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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 19, 2024

To: Melissa Manriquez  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Addendum Item Request for the January 23, 2024 Board Meeting**

Please place the following item on the January 23, 2024 Addendum:

- 2024 County Fair Horse Race Dates (Discussion/Direction/Action)

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator



Adelita Grijalva, Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors



Rex Scott, Vice-Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors



Dr. Matt Heinz, District 2, Board Member  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

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## Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission

Date: January 11, 2024  
To: Pima County Board of Supervisors  
From: JoAnn di Filippo – Chair  
Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission  
Re: Request to Approve Pima County Fair Horse Racing Days

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Arizona horseracing operates under both commercial and county fair horse race days. Commercial race days run at Rillito Racetrack are operated by the current racetrack operator, Rillito Racing. County fair horse race days are operated by the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission (hereinafter the “Commission”), and in accordance with A.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 1, Art. 1.

The Commission is requesting approval from the Pima County Board of Supervisors to approve the following days as officially designated County Fair Horse Racing Days: March 7, 2024; March 14, 2024; March 21, 2024; and March 28, 2024.

Rillito Racing, Inc., the current racetrack manager for Rillito Racetrack, informed the Commission they will not be requiring any county fair horse race dates to be run at Rillito Racetrack during the period January through June 2024. The result of Rillito Racing’s decision means that in accordance with A.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 1, Art. 1, Sections 5-110 and 5-111, the Commission has the right to contractually assign their race dates to another Arizona racetrack. By unanimous vote on January 11, 2024, the Commission agreed to contract with Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Arizona to run these county fair race dates at the Turf Paradise racetrack.

As such, Turf Paradise has agreed to contract with the Commission to run the approved Pima County Fair Horse Racing days at Turf Paradise on the above-referenced dates. In exchange for contracting with the Commission, Turf Paradise will remit to the Commission those funds which are exempt from the payment to the state of the percentage of the pari-mutuel pool, as described more fully in A.R.S. Title 5, Chapter 1, Art. 1, Sections 5-110(F) and 5-111(F), et. seq. These funds will enable the Commission to increase their fundraising efforts to support horse racing activities.

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors to authorize the dates of March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2024 as Pima County Fair Horse Racing days, the Commission will notify Turf Paradise of the Board’s approval of these race dates and finalize the contract between the parties (Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission and Turf Paradise).

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cc: Jan Leshner – County Administrator  
Victor Pereira – Director, NRPR  
Robert Padilla – Deputy Director, NRPR  
Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commissioners  
Dave Johnson – Turf Paradise, LLP