is a former two-time president of the Dude Ranchers' Association, former president of the Green Fields Country Day School Board of Trustees and former board member of Visit Tucson. Mr. True is one of the original investors and creators of Rillito Park Foundation.

In the process of reviewing the Board agenda for tomorrow's meeting, I noticed you submitted a request to have Mr. Russel True re appointed to the Pima County Fair Racing Commission. Please be advised that I disapprove of this appointment for the following reasons:

- 1. Mr. True is an outstanding community member whom I support in all aspects of business and horseracing activities; however,
2. Inasmuch as Mr. True is a member of the Rillito Park Foundation's (RPF) Executive Committee (see below), I hold that such appointment may pose a potential conflict of interest for both Mr. True and Pima County as RPF serves as the lessee for the Rillito Racetrack under contract # CTN:
1. ED RillitoParkFoundation CAMemorandum 1-22-16, 2. CT-ED-16-163, 3. CT-ED-16-163 CAMemorandum-12-14-15 Redacted Part1, 4. CT-ED-16-163 CAMemorandum-12-14-15 Redacted Part4

Again, my lack of approval of this appointment bears no reflection on Mr. True's outstanding ability to serve as a Commissioner, but rather as to avoid any further potential conflict of interest between the parties and the Commission. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

JoAnn di Filippo, PhD