



In the Matter Of:

O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 25, 2021

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Reported by:

Patricia Garrido

CSR No. 14364

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32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Meeting of the OCFEC Board of
Directors, stenographically reported by Patricia
Garrido, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of
California, commencing at 9:00 a.m. and ending at
3:15 a.m., Thursday, February 25, 2021, Via Zoom.

APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, Chair
Doug La Belle, Vice Chair
Sandra Cervantes, Member
Robert Ruiz, Member
Ashleigh Aitken, Member
Barbara Bagneris, Member
Nick Kovacevich, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer
Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer
Summer Angus, Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant

1 APPEARANCE OF BOARD COUNSEL:

2 DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
3 JOSHUA CAPLAN
4 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, California 92101-3375
6 Phone: 619-738-9000
7
8 Fax: 619-645-2271
9

10 PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

11 Jeff Letourneau
12 Bonnie Lee
13 Harvey Liss
14 Bethany Webb
15 Mike Gasca
16 Carla Montgomery
17 Peg Corley
18 Sandra Masino
19 Susan Meyer
20 Yvonne Su
21 Reggie Mundekis
22 Erin Mccall
23 Chris
24 Joanna Weiss
25 Jim Maldonado
Glenda Galvan Garcia
Jerilynn
Miliana Singh
Wendy Leece
Julia Dumlao
Stephanie Camacho-van Dyke,
Theresa Nguyen
Piper Benom Sherwood
Cindy Massaro
Kellie Anne Avakian:
Jeanine Robbins
Mike Robbins
Bryan Terry
Todd Martin

O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER
Board of Directors Meeting on 02/25/2021

1 Todd Avakian
Dr. Gabby Castaneda
2 Gabriella G.
Kane
3 Rose Ann Sharp
Charles Blek
4 Mary Blek
Ira Sharp
5 Julia Demlow
Amy Capelle
6 Wes Alcott
Heather Hernandez
7 Jeffrey Horn
Gibran Stout
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32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
9:00 A.M.

CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd like to call this meeting to order. All matters noticed on this agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the chairperson. The mission of the Orange County Fair & Event Center is celebration of Orange County's communities, interests, agriculture and heritage with results justifying resources expended.

At this time I'd like to ask Director Aitken to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you very much. Please stand. Put your hand over your heart.

(Pledge of Allegiance conducted.)

CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director Aitken. Summer, at this time can you please take roll

1 call?

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Chair

3 Rubalcava-Garcia?

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Present. Sorry.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

6 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Present.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

8 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Present.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

10 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Present.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris? Director
12 Aitken?

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Pham? And Director
15 Kovacevich?

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer.

17 And just to confirm we do have a quorum, I think I heard
18 five board members on the call?

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Five. We have five.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Perfect.

21 CEO RICHARDS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, could I
22 just take a minute? Summer, is there still room on the
23 call for others? I'm wondering if some of our Board
24 members are having trouble logging in because we've
25 reached our capacity?

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: We're at 92.

2 CEO RICHARDS: Okay. I'm going to ask any OC
3 Fair & Event Center staff that are not involved in the
4 meeting to please log off the Zoom call so that we can
5 make room for others that are trying to get in. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. I'd like
8 to move to agenda Item 10, which is the governance
9 process. At this time I would like to move agenda Item
10 10A to occur before closed session. Summer will
11 coordinate any public comment for agenda Item 10A only.
12 We will take general public comment after closed
13 session. At this time I'd like to turn over to Summer
14 so she can organize anyone who would like to speak
15 before the Board today regarding Item 10A.

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. If you are using the
17 Zoom video function and can use the chat, please go
18 ahead and say that you'd like to speak on item 10A and
19 I'll get that queued up. After that, we'll -- people
20 that are dialed in, we'll get those verbally as well.
21 Okay. I have Jeff. I see Jeff, and I'll let this list
22 go for a moment and then we'll get people queued up.

23 BONNIE: Is that the issue about the Pride
24 flag? I don't know what --

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: It is, Bonnie. Would you

1 like to speak on that item?

2 BONNIE: Yeah.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. I'll get you on the
4 list.

5 BONNIE: Okay. Thank you.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Just for you on this
7 call as Summer is organizing closed session, discussion
8 Item 10A is the item about the displaying of flags at
9 the Orange County Fair & Event Center. The Board will
10 discuss and review -- take public comment on this item.

11 BETHANY: Hi, I'm not sure if you can hear me.
12 Can you hear me?

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yeah.

14 BETHANY: I did want to speak on that. I don't
15 have my chat function on my, not on my PC. I see you
16 there. I got you on the list. Okay. Thank you.

17 CARLA MONTGOMERY: Carla Montgomery, too, would
18 like to speak on 10A.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Carla.

20 SANDRA MASSINO: Sandra Massino would like to
21 speak on that as well please.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay.

23 SUSAN MEYER: Susan Meyer would like to speak
24 on 10A.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Susan.

1 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi, Summer. Reggie Mundekis
2 would like to speak on 10A, please. Thank you.

3 CHRIS: Hello, I would like to speak on 10A.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chris?

5 CHRIS: Yes. I'd like to speak on 10A, and
6 also Jim Maldonado would like to speak. Thank you, Jim.

7 JERILYNN: Good morning, Summer, Jeri, as well.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Jerilynn.

9 WENDY LEECE: Wendy Leece would like to speak
10 on 10A, also.

11 STEPHANIE CAMACHO-VAN DYKE: Stephanie
12 Camacho-Van Dyke would like to speak on 10A, please.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Stephanie.

14 PEG CORLEY: Peg Corley would also like to
15 speak. Thank you.

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: I saw your message, Peg.
17 Thank you.

18 KELLIE ANNE: Kellie Anne would like to speak
19 on 10A too.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Kellie.

21 LISA SABO: Hi, Summer. This is Lisa Sabo.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Good morning, Lisa.

23 LISA SABO: I would like to speak on just
24 general public comment.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: At this time we're not

1 queuing up those at the moment, Lisa. We're just --
2 this is for item 10A. When the Board goes to closed
3 session, I'll queue up all other agenda items.

4 LISA SABO: Okay. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

6 JEANINE ROBBINS: Summer, this is Jeanine
7 Robbins.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Good morning, Jeanine.

9 JEANINE ROBBINS: How are you?

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Good. Thank you. Would you
11 like to speak on item 10A?

12 JEANINE ROBBINS: 10A, but I also want to speak
13 on Item 8A, please, general comments.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Well, we're only doing
15 10A at the moment. I'll queue those up when the Board
16 is in closed session.

17 JEANINE ROBBINS: Okay. Thank you.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

19 WENDY LEECE: Hello, Summer. Just confirming
20 that you got my request. This is Wendy Leece.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, Wendy, I have yours.
22 I'm doing the list right now in the Zoom chat. I will
23 call -- I'll list out people's names just to make sure
24 I've captured everyone. If you can give me just a
25 moment.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And while Summer is
2 doing that, just for those of you who just joined, we
3 have moved agenda Item 10A up before closed session so
4 that those who wish to speak before the Board don't have
5 to wait so long to do so for when the Board comes back
6 from closed session. So there will still be general
7 comment after. This is only for agenda item 10A, which
8 is discussion of the displaying of flags at the Orange
9 County Fair & Event Center.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. I am going to read a
11 list of names from the -- from the chat and then the
12 speakers that called out their names as well. After
13 that, if I did not call your name, I'd ask that you
14 please let me know.

15 I have Jeff LeTourneau, Harvey Liss, Mike
16 Gasca, Peg Corley, Brent Argo, Yvonne, Erin McCall,
17 Joanne Weiss, Glenda Galvan Garcia, Miliana Singh,
18 Julia, Bonnie Lee, Bethany Webb, Carla Montgomery,
19 Sandra Massino, Susan Meyer, Reggie Mundekis, Chris, Jim
20 Maldonado, Jerilynn, Wendy Leece, Stephanie Camacho-Van
21 Dyke, Kellie Anne, and then there was a Jean. Did I
22 miss anyone?

23 TODD MARTIN: Yeah, can you get Todd Martin on
24 there?

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Todd.

1 JIM MALDONADO: Yes, and actually Brent Argo
2 didn't want to speak. I'm Jim Maldonado. I'm his
3 husband. It's just Jim Maldonado that wants to speak,
4 not Brent Argo.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you, Brent.

6 THERESA NGUYEN: This is Theresa Nguyen.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Theresa Nguyen?

8 THERESA NGUYEN: Yes, please.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Piper.

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, how many
11 speakers is that at this time?

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: 27, if I counted correctly.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Due to the
14 large number of public speakers on this item, we're
15 going to go ahead and allot two minutes to everybody who
16 wishes to speak before the Board today. Before we get
17 started, is there anybody else who would like to speak
18 on agenda item 10A. This is specifically for 10A and
19 not for general public comment.

20 KELLIE AVAKIAN: It's saying that the amount of
21 speakers is maxed and so there's two to three other
22 people that would like to get on it. I can give you
23 their names if possible, but they're unable to get to
24 the Zoom call.

25 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay.

1 CEO RICHARDS: Also we have a board member who
2 is also trying to get on. Once again, if you are a
3 member of the OC Fair & Event Center staff or any of our
4 partners, I'm going to ask, please, that you leave the
5 Zoom call so that we can make room for -- for at the
6 very least our board member trying to get on and then
7 other members of the public who wish to speak.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And Summer, is there a
9 way to increase capacity or is 100 our max?

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'm going to defer to Jason
11 on that.

12 JASON JACOBSEN: I'm working on that as we
13 speak right now.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. So why don't we
15 go ahead and get started with public comment for now?
16 I'm just going to go ahead and read our general public
17 comment statement since we are taking public comment on
18 agenda Item 10A. And then I'm going to go ahead and
19 turn it over to the Community Affairs Committee so that
20 they can present on this item. That's Director Ruiz and
21 Director Kovacevich.

22 Matters of public comment is allowed on issues
23 not on the current agenda. However, no debate from the
24 Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no
25 action will be taken on such public comment items at

1 this time as law requires formal public notice prior to
2 any action on docket item. Speakers are requested to
3 sign in prior to the start of the meeting and are
4 limited to three minutes.

5 At this time we're limiting it to two due to
6 the large number of commenters today. Comments will be
7 accepted on agenda items during the meeting. Speakers
8 wishing to address the Board on items on the agenda are
9 requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting
10 and identify the agenda item on which you desire to
11 address the Board. Speakers are limited to two minutes
12 today and this is just for agenda Item 10A.

13 I would like to turn it over at this time to
14 Director Ruiz and Director Kovacevich.

15 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you, Chair Rubalcava.
16 Thank you for this opportunity for allowing us to speak
17 during this such important event here before us. We've
18 had several meetings throughout the year in regards to
19 this issue. As you all know in May of that last year --
20 2019, I apologize -- we adopted to fly the LGBTQ Pride
21 flag.

22 And so when the committee was formed with
23 Director Kovacevich and I, we got a lot of emails, phone
24 calls of people wanting us to either keep it flying or,
25 you know, fly other flags or consider doing other things

1 to include other people as well. So on the 16th of this
2 year, we had a meeting. And so the committee decided to
3 bring it back to the Board for discussion -- for
4 discussion and action whether we want to amend this flag
5 issue or we affirm it.

6 So we wanted to bring it back to the Board
7 because of all the, you know, people that reached out to
8 us whether via e-mail, phone calls, what have you. So
9 that's the reason why we brought it up. And so Director
10 Kovacevich and I discussed it, and we wanted to bring it
11 for the entire Board and have a discussion on this so we
12 can move forward with this and discuss other issues that
13 we need to focus on regarding diversity. So with that,
14 I'll turn it over to Director Kovacevich, if he has
15 anything else.

16 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Director Ruiz.
17 And yeah, just to echo your comments, you know, the
18 Community Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors
19 feels like there's a lot of things that we need to be
20 working on for the Fair and for the community. However,
21 this flag issue seems to continue to take a lot of time
22 away from those issues. So we did make the decision
23 that we just want to bring this back to the Board.
24 There was the resolution made a year ago, as you
25 mentioned -- or in 2019.

1 So, you know, basically we're recommending that
2 the Board either affirm, reaffirm, or amend that
3 resolution. That way we can move on from this flag
4 issue and no longer will it continue to come up and
5 distract from other issues that we're looking to
6 accomplish. So we know that this is obviously a big
7 turn out for public comment. We look forward to hearing
8 from the public.

9 The Board has been briefed with a lot of
10 material, including the survey, all of the e-mails that
11 we've received, comments from previous meetings. So the
12 Board is hopefully very well informed to be able to make
13 a decision and most importantly put this matter behind
14 us so we can continue to focus on other priorities going
15 forward throughout the rest of this year.

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
17 Kovacevich and Ruiz. Are there any other comments from
18 the Board before we turn it over to public comment? At
19 this time, Summer, can you please take the first
20 speaker?

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Sorry. Chair Rubalcava, I
22 had my hand raised. I'd like to make a brief comment
23 before public comment. I really want to -- when I first
24 saw this on the agenda, it was a little trepidation, but
25 I really want to thank you, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, and

1 the committee for bringing this forward because I agree
2 with the committee chairs in that I think it's important
3 that everyone's voice is heard.

4 And so for those of us that have joined us over
5 the last year, I think it's really important that they
6 don't feel that their voices are ignored. And I think
7 this really brings finality, hopefully, to this issue.
8 But I want to start with a bit of background before
9 public comment.

10 The flag was raised in 2019 after a former
11 Board member raised the issue, and it wasn't in a
12 vacuum. It was in wake of the post night club shooting.
13 More locally, the 2018 murder of teen Blaze Bernstein.
14 And so a lot of prominent spaces around Orange County
15 were looking for a unifying symbol to pronounce that in
16 these spaces all are welcome.

17 In the same year, we hosted our Out at the
18 Fair, which was wildly successful and a strong statement
19 from our Board about the inclusivity of our property for
20 out LGBTQ patrons and their families, but that summer
21 was not without controversy. We saw that right after
22 the raising of the Pride flag, it was torn down and
23 stolen, not in an act of unity but in an act of hate.

24 And I'm bringing that up as a Catholic, we're
25 in the middle of, you know, for me, my lenten season,

1 and I always appreciate the seasonal call to reflect on
2 what you have been and what you can be. It's a time to
3 realize that every year we're called to be a better
4 version of the person that we were yesterday, and it's
5 not an easy calling.

6 And this issue has really made me reflect that,
7 what is my calling? And when I see the rainbow flag, I
8 reflect on the single ray of light which refracts in
9 different angles to make a rainbow. And when I see
10 God's light refracting on Earth to create mankind, I
11 realize that he could have made us that we're all
12 worshiping the same God. That the color of our hair is
13 the same. We all speak the same language, but he
14 didn't.

15 And I believe that this is his greatest test.
16 I think it's difficult to find common ground with those
17 that are different from ourselves, but if we can see
18 that we are all part of the same light, that is an
19 important first step. I see the flag, and I see myself
20 as a Catholic, I see myself as a mother, I see myself as
21 a woman.

22 And I'm asking those that are opposed to this
23 issue that -- to really look at a rainbow the next time
24 you see one. Do you have a favorite color? Do you
25 enjoy the rain that creates it? Do you -- did you like

1 to collect rainbow stickers when you were a child?

2 Can you find a piece of that rainbow outside of
3 the whole that resonates personally with you? Because
4 the flag flying outside our building is just a piece of
5 fabric. And so, I guess, my ask would be to the public
6 that we all find at least one thread in that flag's
7 fabric that speaks to us, because if we can do that,
8 that is progress, and that is why the flag is important.
9 And I will be asking that we reaffirm the Fair Board's
10 commitment to flying the LGBTQ flag. Thank you.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
12 Aitken. Any other comments from the Board before we
13 open it up to public comment? Hearing that there are
14 none, Summer, can you please call on the first speaker?

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. I'll call on the first
16 few, so people are ready. Jeff LeTourneau, followed by
17 Bonnie Lee, Harvey Liss, and then Bethany Webb. Jeff,
18 when you're ready.

19 JEFF LETOURNEAU: Thank you. First of all let
20 me start by thanking Chair Rubalcava and the Board for
21 their courageous step of flying this flag. Hopefully
22 with a third of my time, I'm not sure I'll get to but I
23 want to really share one or two quick stories if I have
24 time about how much I've been told that meant to so many
25 people, mostly young and marginalized people who thought

1 their government was their enemy.

2 I'm a 30-plus year activist of LGBTQ and AIDS
3 activist in this county. Thirty of those years I've
4 lived with HIV and AIDS, so I have walked the walk and
5 felt the oppression and therefore the need for this
6 flag. I remember the first Pride festival when the
7 police offered to the people riding in cars in the
8 parade if they wanted to wear Kevlar vests, and I
9 remember getting dirty diapers thrown at us and ugly
10 signs by the Traditional Values Coalition people.

11 I remember the first AIDS walk, same thing.
12 Little five-, six-year-old kids carrying signs "Gay.
13 Got AIDS yet?" The hatred and the trail was just
14 dreadful. I remember being ordered outside of the OK
15 West Bar in Garden Grove and they'd just stand outside
16 for an hour as they were checking IDs just pure police
17 harassment sitting down the block pulling people over
18 day after day after day after day as a form of
19 institutionalized homophobia.

20 And during all of this time and especially
21 during the AIDS pandemic, you had Congressman Dornan and
22 Congressman Dannemeyer and city/state senator Gil
23 Ferguson, former Irvine mayor Christina Shea, and Lou
24 Sheldon with the Traditional Values Coalition in
25 positions of power, just relentless pounding and

1 homophobia and AIDS phobia, lack of government services
2 to help. And so I hear, although this is the first
3 meeting I've attended that the main reason for this is
4 like why them and nobody us? Well --

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Jeff, that is
6 time.

7 JEFF LETOURNEAU: Okay. Just please just two
8 more words.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, can we go
10 ahead and -- I'd like Jeff to finish that one last
11 statement, please.

12 JEFF LETOURNEAU: Yeah, yeah. When people ask
13 you know, why us? It's because we've been through a
14 long, hard winter and institutional recognition and
15 government recognition they were part of that is just so
16 very important. Thank you, again, for the opportunity
17 to speak.

18 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Bonnie Lee, when
20 you're ready. I'll circle back. Harvey Lee -- Harvey
21 Liss, when you're ready.

22 HARVEY LISS: I'm ready. I'm Harvey Liss --

23 BONNIE LEE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I
24 didn't turn my -- if Harvey wants to go, he can.

25 HARVEY LISS: No, go ahead. Go ahead, Bonnie.

1 BONNIE LEE: Okay. All right. So I've only
2 become an activist recently in the political democratic
3 community, but I knew Blaze -- I didn't know Blaze
4 Bernstein, but I certainly knew his family. And taking
5 down the sign would be such an affront to his memory and
6 it's just giving into hate.

7 I mean, I don't see the big difference to --
8 and I know the real reason this came up is because of
9 hate. The same reason why our Capitol building was
10 attacked. I don't see any difference. It doesn't
11 matter to me that I'm not a member of the gay community.
12 I -- I -- I -- to me, as a Jewish person, it's just as
13 much an assault, an affront, you know, as if I were a
14 member of that community.

15 I think there's many people I know and love
16 that would feel exactly the same way that I do. So I
17 just don't want the OC fairgrounds that I have been
18 going to for every year to give in to that kind of hate
19 and oppression. There's too much going on in the world
20 today that's so bad, and we almost had our own
21 government overturned with an attempted coup.

22 And it's those same people who are, from my
23 perspective -- and the idea that it was even raise to
24 take down the flag is an affront to freedom and liberty
25 and basic human rights and dignity, from my perspective.

1 Okay. That's what I wanted to say.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
3 Bonnie. Harvey, go ahead.

4 HARVEY LISS: Hi. I'm Harvey Liss, a 45-year
5 resident of Irvine. So what's the purpose of flying the
6 Pride flag? Well, its purpose is to indicate that the
7 LGBTQ community, a community that has been opposed for a
8 very long time is welcome and safe. My thread in the
9 flag is the G, the green.

10 Here's some additional history, which I was
11 involved, local history. On July 12th, 1988, then Mayor
12 Larry Agran led the Irvine City Council to add sexual
13 orientation to the city's human rights ordinance. Only
14 the third city in California to do so after San
15 Francisco and Laguna Beach. Immediately the forces of
16 bigotry rose up and passed ballot measure M that removed
17 sexual orientation from that same ordinance.

18 I remember in the 1990s, young thugs from San
19 Clemente would come up to Laguna Beach to beat up the
20 gay guys as they were leaving the bars and dance clubs
21 on Friday nights. Fortunately, I was spared. On
22 September 30th, 1991, Governor Pete Wilson vetoed AB101
23 that would have outlawed employment discrimination based
24 on sexual orientation. I was with hundreds of others
25 who were chased by the cavalry armed with batons while

1 protesting outside LA City Hall during the governor's
2 ill-advised visit.

3 A year earlier in the background of a friend I
4 had contributed 250 bucks to Wilson's election campaign
5 on his promise to sign such a bill if elected. Well, I
6 was robbed. On January 1st, 2000 the State's Fair
7 Employment and Housing Act prohibited discrimination on
8 housing and employment based on sexual orientation, thus
9 overtly Irvine's discriminatory ordinance.

10 Yes, flying the Pride flag is an
11 important symbol of welcome and inclusion, especially to
12 those who might have been fired, beaten up, or murdered
13 in an earlier time and currently as well. That time has
14 resurrected for some of us under the Trump
15 administration that frankly only illuminated that the
16 impression lies ever-present just below the surface.
17 That flag, if anything, is now needed more than ever.
18 Thank you.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Bethany Webb,
20 when you're ready.

21 BETHANY WEBB: Hi. Can you see me?

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.

23 BETHANY WEBB: So I am the mother of a
24 trans daughter who went to school with Blaze Bernstein
25 at OCSA. We live in Huntington Beach. She actually

1 currently worked in Costa Mesa, but she was the same
2 year as both Blaze and the person that took his life.
3 The greatest fear that a mom has is somebody hurting her
4 child. And as the mother of somebody that's LGBTQ, a
5 trans, I -- the most vulnerable -- I don't mean to take
6 anything away from everybody else. Everybody's
7 vulnerable.

8 But a trans woman is in danger when she steps
9 out of the house. And all that I'm asking is that
10 people try to understand that we have been through and
11 are living through the most divisive time in our life
12 and that people are acting out against our Asian
13 brothers and sisters because of the President's
14 statement, "Kung Flu" and against our Jewish brothers
15 and sisters and our -- and since 911 against our
16 brothers and sisters that do Islam, but the LGBTQ
17 community is certainly always a target.

18 And when you do something that includes them,
19 that shows them that they're not a mistake. If you are
20 a religious person then how do you think God makes
21 mistakes, if you believe that God created every person
22 and he created them in the totality that they are? So
23 when you fly that flag, you give -- you give confidence
24 and integrity to people that have been maligned
25 throughout their life.

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: That's time.

2 BETHANY WEBB: Okay.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'm going to call the next
4 group of speakers. Mike Gasca, followed by Carla
5 Montgomery, Peg Corley and Sandra Masino. Mike, when
6 you're ready.

7 MIKE GASCA: Hi. Thank you, members of the
8 Board. I want to speak interestingly enough in support
9 of continuing to keep the rainbow flag. I am a member
10 of Irvine, a member of the LGBT community, and I am a
11 pretty staunch conservative that did support Donald
12 Trump. But I am very dissappointed in the advocacy by
13 many of my colleagues on the right.

14 We like to use the history of our party, how we
15 were once the party that advocated for civil liberties
16 and supported the Black community during the civil
17 rights movement, and I fear that we have dangerously
18 veered too far to the right in advocacy like the issue
19 that we're talking about today. There's a lot of
20 support for only waiving the American, the California
21 State flag, but we forget that both of those
22 constitutions begin with a basic declaration of rights
23 that proclaims every human's ability to have life,
24 liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

25 And for targeted marginalized communities,

1 those things are not granted. And allowing something as
2 simple as a flag is an unequivocal message that Orange
3 County and the fairgrounds are a place that welcomes
4 every single person without fear of persecution, of
5 judgement, or of discrimination, and it's a small thing
6 that we can do to embrace a community that I can tell
7 you firsthand has often been excluded and ostracized.

8 I think it's really important to recognize that
9 those basic notions that "All lives matter" or "I don't
10 support that lifestyle" should not be a redirect that
11 creates policy in America. We abandoned a theocracy
12 centuries ago, but more importantly, every life in
13 America can't matter until the elimination of
14 disproportionate outcomes in certain communities or
15 communities people fear for their life because of basic
16 choices is nonexistent in this country.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: That's time. Next speaker is
18 Carla Montgomery. Carla, when you're ready.

19 CARLA MONTGOMERY: Thank you so much. It's an
20 honor to speak to you guys today on this beautiful day
21 here in Costa Mesa. I just want you to know that I'm
22 here to spread love, to understand the situation of our
23 fairgrounds flags. I have many members in my family who
24 are of the LGBTQ community, and I love them dearly. And
25 I don't think that our flag situation is big enough for

1 them or good enough for them.

2 So my -- my -- I'm asking today that we would
3 actually make a memorial. I would like to have below
4 the flags that are currently flying and leave just the
5 three flags up there but move the LGBTQ flag down with a
6 memorial of all persecuted people in our country. I
7 just feel like it is an opportunity for us to showcase
8 to all of our members in our community, our children,
9 and everybody that there's just way too much persecution
10 in our lives.

11 So I would like to keep special things for the
12 LGBT -- sorry. I'm having my tongue tied right now.
13 For the beautiful community that that flag does
14 represent, but, like, I would like to keep the Outed at
15 the Fair program, and that -- because I do believe that,
16 you know, love is the answer, okay. But I also believe
17 that there are -- the definition of diversity is the
18 condition of having or being composed of different
19 elements, especially the inclusion of people of
20 different races, cultures, religions, organizations, and
21 the like.

22 So I am realizing that we tried to -- or that I
23 heard a Board member was trying to put up the Black
24 History flag for this month. We are in Black History
25 Month, and the Board was not willing to do that. And

1 this is where my concern came because diversity was not
2 really being highlighted in our community or in the
3 fairgrounds, which is in their statement and is which is
4 their goal. So my goal is to ask for a diverse memorial
5 of flags that go below the flags.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Carla, thank you. I'm sorry.
7 That's time.

8 CARLA MONTGOMERY: Oh, okay. Thank you.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Next up we have Peg Corley.
10 Peg, when you're ready.

11 PEG CORLEY: Good morning, and thank you to the
12 Board for allowing us to speak this morning. I
13 appreciate the opportunity to be here. I'm the
14 executive director of the LGBTQ center in Orange County
15 in Santa Ana. I was also there in May of 2019 at your
16 Board's invitation to help raise the flag at the OC
17 fairgrounds, and it was a really lovely morning, and I
18 was very proud to be there.

19 And I know the intent behind it was exactly as
20 Ashleigh stated earlier this morning, and that is the
21 most unifying symbol there is. And I support it now as
22 I supported it then. The Pride flag flying at the OC
23 fairgrounds is the single most inclusive symbol in the
24 world, and if you can please just for a moment imagine
25 all of the multiple intersectionalities that exist

1 within the LGBTQ community.

2 There's literally every -- there's
3 representation in every ethnicity, religion,
4 neighborhood, and walk of life in the LGBTQ community.
5 The Pride flag is a symbol for diversity, inclusion, and
6 acceptance. Also, it includes people who have faced
7 lifetimes of hate, oppression, and lack of
8 representation in their home communities. Flying the
9 Pride flag is a statement that this is a safe space for
10 the most diverse community and for our LGBTQ people of
11 color who are twice or three times marginalized.

12 You are saying, "This is a safe space. This is
13 part of your community. You are welcome here." The OC
14 fairgrounds made a beautiful statement in May of 2019
15 and since then, love and acceptance is flying the Pride
16 flag. That's simply what it means. Removing it now
17 would be worse than never having raised it. With that
18 said, I encourage the Board to remain steadfast in your
19 commitment to create a safe space. The OC community
20 needs you. Thank you.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Peg.
22 Sandra Masino, when you're ready.

23 SANDRA MASINO: Can you hear me?

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead please.

25 SANDRA MASINO: Okay. Hi, there. Thank you.

1 I didn't come here to talk about myself, but I am
2 Catholic, I am dark brown, I am of Mexican descent, and
3 I won't go down memory lane about how tough it was
4 growing up in Orange County during the 70s, but I
5 survived. I also survived sexual abuse as a child. I'm
6 a mother. I'm a wife. I am straight, and I am a
7 conservative, and none of that should matter over and
8 above what anyone else is or isn't.

9 I live in College Park right across from the
10 fairgrounds, and we love the OC Fair. We have people
11 come over during the time when the Fair is in session.
12 We love it. We don't mind the sound. We don't mind the
13 traffic. We love the Pacific Amphitheater, and we think
14 there should be a way for that to stay open all year
15 round. We think performing arts is very, very
16 important, and by the way, my husband is a theater
17 consultant and an architectural engineer specializing in
18 acoustics. So we can get that to be open all year
19 round.

20 But in and around the fairgrounds there are so
21 many other things to see. The softball fields, TeWinkle
22 Park, the tennis courts, the skate board park. Davis
23 Magnet School, the junior high, Orange Coast College,
24 Costa Mesa City Hall, just about everyone attending or
25 using these facilities have special interests, special

1 affiliations, and many sources of pride in their lives,
2 and yet, these are all places where we come together.

3 There isn't any invitation needed. Everybody
4 feels safe because everybody is one in these places.
5 Displaying the flag of any one special interest group
6 leaves the rest out. If we are truly one then we should
7 stay as one. This is the OC Fair, in the State of
8 California, in the United States of America, and we need
9 not be divided.

10 Does one flag (audio/connectivity interruption)
11 it does, and if it does that to so much as one person
12 then it doesn't belong. Will it be difficult to take
13 down the Pride flag? Maybe, maybe not, but so be it.
14 But I'll have to tell you, I take exception to those who
15 care to preach about their beliefs because you have no
16 idea what anybody else has endured or what anyone else
17 believes and you really don't seem to care.

18 This isn't about you. This is about the OC
19 Fair and everybody at the Fair. Children are being
20 abducted right now. Do we wave a flag for that?
21 Abducted right now. There are women being held in
22 slavery, men being held in slavery right now on US
23 territory. Does anybody care?

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: That's time. Thank you. All
25 right. I'm going to call the next group of speakers.

1 Suzanne Meyer, followed by Yvonne Su, and Reggie
2 Mundekis. Susan, when you're ready.

3 SUSAN MEYER: Hello. Thank you. It's a
4 privilege to be here this morning. I am in support of
5 flying the Pride flag. The Board made the right
6 decision to include everyone by flying the Pride flag.
7 I'm a 60-year resident of Orange County. Thirty years
8 I've lived in Costa Mesa across from the Orange County
9 fairgrounds in the College Park neighborhood.

10 I would walk over to the Fair almost every day.
11 The Fair represented community. It represented family,
12 friends, fun, social gatherings. It was an educational
13 opportunity, but most important, it represented to me
14 community. I'm a lesbian. I knew I was different than
15 my friends at an early age. I didn't like boys the way
16 my girlfriends did.

17 I felt alone. I couldn't even explain it to
18 myself. As I moved through junior high to high school,
19 the kids realized I was different, and they made fun of
20 me. The girls would punch me during PE. They would
21 pull my hair, spit on me, take my towel, chase me around
22 the locker room. I didn't want to be different. I
23 didn't want to be spit on. I thought something was
24 wrong with me.

25 There were -- these were my formative years. I

1 contemplated suicide. I had my -- I hid my sexuality.
2 Yes, I was in the closet alone until laws were being
3 crafted and signed into -- and signed to alleviate the
4 discrimination. My very close friends knew, but I
5 didn't feel safe to come out at work until I was almost
6 40 years old. I was already in a committed relationship
7 with a woman for five years living in College Park until
8 I felt safe enough to come out.

9 If I had seen the Pride flag flown at the
10 fairgrounds when I was younger, perhaps I would have
11 felt supported and equal in society, a part of the
12 community. And perhaps I would not have contemplated
13 suicide. (Audio/connectivity interruption)
14 discrimination and hate is still around us. I remember
15 Blaze Bernstein. Please continue to fly the flag.
16 Thank you for your time.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Yvonne Sue, when
18 you're ready.

19 YVONNE SUE: Good morning, everyone. My name
20 is Yvonne. I'm a Tustin resident, and I lived in Irvine
21 for the past -- for 14 years, and I go to Costa Mesa and
22 the fairgrounds quite often during -- before. And
23 unfortunately we can't assume that all public spaces are
24 safe for LGBTQ people. There's a lot of incidences of
25 trans people still getting physical attacks perhaps not

1 in Orange County, but elsewhere.

2 And to me there's nothing more political than
3 pulling down the flag. In fact, pulling down the flag
4 would be far more political than keeping it up. The
5 Pride flag is apolitical. It's a symbol of love and
6 acceptance, and I think it is not exclusionary to
7 straight marriages, it's not exclusionary to
8 Christianity or Catholicism. In fact, all faiths,
9 genders and sexual orientations and relationships can
10 see themselves in the LGBTQ flag.

11 It's affirming, and I think that it will
12 strengthen what the OC fairgrounds stands for, what our
13 community stands for, and it would attract more visitors
14 because they know they are recognized and they will be
15 safe at the OC fairgrounds. And I hope the Board will
16 consider leaving it up. Thank you.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Reggie Mundekis,
18 when you're ready.

19 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning. I'm
20 Reggie Mundekis, and thank you for this opportunity to
21 address you this morning. I support continuing to fly
22 the rainbow flag. I also appreciate what Director
23 Aitken said, you said it very well. The rainbow flag
24 says just come as you are, and you will be safe and
25 welcome.

1 So this morning let's move past homophobia and
2 get onto something we really need to talk about which is
3 how the OC fairgrounds is going to support our local
4 Orange County business community by allowing our local
5 restaurants and businesses to participate in the annual
6 OC Fair to make money and to participate in year-round
7 events. Thank you, and I'm happy to see the rainbow
8 flag to keep flying.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. I'm going
10 to call the next group of speakers. Erin McCall,
11 followed by Chris, Joanne Weiss, and Jim Maldonado.
12 Erin, when you're ready.

13 ERIN MCCALL: Yes. Hello. Thank you so much
14 for allowing us this space today. I just wanted to
15 speak out in support of the LGBT Pride flag. As we've
16 seen from other speakers before, there is a rich history
17 of LGBT progress but also struggle in Orange County, and
18 there is a history of oppression and harassment and
19 hatred that is still going on to this day that has
20 resulted in taking the lives of our community members.

21 And for me the thing is that the Pride flag is
22 about visibility. It's about sending a bright and
23 colorful signal that LGBT people are loved and respected
24 in this community. So why is it that people are trying
25 to take down this flag? It's about racism, and to take

1 down the flag it's about racier. It's about pulling
2 people out back into closets.

3 That's the whole point of this. They do not
4 want to see LGBT people in at the Fair. They don't want
5 to think about it because they hate LGBT people. That's
6 why we're having this public discord. That's why we're
7 having all this quote on quote division is because
8 there's a large group of people who hate other people
9 like myself and my family so much that they want them
10 excluded.

11 LGBT people come from every single walk of
12 life, race, color. The Pride flag is the unity flag.
13 The Pride flag represents literally everyone, and it
14 represents us in a way that says we can be loved and
15 respected and safe in a place.

16 That is the number one priority of the OC Fair,
17 and I hope that you guys keep it up and make an
18 affirmant that you're going to keep it and use this
19 opportunity to highlight the history of Orange County
20 and LGBT rights and activism and your community to
21 keeping that community and other community members safe.
22 Thank you very much for your time.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Erin.
24 I didn't get a last name, but there's a Chris that would
25 like to speak. Chris, when you're ready.

1 CHRIS: Hello, yes. Can you hear me?

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead, please.

3 CHRIS: I would like to speak in support of the
4 Board of Directors actually amending their decision to
5 fly the multicolored flag. I was kind of insulted by
6 previous speakers who said that people who are asking
7 for the multicolored flag to be not flown at the
8 fairgrounds are doing it from a place of hate. That is
9 not true, not true for me, not true for many of the
10 other speakers that have spoken here. I know it for a
11 fact.

12 The reason most of us -- or I'll speak for
13 myself. The reason I would like the flag not to be
14 flown there is because it's selecting one specific group
15 of people. A special group. A group that I do support.
16 I know many people in the community. But it's selecting
17 one special group to be representative.

18 And then if -- it's eliminating other special
19 groups. Why can't they have a flag? I speak to ask the
20 Board of Directors to change the -- their position and
21 to remove a special interest flag, specifically the
22 multicolored flag. And thank you very much for your
23 time and attention.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Chris. Joanne
25 Weiss, when you're ready.

1 JOANNA WEISS: Thank you. My name is Joanna
2 Weiss. I'm president of WAVE of Women for American
3 Values and Ethics, a philanthropic organization
4 comprised of more than 2,000 Orange County men and
5 women. I'm speaking on behalf of our members as well as
6 personally having been born and raised in Orange County.
7 I'm also a patron of the Orange County fairground and
8 was a resident of Orange -- excuse me of Costa Mesa and
9 lived across the street from the fairgrounds for a
10 number of years.

11 I'd first like to honor and thank the brave
12 speakers who preceded me in sharing their personal and
13 family experiences of the discrimination they faced,
14 particularly Susan, Jeff, and Bethany. Your stories
15 illustrate the importance of this symbol of the flag as
16 acceptance to allow marginalized an incredibly diverse
17 community. On behalf of WAVE as well as other patrons
18 of the fairgrounds, I urge you to reject the calls to
19 take down the beautiful LGBTQ Pride flag.

20 As Director Aitken eloquently stated, the flag
21 is a powerful symbol of inclusion and unity and the
22 continued display of the flag is a well appreciated
23 gesture towards our community members and a testament to
24 the values we share in Orange County. The LGBTQ
25 community is an important part of our group in our

1 community, that includes people from every political
2 party, religion, ethnic background, and cultural
3 identity.

4 We hope that you continue to show the OC Fair's
5 commitment to inclusion and safety for all members of
6 our communities including the LGBTQ community by
7 continuing to fly the flag. Thank you.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Joanna. Jim
9 Maldonado, when you're ready.

10 JIM MALDONADO: Yes. Hello. Thank you for
11 letting me speak. You know, I'm speaking as a gay
12 married male. And I've lived in Orange County all my
13 life. And I can just speak from personal experience
14 what the flag, the rainbow flag, being raised in the
15 Orange County fairgrounds means to me, personally.

16 I -- it's something that I just really
17 appreciate to see. Appreciation isn't even enough of a
18 word, you know. I'm 60 years old, and I've -- it was
19 difficult -- very, very difficult growing up gay, you
20 know. There was just a lot of oppression, I -- I even
21 tried to commit suicide when I was an adolescent.

22 And I know, I would imagine the youth seeing
23 this flag flying who are gay or bisexual or trans would
24 just feel so much support and inclusion, you know, in
25 seeing this flag being flown, and I'm just -- I'm very

1 proud that this flag is flown in Orange County at the
2 Orange County fairgrounds. It -- it -- it just is very
3 encouraging and very supportive. And I would like to
4 continue seeing it fly. Thank you very much.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Jim.
6 I'm going to call the next group of speakers. Glenda
7 Galvan Garcia, followed by Jerilynn, Milian Singh, and
8 Wendy Leece. Glenda, when you're ready.

9 GLENDA GALVAN GARCIA: Hello. Thank you so
10 much for having me. I appreciate the opportunity. My
11 name is Glenda, and I'm a lifelong resident of Orange
12 County. I'm a mother, and I attended OCC many years
13 ago. And I'm a fervent supporter of flying the Pride
14 flag. I think it's very important that OC recognizes
15 our community.

16 I'm a heterosexual woman, but I'm definitely an
17 ally. And I think that Orange County needs to be on the
18 right side of history and choose inclusion and
19 community. And I really don't understand the stance
20 that somehow it favors the gay community or excludes
21 anything else. All it means by flying the flag is that
22 the LGBTQ community is included, and that we're safe in
23 the same way that the LGBTQ community can marry. It
24 doesn't take anything away from anybody else's marriage.
25 It just means that you're included.

1 So again, I'm very much in favor of flying the
2 flag, and I think to take it down at this point would
3 just give voice to the other side that is in favor of
4 exclusion and that negative mentality. So again, I
5 think the flag should continue to -- the flag should
6 continue to fly. Thank you so much.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Glenda. Jerilynn,
8 when you're ready.

9 JERILYNN: Good morning, Board of Directors.
10 Thank you so much for finally adding this topic to the
11 agenda. I really appreciate the opportunity to have a
12 conversation about it. Well over a year ago, the Board
13 of Directors made a collective decision about community
14 input to begin flying an additional flag year round at
15 the fairgrounds.

16 This flag represents only one segment of our
17 multi-diverse community in Orange County, and yet it's
18 been given a unique place of prominence and stature at
19 the fairgrounds. While it's unclear why this decision
20 was made, it begs the question, why weren't other flags
21 that represent Orange County interests or other
22 oppressed people groups considered as well?

23 After all, the OC fairgrounds' own mission
24 statement says celebrating Orange County's communities,
25 interests, agriculture, and heritage. However, shortly

1 after this flag was approved, the same Board of
2 Directors quickly denied a request by one of its own
3 members to fly a flag in recognition of Black History
4 Month. Why?

5 Why was the opportunity to recognize other
6 cultures or others who have faced oppression denied? I
7 hear how much the rainbow flag is appreciated. Why
8 can't others enjoy this same kind of support and
9 appreciation? It doesn't take away from their flag.

10 From the beginning, this conversation's never
11 been about the merits of one flag over another. I
12 repeat, this is not about the merits of any one
13 particular flag. It's rather about the preference
14 that's been given to one flag over others. This really
15 is the point of the conversation.

16 Shouldn't the Fair be fair in recognizing all
17 communities and interests that make up the OC?
18 Shouldn't other people have the opportunity to be
19 celebrated and recognized as well? And if the answer is
20 no to that question, then the Board must clarify how
21 paying tribute to only one specific group while
22 disregarding all the others is fair or equitable.

23 If the goal is really about making all feel
24 welcome at the fairgrounds then I think the Board has
25 missed the mark by giving exclusivity and preference to

1 just one flag. Moving forward on this issue, I would
2 kindly submit that the best policy for all is one that
3 will be exclusive of all. This can be accomplished by
4 flying different flags with different interests,
5 heritages, or cultures or by just flying flags that
6 already represent all of us, which would be the
7 California flag, the United States flag, and the OC
8 fairgrounds flag.

9 To do otherwise would simply show disregard to
10 the many other people that live in our wonderfully
11 diverse county and have already voiced their desire to
12 see more impulsivity at the fairgrounds. Thank you very
13 much for your consideration to opening up opportunities
14 for other interests and cultures in developing new
15 policies regarding the flags flying over the
16 fairgrounds.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Jeri. Miliana
18 Singh, when you're ready.

19 MILIANA SING: Thank you so much for having me,
20 and I wanted to reiterate some of the words after
21 Aitken. I'm Miliana Sing, my pronouns are she/her/hers.
22 And I am with the LGBTQ center of Orange County. I also
23 sit on the Board for OC Pride where we did have Out at
24 the Fair in 2019.

25 I am not a Orange County native, but I am a

1 transplant from Orange County, Florida, where I was in
2 Orlando in 2016 when the Pulse shooting happen, and that
3 was a very stark reality for me. Flying the Pride flag
4 is a symbol of inclusion, and it pays homage to the
5 black and brown trans women who fought really hard for
6 us to be in this space today in a time when even though
7 we have marriage equality, we have the Equality Fair
8 Act, and inclusive housing, our inclusive health care in
9 the State of California -- we still have the highest
10 homicide rates for trans folks, especially trans women
11 of color, predominantly black trans women.

12 And this Pride flag shows that after every
13 fight, after every storm, after every rain, there is a
14 beautiful rainbow, there is a prism. And as so many
15 other folks have eloquently stated, LGBTQ folks are
16 present in every walk of life, and so to take the Pride
17 flag down would be a disservice to all of the work that
18 this community has done thus far and the relationships
19 that we have had with the OC fairgrounds. Thank you.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Miliana. Wendy
21 Leece, when you're ready.

22 WENDY LEECE: Yes. Good morning. I'd like to
23 thank members Ruiz and Kovacevich and the Board for
24 giving us this time to reason together. Hello, Reggie.
25 Hello, Susan. And I was listening very carefully to

1 Jeff Letourneau's comments. And I'm personally sorry
2 for what happened years ago, and things have changed.

3 That was then, and this is now. As Carla was
4 talking about, maybe we -- our hearts have changed, and
5 the people that were the spokespeople then -- you felt
6 discriminated, you felt hate. But I think we've come a
7 long way, especially in Orange County and Costa Mesa. I
8 have family members who are members of your community,
9 but the issue is to reason together and to continue this
10 dialogue so that, like, what Erin was saying -- I do not
11 hate you, Erin. I worked with you on Catrina's
12 campaign.

13 And to disenfranchise us because we have a
14 difference of opinion, we've got to come together. I do
15 not think that a flag can make anybody safe at the
16 Orange County fairgrounds because people are people. We
17 have to do more to recognize those who are oppressed.

18 I think right now with anti-Semitism, we should
19 fly the Jewish flag. We should fly the African American
20 flag. I guess we could fly the Cisgender flag. The --
21 any flag of anybody who's been oppressed. I've been
22 oppressed as a woman, a single woman. So I think
23 Carla's idea of having a special place for those people
24 who have been oppressed to recognize all minorities, I
25 think that's a solution.

1 And I would ask you to search your own hearts
2 and amend this resolution and start over. You set a
3 precedent here for one flag and we are one nation under
4 the American flag, under the California flag, and under
5 the fairgrounds flag. And I think we need to start over
6 and continue to work together with the goal being that
7 we respect, we love, we listen.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Great. Thank you, Wendy
9 that's -- The next group of speakers are Julia Demlow,
10 followed by Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke, Theresa Nguyen,
11 and Piper Benlon -- or Piper Benom. Julia, when you're
12 ready.

13 JULIA DEMLOW: Thank you, Summer. My name is
14 Julia Demlow, and I am commenting today in support of
15 the Pride flag. I echo Director Ashleigh Aitken's
16 comments on this flag being a vision of unity. And that
17 is really what it is, a unity flag. Orange County has
18 traditionally and has a history of being known as a
19 county that is not inclusive. That is our history.

20 And to our previous speaker's point that that
21 was then and this is now, just think about Blaze
22 Bernstein. That is now. That is happening now. And I
23 am not a part of the LGBT community, however, I
24 definitely support them. And when I look at the Pride
25 flag, I look at as a unifying source that all people

1 from all political ideologies, and all types of people
2 that this flag unifies them and it is a symbol of
3 inclusion and safety for all. So as I said, I support
4 the continuation of flying the flag. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you.
6 Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke, when you're ready.

7 STEPHANIE CAMACHO-VAN DYKE: Good morning,
8 members of the Board. Thank you for holding this space.
9 My name is Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke. My pronouns are
10 she/her. And I'm the director of advocacy in education
11 at the LGBTQ Center OC. Today I'm speaking in support
12 of the Pride flag at the Orange County fairgrounds.

13 As of this morning, our organization has
14 collected 300 signatures from community members who are
15 in support of keeping the Pride flag at the fairgrounds.
16 It's important that the fairgrounds acknowledge and
17 create a welcoming space for all its community members
18 including those community members who are lesbian, gay,
19 bisexual, trans gender, queer, as well.

20 I also want to call attention to our young
21 people too. Even prior to the pandemic, LGBTQ have been
22 at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, and
23 substance use. And these risks are even more pronounced
24 among youth who are trans gender and non-binary. And so
25 it is crucial that the fairgrounds continues to visibly

1 show its support in an effort for LGBTQ to know that
2 they are not alone and that they too have a place at the
3 OC Fairgrounds where they can belong and fully
4 participate. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
6 Stephanie. Theresa Nguyen, when you're ready.

7 THERESA NGUYEN: Hi, everybody. My name is
8 Theresa Nguyen. I'm a resident of Orange County. Thank
9 you Board member Aitken for communicating support --

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Teresa, I think you
11 accidentally muted yourself.

12 THERESA NGUYEN: Really?

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yup. There you go.

14 THERESA NGUYEN: Hello. Can you hear me? I'm
15 sorry. Should I start over? I'm so sorry. I'll be
16 brief.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Go ahead.

18 THERESA NGUYEN: My name is Theresa Nguyen.
19 I'm a resident of Orange County, and I just want to
20 thank Board member Aitken for communicating support for
21 creating an inclusive and safe space for Orange County
22 residents. When you spoke, my heart, body, and mind
23 felt relief that runs up against the pain I see among my
24 fellow LGBTQ members who spoke before me.

25 I grew up in Orange County, and I dragged my

1 husband here from the South. And after four years of
2 living here my husband repeatedly asked me: Where have
3 you brought me? And this place in many ways seems more
4 hateful than North Carolina, where he comes from. This
5 repeated comment stings as I think about the kind of
6 home and community I want to create for my children to
7 grow up in.

8 I have family members in Orange who identify as
9 LGBTQ. I want our headship to stand with love and
10 inclusion, and I ask the Board to vote to keep its
11 ongoing support for LGBTQ individuals in Orange County
12 and any amendment that should be considered is to
13 identify how to continue to evaluate and elevate
14 inclusion and diverse voices in our county. Fly that
15 flag and consider flying all manner of flags that
16 demonstrate the beautiful diversity of our community.
17 Thank you so much.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
19 Theresa. We have Piper Benom Sherwood next please.
20 When you're ready.

21 PIPER BENOM SHERWOOD: Hi. Good morning,
22 everyone. Just briefly, the Pride flag is a public
23 statement that hate is not welcome in Orange County, and
24 we should stand firm on that. It seems so simple to me.
25 Depression and teen suicide rates are higher than ever

1 and mental health stressors are just being exacerbated
2 by the pandemic.

3 The flag represents acceptance, and if that
4 helps even one person in our community, why would we
5 take it down? It's not a political statement. We're in
6 a massive public health crisis and our community should
7 be focused on doing everything we can to unite us and
8 lift each other up. The flag does not exclude anyone.
9 It actually does the opposite as a symbol of inclusion
10 which could not be more American. I'm an advocate, and
11 I just wanted to say I'm in support of keeping the flag
12 at the fairground. Thank you so much.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Piper.
14 I'm going to call the next group of speakers. Kellie
15 Anne, followed by Cindy Massaro, Toija Fitzgerald,
16 Jeanine Robbins. Cindy, when you're ready.

17 CINDY MASSARO: Cindy first did you say?

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, please, Cindy. Go
19 ahead.

20 CINDY MASSARO: I am so sorry. I thought there
21 was one person ahead of me.

22 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

23 CINDY MASSARO: Oh, I'm sorry. Did you want me
24 to go or the other person?

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Go ahead, Cindy.

1 CINDY MASSARO: Oh, okay. I'm going to start
2 now. Thank you very much for bringing this flag issue
3 to the agenda. Thank you for hearing us and taking the
4 time to resolve this issue. As we have been bringing
5 this issue before you over the last eight months, the
6 LGBT plus people aligning themselves with the Pride flag
7 have been saying that the Pride flag unites us and it
8 represents all of us and is a symbol of love and
9 acceptance.

10 Here are a few excerpts from emails sent to you
11 from those who align themselves with the Pride flag: My
12 name is Joe Nance. I heard that hate groups are
13 pressuring the OC Fairground to take down the Pride
14 flag. Do not allow racist, homophobic bullies to
15 intimidate you, Stephanie Sandoz. Anyone offended by
16 the flag is an extreme homophobe, Karen Hight.

17 There are many more but time does not permit me
18 to read them all to you. These clearly are not words of
19 live and let live, unity, all are welcome and included,
20 and everyone is treated equally. These words and
21 comments are directed at me and others who have come to
22 you for the last eight months doing our best to speak
23 with respect, kindness, and consideration for all.

24 As far as my memory serves, we have never
25 degraded the Pride flag or the people that associate

1 themselves with it. We are a genuine group of private
2 people who love our city and county and fairgrounds. As
3 I have been here simply asking for fair and equitable
4 representation, I have been met with those aligning
5 themselves with the Pride flag, with name calling,
6 belittling, ostracizing, and hate speech.

7 Here now at the fairgrounds I am experiencing
8 the rainbow Pride flag as a symbol of disunity, hatred,
9 hate speech, and bullying. Furthermore a year ago your
10 own Fair Board director put forth the resolution to fly
11 the flag representing Black History for only one month
12 and was denied, but you allowed full access to the Pride
13 flag to be flown not just for Pride Month, but year
14 round.

15 Certainly Director Bagneris and all Black
16 people wanting to be represented are not being treated
17 equally and fairly. Are Black people not entitled to be
18 represented at the OC Fairgrounds? How about the
19 community members that have repeatedly requested their
20 flags representing their interests? Are they not
21 entitled to be represented at the OC fairgrounds? If
22 this continues, you're elevating one group over another,
23 one group who seeks to put others down.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Cindy. That's
25 time.

1 CINDY MASSARO: I'm sorry. That was just 2:25.
2 Just let me please finish.

3 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Go on to the next
5 commenter, please, Summer. As a reminder, public
6 comment is limited to two minutes. Please be respectful
7 of this time. Thank you for your comments.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Kellie Anne is next.
9 Kellie, when you're ready. I'll circle back.

10 KELLIE ANNE AVAKIAN: Hi.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Go ahead, Kellie.

12 KELLIE ANNE AVAKIAN: Hi. I'm thankful for
13 everyone's statements on here. Something I want to
14 remind everybody. I don't feel like the non-LGBT
15 community and cisgender people are thinking that LGBT
16 community (audio/connectivity interruption) there's hate
17 between anyone and so for LGBT to be calling cisgender
18 people that they're hateful towards us -- that's I think
19 that that's like name calling and being mean.

20 The Pride flag or LGBT flag -- and it's a
21 symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual -- also the LGBTQ
22 social movements. The OC Fair mission statement on your
23 website is that the OC Fair is (audio/connectivity
24 interruption) communities, interests -- plural,
25 agriculture, and heritage. I don't see how the rainbow

1 flag is that, although it is that but why are other
2 flags not that?

3 The one African American on the Board that
4 asked you to fly the (audio/connectivity interruption)
5 when you voted on the flags to fly, you all voted --
6 history flag -- to me that says you're racist. So now
7 when I'm looking at the LGBT flag, I'm like, oh, well,
8 it's only for LGBTQ, but it's not for -- so how could
9 you vote no? Flying the opposite of that and is proving
10 racist. So you can say that it encompasses the blacks
11 and brown community for LGBT, but the person on your own
12 board, you voted against her.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Kellie
14 That is time.

15 KELLIE ANNE AVAKIAN: She wanted to put up a
16 flag for Black History Month. You voted against her.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
18 Kellie. That is time. The next speaker we have is
19 Toiija Fitzgerald. Toiija, when you're ready.

20 KELLIE ANNE AVAKIAN: -- kind of makes you guys
21 look like you're racist. (indiscernible) this is not --
22 can't be inclusive of other heritage --

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, is that the
24 last speaker who was just --

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, it was. Toiija

1 Fitzgerald is up next.

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Toija, are you there? I can
4 circle back. Jeanine Robbins, when you're ready.

5 JEANINE ROBBINS: Good morning. The Pride
6 flag, who could have imagined that this would have
7 become such a hot-button issue drawing so much anger? I
8 think the fact that it has become such an issue is
9 reason alone to keep the flag flying high. What these
10 opponents of the flag need to realize is that the LGBTQ
11 community is not a special interest or a special group,
12 as other commenters have stated.

13 It is not comparable to Little League, skate
14 boarding, scouting, or any other examples brought up by
15 previous speakers who oppose the flag. The fact that
16 they do compare the LGBTQ community to such activities
17 is very offensive to myself and others. The Pride flag
18 is a symbol of a social justice issue, an issue that
19 affects all of us. This flag represents a stand against
20 social inequality and oppression.

21 It is imperative in this day in age that we
22 take a stand for acceptance. Having spent thousands of
23 hours working on the fairgrounds property, we have
24 observed as well as interceded in numerous anti-gay
25 harassment issues. As founding members of the People's

1 Homeless Task Force OC, through our homeless outreach,
2 we have found that over 40 percent of homeless youth
3 are members of the LGBTQ community and are homeless
4 because they belong to the LGBT community.

5 Please do not allow yourselves to be bullied to
6 remove this flag. The flag needs to stay as a sign of
7 acceptance. Thank you.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Jeanine. I'll
9 call the next group of speakers. We have Mike Robbins,
10 followed by Bryan Terry. Todd Martin, and Todd Avakian.
11 Mike Robbins, when you're ready.

12 MIKE ROBBINS: Hi. I'm Mike Robbins. Some of
13 you actually might know me. This is a very touchy
14 issue, and I do believe that we should continue to fly
15 the flag. Let me read this statement: Prominent
16 Evangelist, Franklin Graham, thanked President Donald
17 Trump and the US State Department for helping deny
18 embassy's request to fly the rainbow flag during Pride
19 Month.

20 Son of late US Evangelist, Billy Graham, and
21 current president of the Samaritan's Purse took to
22 Facebook Saturday to applaud Trump and US Secretary of
23 State, Mike Pompeo, for making the decision not to fly
24 the gay flag over our embassies in June. Thousands of
25 his more than seven million followers appeared to

1 support Graham's claim that rainbow adorned Gay Pride
2 flags are offensive to Christians and much of the
3 country.

4 State department sources last week reportedly
5 confirmed the agency had denied multiple diplomatic
6 requests to fly the rainbow Pride flag on official
7 embassy flag poles. "I want to thank President Donald
8 Trump," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, "for making
9 the decision not to fly the gay flag over our embassies
10 during June in recognition of Gay Pride Month. This gay
11 Pride flag is offensive to Christians and millions of
12 people of other faiths, not only in this country but
13 around the world.

14 So do we put up with this anymore? Is that
15 over with? Is that gone? Are we supporting this issue,
16 or are we not? Are we still on the Trump agenda and the
17 religious right? Or are we for freedom in America? And
18 that's the way it is, and this is what we should do --
19 fly the flag.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Mike.
21 Bryan Terry, when you're ready.

22 BRYAN TERRY: Hello. Can you hear me all
23 right?

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, go ahead.

25 BRYAN TERRY: Fabulous. Hi. My name is Bryan

1 Terry, he/him/his. I'm the director of marketing for OC
2 Pride. I wanted to thank the OC fairgrounds for letting
3 us gather today to voice our strong support for the
4 Pride flag. Everyone here today has done such a great
5 job explaining why the flag should continue to fly
6 already. So I'll just use my time to tell a short story
7 about something that happened to me in 2019.

8 During the 2019 OC Pride festival, I was
9 running around like a crazy person, and anyone who's put
10 together a big event before knows exactly what a crazy
11 person looks like running around trying to put out
12 fires. During a particularly chaotic moment of that
13 day, I was stopped by a mother and her son who was maybe
14 like 11 or 12.

15 The mom who was wearing like a ton of rainbow
16 pins on her vest asked if her son could tell me
17 something, so I said sure. And I remembered my
18 Disneyland training, and I got down on one knee so I
19 can, you know, talk to the young man on his level. He
20 told me he really wanted to thank me for having pride
21 because for the first time he felt safe like he was at
22 home.

23 And he never feels that when he's at school,
24 and he's just so happy. And he teared up a little, I
25 teared up a little bit. It was a whole moment. Because

1 I saw a lot of myself in that little boy. Maybe if I
2 had seen the Pride flag growing up maybe I wouldn't have
3 put up a lot of the walls that I did that I had to spend
4 a lot of therapy sessions, you know, tearing down and
5 just trying to become the best version of myself.

6 So just in closing, I just -- I implore that
7 the OC fairgrounds continue to fly the flag. The
8 biggest reason for me is that our children are watching.
9 And you never know what they're going to take away from
10 the actions that we do and I feel that taking down the
11 flag sends a very poor message.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay, Bryan. That's time.

13 BRYAN TERRY: Thank you so much.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: We have Todd Martin next
15 please. Todd, when you're ready.

16 TODD MARTIN: Okay. Can you guys hear me all
17 right?

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.

19 TODD MARTIN: Okay. Thank you all for taking
20 the time to, you know, sit here and listen to us because
21 there obviously are many. For me there's a few issues.
22 First of all, we've been labeled as haters if we disagree
23 with the Pride flag. And I think that's totally unfair.

24 If you knew me and many people on this call do,
25 you know that I don't have hate for people. It's quite

1 the opposite. And to be labeled that way is just
2 divisive and it feels terrible. I really don't like it
3 when people label me that way, as a hater, when they
4 don't know me, and it's actually the exact opposite. So
5 this flag is creating division. It does not include
6 everybody.

7 I mean, if it did then even one person on this
8 call would be enough to prove that's not the case. And
9 I can tell you, I represent a lot of people on the same
10 boat that are not happy with this, and I don't have
11 anything against gay people. I've got friends who are
12 gay. I've got neighbors who I get along with really
13 great who are gay, but it does not represent all of us.

14 And, you know, I do international Christian
15 mission work where we do, you know, help people in
16 Zimbabwe getting food to them and the persecution that
17 they endure is so much greater than what we've been
18 talking about here. And I have a huge heart for them.
19 I understand the gay people and their Pride flag and how
20 it makes them feel better. I would like equal
21 representation.

22 I would like to be able to fly a flag to
23 represent my friends who are being killed, murdered,
24 imprisoned for their faith and things like that. And it
25 just doesn't come across for me as being fair at all. I

1 feel totally excluded. I would love to be able to put a
2 flag up there that represents many, many people that I
3 know, and I'm not talking about in Zimbabwe, but people
4 who share the same feelings I do in regards to people
5 here in Orange County. And I just think it's kind of an
6 oxymoron that the fairgrounds Fair is being unfair.
7 Please give us equal representation in this matter.
8 Thank you very much.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Todd. Todd
10 Avakian, when you're ready.

11 TODD AVAKIAN: Thank you so much for bringing
12 this issue before the Board today and allowing us who
13 live in the community, you know, the opportunity to
14 share our views. I just wanted to keep this short.
15 I've got many, many friends who are gay that I love and
16 care for deeply that are involved with my family, our
17 community, and I just, you know, listening to these
18 calls, there's so much incredible emotion, name calling,
19 on both sides, anger.

20 I'm astounded by the judgment of one side.
21 Again, it's happening on both sides, but I'm astounded
22 that one can say it's helpful but in the next word just
23 slew so much judgement and anger and divisiveness and
24 hatred towards anyone who disagrees with it. This
25 intense emotion and name calling, in my opinion, is the

1 clearest example of why we should only fly the US flag,
2 the California flag, and the OC Fair flag. Thank you so
3 much.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Todd. I'm going
5 to call the next group of speakers. Dr. Gabby, Fay
6 Nguyen, Gabriella G., when you're ready. Oh, I'm sorry.
7 Dr. Gabby, when you're ready.

8 DR. GABBY CASTANEDA: Hi, everyone. Thank you
9 for allowing me this opportunity to speak. I am in full
10 support with all my being of continuing to fly the flag.
11 It is such an important symbol of unity and love. And I
12 truly feel bad for those that disagreed, although I
13 respect your opinions, but certainly it is a way for all
14 of us to come together and acknowledge our community
15 members.

16 This is a place where everyone is welcome. As
17 a mother of two young boys, we often go to the OC
18 grounds for different events and whatnot and seeing
19 those flags there and showing them and trying to be the
20 best parent that I can for them to be inclusive. It is
21 incredibly important to me and for my opportunity.

22 I have an array of friends of all walks of life
23 that identified and are part of the LGBTQ community that
24 I love dearly, and it breaks my heart to see how much
25 they have to endure and they continue to endure and

1 having this even be an issue of not having that flag up
2 there as a signal of being inclusive.

3 It's incredibly disheartening that this is an
4 issue in 2021. I think we have seen enough, many have
5 lived through enough to be able to get past that and
6 show our love and support for others that are, you know,
7 that don't necessarily, you know, identify like we do.
8 But, you know, as a person of faith, as Ms. Aitken
9 stated earlier, I couldn't have said it any better.

10 I think this is an important time in my
11 practice as a Catholic to really continue to reflect and
12 continue to put love out there and support those that
13 need it the most. And in my view, in my personal
14 opinion, our LGBTQ are incredible human beings that
15 deserve the same respect that anyone else is getting in
16 being included. And I thank you. I don't need the two
17 minutes to continue to say that I firmly recommend and I
18 hope that you do continue to fly that Pride flag.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
20 Dr. Gabby. That's time. Fay, if you want to try giving
21 comment, you can. She was having some difficulties
22 earlier. If you want to try, go ahead. If not, we'll
23 move on to the next speaker. Okay. After that we have
24 Gabriella G, when you're ready.

25 GABRIELLE G: Is that me? I'm Gabrielle G.

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, that's you.

2 GABRIELLE G: All right. Just want to make
3 sure. First of all, my fiance and I are transplants to
4 Orange County. And we have received vandalism hate. We
5 are thinking about moving from Orange County. Orange
6 County has ranked lower as far as inclusivity, as far as
7 the Human Rights Campaign, on a scale of 1 to 100 Orange
8 County, a whole ranks about 53.

9 So it is a huge problem. Inclusivity is not a
10 pie. If you get representation to one group, that does
11 not diminish the representation of other groups. The
12 Pride flag does represent inclusivity, diversity,
13 inclusivity, life, healing, sunlight, nature, harmony,
14 spirit. Those are what the colors represent. For
15 people saying -- I love how people are saying I don't
16 hate. I don't hate. I don't hate. It creates hate
17 when you don't want to fly the flag.

18 As far as it -- all these other groups being
19 represented, I also agree with what some of other people
20 said. Being gay is not Little League sports. It is not
21 something that I choose to do. It is who I am. Orange
22 County has become very, very divisive in its rhetoric.
23 Up until very recently, the Pride flag was not allowed
24 to fly in the US embassies because of what the
25 ex-president did and his policies.

1 So to stand with that and to continue that
2 rhetoric of not allowing Pride flags to fly. And for
3 the people who said that it didn't represent Jewish
4 heritage or Black heritage, there are Pride flags -- the
5 rainbow flag has a Jewish autonomous and it is also NHS
6 friendly, which is for mental health, and it also does
7 have a South American flag as well.

8 So there are ways to have different groups that
9 are marginalized, different groups that are
10 discriminated against represented within that Pride
11 flag. And one more thing, I am a proud, proud
12 Christian. I've had a hard time rectifying my faith
13 with who I am because for a long time people in church
14 told me that God hated who I was. Nowhere on the Bible
15 does it say that homosexuality is a sin. And we are a
16 country of division of church and state. So we need to
17 honor that as well. I very much hope that --

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. It's time.

19 GABRIELLE G: Thank you.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. We have Shannon Wooten
21 followed by Kane. Shannon, when you're ready. Shannon,
22 are you there? Okay. Moving on. We'll circle back.
23 Kane, when you're ready.

24 KANE: Thank you for having me. Thank you for
25 everyone taking the time to hear us all out. I am a

1 resident of Orange County for probably two-thirds of my
2 life already. I also serve on the Board of Directors
3 for OC Pride. I am a straight male with wife and kids
4 and everything, but I feel it's very, very important to
5 support this organization, this community.

6 With that being said, it sounds like a lot of
7 this issue -- it sounds more that people want to include
8 other communities -- other, you know, just more
9 inclusion then the argument should be that we need to
10 push for those representations to happen not to take
11 down another flag. Someone suggested being able to fly
12 all theses different flags. Then great, let's work
13 towards it. But let's not try to tear down this
14 community who suffered so much that I supported for so
15 long with my life, you know.

16 This flag represents so much and as Gabrielle G
17 said earlier, this flag if people did their research and
18 educated themselves, represents so much more beyond just
19 the LGBT community. It is about inclusion and it should
20 be able to touch every single person that's ever walked
21 this earth. The colors in that flag represent so many
22 different things. So the argument shouldn't be to
23 remove this flag, it should be to add the other flags
24 then if it means so much more to you.

25 That's where the issue should lie not taking

1 down this flag. And it's a huge deal. Too many people
2 as it's been said already have been persecuted and
3 killed because of this representation. So to really --
4 slap in their face. So I just -- I can't understand.
5 If you have to say that you don't hate to prove that you
6 don't hate, I don't know.

7 I'm sorry. I don't mean to be disrespectful
8 but this is a moment. We're 2021, I just don't
9 understand. We should be moving forward. Move forward.
10 Include everyone in it if that's the case. Fight for
11 that cause. You know, we should not have stopped at the
12 Black History Month flag being denied to be flown during
13 Black History Month. We should have kept pursuing that
14 then if that's the case, you know, but I'm all about
15 this. I'm for keeping this flag up. You know, it
16 just -- it's saddening and disheartening as many have
17 said --

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you, Kane. That
19 is time.

20 KANE: Thank you.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'm going to do one last call
22 for Shannon Wooten or Toija Fitzgerald, if either are on
23 for public comment. Okay. Hearing none, Chair
24 Rubalcava-Garcia, I'll turn it back to you.

25 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer.

1 And thank you to all of the speakers who came today and
2 expressed your support or opposition to this flag and
3 just to contribute to the discussion. I greatly
4 appreciate it on behalf of the Board. I actually have a
5 comment to make before I turn it over to the Board for
6 discussion and a vote on whether or not to continue
7 flying the flag.

8 In 2019 shortly after the flag was raised, we
9 had members of the community who were not happy and some
10 might even describe as slightly horrified by the
11 decision the Board made. I recall sitting next to
12 Director Meyer. Director Meyer, for those of you who
13 don't know is the Board member who introduced the Pride
14 flag in resolution that ensured all people, regardless
15 of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender felt
16 represented and welcomed at the Fair.

17 During public comment at one of our Board
18 meetings, several people spoke against the flag. Their
19 words were negative, cutting, and hurtful. And I recall
20 looking over at Director Meyer, and he said, "Even
21 though I hear this all the time, it never gets easier."
22 In my eyes that's not okay. All of the comments related
23 to the removal of the flag have helped reaffirm for me,
24 at least, that the flag should continue flying year
25 round.

1 I originally voted to fly the Pride flag, and I
2 intend today to vote to continue flying the unifying
3 symbol of inclusion. What I have learned during this
4 process is we still have a lot of work to do in Orange
5 County. And I am born and raised -- I've been here 42
6 years, so I've been here a long time.

7 And I know today, even though we've made
8 progress, there's still a lot of work that needs to be
9 done. To compare the Pride flag to organizations such
10 as Little League, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts is not a
11 comparison that resonates for me, as a member of this
12 Board. I'm sure Girl Scouts or any of the other groups
13 that I've mentioned have never felt unwelcomed because
14 of their affiliation with the organization they
15 represent.

16 Furthermore, many of the comments I have
17 received via email or even today at this meeting have
18 compared this flag to the Board's decision not to fly a
19 flag during Black History Month. For me these issues
20 are different. The Pride or rainbow flag is a
21 nationally accepted symbol of inclusion and represents
22 all diverse groups of every culture. All lives united,
23 in my opinion, with the Pride flag.

24 The Board decided not to fly that flag because
25 for us it was about representing all cultures. There's

1 not one flag that represents the Asian population.
2 There's not one flag that represents the Hispanic
3 population, and I am of Mexican decent so I understand
4 the issue is, you know, important as well. So at this
5 time I'd like to open it up to the Board for discussion,
6 but I just -- that is sort of my position on what we do
7 with the flag moving forward.

8 Are there any other members of the Board who
9 would like to comment?

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, Director
11 Rubalcava-Garcia. This is Director Bagneris. And as I
12 did, originally, my reasons for not wanting the flag to
13 be flown year round was I saw Pandoras's box going to be
14 opened. And when other people came and said they wanted
15 a flag, that we would not fly those flags, and which is
16 what we did last year turning down my resolution and
17 request to fly the flag only during Black History Month.

18 At my job we fly the Pride flag in June. I
19 have no problem with that, in fact, I would like to see
20 that. But year round was the challenge that I had
21 because when you elevate one, you marginalize the
22 others. And for the Board to outright turn down the
23 opportunity to fly another flag when we had already
24 approved flying the Pride flag was very hurtful to my
25 community and to me. And I would rather see us go back

1 to how we were, and let's decide how we're going to
2 represent all communities.

3 Prior to this -- we caused this ourselves
4 because prior to this, we did not have survey results
5 that were saying, "I'm a gay person and I don't feel
6 welcomed at the Orange County Fair." We weren't getting
7 those types of comments. But now look what this has
8 caused today to have all of this public discourse around
9 a flag, and we caused that problem ourselves. We
10 brought it on ourselves.

11 So I will be voting today to amend what we did
12 a year ago, two years ago now, and to allow the rainbow
13 flag to be flown in the month of June. And if any other
14 organization has a flag that has a specific month that's
15 called out, California does call out other groups then
16 we can fly those flags. But really this flag has become
17 a very divisive issue when it did not need to be. So I
18 will not be -- I will be in support of amending what
19 we've already done so that we can correct this issue.
20 Thank you.

21 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Hello. This is Sandra
22 Cervantes, and I have a quick comment.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Sandra.

24 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes. I initially voted
25 for the Pride flag, and I will continue to vote. And I

1 strongly support all of the comments that Director
2 Aitken made and also that our Chair Rubalcava-Garcia
3 made. I think it is important, and I think it would be
4 detrimental to go backwards and remove something that is
5 so important and so strong and unites everybody. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any other comments
8 from the Board?

9 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. This is Director La
10 Belle. Couple comments. Let me speak to Director
11 Bagneris's comments. If I recall correctly earlier
12 discussions on this matter, I think Director Bagneris
13 mentioned that we do have a flag that's representative
14 of all of us in the United States. It's call the United
15 States flag. You have the 13 stripes that represent the
16 original colonies, and you have the 50 stars that
17 represent the individual states within the United
18 States.

19 I think we can all agree that we are a very
20 diverse country. Montana is a little bit different than
21 Rhode Island, and Alaska is a little bit different than
22 Hawaii, but, you know, we're all part of the one United
23 States. And I think that's important to articulate.
24 Obviously, I'm in support of flying the US flag, the
25 state flag, the Fair flag.

1 And I do think that, you know, and I'm very
2 supportive of the inclusionary aspects of the Pride
3 flag, but I think in terms of Director Bagneris's
4 comments, we need to find a mechanism and maybe this
5 goes back to our committee of Robert and Nick. We need
6 to find a way to recognize the other entities. And I'm
7 not talking about the Little League or YMCA or anything
8 else. A specific interest, you know, we're going to
9 hear a report after our closed session on Black History
10 Month.

11 I think that's something that, you know, we
12 ought to take a serious look at. Ashleigh will recall,
13 we -- some years back we put in the workers memorial.
14 We actually built a memorial that recognized the
15 contributions that the early residents of Orange County
16 made from an agricultural standpoint. One of the
17 speakers made a comment about some type of a memorial.
18 I'd certainly be willing to entertain looking at that in
19 incorporating something like that somewhere within the
20 Fair & Event Center.

21 Obviously I think we definitely need to move
22 forward on this but I would like to see us look at doing
23 other things to recognize other groups, whether it's on
24 a monthly basis or whatever, but I'll continue to
25 support as I did in the past the flying of the gay Pride

1 flag at the Fair & Event Center. With that, that would
2 conclude my comments.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director La
4 Belle, and I appreciate you bringing up the Community
5 Engagement Committee, which is chaired by Director Ruiz
6 and Director Kovacevich. You know, I recall when we had
7 this vote on the Black History Month issue and we also
8 had a presentation during Hispanic Heritage Month. That
9 was the main purpose of us creating this community was
10 how do we engage the community and represent all ethnic
11 groups who, you know, feel -- who represent Orange
12 County well?

13 And that is something today -- you nailed it.
14 We have a presentation. We've invited members of the
15 community to also make public comment during that, and
16 that's really who we'd like to represent. But I do
17 agree that it should go back to the committee and they
18 think can explore other ways.

19 During the vote for the Black flag flying
20 during Black History Month, it was actually voted in,
21 you know, February towards the end of the month, but we
22 did adopt a resolution that did support Black Heritage
23 Month, and that's what we're following up forward with
24 today. One other thing that came up during that
25 discussion was having a flag that represented all

1 nations since, you know, there's not one flag that
2 represents, for example, the community that I come from,
3 the Hispanic community.

4 There's not just, you know, there's, you know,
5 different nations that represent all of the different
6 people and cultures in Orange County. So maybe that is
7 something that we send back to the committee and they
8 can explore whether or not there is one unifying flag
9 from a cultural perspective as we continue to represent
10 and to highlight the great work that Black Americans are
11 doing in Orange County as we are today with our
12 presentation.

13 And we will do that during Asian-American Month
14 and Hispanic Heritage Month and all of the other groups
15 that represent Orange County throughout the year. So
16 thank you for bringing that up and I do think that that
17 would be something we can ask the committee to review
18 moving forward as we move beyond the flag issues. Any
19 other comments from the Board before we vote on a
20 motion?

21 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah. This is Director Ruiz.
22 Thank you for that suggestion. That's something I would
23 like to take on, you know, because we certainly don't
24 want to leave anybody out. You know, taking down the
25 flag is taking a step backward, and we don't want to do

1 that.

2 You know, like when this country moved away
3 from, you know, outlawing interracial marriage. You
4 know, some people didn't like it. Because they didn't
5 like it doesn't mean maybe it wasn't a good idea, let's
6 go back. We don't want to do that. But we do want to
7 do something that includes everyone. So that's
8 something that I would definitely would love to take on,
9 and I'll let Director Kovacevich speak to that as well.

10 Because, you know, we do want to honor
11 everybody, white, black, brown, you know, that's Orange
12 County. That's who we are. We're made up of many
13 different races and colors. And we don't want to leave
14 anybody out. But taking the flag down, again, would be
15 taking a step backwards, and we don't want to do that.
16 And -- but we want to, again, take ideas, take comments,
17 and ideas from other people as well and see how we can
18 come up with something that honors everyone here in
19 Orange County.

20 How we do that? That's something we can
21 discuss as a committee, we can discuss as a Board. So
22 having said that, again, I will look forward to taking
23 on such a task to do that. So that is my comment, and
24 unless Director Kovacevich has anything else to add
25 here?

1 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I will add. Thank you
2 Director Ruiz, and thank you to, first of all, to the
3 public for, you know, expressing your views, and also my
4 fellow colleague on the Board here. You know, I think I
5 would like to echo what Director Ruiz says. You know,
6 we're excited to be on this committee to help further
7 advance, you know, inclusion across all groups, across
8 all races and ethnicities and in various ways throughout
9 the fairgrounds and throughout the Fair, itself.

10 So we're excited to continue to move this
11 forward. I do agree that obviously the decision that
12 was made almost two years ago, you know, has created
13 some confusion and some drama here. We're hoping to put
14 that behind us, but I don't think the answer is to move
15 backwards. I think that, you know, the kind of -- at
16 the time people should have thought about potentially
17 how to make it a more scalable process, but, you know,
18 it was approved.

19 I do believe that it was the right decision to
20 create inclusion in the community. And I don't think
21 this is the time to go backward. So I think we're going
22 to look forward, and we're going to look at other ways
23 and try to be mindful of potential pitfalls that we
24 might fall into if we do adopt additional ways. But
25 we're going to look forward, and we're going to look for

1 additional ways to include diversity amongst a variety
2 of things that go on at the fairgrounds.

3 So I'm excited to do that and I think, you
4 know, I'm excited for the Board to vote here. I mean,
5 it sounds like, you know, a lot of people are in favor
6 of reaffirming the amendment that was put forward so we
7 can hold a vote on that and we can move forward --

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That sounds like a
9 motion.

10 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yeah. I'll go ahead and
11 make the motion --

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

13 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: To reaffirm and take the
14 vote and then, like I said, hopefully we can move on
15 from this flag issue for good.

16 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Sandra, I second.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That's a second from
18 Sandra. Thank you, Sandra. Can you take a roll call
19 please, Summer?

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Can we have discussion on
21 that motion please?

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Open for discussion.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia,
24 Director Bagneris. That reaffirm or amend, I still hold
25 the position that we should amend and fly the flag but

1 only in the month of June during Pride Month. So I'm
2 hoping that some of my directors will see that that is
3 the right thing to do and it will solve the problem that
4 we created ourselves. That we fly the Pride flag,
5 because we do believe in the Pride flag, but we fly it
6 in the month of June as opposed to year round. So I
7 hope that you vote this motion down.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So we have a motion on
9 the floor already. So this sounds like a two-motion
10 request to me. So are you requesting that we -- would
11 you like to make a motion, Director Bagneris, to only
12 fly the flag during June?

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. So let's go
15 ahead and take that motion first. There is another
16 motion on the table which is to reaffirm that the flag
17 flies year round. So Summer, can you take roll call on
18 Director Bagneris's -- or do I have a second for
19 Director Bagneris's motion?

20 Hearing that there is no second, I don't think
21 that the motion will move forward. So Summer, can you
22 please take a roll call on the second motion, which is
23 to reaffirm that the Pride flag flies year round at the
24 Orange County Fair & Event Center?

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle? Vice
3 Chair La Belle? You're muted.

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Sorry about that. Yes.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

6 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

8 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

12 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Kovacevich?

14 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: And just to make sure,
16 Director Pham has not joined us; correct? Director Pham
17 are you there? Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Perfect. Thank you,
19 Summer. So the motion stands. The Pride flag will
20 continue flying at the fairgrounds year round. Thank
21 you to all the members of the public who came and spoke
22 out on this issue.

23 The Board will be going into closed session,
24 but I highly encourage members of the public who came
25 for this public comment to also attend the presentation

1 on Black History Month. We've had Fair Board members
2 who've worked very hard along with staff to create a
3 presentation to highlight the great work that has been
4 done by this community in Orange County and beyond in
5 the region.

6 And then we also have a video from the Black
7 Chamber of Commerce in Orange County, their CEO, Bobby
8 McDonald. So at this time the Board will go into closed
9 session. Thank you.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Bear with me for just a
11 minute while I move you to the break out room. Josh,
12 can you confirm that Bruce Reynolds is on as well?

13 AG CAPLAN: Yes, he is. I believe I'm still on
14 the main public meeting, but I can see Bruce. It looks
15 like his screen name is: W-a-l-k-e.

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Got it. Thank you.

17 WALKE: I'm here.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you. I'll
19 put you in. I'm sorry. Just one more moment.

20 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: This is Doug. Am I in
21 the closed session now?

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: No, Doug. I'm sorry. Hang
23 on one moment.

24 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Oh, okay. Do I need to
25 do anything other than just be quiet?

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: No. Nothing right now.

2 AG CAPLAN: Summer, this is Josh Caplan.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: I apologize for that. We're
4 going to have to redo.

5 AG CAPLAN: Okay.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: One second. I apologize.
7 I'm sorry. It looks like I'm missing Director Ruiz.

8 CEO RICHARDS: Summer, I think some of us are
9 back in the main -- in the main room.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: No. You are. I had to redo
11 the room. I apologize.

12 AG CAPLAN: It looks like Director -- I'm
13 searching through the participants of the meeting and I
14 don't see -- I don't see Director Ruiz on anymore.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: I don't either or Director
16 Bagneris.

17 CEO RICHARDS: I know that Director Ruiz was --
18 had also another meeting and was going to be in and out
19 so he may have had to log off.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. I have Director
21 Aitken, Director La Belle, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia,
22 Director Kovacevich, and Director Cervantes along with
23 Josh Caplan, and CEO Richards, and Bruce.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Summer, I'm here, but I'm
25 not sure, am I in the right room?

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: You're in the main room,
2 you're in the main room.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Can you connect me back to
4 where I'm supposed to be at? My phone disconnected.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz is having a
6 problem logging back in.

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Am I in -- are you going to
8 put me in the break out room?

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'm efforting that right now,
10 Director Bagneris. Thank you.

11 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Thank you.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Kovacevich, are you
13 getting a pop-up to join the break out room? And Chair
14 Rubalcava, you should -- okay. Thank you.

15 (Closed Session held from 11:01 a.m. until 1:04
16 p.m.)

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, can you go
18 ahead and take roll call, please?

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Present.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

22 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Present.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

24 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Present.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

1 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Present.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris? Director
3 Aitken?

4 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Kovacevich?

6 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Here.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

8 CEO RICHARDS: Summer, if you want to allow me
9 to share the screen, I can -- I can do the PowerPoint
10 from here.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: You can go ahead. Let me --

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. The
13 District's Board of Directors received the advice of
14 legal counsel on pending litigation items included on
15 closed session portion of the agenda and has nothing
16 further to report at this time.

17 The District's Board of Directors met in closed
18 session portion to evaluate the performance of the
19 district's CEO and has nothing further to report at this
20 time. At this time I'd like to move to agenda item --
21 let me double check here. Agenda item -- you know,
22 Michele, if it's okay with you, can we move CEO's
23 operational announcements towards the end of the
24 meeting?

25 CEO RICHARDS: Yes. Absolutely.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. So I'm
2 going to move on to agenda Item 7 which are the minutes,
3 Board meeting held January 28, 2020. Can I please get a
4 motion to approve the minutes?

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So moved.

6 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Second.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Summer,
8 can you please take roll call?

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle? Vice
12 Chair La Belle? I'll come back.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

14 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

16 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Kovacevich?

20 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Vice Chair La Belle?

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Vice Chair La Belle,
23 you might be on mute.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Star six. Well, he is on
25 mute. Vice Chair La Belle, if you can press star six on

1 your phone to unmute, or if you've muted yourself on
2 your device, unmute.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Do we have a quorum
4 without Doug to approve the minutes?

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Perfect. We'll
7 go ahead and move on without Doug. I'm sure he'll be
8 joining shortly. Onto agenda Item 8, matters of public
9 comment. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the
10 current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall
11 be permitted on such public comments and no action will
12 be taken on such public comment item at this time as law
13 requires formal public notice prior to any action on a
14 docket item.

15 Speakers are requested to sign in prior to the
16 start of the meeting and are limited to three minutes.
17 Comments will be accepted on agenda items during the
18 meeting. Speakers wishing to address the Board on items
19 on the agenda are requested to sign in prior to the
20 start of the meeting and identify the agenda item on
21 which you desire to address the Board. Speakers are
22 limited to three minutes.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: I just have one. Jeanine
24 Robbins, when you're ready. Jeanine, are you still on
25 the line? I see you.

1 JEANINE ROBBINS: Yes, I'm here.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Go right ahead.

3 JEANINE ROBBINS: Okay. Good afternoon. It

4 was good morning, but now it's good afternoon.

5 (audio/connectivity interruption) over the Pride flag.

6 One very important issue has been completely neglected.

7 The industries of 400 plus small business owners have

8 been pushed to the brink of financial ruin by the

9 inability or unwillingness of this Fair Board and staff

10 to negotiate with their longest tenant Spectra who's

11 running the Orange County Market Place.

12 You have ignored the livelihoods of thousands

13 of people employed at the Market Place. Your actions,

14 or should I say inactions, speak volumes to us. We

15 believe that you simply do not care. Every month I am

16 inundated with questions from vendors why the Market

17 Place is not on the agenda. Yes, I know you are suing

18 Spectra.

19 It's so nice to know that you're willing to

20 spend taxpayer dollars at this time when every dollar

21 counts in order to try and hold Spectra to their

22 original contract during this unprecedented pandemic.

23 You expect Spectra to pay full rent on an empty

24 parking lot that they are unable to use as the Market

25 Place during this pandemic. Landlords such as

1 yourselves have been renegotiating contracts with
2 tenants since the very beginning of this pandemic.

3 Landlords such as yourselves have reduced rent
4 or simply eliminated it during this time of the
5 pandemic. You, however, have chosen to take a hard-line
6 approach and it needs to end. We the vendors at the
7 Market Place need to get back to work. Why don't you
8 send out a survey asking people their feelings on this
9 issue?

10 I would be very interested to see the results
11 of that survey. Do you realize that Spectra voluntarily
12 refunded their prepaid rent without us even asking?
13 They never even attempted to collect rent on months when
14 we were not working. That is an action that earns
15 respect. You, on the other hand, have done zero to help
16 the vendors. You've done zero to reestablish the Market
17 Place, and you've done zero to restore the hundreds of
18 thousands of sales tax that these vendors pay each and
19 every year. You've done zero to help the vendors who
20 provide a very valuable resource to Southern
21 California -- (audio/connectivity interruption) please
22 let me -- (audio/connectivity interruption.)

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. That is time. Bethany
24 Webb, when you're ready.

25 BETHANY WEBB: Hi. First of all, if you can't

1 hear me like I couldn't hear her, would you let me know?

2 So I'm just not talking and binging?

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead. We can hear
4 you.

5 BETHANY WEBB: So I actually called you
6 earlier, and I want to applaud your support for the
7 Pride flag. I stated at that time that my daughter is
8 trans and had gone to school with Blaze Bernstein. What
9 I didn't tell you when I said I was in such fear of her
10 leaving the house is that -- oh, I'm calling on guns and
11 the gun show -- what I didn't tell you at that time.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Oh, Bethany that's not this
13 item.

14 BETHANY WEBB: It's pubic comment, though,
15 isn't it?

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: It's for items not on the
17 agenda. I have you listed under the consent calendar.

18 BETHANY WEBB: My mistake. I'm so so -- this
19 is my first time calling actually so there was two items
20 because my sister was murdered in the Seal Beach
21 shooting and my mom was shot and there was guns, and I
22 have a oldest child that is trans, so --

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Bethany.

24 BETHANY WEBB: I mean I don't know the way it
25 works. I've never called.

1 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We'll guide you
3 through the process, so thank you. So no other public
4 comment, Summer?

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Not for general public
6 comment.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Thank you. So
8 moving on to Agenda Item No. 9, the consent calendar.
9 All matters listed under consent calendar are
10 operational matters about which the Board has governing
11 policies, implementation of which is delegated to the
12 CEO. They will be enacted in one motion.

13 There will be no discussion of these items
14 prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the
15 motion unless the members of the Board, staff, or public
16 request specific items to be discussed separately and/or
17 removed from this section. Any member of the public who
18 wishes to discuss consent calendar items should notify
19 the Chair of the Board at the time requested and be
20 recognized by invitation of the Chair to address the
21 Board.

22 CEO RICHARDS: Chair Rubalcava --

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That's okay. Sorry,
24 Michele.

25 CEO RICHARDS: Staff wishes to pull two items

1 and highlight one item. The two items under Standard
2 Agreements. Standard Agreement, SA-006-21SM and
3 Standard Agreement, SA-008-21FV, both of those contracts
4 are the result of a competitive bid. But they are
5 currently under protest, and we have not yet heard back
6 from the Department of General Services on their
7 decisions.

8 So we are pulling those two items, and we will
9 bring them back next month pending notification from
10 DGS. Staff would also like to pull and highlight under
11 Rental Agreements, R-028-21. This is a rental agreement
12 with BNL Productions, this is the promomenter of
13 Crossroads of the West Gun Show. The contract is not
14 finalized, but there is a proposed Crossroads of the
15 West Gun Show for late March.

16 Obviously, we -- this is a topic of great
17 interest for the Board and the public. We did not want
18 to simply put this on the consent calendar in March just
19 a few days before -- before the gun show, so we're
20 bringing it to the Board's attention this month.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, CEO
22 Richards. Do we have public comment on this item,
23 Summer?

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes, we do. I can call the
25 first group of speakers. Charles Blek, followed by Mary

1 Blek. Rose Ann Sharp and Ira Sharp. Charles Blek, when
2 you're ready. Charles or Mary Blek, either of which, if
3 you're ready and still on the line.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're muted.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'll give it another second.

6 ROY: The lower left-corner of your computer.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'll circle back. Let's hear
8 from Rose Ann Sharp. Yeah, Rose Ann Sharp, please, when
9 you're ready.

10 ROSE ANN SHARP: Thank you. Good afternoon,
11 Board members. My name is Rose Ann Sharp, and I live in
12 Del Mar, California. Recently when I was in a doctor's
13 office and was chatting with another patient, he told me
14 that he moved from Iowa to San Diego and that he was a
15 hunter. He said, "Of course, when I got to California,
16 I gave up hunting and my NRA membership because there's
17 nothing to hunt in California."

18 I thought good, California has a lot of state
19 laws protecting wildlife. On January 6th of this year,
20 we saw a new level of hunting. Hunting people who do
21 not agree with your politics or people who believe they
22 must overtake the government. I ask you, are you
23 protecting our communities with a gun show?

24 Why are you using the term consumer show about
25 gun shows? Are you planning to go into other consumer

1 businesses like pornography? Do gun shows meet your
2 mission statement? Do you need an AR-15 to hunt down
3 wildlife? Was the five-year-old child that I witnessed
4 swinging a wooden machete practicing during the gun show
5 how to thrash hay at your gun show?

6 Does the Nazi paraphernalia help customers
7 understand German history? Or does it seed and
8 fertilize both keepers to chant "We will not be replaced
9 by Jews." Who are your customers of this consumer
10 business? Ghost gun purchasers, more popular with
11 people who cannot pass background checks. ATF reports a
12 41 percent increase in ghost guns in LA crimes.

13 Your customers will not have to wait for
14 background checks to act upon a suicidal impulse. What
15 is your return on investment? Are the tax dollars that
16 you earn with the State now needed to help fund the
17 governor's effort to protect the State Capitol? You
18 have a bad business plan. It does not meet your mission
19 statement. It encourages weaponizing political
20 disagreements. It helps build up insurrectionist
21 organizations.

22 Your ROI is nil, and your risk to the community
23 is uninsurable. Are gun shows really the consumer
24 business that you want to promote on state-owned
25 property? Thank you.

1 CHARLES BLEK: We were able to unmute.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Rose. I'll go
3 back to Charles Blek.

4 CHARLES BLEK: Thank you.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: When you're ready.

6 CHARLES BLEK: Sorry about the difficulty here.
7 We're not real familiar with this type of computer.
8 Anyway, my name is Charles Blek. I'm a native Southern
9 Californian, and I've been a resident of Orange County
10 for the past 40 plus years. I am a past president of
11 Brady Orange County, and I'm currently a board member of
12 Brady in Orange County.

13 Our board opposes gun shows at the Orange
14 County fairground. My issue specifically -- or I have a
15 problem with the lax level of security at the show and
16 the easy availability of ghost gun kits. I do not want
17 my state facilitating gun sales in any manner
18 whatsoever. I do not want them to be complicit in the
19 sale of guns.

20 I object to my tax dollars being spent on this
21 type of event. I think it's important to know that our
22 board strongly supports Senate Bill 264 banning the sale
23 of -- banning gun shows on all state-owned properties
24 authored by State Senator Min, who represents the 37th
25 District, which involves the Orange County fairgrounds.

1 I think it's important to note and I don't
2 think it's a stretch that when Senator Min was a
3 candidate, he emphasized that he wanted gun shows on
4 state-owned property. I think it's important to note
5 that he has offered Senate Bill 264. I think it's
6 important to note that he was elected to our state
7 senate, and I don't think it's a stretch to say that our
8 elected here in the county does not want or need gun
9 shows on our own state-owned property. I am strongly
10 and our board strongly rejects to having any gun shows
11 on state-owned property. We do not need, nor do we want
12 this type of business. Thank you.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Charles. Mary
14 Blek, when you're ready.

15 MARY BLEK: Thank you. Research has shown that
16 a gun in the home significantly increases the risk of
17 suicide, homicide, and unintentional deaths and
18 injuries. Furthermore, a recent research report gave
19 the alarming figure of the annual cost of firearm
20 violence of 280 billion dollars for our nation.

21 I believe that the decision to bring a gun into
22 one's home is a grave one, and the pun is intended. The
23 decision should not be done in an entertainment and
24 promotional atmosphere and especially not on state-owned
25 property supported by tax dollars who also pay for the

1 gun violence aftermath. Also, I believe it is unwise to
2 expose children to the glamorization of guns.

3 The State should not be complicit in the gun
4 sales or in homemade gun kits. There are other more
5 appropriate venues for the purchase of firearms. Thank
6 you for the opportunity to speak.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Mary. Ira Sharp,
8 when you're ready.

9 IRA SHARP: Okay. Thank you. I've submitted a
10 written statement, and I'm not going to repeat it here.
11 I hope you'll read it carefully. I'm the cofounder of
12 Never Again CA which was formed for the purpose of
13 ending gun shows on state-owned property after the
14 Parkland killing.

15 I know that almost everyone who spoke this
16 morning in regard to the flag issue talked about what a
17 great family center facility you have there at the
18 Orange County fairgrounds. And they talked about a
19 number of great events that you hold there. No one
20 mentioned a gun show as being one of those wonderful
21 family-centric events. I think you should think about
22 that very carefully.

23 I'm in somewhat of a disadvantage here because
24 we understand that the plan for this March 23rd gun show
25 is to do something with pop-up tents. So we haven't

1 seen any security plan which the promoter is required to
2 file. So we could see because there are a number of
3 state laws that I think are likely to be contravened by
4 having these pop-up tents on or near a parking lot which
5 is against the law in California.

6 And if cars are accessing these tents, that's
7 also against the law in California. And I hope that
8 this Fair Board requires that security plan to be filed
9 and I -- and that you review it very carefully. I
10 wanted to point out that the application, at least as it
11 shows up on your agenda, provides for a show between the
12 days of March 23rd and March 29th, obviously a much
13 longer period than the normal gun show.

14 And it also says that the price that you're
15 going to charge is to be determined. At a time where
16 everybody from the Governor of California to the huge
17 majorities in the state legislator and the public in
18 polling opposes gun shows and holding them on
19 state-owned property, it's inappropriate for you to
20 allow the gun show for any period approaching a period
21 and not having a chance to see what you're charging for
22 the use of the facility and to make sure it's
23 commercially reasonable.

24 I think it's unfair to ask this Board to
25 approve a contract that doesn't have those items nailed

1 down so that they can exercise their share of
2 responsibility. I look forward to seeing the security
3 plan and may want to comment later. Thank you very much
4 for your time.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you, Ira. Julia
6 Demlow when you're ready.

7 JULIA DEMLOW: Hello. Thank you. Hi. My name
8 is Julia Demlow, and I am requesting that the Board vote
9 no on the Crossroads of the West Gun Show contract for
10 2021. This past year was a record-breaking year for
11 gun-related deaths that experts have attributed to the
12 increase in gun sales. With depleted firearm inventory
13 at licensed gun dealers, there will -- the gun shows
14 will have an even bigger sales demand for ghost guns.

15 Gun shows and the Internet are the two top
16 places to purchase ghost guns. As I've had the
17 privileged opportunity to educate the Board on ghost
18 guns this past November's Board meeting. Ghost guns, as
19 a reminder, can be sold by unlicensed dealers. Anyone,
20 anyone can immediately walk out of the gun show with a
21 ghost gun. No background checks, no age limits, no
22 serial number, completely untraceable.

23 Why would the OC fairgrounds, a family-friendly
24 venue, assist in the proliferation of ghost guns in the
25 community? Especially during a pandemic when people are

1 more stressed, depressed, anxious, and their kids are
2 bored at home. Local law enforcement says that half of
3 their cases right now involve ghost guns. I know ghost
4 guns are currently legal to purchase with no safeguards,
5 and the OC fairgrounds revenue has been negatively
6 affected by COVID.

7 But can't the Board do the right thing for our
8 community and vote no on 2021 gun shows? Let's put a
9 pause on gun shows until 2022 possibly when California
10 ghost gun laws go into effect that provide for
11 background checks, provide age limits. Let's not --
12 let's wait and relook at this in 2022 when the stresses
13 due to COVID have hopefully lessened and our kids are
14 back in school.

15 Aren't the potential lives saved worth the
16 wait? We can find other revenue-generating
17 opportunities. I heard one today from a caller during
18 the flag public comments. Let's open the Amphitheater
19 to events year round. Let's recreate family-friendly
20 events that not only enhance our community but to
21 Reggie's point earlier increase opportunities for local
22 Orange County businesses to participate.

23 Thank you, and please vote no. I'd also like
24 to read a letter that I received -- I'm sorry because
25 this is incredibly emotional -- in my email from Corona

1 Del Mar High School students that are online in school
2 right now and couldn't attend this meeting. And let me
3 read this:

4 We are students at Corona Del Mar High School,
5 and I do not feel that having a gun show at the Orange
6 County fairgrounds is safe for our city. I don't think
7 you've ever had to barricade yourself in classrooms and
8 be silent during intruder drills when you were in
9 school. That is now our reality. Why do you think more
10 guns in our community is a good thing? During COVID
11 more teens are depressed and feeling lonely. Online
12 school is making us --

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you for your
14 time.

15 JULIA DEMLOW: -- teen mental health during a
16 pandemic is a huge concern.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you for your
18 public comment.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Julia. That's
20 time.

21 JULIA DEMLOW: Okay. Well I hope you take into
22 effect what the students are saying. Thank you.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'll call the next group of
24 speakers. We have Piper Benom, Joanna Weiss, Bethany
25 Webb, and Amy Capelle. Piper, when you're ready.

1 PIPER BENOM: Hi, everyone. I am a resident of
2 Newport Beach, and I'm here to respectfully request that
3 the Board not approve the contract for the proposed
4 drive-thru gun show. Gun violence has increased
5 dramatically over the last year. We do not want even
6 more guns going into our community. So many people are
7 suffering economic hardships and mental health stresses
8 at the moment.

9 Children who are home from school, people are
10 out of work, we don't need more guns in people's homes
11 when kids are at home distance learning with easy access
12 to them. I'm not necessarily anti-gun but I believe
13 strongly in the responsibilities that go along with gun
14 rights like background checks on every sale. We know
15 that background checks save lives. And right now you
16 have to have a background check if you buy a gun from a
17 licensed dealer but many or most of the sellers at
18 Crossroads Show are unlicensed dealers so no background
19 checks required.

20 I went to the show in person last January, and
21 I saw firsthand the vast majority of sales were ghost
22 guns and DIY kits. And as other speakers have said,
23 ghost guns are particularly dangerous as they are
24 untraceable and don't require background checks and are
25 therefore becoming increasingly popular with criminals

1 and drug traffickers -- gun traffickers.

2 Ghost guns are linked more and more to violent
3 crimes precisely because anyone can -- who wouldn't
4 otherwise be able to pass a background check can walk
5 out of a gun show with a kit to assemble a semiautomatic
6 or an automatic weapon at home and in five minutes, just
7 untraceable completely by no waiting periods and no
8 record of the cash transaction.

9 I don't know why we would want to encourage
10 more violence in our communities, especially right now
11 during this crisis. The gun violence epidemic has
12 impacted all of us. If any of you have ever dropped
13 your kid off at school and they have a lockdown drill,
14 you know and you understand this is an issue we all have
15 a stake in. My kids and I are relying on you to do the
16 right thing here and protect our community, and I urge
17 you to reject this gun show. Thank you.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Piper. Joanna
19 Weiss, when you're ready.

20 JULIA DEMLOW: Hi. Joanna's asked me to read
21 the statement for her. She had to log off for another
22 meeting, so I will read her statement: Good afternoon,
23 I'm Joanna Weiss, president of WAVE for the Women for
24 American Values and Ethics, a philanthropic grassroots
25 organization comprised of more than 2,0000 Orange County

1 women and men. I'm speaking on behalf of our members,
2 as well as personally having been born and raised in
3 Orange County.

4 We urge you to reject the gun show contract
5 with Crossroads of the West. 2020 was a record-breaking
6 year for gun-related deaths in the US. And experts say
7 that is due to an increase in gun sales. My family and
8 our WAVE members rely on you to curate family-friendly
9 events for the community. We do not want more guns
10 going into circulation during a pandemic, when people
11 are more stressed out, more depressed, and more anxious
12 than ever.

13 We do not want more guns in people's homes when
14 children are stuck at home and could easily access them.
15 As an organization working on gun safety issues, when we
16 are speaking with members of the Orange County community
17 they frankly are shocked to learn that our beloved
18 Orange County fairground typically hosts multiple gun
19 shows each year. We speak for our 2,000 members as well
20 as countless other Orange County residents who urge you
21 not to approve another contract with Crossroads of the
22 West. Thank you.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Bethany Webb,
24 when you're ready.

25 BETHANY WEBB: Sorry -- my dog. If you had

1 somebody else's dog barking -- I'm so sorry. So I would
2 like you to take a minute and put yourself in a
3 position -- I am so sorry.

4 Ryder, can you go get -- Cinder. I am so
5 sorry. Shut the door so Cinder doesn't come back in.
6 I'm sorry. Can we start over, if you don't mind? Of
7 course at that moment my dog decided to start barking.
8 I want to put you, if you could, put yourself in my
9 position. I'm volunteering at a PTA, which I did. It's
10 October 12, 2011, and I'm living the life that you live.

11 I grew up with people that have guns, I believe
12 in sensible gun laws but it doesn't actually touch me.
13 And then on the TV there was a special report and it
14 shows the Salon Meritage in Seal Beach and says nine
15 people have been shot. Six are dead at that time. My
16 sister, Laura, worked there for 10 years. I knew
17 everybody that worked there. I lunched with them. My
18 sister was my best friend.

19 And I became the other side of something that
20 we're discussing right now. How? In one second a
21 person could take a gun and destroy so much. On that
22 day at the end of the day, eight people, nine people
23 were shot, eight of them died. The sole survivor was my
24 mom. My sister was doing her nails. Our good friend,
25 Victoria, I knew for 20 years, died that day. Three

1 other employees, these are. In Orange County.

2 My sister lived in Huntington and did nails in
3 Seal Beach, how much safer can you get? Like many of
4 the other people that spoke before me, gun deaths have
5 gone up in 2020. Mass shootings haven't, so a lot of
6 you think of mass shootings as that's the totality, but
7 it's not actually. It's suicides. It's -- the Blek's
8 spoke earlier, and I hope they don't mind, they didn't
9 mention their son was murdered. And that's why they're
10 so involved in gun things. They got a call.

11 You get a call. You see the TV and all of a
12 sudden everything that you knew is different. About 11
13 months after, somewhere around there, after my sister
14 was murdered, there was an armed guy that was shooting
15 people -- and I'm sorry. I just lost his name. But he
16 was all over the news. He was targeting LAPD officers'
17 kids. My son, Ryder, my now 17-year-old was at school
18 and I got a call that they were surrounding his school
19 because his school was being targeted.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Bethany. That's
21 time.

22 BETHANY WEBB: Darner? Is it Darner? Can I
23 just finish this real quick? I'm super sorry cause my
24 dog interrupted my thing. But Darner was shooting kids
25 in Orange County that belonged -- and I was still

1 grieving over my sister and my friends. I started
2 driving around the school trying to think what I could
3 do for my middle school child to keep him safe.

4 It's so important that we understand that these
5 ghost guns -- that these guns -- that people that
6 shouldn't have guns, don't have a place at a --
7 fairground? I cannot beg you enough to understand, and
8 I said earlier as the mother of children, an LGBTQ and a
9 17-year-old that's at home studying that the only reason
10 I don't have to worry he's at school and going to be in
11 a mass shooting is because he's studying at home.

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Bethany.
13 Thank you for your comment.

14 BETHANY WEBB: Thanks.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: Amy Capelle, when you're
16 ready.

17 AMY CAPELLE: Hi. Thank you so much. Can you
18 hear me? Hello?

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.

20 AMY CAPELLE: Okay. Thank you. Hi. Thank you
21 OC fairgrounds Board of Directors. I am here today to
22 ask as all the other speakers before me to not approve
23 the gun show contract with Crossroads of the West.

24 As the people before me also mentioned that it
25 was -- 2020 was a record-breaking year for gun-related

1 deaths, and just in January alone here more than two
2 million firearms were -- two million firearms were
3 bought last month, according to the Washington Post
4 analysis of federal gun background check data. And
5 that's just on federal background checks. Who knows how
6 many ghost guns were sold in that period. But with that
7 two million more firearms, that was an 80 percent year
8 over year spike and the third highest one-month total on
9 record.

10 Hate crimes in Orange County rose in 2019 for
11 the 5th year in a row, and by a huge leap 24 percent as
12 reported by the OC Human Relations Organization in
13 October. And that was for 2019 before the pandemic came
14 upon us and hate crimes that we're now seeing started to
15 rise. Since the pandemic began, studies show that
16 Asian-American hate incidents in California have risen
17 115 percent in Los Angeles County, 150 percent in San
18 Jose, and 200 percent in Orange County, according to the
19 LA Times.

20 An NBC4 News last month quoted the chief
21 psychologist at Children's Hospital of Orange County,
22 CHOC, saying that she's getting double the calls from
23 families worried about their children's mental health
24 with the same warning signs as everyone had said about
25 other kids and suicides and mental health issues with

1 what's going on with the pandemic.

2 So I bring that all to your attention to just
3 say that now is not the time to make it easier for
4 people to buy more guns. We don't want more guns in
5 Orange County going into circulation during this
6 pandemic. And we certainly don't want more guns in
7 people's homes when kids are still in hybrid and online
8 situations with less parent supervision -- arguably less
9 parent supervision than normal and they could easily
10 access them.

11 As a mother of three boys and having seen one
12 of them be on lockdown and having one of my friends,
13 best friends at another school in another district on
14 lockdown in this -- prior to the pandemic, it is beyond
15 me to -- to wonder how OC fairgrounds is supposed to be
16 bringing family-friendly events would consider gun shows
17 to be family-friendly. I do not, and I do not want gun
18 shows at OC fairgrounds. Thank you.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Amy. Chair
20 Rubalcava-Garcia that concludes public comment for this
21 item.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer. Is
23 there any comment from the Board?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I have a couple questions
25 for -- I think maybe Michele would be the best person.

1 I really appreciate staff bringing this forward ahead of
2 time, and I would like to just -- I had a couple of
3 questions. In events like these, given the pandemic
4 that we're in, I think that we should go forward with
5 this contract as if it is under our Board Policy 6.04,
6 which is for high-profile event policies.

7 Because that policy gets triggered when we have
8 events that could potentially give us an impact on
9 public safety. And I think given the fact that this is
10 a getting-outside-your-car event that we should proceed
11 with this as if it is a high-profile event. And my
12 second question -- I just want to see if the staff has
13 analyzed this event under that Board policy. And then
14 my second question is for what type of safety plan and
15 safety measures are put in place and who's in charge of
16 enforcing safety and mask wearing and pandemic-type
17 policies for this event?

18 CEO RICHARDS: So let me answer the first
19 question about our high-profile event policy. This is
20 not an event that we've applied that policy to in the
21 past. Not to say that the Board wouldn't, you know, be
22 able to make a decision to do that in the future or in
23 this case as well. With regard to the safety and
24 security plan so we're very clear with all of the events
25 that have taken place since at the fairgrounds since the

1 pandemic. First of all, they have to be approved
2 through the Orange County Health Care Agency.

3 The promoter has to submit their health and
4 safety plan and there have been numerous calls with the
5 promoter, with our staff and with the Orange County
6 Health Care Agency who has approved the event and the
7 plan that the promoter has in place. With regard to the
8 security plan, the law enforcement for that event is and
9 has always been the Orange County Sheriff's Department.
10 So there is a security plan that is submitted by the
11 promoter with input from our staff and approved by the
12 Orange County Sheriff's Department.

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So I think my concern with
14 the high-profile event is not for Crossroads of the
15 West, it's the fact that it is -- we do have pandemic
16 procedures in place and it is going to be an
17 outside-your-car event which is going to be a little bit
18 different than things we've done previously. And so I
19 would like to request that we treat this under the
20 policies of 6.04.

21 And then my second question that I would like
22 to see before we approve something like this is a
23 reassurance from the sheriff that I know the sheriffs
24 are overly impacted right now and have made public
25 statement saying that they do not have the capacity.

1 And I think there's some feelings with our sheriff that
2 does not have the inclination to enforce mask wearing.

3 So as a Fair Board member, taking the public
4 safety of our neighbors, people that use the property on
5 all four corners, not just this event, how or what
6 assurances can we have in writing from the sheriff's
7 department that they are going to enforce mask wearing
8 during this event?

9 CEO RICHARDS: I can't answer that question on
10 behalf of the sheriff's department, but we can certainly
11 reach out and ask that question on the Board's behalf.
12 I know that we have had events approved at the OC Fair &
13 Event Center since the pandemic that are out-of-the-car
14 events. For example, our Flying Miz Daisy Vintage
15 Market has been happening for the last several months,
16 and our security team and our in-house staff monitor
17 mask wearing and, you know, and certainly addressed if
18 it becomes a problem. But I can't answer your question
19 regarding the sheriff's plan for that.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Well, before we vote on this
21 contract, will we be able to see that security plan and
22 see what the plan is that they are presenting, that the
23 sheriffs are presenting to enforce our safety policies
24 on mask wearing?

25 CEO RICHARDS: I think that could be made

1 available potentially to Board members. We obviously
2 don't release that publicly for obvious reasons, a
3 security plan is a security plan. But I think we, you
4 know, we could get that to Board members.

5 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: This is Director La
6 Belle. If I might, Natalie, through the Chair. I agree
7 with Director Aitken. I think it's very important given
8 everything that's going on out there. I would also like
9 to see the security plan.

10 And if we can act on the application, you know,
11 subject to the security plan being presented and
12 approved by either a committee of the Board or at least
13 made available to all eight of us so we know exactly
14 what's occurring out there and that there's a comfort
15 level to the security measures relative to this
16 particular event.

17 AG CAPLAN: Michele, if I may quickly before
18 the Board continues this discussion. My recommendation
19 if Board members want to view the security plan would be
20 to contact you directly one on one. The challenge is if
21 you distribute the plan to all board members
22 simultaneously, there are certain disclosure
23 requirements under Bagley-Keene, and there's some
24 disagreement on whether the district would waive
25 essentially the confidential nature of the security plan

1 under Bagley-Keene is not a resolved issue.

2 And so my recommendation would be for those
3 Board members that want to review that security plan to
4 reach out to, Michele, to you directly and you can find
5 a way to coordinate essentially one-on-one viewings of
6 that plan to make sure that you maintain the
7 confidential nature of the security protocols that are
8 identified.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'm also -- I agree
10 with Josh on that. And I also think that there's a
11 reason why our security plans are confidential. It's to
12 protect the people who attend, but if we're looking for
13 a loophole on not to hold a gun show and utilizing, you
14 know, the mask wearing as a way to do that.

15 I think we should be very careful as a Board
16 because we'll have to apply that to even the Fair that
17 comes around in July, and that's an event that we would
18 really like to implement. And we also have to apply
19 that to the Driving Miz Daisy Market Place show that
20 occurs. But I actually have a question for Josh. Josh,
21 is it currently legal in the State of California to hold
22 a gun show?

23 AG CAPLAN: Yes, it is. The only exception to
24 that is there is current legislation that applies to the
25 San Diego County fairgrounds, but it remains legal

1 across the other state-owned fairground properties in
2 the state.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And is there pending
4 litigation against San Diego because they chose not to
5 hold a gun show on the fairgrounds?

6 AG CAPLAN: Not currently. That litigation has
7 been resolved.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. But in Orange
9 County it's still okay?

10 AG CAPLAN: Yes. There's no -- there is no
11 legislation in place preventing the 32nd DAA from
12 hosting gun shows where guns and ammunition are sold.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. And Michele,
14 are you able to actually walk out of the gun show with a
15 gun?

16 CEO RICHARDS: Well, I'll certainly let Ken or
17 Nick Buffa, if they're on the line, to expand, but no --
18 that you are required to apply for purchase of the gun,
19 leave it with a third party while the background check
20 is done and then only upon passing of that background
21 check can the gun be handed over to the purchaser.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So all of the same
23 safety protocols would apply as if you were walking into
24 a gun owner store in a private location so there would
25 be sunset laws and all of that?

1 CEO RICHARDS: That's correct.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is not -- that is
3 not true for ghost guns.

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'm sorry. This is
5 discussion for the Board. Public comment already
6 occurred. Thank you. Ken, any other comment on that
7 front?

8 COO KARNS: No, no further comments, and Nick
9 is with us, if we need to round out any information.

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Any other
11 comment from the Board?

12 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah --

13 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah, this is --

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

15 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah, this is Director Ruiz. I
16 know some of the people who spoke earlier mentioned
17 AR-15s. Are we selling AR-15s on that gun show? Does
18 anybody know?

19 CEO RICHARDS: I don't know the answer to that,
20 Robert.

21 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Well, probably not. Anyhow,
22 true. I know, I've been to these gun shows, and there's
23 a lot of safety classes that are being provided to
24 people who attend these things. I ran into this
25 individual in public who when we met each other, I

1 introduced myself and I told him I was part of the Board
2 and he wanted to thank me without even knowing me, for
3 the shows that are being put out on the fairgrounds
4 because of the safety courses that him and his wife were
5 able to take because of that gun show.

6 Again, you know, we're not selling guns during
7 Fair time. That's the way some people are making it
8 sound like. We're not doing that, and we're abiding by
9 all the state regulations. And getting rid of our gun
10 show, if we were to do that here, as a Board, which
11 we're not here at this moment, this doesn't solve the
12 problem that we have in California as far as gun
13 violence.

14 I have lost family members to gun violence.
15 But this doesn't solve our problem. So, you know,
16 again, I've been to it. Safety classes are being
17 offered to people there. I'm going to take a safety
18 class from that place. So just, you know, it's not all
19 what it seems to be like some speakers made it out to
20 be. And so I just want to make sure that we're not --
21 that people know that we're not selling anything illegal
22 out of these things, and people can't just walk in there
23 with an AR-15 and walk out. I want to make that clear.
24 That's all.

25 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Hi, this is Sandra

1 Cervantes. And I just wanted to make a quick comment.
2 I've never been to the gun show, yet, but I do remember
3 a few years ago Director Barbara Bagneris went and was
4 raving about safety component that Director Ruiz is
5 talking about and even purchased an actual gun, I
6 believe.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Sandra.
8 Thank you, Director Cervantes. Thank you, Director
9 Ruiz, and Director Aitken. Any other additional
10 comment?

11 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I mean, the only
12 reason I'm asking operationally for Michele to invoke
13 the high-profile event policy is because it enables her
14 to have the conversations with the sheriff's department
15 with our local stakeholders about the issues that I'm
16 raising. And I think that's important. I think the
17 more that we can show that we've dotted our I's and
18 crossed our T's on a safety measure with public safety
19 during a pandemic, that is a positive step that we
20 should be taking.

21 On a second note, if we are not enforcing our
22 mask policy during Flying Miz Daisy and during a
23 potential Orange County Fair, we are not -- we are
24 violating current CDC policy. So -- I mean, I
25 understand saying we don't want to open up that door.

1 That door should not even be cracked, that door should
2 be closed. So Michele, are we not enforcing mask
3 wearing when people are going and walking around in a
4 very crowded --

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director Aitken, I
6 think the issue is -- nobody is insinuating that the
7 fairgrounds is not enforcing their mask law. Actually,
8 that's something you're insinuating by invoking this
9 other policy. I -- I mean, I know that there's signage
10 everywhere, staff is wearing masks, everybody on the
11 facility site is wearing a mask.

12 It is state law that anybody who enters a state
13 facility needs to wear a mask, so, I mean, I think the
14 very fact that you ask to enforce -- or to enact that
15 policy for this one particular event is making the
16 accusation. Nobody here is saying that they're not
17 enforcing it.

18 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I thought you said if we talk
20 about this we might be opening the door for mask policy
21 enforcement during the Orange County Fair.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: No. I'm saying why
23 would we enact this if we're already enforcing it? The
24 way I see it is enacting that policy is we're looking
25 for a loophole to not hold the gun shows.

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Oh, I don't think it's a
2 loophole. I think it's actually just taking extra steps
3 to go through that part of our Board policy to make sure
4 that we're having the appropriate conversations during a
5 pandemic. It's nothing to do -- I mean, I think that we
6 should be doing this. I don't -- I can't imagine that
7 we have more of a high-profile policy event than the one
8 that we're having now.

9 If we're just asking operationally, if it's
10 something that we can do to take the extra steps to
11 protect the public and to protect our neighbors on this
12 property, it does not -- there's no cost associated with
13 it. It is not something that will, I think -- I mean
14 it's more conversations for our staff. But I think
15 they're important conversations to have to protect our
16 community.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Do you have a copy of
18 that policy in front of you? Because I need to see what
19 policy is in it's entirety.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes, it's Board Policy 6.04,
21 and so it talks about when can the Fair & Event Center
22 treat an event as high-profile and one of the events
23 talks about noise, lighting, traffic congestion, but it
24 also talks about public safety, crowd control, and
25 public safety measures, and it goes through and it

1 outlines steps that are questions that we should be
2 asked in making that full analysis about
3 whether something, you know, whether all the, as I said,
4 I's are dotted and T's are crossed.

5 And I think these are actually really important
6 questions that we should be asking for events such as
7 these, including conversations with our neighbors, and
8 our neighbor stakeholder, the Chair, which obviously
9 you'd be included in these conversations. And it also
10 puts into place several protections for the Orange
11 County fairgrounds, payment in full, distribution of the
12 security plan to the Fair & Event Center staff.

13 I'm just concerned that because the Health Care
14 Agency approved a security plan, we should invoke our
15 own policy that means that we are also having
16 conversations and making sure that we approve that plan.
17 It's not --

18 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And Michele -- they
20 didn't approve a safety plan, they just approved a
21 health -- you know, the Health Care Agency has to
22 approve having any event at this point because of the
23 current stage of Orange County in terms of tiers so they
24 basically just approved the opening or operating of this
25 event.

1 They're not approving a safety plan. It is the
2 policy of the OC Fair & Event Center that people have to
3 be masked in order to attend an event on our property.
4 I believe that -- I was part of the Governing Committee,
5 and I believe that the reason we included that policy
6 was for high-profile events such as political events
7 where we might be hosting a sitting president or
8 something like that, not for an event that doesn't even
9 bring in 100,000 people over a weekend. So --

10 DIRECTOR AITKEN: That's not what the policy
11 says.

12 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: In that case that
14 policy should apply to everything that takes place on
15 the fairgrounds.

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Well, it wouldn't apply to
17 everything that takes place on the fairgrounds or else
18 it wouldn't be a high-profile event policy. It would
19 just be an event policy.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Is this the policy
21 that is at the discretion of the Board to implement or
22 to --

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think it's operational.
24 That's why I'm asking Michele if she could go through
25 some of these extra steps. I think that this is kind of

1 the -- one of the reasons that we invoked this policy.

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And it is my
3 recommendation that we don't go through those steps for
4 this particular event. So -- Michele, you can comment,
5 if you --

6 CEO RICHARDS: No. I just want to clarify
7 something. I think it's important for all the Board
8 members to understand that, yes, you are correct that
9 the Orange County Health Care Agency approves all events
10 moving forward on the fairgrounds looking at it from a
11 COVID health and safety perspective.

12 The promoter of the gun show is required to
13 submit a detailed security plan to the Orange County
14 Sheriff's Department. And the sheriffs have approved
15 that plan. So county health care doesn't approve the
16 security plan. I just wanted to clarify that.

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So who's in charge of
18 enforcing mask wearing on our property?

19 CEO RICHARDS: That would be our staff, our
20 security staff, our event staff that are, you know,
21 on -- boots on the ground.

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any other comment from
24 the Board before we throw it on the consent calendar?
25 Hearing that there is none, can I get a motion to

1 approve the consent calendar?

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I so move, Sandra.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: A second?

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Doug, second.

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Can you
6 please call roll call, or please --

7 DIRECTOR AITKEN: A point of clarification.
8 This is a draft contract, so we're not voting to approve
9 this contract; correct?

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I think this is a
11 voting to approve the contract. The event takes place
12 in March.

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. Thank you. And can we
14 pull this item, I guess, from the consent calendar and
15 then move the rest of the consent calendar, would that
16 be okay, Chair?

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I don't -- I mean, is
18 that necessary? I feel like we're going to have this
19 conversation again in March, and the event is going to
20 be about a week later. So we should probably just deal
21 with the issue now. Is there anything outstanding,
22 Chair Aitken -- or Director Aitken?

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No. I'm just saying can we
24 then just table this specific contract and move the rest
25 of the consent calendar?

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I would prefer not to
2 pull it. Any other comments from the Board on pulling
3 it, or the benefits of pulling it? At this time I would
4 like to take the consent calendar as a whole. Summer,
5 can you please take roll call?

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

9 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

11 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

13 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

15 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I'm voting no because it
16 contains this contract, which I do not approve. But I
17 would approve the rest of the consent calendar.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Kovacevich?

19 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I just want to say
22 thank you to everybody who came and spoke on this issue.
23 I know gun violence is a very -- it's a personal issue
24 to many people, including myself. Safety is key, and
25 approving this contract is no -- in any way not saying

1 that we don't care about the things you care about.

2 So thank you for coming today before the Board
3 and we appreciate you participating in this meeting. At
4 this time I'd like to move on to agenda Item 10B. And
5 we have a presentation commemorating Black History
6 Month. At this time I'd like to turn it over to
7 Community Affairs Committee, Director Kovacevich and
8 Director Ruiz.

9 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Give me one
10 second. Sorry. While I pull up my notes. Okay. Thank
11 you, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia. Appreciate the opportunity
12 to present for Black History Month. You know, this is
13 another opportunity for the Board and specifically the
14 Community Affairs Committee to, you know, showcase an
15 important part of the Orange County community, which is
16 the members of our community who are black and should be
17 extra celebrated this month. Should be celebrated all
18 of this month and so we put -- we put together this
19 presentation.

20 And I'll narrate the first half, and then I'll
21 turn it over to Director Ruiz. If we go to the next
22 slide. All right. So Black History Month was
23 established to recognize and celebrate the achievements
24 of African Americans and their role in US history.

25 Let's see if I'm in the right -- I think we go

1 to the next slide. Sorry. Oh, no. This is the slide.
2 Okay. We got everyone there. So let's go through the
3 pictures here from left to right. Sorry. Last idea, I
4 messed up there. Okay. We have Maya Angelou, poet and
5 activist. We have Martin Luther -- Dr. Martin Luther
6 King Jr., minister and activist. Muhammad Ali, boxer
7 and activist. George Washington Carver, agricultural
8 scientist.

9 And on the bottom row from left to right we
10 have Harriet Tubman, abolitionist and activist.
11 President Barack Obama and First Lady Michele Obama. We
12 have Rosa Parks, of course activist, and we have
13 Frederick Douglass, who was an abolitionist and a public
14 speaker. So that was some great folks from our history.

15 Next slide here we have, you know, we're
16 showing a major part of the African-American history in
17 California. It started with the second great migration
18 where African Americans residing in the southern part of
19 the United States who were trying to escape extreme
20 racism and segregation migrated North and West including
21 to Southern California to better their lives with job
22 opportunities in the thriving industrial revolution.

23 From 1940 to 1970 approximately five million
24 African American took part in the migration. And by
25 1970 approximately 750,000 had settled in the Los

1 Angeles area alone. Onto the next slide. All right.
2 On this slide we are going to look at some prominent
3 Orange County Black leaders. And in our county it's
4 only 2.1 percent African-American population. But there
5 are many who have reached prominent leadership status
6 here in Orange County.

7 So going, again, left to right. We have here
8 Mayor Leticia Clark from the City of Tustin. We have
9 Chancellor Linda Rose from Santa Ana College, and from
10 the OC Black Chamber, President Bobby McDonald, also a
11 board member for the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation.
12 We have some local leaders and on this slide we have
13 just as of a few weeks ago, our new Secretary of State
14 Shirley Weber who was just sworn in by Governor Gavin
15 Newsom.

16 And then speaking of Heroes Hall, we have here
17 Lieutenant Colonel Robert Friend was one of the last
18 surviving members of the distinguished group of pilots
19 known as the Tuskegee airmen. He was assigned to the
20 332nd fighter group and was stationed in Europe during
21 World War II. As a skillful pilot of the P47 and P51
22 single engine planes Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew as
23 the wingman for the commodore of the group, Colonel
24 Davis.

25 Lieutenant Colonel Friend also served as combat

1 operations officer at the squadron and group levels. In
2 this capacity he was responsible for planning and
3 organizing the implementation of strategic and tactical
4 air missions for the organization. Bob loved flying so
5 much that he opted to stay in the military for the next
6 30 years, also serving in Vietnam. He later headed up
7 the unidentified aerial phenomena program which
8 identified UFOs brought to the attention of the Air
9 Force.

10 Lieutenant Colonel Friend left the military in
11 1972 and moved to Irvine at the time of his death on
12 June 21st, 2019 at the age of 99. Lieutenant Colonel
13 Robert Friend was one of just 12 remaining Tuskegee
14 airmen. We are very honored to have Bob Friend
15 represented -- or represent the World War II veterans at
16 the groundbreaking ceremony at Heroes Hall. Now I'll
17 turn it over to Director Ruiz to finish the
18 presentation. Thank you, Director.

19 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Great. Thank you, Director
20 Kovacevich. As we see here in slide number seven, hold
21 on. I want to make sure we're on the right slide, and
22 I'm on the right page here. Okay. In 1994 George
23 Carver became the first African American to earn a
24 Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University.
25 Impressed by Carver's research, his professors asked him

1 to stay on for graduate study, and he earned his
2 master's degree in agriculture.

3 From tradition started centuries ago, George
4 Washington Carver, African-American farmer who changed
5 his life through Southern California throughout the
6 state. The local programs listed here teach kids and
7 adults how to farm sustainable and healthy fruits and
8 vegetables as well as teach how to cook healthy dishes
9 with fruits and vegetables that they cultivate. Move on
10 to slide number eight.

11 Also here is some more history here in this
12 slide here. Some interesting facts about Black History
13 Month: Black History Month started as Black History
14 Week launched by the Black US Historian, Carter G
15 Woodson in 1926. In 1976 president Gerald Ford
16 officially recognized Black History Month which is also
17 celebrated in Canada in February and in October in
18 Ireland, the Netherlands and the United States Kingdom.

19 The cartoon character Betty Boop was a
20 depiction of Ester Jones, an African-American jazz
21 singer and actress from Harlem, New York. The Lone
22 Rangers real name was Bass Reeves who was born a slave
23 and escaped to an Indian territory during the Civil War.
24 Next slide here is how can we observe Black History
25 Month? We ask ourselves, and there's many ways of doing

1 it, of course.

2 What are some of the interesting ways we can do
3 that is one is to explore the art of Ernie Barnes and
4 his famous painting that's shown in the credit for the
5 1970s show, Good Times. One of my favorite paintings,
6 the other one too is read the writings of Langston
7 Hughes, deep in the Harlem Renaissance movement was also
8 well known for his poetry -- his poetry writing.

9 Also, listen to the sounds of Billie Holiday
10 known for songs like God Bless the Child, and Blue Moon
11 or the music of John Coltrane best known for his album,
12 Love Supreme. Also a Motown -- Motown is a classic
13 label known for artists like Stevey Wonder, Diana Ross,
14 The Supreme's, Marvin Gayve and many, many more.

15 Philadelphia Soul is music based out of
16 Philadelphia and known for artists like and O'Jays. If
17 you want to be inspired, listen to Martin Luther King's
18 I Have a Dream, and last and number five and if you find
19 time hopefully to support many of the Black-owned
20 businesses not only here throughout Orange County but
21 throughout the State of California of course. Now we go
22 to slide number 10.

23 Support your Black-owned businesses, as I
24 mentioned. There's tons of them. More than, you know,
25 most people would know and I want to thank Bobby

1 McDonald for providing these to us here. As you see the
2 list we have plenty of good places to eat. Roscoes
3 Chicken N Waffles, Hambone's BBQ Bar and Grill, which I
4 like. I've been there. It's absolutely delicious.

5 So again, there's a list. If you want to, you
6 know, take them down, please do so, and by all means, go
7 and patronize places. They have great food and they
8 provide a great service as well. So move on to the next
9 slide. So while the Black community only makes about
10 2.1 percent of Orange County's population -- makes up
11 double that amount in attendance at the annual OC Fair.

12 We are grateful to the Black community for the
13 many contributions to the Orange County, and
14 particularly to their support of the OC Fair & Event
15 Center. And we just want to, you know, keep our doors
16 open, and, you know, to the Black community and keep
17 celebrating the history of the Black community as we
18 move forward here. And that concludes our report for
19 this slideshow here. I want to thank the staff and
20 everybody, Michele helped put it together and thank
21 Director Kovacevich for helping me out with this. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
24 Ruiz and Director Kovacevich. I also want to just kind
25 of just throw a shout out to Thane Hollman who I know

1 he's a OC Fair staff. I know he was instrumental in
2 supporting the Board and putting this presentation
3 together in celebration of Black History Month. So
4 thank you, Thane.

5 CEO RICHARDS: And Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, we
6 have the video that was submitted to us to commemorate
7 Black History Month on behalf of the OC Black Chamber.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: I will switch over the
9 screen. If you give me just a moment.

10 (OC Fair Board Black History Month Appreciation
11 Video from OC Black Chamber 2021)

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, and I
13 believe we have one public comment on this topic or
14 agenda item.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do. Reggie Mundekis, when
16 you're ready.

17 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis and
18 thank you for this opportunity to address you on this
19 matter. I congratulate this Board on recognizing our
20 diverse communities with this presentation and a prior
21 presentation for Hispanic Heritage Month. These
22 presentations and commemorations remind us of where we
23 have been, what we have accomplished, and what's remains
24 to be accomplished.

25 We can keep looking forward by commemorating

1 other groups which represent our diverse communities
2 throughout our years. Each of these commemorations can
3 be an opportunity to build bridges in these communities
4 which can bring new business and visitors to our OC
5 fairgrounds.

6 Some ideas include a welcome -- celebrating
7 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in March which fits
8 well with the mission of Heroes Hall. A celebration of
9 Cesar Chavez Day in March which also ties into our
10 agriculture mission. Celebrating Asian-American and
11 Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May and
12 Filipino-American History Month in October to celebrate
13 our broad Asian and Filipino communities, by the way Sea
14 Food City in Irvine which is a great supermarket is a
15 Filipino supermarket.

16 The California Sikh community has their
17 Sikh-American awareness appreciation month in November
18 along with Native American Heritage Month. The Sikh
19 temple in Santa Ana has a food bank which has been
20 serving people throughout the pandemic, and Sikhs are
21 also represented in the Central Valley as farmers and
22 truck drivers and also Costa Mesa was home to
23 Native-Americans before we all moved in here and took
24 away their home. So just some things to think about to
25 keep the ball rolling and keep us moving forward at

1 representing our diverse Orange County communities.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Reggie.
4 Those are great suggestions. Thank you, everybody. So
5 moving on to Action Item C, review of the OC Fair
6 planning and consideration and vote on the 2021 dates.
7 And this is an action item.

8 CEO RICHARDS: Okay. I think I can take it
9 from here. Since the August 2020 Board of Directors
10 meeting, staff has made monthly presentations regarding
11 planning for the 2021 OC Fair. During last month's
12 Board meeting, Directors La Belle and Cervantes
13 suggested it might be prudent to consider moving the
14 Fair dates to the fall to allow more time for Orange
15 County to reach that required 70 percent immunity level
16 that we're all looking for.

17 At that meeting, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia
18 requested that the item be placed on this agenda for
19 discussion by the Board. So I know it's been a very
20 long meeting, and we appreciate everyone's patience.
21 I'm just going to very quickly run through the few
22 slides that we presented last month regarding the return
23 of the 2020 OC Fair.

24 So I'll remind the Board that when we submitted
25 and the Board approved our 2021 budget, it included a

1 Fair based on 50 percent attendance and based on
2 conversations and research by the OC Health Care Agency,
3 the agency believes that our ability to host a Fair with
4 75 percent attendance is quite reasonable by July. So
5 we put together a plan A, which is we're calling it a
6 Modified Plus Fair that would include a 23-day Fair,
7 tickets purchased in advance, a 45,000 per person cap in
8 attendance per day.

9 The Fair would be dark on Mondays and Tuesdays
10 and run our normal dates which next year would be
11 July 15 through August 14. If that trend in immunity is
12 not moving in the right direction by April then our
13 recommendation would be to move to a plan B and that
14 would be to look at fall dates. Since the Board meeting
15 in January, we have had discussions with our major Fair
16 partners. And we have been able to secure dates
17 beginning in late August through the third week of
18 September. And I'll expand a little bit more in a
19 minute.

20 If by July we're still not trending in the
21 right direction then our plan would be to go to plan C,
22 which would be to pivot to a drive-thru Fair experience,
23 sort of like a kicked-up version of the Fair Food Drive
24 drive-thru that we did this past fall. Okay. So plan A
25 includes -- sorry. July 16 through August 15, 23-days,

1 Mondays and Tuesdays dark.

2 Last month the Board approved ticket pricing
3 Wednesdays and Thursdays at twelve dollars, Friday
4 Saturday and Sunday at fourteen dollars and then of
5 course seven dollars for kids and seniors. Again,
6 45,000 per day attendance cap, tickets purchased in
7 advance online. We would suspend super-pass sales so
8 that we obviously could control that attendance
9 every day.

10 The Pacific Amphitheater and Hanger, the county
11 health care believes that both of those venues will be
12 able to have full capacity by July. But again, we would
13 make adjustments if need be. We are not advocating for
14 programming the Action Sports Arena. We will use that
15 for back-of-house storage. We're looking at moving the
16 pig races to Park Plaza. Again, it's a very, very
17 popular event, but it will give us a lot more room in
18 Park Plaza.

19 We're not going to put up an Explorium tent
20 this year but we will still have the kids programming
21 and that will move to another area. And then the
22 programming inside our buildings, the exhibits -- the
23 competitive exhibits and shopping, will shuffle around a
24 bit. And of course our marketing and communications
25 teams will launch a robust campaign to educate our Fair

1 goes on how to fair this year.

2 Concessionaires and merchants will be adjusted
3 to fit the new attendance level. We're not going to
4 need as many as we typically have since we'll be at an
5 attendance cap per day. Our gate procedures will change
6 with potential new scanning equipment that will help
7 move those lines much more quickly and provide for much
8 more social distancing.

9 We're talking about being able to park on-site
10 and at Orange Coast College if we do the Fair in the
11 summer. I talked about Action Sports Arena for
12 back-of-house storage. And then there will be obviously
13 some overall layout changes that will be necessary. And
14 just some follow-up items. We are, again, working with
15 the Orange County Health Care Agency on mandates for
16 wearing masks.

17 Vaccinations is probably -- proof of vaccine is
18 probably not something that is logistically possible for
19 us but again, we're working with the Health Care Agency
20 as that new information emerges as well. Limited
21 on-site sales for those who don't have access to
22 computers. We're looking at all of our community give
23 back programs to see how we might be able to integrate
24 those into a post-COVID world. And then we're -- we've
25 reforecast our budget for the Board to consider as well.

1 And then, of course, continuing to work on lots and lots
2 of details.

3 So as I mentioned, we have been able to secure
4 some back up dates for late August, September, if the
5 Board chooses to do that. But we feel it would be very
6 important as the Board discusses this topic today to
7 focus on some important considerations. So August 25th
8 through September 19th dates have been secured if we
9 decide to go to a plan B Fair.

10 But the Board should consider the availability
11 of other key partners and contractors, and our team is
12 working to get those confirmations as we speak. The
13 number of Fair dates possible in the Summer is 23. It
14 would be cut by two if we did a fall Fair, and the Board
15 should consider the profitability of each.

16 Just to give you a rough idea, if we are able
17 to have the Summer Fair, we're looking at the Fair
18 generating about 13 million dollars in net proceeds
19 compared to a September Fair which would be about 11
20 million dollars. Okay. Now that's not -- that's not
21 the bottom line for the budget. That's just the Fair
22 pulled out from there.

23 The overall budget if we are -- if we're able
24 to have the Fair in the Summer, would be flat. And if
25 we move to the fall, our bottom line for the entire year

1 budget we're projecting would come in at about a 2.4
2 million dollar loss for the year. The Board should
3 consider the availability of off-site parking. We rely
4 heavily on Orange Coast College and Davis Elementary to
5 park vehicles and shuttle our patrons in. Unfortunately
6 in the fall, that wouldn't be available as those schools
7 will be back in session and the amount of traffic that
8 might be generated in the area because of that as well.

9 We will most definitely need to secure paid
10 off-site parking not paid for the patron rather, but
11 paid for the OC Fair & Event Center and hire shuttles to
12 bring our guests in. So that would be a, you know,
13 significant added expense. Many of you have read in the
14 news over the last couple of days that our main Southern
15 California theme parks like Disneyland and Six Flags
16 have announced openings in the spring. Certainly the
17 county's need to possibly use us as a vaccination
18 site might be taken into considering.

19 We would advocate if we did fall dates to move
20 our junior livestock auction to coincide with the end of
21 the school year, which is when the students are ready to
22 show their animals and bring them to market. So we
23 would make that a separate event outside of Fair. We
24 already have a number of events already booked in
25 September representing about 845,000 dollars in

1 projected revenue. If these events cannot be rebooked,
2 obviously that would be lost revenue. And our sales
3 team is working on seeing if there's a possibility to
4 rebook those.

5 The Pacific Amphitheater concerts and the
6 possibility of having a summer and a fall series, but
7 the Board should understand that the sound limits will
8 change in the fall and they become much stricter outside
9 of those typical Summer Fair dates. The Board should
10 also consider if we do a Fair in the fall, school will
11 be in session and what will the impact on our attendance
12 be?

13 And since we rely so heavily on high school
14 students, college students, and teachers for our
15 seasonal employment, will those people be available in
16 the fall as well? Certainly whether is a consideration.
17 We have such beautiful weather mid July to mid August
18 and then it quite often gets much warmer late in August
19 and into September. You know, as we continue to work
20 closely with the OC Health Care Agency, what are those
21 requirements going to be -- continue to be for mandatory
22 face covering and our responsibility to monitor and
23 enforce that.

24 And then, you know, if we do move to the fall,
25 the opportunity to plan programming around a new fall

1 festival theme is pretty interesting too. So those are
2 kind of some of the big picture items that we would
3 request the Board to consider as they debate whether to
4 maybe hold off another 45 to 60 days to make a decision
5 or whether a decision might be made to, you know, to go
6 with a fall Fair today. So. Happy to ask -- answer any
7 additional questions the Board might have.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, CEO
9 Richards, for that updates. Any comment or question
10 from the Board before we take public comment?

11 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, this is Doug.
12 I'd like to hear the public comments first, if you don't
13 mind before we -- I've got a series of questions I would
14 like to ask, but I'd like to get input from those in
15 attendance first.

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Great
17 suggestion, Director La Belle. Summer, can we please
18 take pulic comment?

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Sure. We have Dr. Jeffrey
20 Horn, followed by Reggie Mundekis, Wess Alcot, and
21 Heather Hernandez. Dr. Horn, when you're ready.
22 Dr. Jeffry Horn? You're muted. Okay. I'll circle
23 back. I'll go to the next of speaker. Reggie Mundekis,
24 when you're ready.

25 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Reggie Mundekis. Thank

1 you for this opportunity to address you today. I am not
2 understanding something about what's proposed to do for
3 the Fair when it's held in the normal time slot or later
4 in the year. The issue is regarding the use of the Pac
5 Amp and the Hanger. The overall Fair event is going to
6 be socially distanced with reduced capacity, both for
7 vendors, concessionaires, and patrons. However, the
8 proposal is that the Pac Amp and the Hanger will be sold
9 at full capacity.

10 I don't understand how this will work because
11 both of those venues when sold at full capacity, have
12 people sitting shoulder to shoulder, not moving. In
13 addition both of these venues sell food, beverages, and
14 alcohol which require a patron to remove their mask to
15 consume. So we are having a closed, packed, seated
16 event where people are eating and drinking while they
17 are listening to music.

18 So I'm trying to work through how this is going
19 to safe and the inconsistency with the way the entire
20 event is being presented. And I also need to go check
21 the sound monitoring agreement regarding the sound
22 limits. I recall that there's two types of sound limits
23 for Fair time and for year-round when year-round is at a
24 lower level.

25 Fair time is a little bit higher level because

1 you have the background noise of the Fair. So I'm
2 thinking that if the Fair was moved later in the year,
3 the Fair time limits would apply regardless of the fact
4 that it's -- the Fair is being held later in the year.
5 You know, so let me just check that, but I do have
6 questions about how we're doing the Pac Amp and the
7 Hanger at full capacity. I'm just not understanding
8 that. Thank you.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. Wes
10 Alcott, when you're ready.

11 WES ALCOTT: Yes. Thank you. So actually I
12 have kind of a speech planned for this, but Ms. Richards
13 had mention in thing that you guys are taking into
14 consideration the junior livestock option. My goal was
15 to talk to you guys about making sure that livestock was
16 part of you guys's planning for the Fair given that
17 these kids have spent so much time and effort with their
18 projects and that they all look forward to it.

19 And I know a lot of you Board members come to
20 the auction and you come to the different shows and you
21 kind of see that. Is there any way just to confirm that
22 yes, the livestock shows and auction is in your plan for
23 July, if that happens?

24 CEO RICHARDS: If the July Fair is able to
25 happen, yes, we would do the junior livestock auction as

1 normal. If we have to move the Fair dates to the fall,
2 we would still do a junior livestock event either
3 virtually or in person to coincide with the end of the
4 school year so that the students don't miss out on that
5 opportunity.

6 WES ALCOTT: Great. Great. Thank you so much.
7 I really do appreciate you taking matters into account.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you, Wes.
9 Heather Hernandez, when you're ready.

10 HEATHER HERNANDEZ: Hello, this is Heather
11 Hernandez. And yeah I was also just going to bring up
12 the livestock. I have kids in 4-H in the county. And
13 one thing I'm a little concerned about, you were talking
14 about potentially moving livestock to coincide with the
15 end of the school year if you have to have a fall Fair.

16 And I think that that might not work for a lot
17 of kids because they already -- their animals won't be
18 big enough to sell at the end of the school year which
19 is May because they all got their animals to be ready in
20 July. So another consideration you might think of is
21 holding the junior livestock in the same sort of time
22 frame so that the kids animals are actually ready for
23 the junior livestock option at a normal time.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Heather. One more
25 call for Dr. Jeffrey Horn, when you're ready.

1 JEFFREY HORN: Yeah. Sorry. I was having
2 technical problems before. So, yeah, I'm actually in
3 agreement with the last person, you know, making sure
4 that the animals are here to be ready for Fair. So if
5 it's possible, if you don't have a tradition OC Fair in
6 July to maybe plan to have the, you know, livestock show
7 at that time because that's when the animals were
8 prepped and, you know, when they're bought for the
9 purpose of being ready for the livestock show.

10 I certainly have some questions in regards to
11 the auction itself, whether it be an in-person auction
12 or not or that it have to be an online silent action,
13 which is certainly less preferable. Because these kids
14 rely on trying to at least recoup some of the money that
15 they spent on these animals in feeding and caring for
16 them. I do also have questions in regards if we do have
17 a traditional Fair for the parents to make sure that
18 they are going to be there to be with the children of
19 the system but also be able to watch them perform.

20 And also making sure that there is adequate
21 place, spacing for the parents of that kind of that back
22 area, you know, that we had traditionally just to know
23 there'll be some social distancing guidelines and what
24 not in making sure there's adequate space for them
25 because it can get sometimes to be a little bit crowded

1 at times. As well as adequate sanitation for, you know,
2 for, you know places where people wash their hands and
3 dishes and things like that have been problems in
4 previous years.

5 Just really important to make sure that no
6 matter what we do that there is a junior livestock show
7 for these kids. They've missed out completely last
8 year. Virtual Fairs just is don't cut it. And it's
9 extremely important to make sure that they can still get
10 the experience for a lot of these kids who are still in
11 online only school. This is their only time outside of
12 the home, and it's the only time there's really like any
13 interaction with their peep in person probably socially
14 distance and it's crucial for them to make sure that
15 they get this experience that they need. And thank you
16 very much.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Chair
18 Rubalcava-Garcia, that concludes public comment on this
19 time.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, everybody,
21 for your comments and feedback on the Fair. Thank you,
22 Michele, for your presentation and update. Is there any
23 other questions from the Board on this topic?

24 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, I have a few
25 questions I'd like to ask and a couple of issues that

1 I'd like to raise to the Board's consideration. I guess
2 this is this listed on the agenda as an action item, so
3 we could provide some policy direction to staff should
4 the Board so desire to do that, am I correct in that?

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

6 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. First question I
7 have the same question that Reggie has raised in terms
8 of her comments. You know, on the one hand, we're go
9 going to be practicing social distancing. We're going
10 to be limiting the number of attendees. You're going to
11 have to, you know, book your time at the Fair ahead o
12 time, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

13 And yet we're contemplating full capacity in
14 the Pacific Amphitheater and the Hanger. How is that
15 going to work and meet the county requirements relative
16 to face masks and everything else that we're going to
17 need to bring into account?

18 CEO RICHARDS: I think that's a great question.
19 Director La Belle. Keep in mind that that full capacity
20 was based on projections given to us by Dr. Chau and his
21 team at the OC Health Care Agency. The 75 percent
22 capacity is something that staff has recommended for the
23 Fair overall. At the time the Health Care Agency was
24 also suggesting that we would not necessarily need to
25 cap attendance for the Fair either, but we felt it was

1 prudent to do that.

2 So I'll just reiterate, again, that while the
3 full capacity in the Hanger and the Amphitheater are
4 possible, that's something that we may not be able to
5 predict at this point, and we're going to watch the
6 numbers closely. We're going to continue to work very,
7 very closely with the OC Health Care Agency and make the
8 appropriate adjustments as new information becomes
9 available to us.

10 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Thank you. I'm --
11 I'm a glass is half full guy, but right now my glass is
12 sort of cracked, and I'm normally pretty much an
13 optimism but there seems to be so much continuing
14 confusion out there relative to vaccinations and supply
15 et cetera, et cetera that I do have some concerns. What
16 is the Board's absolute drop dead date in terms of
17 deciding whether it will be a Summer Fair or whether it
18 will be a fall Fair.

19 CEO RICHARDS: Yeah. Last year the Board had a
20 special meeting. I believe it was held on April 11th of
21 last year -- made the decision to cancel the 2020 OC
22 Fair. I think we've set a go/no go date. It absolutely
23 cannot go later than that. We just have too many moving
24 pieces to be able to, you know, to make that call.
25 Although, you know, a lot can change in those 45, 50

1 days. So I would say at the very latest looking at that
2 week right after Easter would be preferable.

3 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Now, when is Disneyland
4 going to open? What is their current schedule been
5 approved because that obviously would be a very good
6 template to follow in terms of protocols and things like
7 that.

8 CEO RICHARDS: Right. There haven't been, to
9 my knowledge, please, someone, correct me if I'm wrong.
10 There has been a specific date that has been pinpointed
11 but both Six Flags and Disneyland indicated spring.
12 That they would be reopening in the spring, and I know
13 Six Flags indicated they would be reopening all of their
14 theme parks and amusement parks throughout the country
15 in the spring.

16 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: And now, Michele, it's my
17 understanding that San Diego Fair will not be held this
18 year, nor will the LA county Fair, is that a fair
19 statement?

20 CEO RICHARDS: Yes. So both San Diego and LA
21 have indicated to us that they are not in a position to
22 have a full Fair this year but they are both hoping to
23 have some sort of a Fair like celebration in the fall,
24 but, you know, dates have not been announced and plans
25 are not in place that, you know, have been shared with

1 us at this time.

2 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: What is precluding us
3 from considering moving it either even later into the
4 fall. I understand obviously the later you go, the
5 weather gets more problematic. But if we were to go in
6 late September to say mid October, what would precludes
7 us from doing that?

8 CEO RICHARDS: Well, it certainly doesn't
9 preclude us, but we would not be able to have RCS
10 partner with us. They have commitments for two of the
11 Fairs in Arizona. Mainly, the Arizona State Fair, which
12 will take place beginning I think it's October 3rd is
13 their start date.

14 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Are there other options
15 available to the Board besides RCS or are we limited by
16 our contract with them?

17 CEO RICHARDS: I don't believe we are limited
18 by our of contact. You know, Ken, you can verify that.
19 He knows that contact very well, but the problem would
20 be the availability of a comparable carnival as you can
21 imagine, lots of Fairs throughout the United States are
22 clamoring for back up dates for the fall. So I think it
23 would be very -- I don't think that we should count on a
24 carnival that could service us being available in
25 October.

1 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Have we had any
2 conversations with the entertainment folks relative to
3 moving concerts to the fall those dates that you
4 outlined and maybe having a combination of both some
5 during the summer and some on into the fall. We had
6 some earlier speakers on other items seem to express an
7 interest in maybe, you know, in maybe expanding it even
8 further. Obviously that becomes a revenue producing
9 opportunity if we can. Has Dan or Lisa had any
10 conversations in that regard?

11 CEO RICHARDS: Yes. Ongoing conversations. In
12 fact, they have conversations everyday with the agents,
13 and so while we still have some dates booked for the
14 summer, I believe there are 11 bookings for a summer
15 concert series. But, you know, the possibility of doing
16 a fall series is very much in play.

17 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Just to comment on
18 the rest for the rest of the Board and yourself on
19 moving it to when after school is started. That is not
20 necessarily going to be a problem at least from my
21 perspective. The LA County Fair has always been
22 starting basically the first week of school.

23 And from my Chino Hills Days, we had Chino
24 Hills Day at the Fair just like we have the cities in
25 Orange County. And what we did, we had a very active

1 community committee and they did a Sponsor a Bus
2 program, you know, whatever the amount was.

3 And on that Chino Hills Day at the Fair we had
4 literally thousands -- well not thousands but a couple
5 thousand grade school kids from Chino Hills that
6 attended the Fair and they -- our community services
7 department and public services -- we had a very
8 extensive interactive program that we did at the Fair.

9 They don't do that anymore, but I can certainly
10 get all of the background information on that program
11 and how it worked and I would do that and --

12 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

13 And I guess my last question is whether the
14 Fair is in July, August, September, October, I think
15 it's important that the Board establish some protocols
16 for what we're going to do when the Fair takes place
17 relative to obviously we'll meet whatever state
18 requirements are placed upon us by the governor's office
19 and what county requirements are placed upon us.

20 But the Fair, itself, is not an essential
21 service. It's obviously very important to the
22 community, but we need to make sure that those that are
23 in attendance at the Fair are fully masked, that
24 protocol is handled. And you mentioned earlier that
25 vaccinations may not be a requirement, explain that to

1 me a little bit, in terms of, you know, how we can --
2 how we can best make sure that we keep the Fair as safe
3 for all of our patrons as we possibly can.

4 And, again, I think the Board needs to, not
5 necessarily today, but maybe next month for sure we need
6 to say okay, when we have a Fair, these are the
7 protocols that are going to be in place. And that may
8 very well mean that certain individuals will not want to
9 attend or be able to attend because of those protocols,
10 but as important as it is, it's a -- the Fair is a
11 nonessential type of activity.

12 CEO RICHARDS: Sure. Let me take a couple of
13 questions that you asked or issues that you brought up.
14 I tend to agree with you about the school field trip
15 opportunities with school back in session. I know that
16 LA County Fair has been very, very successful with that
17 over the years and, you know, our team will certainly
18 coordinate with theirs on how best to do that.

19 But the concern is with school in session
20 because we are surrounded by schools. That, you know,
21 Vanguard students would be back in session. Orange
22 Coast College would be back in session. Costa Mesa High
23 School, Costa Mesa Middle School, and Davis Elementary
24 School will all be back in session. So, yes, while that
25 might have an effect on the attendance during the day,

1 the bigger concern is the lack of availability of
2 off-site parking that we count on quite a bit.

3 And the added expense of trying to find
4 off-site parking, which has not been very successful,
5 and if that's the case then we would have to pair back
6 our attendance expectation so that we know that we can
7 park people in our interior lots without negatively
8 impacting the area surrounding the fairgrounds because
9 there'll be lots of additional traffic in the area with
10 school in session and the Fair going on.

11 With regard to proof of vaccination, it seems
12 like such a great idea, and I, you know, I'm certainly
13 an advocate until you start to look at the operational
14 aspects of it. The county health care in Orange County
15 has potentially been working on an app that will produce
16 a, you know, a proof of vaccination. They're not there
17 yet. And that's just Orange County.

18 We know that we have visitors to the OC Fair
19 from all over the state and out of the country as well,
20 so the ability for our staff to be able to effectively,
21 you know, check for proof of vaccination is rather
22 daunting. In addition to that, if the county can reach
23 that herd immunity level, county health care will deem
24 it safe for people to gather again. If we don't reach
25 that herd immunity, then there's -- then we won't get

1 approval to move forward with the Fair no matter what
2 the dates.

3 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Michele, with the -- with
4 the vaccinations, those that are vaccinated do get a
5 card that indicates that when they had their first shot,
6 when they had their second shot, and sort of like a,
7 almost like a driver's license for that matter. So
8 there is some fairly simple certification, so you might
9 want to look into that as well as the matter progresses.

10 I'd be interested in hearing from other Board
11 members as to what their thoughts are around the social
12 distancing and other protocols that we would have in
13 place.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Are there any other
15 Board members who would like to comment on this item?

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: This is Director Aitken, just
17 to respond to Director La Belle. You know, I think that
18 we need to empower our staff and those temporary, full-
19 or part-time employees to be enforcing the CDC
20 guidelines on mask wearing. We don't know what those
21 are going to be or whether we can open them.

22 But I just think we need to -- it's very hard
23 to look at this right now when we don't know whether
24 we're going to have vaccines for under 65 by August or
25 whether we're going to be fighting this into the fall,

1 potentially, I know none of us want to say it, but into
2 2022. But I think as long as we empower our staff and
3 the employees to enforce the current CDC guidelines,
4 we're just going to have to do the best that we can.

5 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. This is Director Ruiz. I
6 totally agree with Director Aitken. You know, it's --
7 we're going to have our people who are going to give our
8 staff -- you know, people who work in the Fair -- a hard
9 time for not wanting to wear a mask. That will help,
10 unfortunately. So, you know, whatever we can do to
11 empower them like Director Aitken said, I'm all for that
12 because we want safety not only for the people coming in
13 but as well the people who are going to be working the
14 grounds as well. So I'm all in favor.

15 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: This is Doug, again. I'm
16 going to be conversing with Newton, Nick, and Robert to
17 see if there's any interest in doing a Beach Boys
18 tribute band, and if there is, with a little bit of
19 luck, we'd probably be ready for 2024 and 2025 at the
20 latest. So I'll report back on that later.

21 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

22 CEO RICHARDS: We'll save a date, performance
23 date for you.

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd pay for that.

25 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Too cute. Too cute. This

1 is Sandra, and I think that one of the things that we
2 need to go ahead and make sure that, you know, we all
3 feel good about is that the approach when a restaurant
4 is open you have to walk in with a mask and then you sit
5 down and then you have to take it off to go ahead and
6 eat.

7 When you're at the airport, which I've been at
8 the airport a lot lately, it's kind of like the same
9 thing. People buy Starbucks and then the mask is off
10 for that reason. And most of what happens at the Fair
11 really is food. So the great part is that we have so
12 much space. And I think with Disneyland opening pretty
13 soon and us invited to explore the what if possibility
14 and whatever is it that they have in place we should be
15 able to go and duplicate a lot of things that are
16 working and make them work.

17 But for example, even touching on people that
18 have the vaccine. I'm not quite sure that that's even a
19 topic of conversation because there's so many people
20 that will not have the vaccine or choose not to have the
21 vaccine. And I'm not quite sure that we can even make
22 that a condition of in, you know, any shape or form.

23 So a lot of great things to talk about and
24 think about, but I think that at the end of the day
25 there's a lot of other places that are already in place

1 with specific procedures. And we just need to make sure
2 that the people coming to the Fair are going to feel
3 comfortable being around other people that don't have
4 their masks on while their eating or so on because
5 that's just a fact impact. It's what's happening.

6 CEO RICHARDS: I think you bring up some very,
7 very good points, Director Cervantes. And, you know,
8 our staff has spent months and months researching those
9 safety protocols, those health and safety protocols and
10 developing materials. And it really goes back to our
11 marketing and communications plans to educate people on
12 how to fair, what's going to be required when you come
13 to the OC Fair so that we can present a healthy and safe
14 environment for everyone.

15 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Great. Thank you.
16 And, you know, maybe this is an item because of the
17 level of information that we need to review and the
18 Board needs to focus on this one topic, you know,
19 perhaps we can limit what we have on the agenda for
20 March and just fully focus on -- on this issue. I mean
21 the Fair is one of the most important events that we
22 host every year, and it's a community-building event.

23 And we're also working on, you know, helping
24 economic development around the area. So I think if we
25 can focus on this thoughtful topic and, you know,

1 provide feedback and also get answers for you based on
2 some of the questions today. We can work -- why don't
3 we work on that for next month?

4 CEO RICHARDS: I think time is only going to
5 help us with more information as it comes out. We know
6 it. It seems to change on a daily basis, so I think
7 it's very smart to take the time to, you know, gather as
8 much information as possible.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Perfect. So we'll
10 table this item if there is no objection to that -- to
11 March. Okay. I'm going to move on to agenda Item 10D,
12 which is the committee ad hoc reports -- or the
13 committee liaison reports. At this time I'd like to
14 report on the Leadership Committee. Director La Belle,
15 do you have anything to add on the Leadership Committee
16 front?

17 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: No, not at this time,
18 other than Doug Lofstrom is continuing his information
19 gathering on behalf of the committee and the Board and
20 progress is being made, and I have nothing further at
21 this point in time beyond that.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. And Doug
23 Lofstrom actually wanted to be here today to give an
24 update, but I'm just going to briefly -- because I know
25 that we're already into a 3:00 o'clock hour, I'm going

1 to go ahead and just briefly give an update.

2 At the last meeting the Board of Directors
3 approved unanimously that we would go ahead and move
4 forward with an equestrian center market study. Just to
5 asses the property -- oh, sorry. Just to asses the
6 property Doug Lofstrom is working on this initiative for
7 the Fair. He has provided an update on operating
8 models. He's researching files.

9 He has been working with the trainers and
10 boarders. There's a survey that will be going into
11 marketing among that community. They're a very
12 important part of the equestrian center. So we want to
13 keep them very engaged.

14 The tentative EQC study schedule is as follows:
15 February it's research and assessment. March, he will
16 continue researching. He'll provide an evaluation and
17 develop financial documents for the Board to review. In
18 April he will develop a preliminary EQC study and then
19 in May, he will review preliminary EQC study with the
20 Leadership Committee and the full Board of Directors.

21 So that's all that I have today on that front.
22 Any questions or comments from the Board on that?
23 Hearing that there are none, we will go ahead and move
24 on to the Financial Monitoring Committee. Is Director
25 Bagneris on the call?

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: I don't believe she is.

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Do we have a
3 report from that committee, Michele?

4 CEO RICHARDS: We do, and it's included in my
5 CEO updates. So I can go over those numbers.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Perfect. We'll go
7 ahead and defer to that update. Facilities Committee,
8 Director Aitken or Director Ruiz?

9 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I don't have anything to report
10 unless Director Aitken has anything, and I have to cut
11 out because I have another 3:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. It
12 already started, so my apologies. See you all next
13 month.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Bye. Thank you. And
15 Director Aitken, no updates on that front? Okay. The
16 Governance Committee, we have no updates at this time.
17 Director Cervantes, anything to go add on that front?

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Nothing on that front.

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Community
20 Affairs Committee, Director Kovacevich?

21 DIRECTOR Kovacevich: Hi. Really quick
22 summary: We met on February 16 to discuss next steps
23 following our report to the Board in January, and as a
24 result we recommended that the Board review and discuss
25 its May 2019 resolution regarding the Pride flag --

1 Pride Month and flag and display of the flag.

2 And to vote, we recommended to vote either to
3 reaffirm or amend, which happened today and you were all
4 here for. So that was the only work that our committee
5 did, and now that we were able to reach a resolution on
6 that, we look forward to advancing some of the other
7 causes in the time between now and the next meeting.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you Director
10 Kovacevich. Centennial Farm Foundation, any updates
11 Director Cervantes?

12 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No, not at this time.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Heroes
14 Hall Veterans Foundation, any updates Vice Chair La
15 Belle?

16 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: No, not at this time.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Thank you. I
18 know we are going into a six-hour meeting, and I
19 apologize. If we can just hang on for a few more
20 minutes. CEO Richards is going to provide us with her
21 CEO updates.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Pardon me, Chair
23 Rubalcava-Garcia, we have two members of the public.

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Thanks for
25 bringing me back to center, Summer.

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: Reggie Mundekis, when you're
2 ready.

3 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Reggie Mundekis speaking
4 regarding Community Affairs Committee. So I'm going to
5 keep it really short. Now that we have the messiness of
6 the flag issues behind us, I'm looking forward to seeing
7 how the committee comes together to bring more diversity
8 of both events and patrons to the fairgrounds and opens
9 up the OC Fair and other events to allow our OC
10 businesses and restaurants to participate and make
11 money. Thank you.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. Gibran
13 Stout, when you're ready. Gibran, you're muted.

14 GIBRAN STOUT: Sorry about that. Can you hear
15 me?

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.

17 GIBRAN STOUT: Okay. I couldn't get to the
18 right screen. Just real quick, appreciate the working
19 with Doug Lofstrom on the research and assessment, I'm
20 curious if there's any sort of timeline on when the
21 workshop and the workshops and surveys are going to be
22 doing. So I don't know if there was a timeline on that,
23 I was just curious about that. So that's it. Thanks.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia,
25 That's it for public comment.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director -- I'm sorry.
2 CEO Richards.

3 CEO RICHARDS: All right. I'll run through
4 this very quickly. I know everyone is exhausted, but it
5 is important information. For the first month of the
6 new year, the period ending January 31, 2021, revenue is
7 favorable to budget by 42,000 dollars. This was due to
8 higher-than-projected event rental activities.

9 So we'll be beginning to see more approvals on
10 events, outdoor events. Expenses were also favorable to
11 budget by over one million dollars. Now I know this
12 seems like a very high number, but several department
13 expenses for the budget year of 2021 are front loaded in
14 January, so this variance will obviously normalize
15 throughout the year. The best example of this is our
16 budget for capital and major projects of 825,000 dollars
17 was all budgeted in January, so --

18 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of January
19 was 40.255 million dollars. That's a 25.6 percent
20 decrease over the same period last year. And just as
21 we've done throughout the last year, we will continue to
22 provide a budget reforecasting on a monthly basis. So
23 our original 2021 budget included a net loss of 11.8
24 million dollars.

25 Our reforecasting as of January 31st is now a

1 net loss of 6.65 million. This closes a gap quite a
2 bit, and is based on our ability to have a Fair this
3 year with 75 percent attendance capacity rather than the
4 originally budgeted 50 percent capacity from the
5 original budget. Okay. Everybody please be sure to
6 visit ocfair.com for these and other upcoming events.
7 All the information you need is there.

8 Please help us welcome to Centennial Farm two
9 sets of these adorable Angora kid goats. These are not
10 lambs, they're goats and a litter of piglets that was
11 born on Valentine's Day. They'll be making their debut
12 on the pig cam on our website very soon.

13 And while Heroes Hall continues to be closed,
14 we want the public to be sure to visit our website for a
15 virtual tour including that of the current Private
16 Charles Miller watercolor exhibit. Okay. And mark your
17 calendars for virtual Imaginology, April 19th through
18 the 25th. Full details coming at next month's Board
19 meeting. And that concludes our report.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, CEO
21 Richards. Now I'm going to go ahead and go to agenda
22 Item 11, Board of Directors matter of public -- of
23 information. Can we start with Director Aitken?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Sure. Thank you, everyone,
25 members of the public for hanging in for such a long

1 meeting. Your input is so important. No new things to
2 report. Just want to wish everybody -- can't wait for
3 Imaginology. Loved the last slide, but wishing
4 everybody health, safe next month until we see you
5 again. Thank you so much for coming.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Director
7 Kovacevich?

8 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes. Thank you all for
9 attending and hanging in, as Director Aitken said. And
10 thank you, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, for managing this
11 meeting. I know that probably took a lot of effort, the
12 rest of us could go off video and you had to be on the
13 whole time managing the schedule, so thank you.
14 Tremendous job and also thank you to the staff and CEO
15 Richards, you guys always do a tremendous job.

16 And a lot -- a lot got done today. So we
17 should feel good about our work this week, and look
18 forward to seeing everybody next month. Stay safe, and
19 take care, everyone. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Director
21 Cervantes?

22 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you. Well, great
23 job, Director Rubalcava-Garcia. This was a brutal
24 meeting, not for us, but I think for everybody else who
25 had to stay on the line for such a long time. But a lot

1 of important items to be covered.

2 And I want to really say thank you and
3 appreciate Michele and her team, and especially Summer
4 for an outstanding job of her kindness with the public
5 during this pandemic. So thank you, everybody, for
6 everything that everybody does, and stay safe.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Vice Chair
8 La Belle?

9 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Ditto everything
10 that's been said, Sandra and everyone else. I want to
11 thank Nick and Robert for a fine job they did in terms
12 of both the presentation on the Black History Month. I
13 thought this was extremely interesting, and I was very,
14 very pleased with that. And then your work on the flag
15 issue and now we'll move forward.

16 And I do concur with the Chair that next month
17 will be a good time to really spend some quality time
18 focusing on where we're going with the Fair and what the
19 requirements are going to be. Stay safe, everybody, And
20 we'll talk soon.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Vice Chair
22 La Belle. And I just want to thank all of the Board
23 members for all of their time and dedication to the
24 Fair. I know this is a voluntary appointment, so I
25 appreciate all of your efforts. So thank you and, of

1 course, to the staff, thank you for all you do.

2 And just one reminder, cookie season -- Girl
3 Scout cookie season is still going, and it's actually
4 been extended, so make sure you support Girl Scouts.
5 It's a great organization. They support headship among
6 girls, and it's Women's History Month coming up in
7 March. It's a very noble thing, so thank you all. The
8 next Board meeting is March 25th, and this meeting is
9 adjourned.

10 (Whereupon, the OCFEC Board of Directors
11 Meeting was hereby adjourned at 3:15 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE
OF
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

* * * *

The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter of the
State of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing Proceeding was taken before me
at the time and place therein set forth.

That the statements made at the time of the
Proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were
thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true and
correct copy of the proceedings thereof.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name, this
date: 03/08/2021

Patricia Garrido

Patricia Garrido, CSR No. 14364

O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER
Board of Directors Meeting on 02/25/2021

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