

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 12-1-20 ITEM NO. RA-11

From: Ronnie Reyna
To: COB_mail
Cc: Julie Castaneda; District1; DIST2; District3; District4; Betty Villegas
Subject: Fwd: Chuck Huckleberry Board of Supervisors Memorandum Dated 12/01/2020
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:27:55 AM

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Very pertinent information. Thank you all and Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless Ronnie Reyna
Chairman [REDACTED]

November 24, 2020
Pima County Clerk of the Board
Julie Castaneda

Part 2 of letter sent on 11/23/2020.

This is a further response to explain the importance of the voluntary service provided by the commissioners of the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission to the horsemen in Tucson, Arizona and why this commission should not be dissolved per the memorandum issued by Mr. Huckleberry.

I shall begin by relaying some history to the Board.

In the 1930's two young lads enrolled at the University of Arizona to ponder their future in life. They met each other as members in the Polo Club. Who could predict their later fate in life. This twosome turned out to be Rukin Jelks and John Goodman.

Rukin became a cattle rancher and breeder of Quarter Horses and founder of Rillito Race Track in 1943. He was also a Thoroughbred owner who raced at

Santa Anita in Arcadia, California.

John (Jack) Goodman became a Real Estate Investor in addition to owning

Thoroughbreds in California. He also was elected as a Commissioner for the Arizona Department of Racing. He held this position for a number of years.

Jack was a Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commissioner for decades only retiring when he recently passed away.

Rukin and Jack cofounded the Race Track Industry Program at the University of Arizona.

Previous commissioners have brought forth a tremendous amount of wisdom and experience over the years of contributing their service to the Board of Supervisors.

The current environment in the horse racing industry is one of chaos and

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instability. The (HBPA) Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association represents horse owners in the state of Arizona. They contract with the commercial horse track operator representing the horsemen.

As a result of Covid 19 and other issues, we are faced with a precarious situation trying to open a horse meet in 2021. All parties involved are nervous and unsure as to their future.

The (PCFHRC) Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission has been very instrumental in bringing the horsemen and Rillito Park together over the years.

The PCFHRC is not a representative for the horsemen. We have been a mediator for both concerns. We have no bias for either group. We have been a county representative for the horse industry. Our meetings have been a venue to discuss and vent issues between horsemen and race operators.

As such, it has been a protocol both successful and rewarding for both parties.

The horsemen have full confidence in us.

The currently discussed option is to dissolve the PCFHRC and turn it over to Parks & Recreation with a possible subcommittee advisory position.

This would appear to dilute the long standing personal relationship that has prevailed over many years with PCFHRC.

It also is not healthy of transferring this responsibility to a department that has a budget cut of over \$1,000,000 and an assignment of more work to their personnel.

If the problem isn't broken, why fix it?

DO NOT DISSOLVE THE PCFHRC !!!!!

PCFHRC Chairman of the Board of Directors: Ronnie Reyna

PCFHRC Secretary / Treasurer: Timothy Kelly