

MEMORANDUM

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Date: 01/19/2023

Re: Agenda Item for February 7, 2023 Meeting

From: Rex Scott
District 1 Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Please place the following item on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 7, 2023.

Proclamation for Rillito Park Foundation: 80th Anniversary of Rillito Racetrack

Please see supporting documentation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Rillito River can trace its history back 4,000 years to a tradition of irrigated farming and Native American heritage; and

WHEREAS, Rillito Racetrack is a cultural icon for people from all cultures, especially horsemen and horsewomen who have trained, nurtured and raced quarter horses and Thoroughbreds at the track for eight decades; and

WHEREAS, Rillito Racetrack is the birthplace of modern quarter horse racing, was the first track to use photo finish and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Rillito Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established to build a public/private partnership to restore the racetrack and manage the facility for multiple uses; and

WHEREAS, Rillito Racetrack provides internships for University of Arizona students studying in the Race Track Industry Program; and

WHEREAS, the J. Rukin Jelks Stud Farm is located on the grounds of Rillito Racetrack and is named for the man who helped establish modern quarter horse racing; and

WHEREAS, the Rillito Park Foundation will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the track during the 2023 spring racing season to commemorate the rich history of horse racing in Southern Arizona and the Tucson community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the day of Tuesday, February 7, 2023, to be the:

“80TH ANNIVERSARY OF RILLITO RACETRACK”

and the Board of Supervisors, working in conjunction with the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, supports the work of the Rillito Park Foundation to continue building a communitywide, public/private partnership to make sure Rillito Park and Rillito Racetrack remain vibrant and important facilities in the heart of the Old Pueblo.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of February 2023.

The Honorable Adelita S. Grijalva, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors