

ADDENDUM MATERIAL

Bernadette Russell

DATE 10-5-21

ITEM NO. ADD 7

From: Jerrie Jean Lamb [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:54 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Oct. 5 Board of Supervisor Comments

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To: Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: J.J. Lamb
Vail Preservation Society

October 5, 2021
Agenda Item 7
Leon Ranch Road and Bravo-Leon Cemetery

In Spring 2021 it was brought to my attention that new in-process development would sever the last safe access to the over 108 year old Bravo-Leon Cemetery. How would it be possible for Vail's pioneering families to continue to honor their loved ones buried in there? How would hearses navigate the single dirt trail that would remain once the Richmond American and Pepper Viner developments were complete to access one of Vail's most significant sacred sites to lay their loved ones to rest or visit their graves? How would Vail's pioneering Mexican American families continue the cultural traditions that strengthen family bonds and their ties to their community – Vail. The Bravo-Leon Cemetery is the sole remaining site where cultural traditions have been continuously passed generation to generation. Severing this connection would be erasing a significant part of Vail's Mexican American heritage.

This issue is about safety and ability to navigate daily life. These are essential questions we can't afford to ignore. I believe that is possible for a community to grow while honoring its heritage. This is essential to building a strong foundation for overall quality of life, affirming community culture and long term economic vitality. Respect, values, heritage and culture are foundational at every level, from the family unit to education and to governance.

I want to thank Pima County Administrator Huckelberry and District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy for listening and understanding the deep rooted importance of this issue. I would also like to thank the Pima County Departments who invested their time and expertise to look for a solution that met cultural, community and Pima County needs. All Souls Day will be here very soon, it is important to know that there is real hope that the continuous link between generations of Vail pioneering Mexican American families will not be broken. And, that for newer residents in the older established neighborhood, that the big yellow school bus will be able to pick up their children for school again, and that the traditional rural lifestyle that includes livestock

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and raising horses that need to be taken to the vet along an accessible roadway can continue even as Vail grows and changes.

I encourage Supervisors to vote yes to access to the historic Bravo-Leon Cemetery and to bringing the Leon Ranch Road into the Pima County Road System.

Thank you,
JJ Lamb
President
Vail Preservation Society