

**Bernadette Russell**

**AGENDA MATERIAL**

DATE 1/19/21 ITEM NO. PA9

**From:** Sue Megariz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:42 AM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Horse Racing

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Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Hello, good morning. After further thought and doing a bit more research and speaking to Jaye Wells, I now have different views on the PCFHRC. I am in favor of nominating a horseman/horsewoman to the HBPA to act as the voice for the horsemen.

I would prefer my letter sent to the various board members be removed.

Thank you Cindy Megariz

JAN 19 21 AM 07:59 PC CLKU-BU  
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## Bernadette Russell

**From:** Jaye Wells <jwells@rillitoparkfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 8:25 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Cc:** Ed Ackerley; Frank Valenzuela; Russell True  
**Subject:** Pima Cty Fair Racing Commission

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Statement regarding RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 93

As Past-President of The Rillito Park Foundation, current President of Rillito Racing, and current Chairman of the Board of Heirloom Farmers' Market, I would like to voice my support of Resolution 2020-93.

Currently, NRPR and Attractions & Tourism split control and responsibility for the racing facility. There is an inherent friction created by this dual-landlord relationship, and we believe that moving full responsibility to NRPR will streamline communications. This resolution 'simplifies' the process, a step that is always healthy for governments and large organizations.

The liquor license is currently the asset of the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission, and the Commission generously allows Rillito to use the license. We understand that NRPR is in the process of obtaining a government license, and we trust that under the proposed government license, Rillito will be able to operate without any changes or interruptions. However, for the sake of all events and entities that use Rillito, it makes sense to have an 'umbrella' license rather than having a horse racing specific one. Currently this license requires suspension for other events to request a 'special event' license. This action is also a streamlining and simplification step, and one we support.

While the Fair Racing Commission has a long history with Rillito horse racing, under the shared vision between the County and the Rillito Park Foundation for Rillito to be a multi-use park, the Commission has simply outlived its utility. Rillito is now a commercial race track - not a fair racing track. While the PCFHRC did apply for fair race dates held within Rillito's commercial meet, this responsibility is minor in nature and can certainly be accomplished by the NRPR Commission's sub-committee proposed by Mr. Huckelberry.

The proposed subcommittee creates a forum for all constituencies using Rillito to share ideas and raise concerns under a formal structure. Having representation from Soccer, Racing, Events, and the Farmers Market can only spur positive progress for Rillito Park. We wholeheartedly support this action.

One of the most important seats on the subcommittee proposed by Mr. Huckelberry is an ex officio seat for the designated representative of the Horsemen's Benevolent & Protection Association - or HBPA. The HBPA is recognized by major tracks, and federal and state agencies as the representative body of all

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racing horsemen. The HBPA is the voice of the horsemen - not the Fair Racing Commission. That role has never been its charge. The horsemen will finally have a formal voice at the County level - a move we support, and that all horsemen should support.

Change has not always been good for horse racing at Rillito. Many changes proposed by Rillito Racing have been met with suspicion and resistance only to later be embraced. I believe that this change will - in time - be seen by all as the positive progress that I believe it will be. I urge you to vote YES on Resolution 2020-93.

Thank You - Jaye Wells

Jaye H. Wells, Past-President  
Rillito Park Foundation  
The J. Rukin Jelks Stud Farm  
1090 East River Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85718  
520.360.2049  
[jwells@rillitoparkfoundation.org](mailto:jwells@rillitoparkfoundation.org)



**RILLITO - PARK**

**Bernadette Russell**

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**From:** Ed Ackerley <ed@ackerleyadvertising.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Cc:** vfrankaz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** In support of Commission

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This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.  
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Rillito Park Foundation is in support of the consolidation of the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission into the Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Commission as a sub- committee.

Back up information is attached.



**Dr. Ed Ackerley**  
**President**  
Rillito Park Foundation  
P O Box 41021  
Tucson, AZ 85717  
(520) 850-7085  
[ed@ackerleyadvertising.com](mailto:ed@ackerleyadvertising.com)

# RILLITO PARK FOUNDATION



Engaging a public/private partnership with Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation and the University of Arizona, 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.

JAN 19 2021 07:41 POC KDF-BD  
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# RILLITO PARK FOUNDATION



**To:** The Pima County Board of Supervisors & County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry

**From:** Ed Ackerley; President of the Rillito Park Foundation

**cc:** Jaye Wells & DeMenna Public Affairs

**Date:** 1/13/2021

**Re:** Support of Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission Consolidation

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On behalf of the Rillito Park Foundation, we support of the proposed consolidation of the Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission into the Pima County Natural Resources and Parks Commission.

At Rillito, horseracing is a historic industry that serves as a clear leader in community engagement for Pima County and the state of Arizona. With that in mind, The Rillito Park Foundation supports the proposed consolidation as it will ultimately improve the efficiency of this cherished industry.

Consolidating the Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission would ensure smoother operation and communication between horseracing entities, while furthering the goal of offering horseracing in a uniform manner to the general public. The current mission of the Fair Horseracing Commission can be more easily administered in this consolidated fashion, leading to a more open and transparent approach to horse racing in Pima County.

This action will improve the future of each valued group that calls Rillito Park home, and that includes our horsemen.

The Rillito Park Foundation stands in support of this measure and urges the Pima County Board of Supervisors to vote in favor of the consolidation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Ackerley".

Ed Ackerley, Ed.D.  
President

ATT: Board of Supervisors

Good Morning, I am Victor Salazar and I am a Horsemen and a businessman. Last Meeting, I submitted a letter recommending delaying or denying any action on the memorandum regarding the dissolution of the PCFHRC. (Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission) As a businessman, I understand the merger would make good business sense. My main concern is that we will lose the voice of the Horseman. Who will represent the horseman when discussions are about racing? Could it be possible to appoint a chair to a representative Horseman? Since you are discussing eliminating a whole entity, I Propose creating a position that must be held by someone the Horseman choose? This would ensure we have someone with the Horseman's interest in the discussions. That person could feedback what is going on and be our Liaison. You wouldn't have a bunch of us with different information. We could take any issue to that person. I realize you have a much broader view of the whole situation and I am looking at a small piece here but that is exactly why this would help everyone involved. Please consider this request, I think it would benefit all of us. Thank you very much.

**Victor Salazar | Manufacturing Process  
Engineer**

Universal Avionics Systems Corporation  
3260 E. Universal Way  
Tucson, Arizona 85756 USA  
(520) 260-2242 | (800) 321-5253  
[vsalazar@uasc.com](mailto:vsalazar@uasc.com)

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