



MEMORANDUM

May 28, 2025

To: Melissa Manriquez
Clerk of the Board

From: Andrés Cano
District 5 Supervisor

AC

RE: Proclamation for the June 3, 2025 Agenda Addendum

Please add the following to the June 3, 2025, Agenda Addendum:

Proclamation

Proclaiming Friday, June 6, 2025, to be: "The 5th Anniversary of Blax Friday." (District 5)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black-owned businesses are essential to a thriving and equitable economy, yet remain underrepresented – making up just 1.5 percent of small businesses in Arizona despite Black Arizonans comprising 4.7 percent of the state’s population; and

WHEREAS, the National Bureau of Economic Research found that 41 percent of Black-owned businesses in the United States were lost in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, underscoring the need for bold and community-driven economic support; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, in the spirit of resilience and innovation, Blax Friday was founded to elevate and connect Black-owned businesses across Arizona – becoming the state’s largest Black business directory and the only app of its kind; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, Blax Friday has identified and promoted more than 2,000 Black-owned businesses, launched transformational programs like Soul Food Wednesdays, the Pitch Black grant competition, and Arizona’s first community-managed BIPOC loan fund; and it has formed key partnerships, including with the State of Black Arizona, Why I Love Where I Live, Community Investment Corporation, Growth Partners Arizona, Groundswell Capital, Startup Tucson, Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, African American Legacy Fund, and Local First Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Blax Friday continues to serve as a statewide model for economic equity, cultural celebrations, and grassroots entrepreneurship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims Friday, June 6, 2025, to be:

“THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLAX FRIDAY”

and honors Ashley La Russa and the Blax Friday community for five years of visionary service, innovation, and commitment to building a more inclusive and prosperous Arizona.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of June 2025.

The Honorable Rex Scott, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors