

#### In the Matter Of:

#### COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

### TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

January 20, 2021

**CERTIFIED COPY** 

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| 8  | 32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION |
| 9  | ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER      |
| 10 | COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP   |
| 11 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021            |
| 12 | 4:00 P.M.                              |
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| 22 | Reported by:                           |
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| 24 | Patricia Garrido CERTIFIED COPY        |
| 25 | CSR No. 14364                          |
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| 3  | COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  |
| 4  | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021   |
| 5  | 4:00 P.M.   |
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| 9  | Meeting of the OCFEC Community Affairs Committee,   |
| 10 | stenographically reported by Patricia Garrido, a<br>Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of   |
| 11 | California, commencing at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 5:33 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021, Via Zoom. |
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| 16 |   |
| 17 | APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:   |
| 18 | Nick Kovacevich, Chair  |
| 19 | Robert Ruiz, Member<br>Ashleigh Aitken, Member  |
| 20 | Doug La Belle, Member   |
| 21 |   |
| 22 |   |
| 23 | ALSO PRESENT:   |
| 24 | Michele Richards, CEO   |
| 25 | Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer<br>Summer Angus, Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant           |
|    |   |



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|----|---|--------|
| 1  | APPEARANCE OF BOARD COUNSEL:                                      |        |
| 2  | DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL<br>JOSHUA CAPLAN                          |        |
| 3  | 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800<br>San Diego, California 92101-3375 |        |
| 4  | Phone: 619-738-9000<br>Fax: 619-645-2271                          |        |
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| 6  |   |        |
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| 8  |   |        |
| 9  | PUBLIC SPEAKERS:  |        |
| 10 | Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke<br>Kellie Avakian                      |        |
| 11 | Lara Horgan<br>Gibran Stout                                       |        |
| 12 | Gabrielle Gutierrez<br>Erin McCall                                |        |
| 13 | Wendy Leece<br>Pamela Smith                                       |        |
| 14 | VROC<br>Liz Sanchez   |        |
| 15 | Pat Davis<br>Reggie Mundekis,                                     |        |
| 16 | Robert Fisher<br>Joshua Block                                     |        |
| 17 | Craig Cooley<br>Jerilynn  |        |
| 18 | Jeanine Robbins<br>Vikki Shepp                                    |        |
| 19 | Megan Inman<br>Toya Fitzgerald                                    |        |
| 20 | Mayor Pro Tem - Andrea Mar<br>Dylan Dao                           |        |
| 21 | Gia Gaffaney<br>OC Pride - Andrew Conner, Bryan Terry             |        |
| 22 | Todd Martin<br>Christina Ross                                     |        |
| 23 | Maya Bodla<br>Luis Huang  |        |
| 24 |   |        |
| 25 |   |        |
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| 6  |  |
| 7  |  |
| 8  |  |
| 9  |  |
| 10 | CEO RICHARDS: Okay. Nick, we've got you on,              |
| 11 | and I know Robert is on as well                          |
| 12 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Okay.                               |
| 13 | CEO RICHARDS: As a few members of our                    |
| 14 | Community Affairs Committee, so I'll turn the meeting    |
| 15 | over to you.   |
| 16 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Thanks,                  |
| 17 | Michele. And Hi, everyone, thanks for joining the        |
| 18 | meeting tonight. I will go ahead and kick it off with    |
| 19 | some introductory comments.                              |
| 20 | So first, as I said, thank you for coming. I             |
| 21 | want to reiterate and just set the tone that the Orange  |
| 22 | County Fair & Event Center is a state owned and operated |
| 23 | public asset, as you guys probably know. It's important  |
| 24 | to the committee and to the Board to understand and      |
| 25 | respond to the interest of the people of Orange County.  |



| We're very proud that the annual OC Fair                 |
|--|
| continues to attract a wide audience from throughout     |
| Southern California who come to enjoy food,              |
| entertainment, exhibits, animals, and fun. Our annual    |
| demographic survey shows that the OC Fair is attended by |
| representatives from all communities within Orange       |
| County and actually that the attendance mirrors the      |
| gender, ethnic, and cultural makeup of the county as a   |
| whole. Something that we're actually very proud of.      |

So while you may have read that this committee was formed to address the diversity issues that exist at the OC Fair & Event Center or you might have also read that tonight's open public meeting is about debating whether or not to display the Pride flag, that is not the case. The purpose of this newly formed Community Affairs Committee is to oversee the Board's relationship with the community.

This will include a wide range of topics such as diversity, equity and inclusion; how the OC Fair & Event Center can continue to engage with the community; and how we can continue to foster strong relationships with local, county, and state elected officials. In order to do that, the committee must first understand what the interests are of the community and how the public would like to see those interests celebrated at



the OC Fair & Event Center.

The first step the committee took to accomplish this was to conduct a survey to gather input from the community. The survey was sent to several other databases and channels to reach people who had an affinity with the OC Fair & Event Center brand, people who care about our organization, and to folks who have expressed interest in providing feedback on a regular basis.

The next step the committee took was to schedule this public meeting to gather further input about what interests the community we serve, and that is why we're here today. Just to note that feedback from that survey that I mentioned will be combined with feedback that we gathered via e-mail and here at the meeting will all be provided at the -- as a report from the committee -- at the January 28th board meeting. So if you're looking to hear the results of that survey, it will be presented at the January 28th board meeting.

There won't be any debate today, just really information gathering. The committee has no authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board. So again, the committee has no authority to make any decisions on behalf of the Board. And we'd like this to be an open discussion. So we'll be dispensing from the typical

| 1  | formalities of a regular board meeting.                 |
|----|---|
| 2  | We're essentially here because we want to hear          |
| 3  | from you. We want to hear from the public and from the  |
| 4  | community   |
| 5  | CEO RICHARDS: But Director Kovacevich, we               |
| 6  | should kick it off with the Pledge of Allegiance since  |
| 7  | this is an open public meeting, if that's okay.         |
| 8  | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: You are absolutely right.          |
| 9  | We should kick it off with the Pledge of Allegiance.    |
| 10 | And I would ask if my colleague, Director Ruiz, would   |
| 11 | like to lead us in that pledge?                         |
| 12 | DIRECTOR RUIZ: Absolutely. Thank you. If you            |
| 13 | would all rise, please, and put your right hand over    |
| 14 | your heart and repeat after me.                         |
| 15 | (Pledge of Allegiance conducted.)                       |
| 16 | DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you.                               |
| 17 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Director Ruiz.          |
| 18 | Okay. So checking the Zoom here, we have about 56       |
| 19 | people attending. I just got actually a message that we |
| 20 | do need to do roll for this meeting as well. So one     |
| 21 | additional formality.                                   |
| 22 | Summer, do you want to do the roll call?                |
| 23 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Thank you.                        |
| 24 | Committee Chair Nick Kovacevich?                        |
| 25 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Present.                           |



SECRETARY ANGUS: Committee Member Director 1 2 Robert Ruiz? 3 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Present. I also saw Director Aitken? 4 SECRETARY ANGUS: 5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present. SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director La Belle? 6 7 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Present. 8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you. Any other board 9 directors attending? Hearing none. Thank you. 10 Director Kovacevich, back to you. DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Okay. Great. 11 And given 12 the amount of attendees, I think we will have Summer 13 take names of those who would like to speak. And then 14 Summer can call on them one by one as we go into the 15 questions. So I'll prepare the first question here in a 16 second. Just to remind everyone, you can use your chat 17 feature on Zoom, which obviously a lot of you are 18 already doing in order to submit that request to speak 19 as we get into the questions. 20 And we would recommend limiting the speaking 21 time just in light of the fact that there's so many 22 people on this call. We want to give everybody the 23 opportunity to speak, so we want to hear from you, but 24 to the extent that you could be brief and allow for 25 other folks, that would be much appreciated. Okay.



| 1  | Great. So the first question that I pose to the group    |
|----|--|
| 2  | here as I mentioned, this committee was formed to        |
| 3  | oversee the Board's relationship with the community.     |
| 4  | As representatives of our community, what                |
| 5  | topics are of interest to you that you think the         |
| 6  | committee should address?                                |
| 7  | CEO RICHARDS: So again, if you'd like to speak           |
| 8  | to that question, please feel free to enter your name in |
| 9  | the chat and Summer will call on people in order. And    |
| 10 | then if you're on a call or you don't have the chat      |
| 11 | feature, we can take your comments as well. So Summer    |
| 12 | do we have anybody that has indicated they would like to |
| 13 | speak?   |
| 14 | SECRETARY ANGUS: We do have quite a few. And             |
| 15 | I'm going to try to get people in the order that they    |
| 16 | jumped into the chat. First person that messaged was     |
| 17 | I'm going to call the first three names. Stephanie       |
| 18 | Camacho, followed by Kellie Avakian, Lara Horgan, and OC |
| 19 | Vaulting. We'll take Stephanie first. When you're        |
| 20 | ready.   |
| 21 | STEPHANIE CAMACHO-VAN DYKE: Thank you and good           |
| 22 | afternoon. My name is Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke, and    |
| 23 | I'm the director of advocacy and education at the LGBTQ  |
| 24 | Center OC. Today I'm speaking to request the             |
| 25 | reinstatement of the Pride flag at the Orange County     |



fairgrounds.

As of this afternoon the LGBTQ Center OC has collected 200 signatures from community members who are calling to reinstate the Pride flag at the Orange County fairgrounds. It's important that the fairgrounds acknowledge and create a welcoming space for all its community members including those who are LGBTQ. This is not the time to step back. Pride for our community should not begin or end at Pride Month in June.

I think allowing the Pride flag to be continuously flown sends a clear message, one that is of inclusion and representation while also calling attention to issues that are important to our community, such as addressing discrimination and (indiscernible) especially as hate crimes and incidences towards LGBTQ people have increased over the past five years here in Orange County.

And so with that said, Orange County is a place where diversity and difference should be celebrated and embraced. And I encourage you when you do reinstate our community's flag, that you please fly the progressive flag, which includes black and brown stripes to represent LGBTQ communities of color along with the colors pink, light blue, and white which are used to represent the Trans Pride flag. Thank you for your time



and consideration.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Stephanie. We appreciate that and, you know, glad that we right out the gate identified the flag issue as an important issue. I think we're aware of that. And it is -- it's certainly something that we'll have further discussion at the next Board meeting as we present the survey results.

Just one thing to clarify, Stephanie, I don't know if you know this, but the Pride flag is flying at the OC fairgrounds, so nothing has changed with the Pride flag, which is kind of what I was mentioning in my comments. I think there was a little, a bit of a misconception given maybe some of the material that was printed that there was a change with the Pride flag. The Pride flag is flying.

And in this meeting we're not going to be doing any sort of voting on the Pride flag. So that is an important issue. Glad you brought it up. And certainly something that the Community Affairs Committee is going to continue to discuss and ultimately, probably discuss with the Board at some point as well.

DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. To the Chair -- to the Chair, I also wanted to echo your comments as well. You know, I think people got the misconception of what the



| 1  | meeting was about, like you said earlier. This is not   |
|----|---|
| 2  | to get rid of the flag. Like Chair Kovacevich just      |
| 3  | said, the flag is flying. We just want to hear input    |
| 4  | from the public, what else they would like to see. We   |
| 5  | want to reach out to the community and get their input, |
| 6  | their thoughts on things of diversity.                  |
| 7  | We're not here to vote to get rid of the flag.          |
| 8  | That's not what the meeting is about. So we welcome all |
| 9  | speakers, but that's not what this meeting is about.    |
| 10 | And this committee does not have the power to do that,  |
| 11 | if that was the case. We'd like to hear your comments,  |
| 12 | and I'm hoping to hear more comments as to what people  |
| 13 | want to see here at the fairgrounds as far as diversity |
| 14 | goes. Thank you.  |
| 15 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yeah. So just revisiting           |
| 16 | the question that I posed, exactly what Director Ruiz   |
| 17 | said, what topics are of interest to you that you think |
| 18 | the committee should address? And obviously, the flag   |
| 19 | issue has been noted.                                   |
| 20 | Summer, if we could grab the next speaker, that         |
| 21 | would be great. Thank you.                              |
| 22 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Kellie Avakian, when you're            |
| 23 | ready.  |
| 24 | KELLIE AVAKIAN: Hi. Thank you for letting us            |
| 25 | take the survey to show that the community wants, like, |



at the fairgrounds a bit diverse, like, food and diverse, you know, like weeks, every week -- not every week but however so often at the Fair of everyone's different cultures. I think that would be amazing there. Also, I'm going do address the flag issue.

I know that several of the counsel members a couple years ago said we were going to have a problem in

couple years ago said we were going to have a problem if we flew the Pride flag because then you're going to want several of the flags, but I do feel that the fairgrounds, especially even to those -- I go there for equestrian -- should -- we should be flying the FEI, which is the Federation Equestrian International, because my daughter was on the USA team. I think we need the USA Federation Equestrian flag there.

I have -- my kids are involved in 4-H. I think that flag needs to be up there. We also have baseball teams and then, like, AYSO is across the street with a big event that The Pilot puts on for all the schools in Orange County. So I think we should be having, like, an AYSO soccer flag up there. They're -- it -- I think it's just having one flag is not really fair when you need to have all the flags up there. So since that one is flying, I feel like the other ones -- you should be giving thoughts to the other flags as well.

And then keeping up with all the diversity and



| 1  | foods and carnivals, I know you can't have those, but    |
|----|--|
| 2  | some way, like, even the food trucks and even a          |
| 3  | drive-thru community at the fairgrounds of cultural      |
| 4  | parades, you know, once a month or however often you     |
| 5  | guys see fit budget wise. I don't know how much that     |
| 6  | costs, but thank you for your time.                      |
| 7  | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Great. Thank you,                   |
| 8  | Kellie. Appreciate it. Okay. Let's who do we have        |
| 9  | next, Summer?  |
| 10 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Up next we have Lara Horgan.            |
| 11 | After that is OC Vaulting.                               |
| 12 | LARA HORGAN: Thank you very much. I just want            |
| 13 | to briefly reinforce how important the Pride flag is to  |
| 14 | me as someone who lost my brother to suicide. My         |
| 15 | brother was a member of the LGBTQ community, and I       |
| 16 | watched very decent upstanding citizens say things to    |
| 17 | him, otherwise descent upstanding citizens say things to |
| 18 | him like, "If there's one thing I hate, it's a faggot."  |
| 19 | And things like that happen all over Orange              |
| 20 | County. He was a victim of gay bashing, his nose broken  |
| 21 | and so he ultimately couldn't take it anymore and he     |
| 22 | took his life. And that is why the Pride flag is         |
| 23 | different than any other flag. I'm not aware of any      |
| 24 | other group where people feel so comfortable saying      |
| 25 | things like what people said to my brother and the       |



| 1  | consequences of those statements being so, so horrific.  |
|----|--|
| 2  | So thank you very much for letting me express my support |
| 3  | for the flag.  |
| 4  | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you for sharing               |
| 5  | that. It's very difficult to hear that that stuff        |
| 6  | happens in our community, but it is a reality. So thank  |
| 7  | you for sharing that personal story.                     |
| 8  | Summer, who do we have next?                             |
| 9  | SECRETARY ANGUS: OC Vaulting, followed by                |
| 10 | Gabrielle Gutierrez. One more time for OC Vaulting.      |
| 11 | Let's go ahead and move on to Gabrielle Gutierrez then   |
| 12 | when you're ready. Oh, then we're going to move on to    |
| 13 | Erin McCall.   |
| 14 | GIBRAN STOUT: Can you hear me now?                       |
| 15 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Who's speaking?                         |
| 16 | GIBRAN STOUT: Gibran.                                    |
| 17 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Oh, hi, Gibran. Okay. OC                |
| 18 | Vaulting. Go ahead.                                      |
| 19 | GIBRAN STOUT: Sorry. Yes. Hi. I'm happy                  |
| 20 | that there's a diversity committee. I'm a little sad     |
| 21 | that there's a so much turmoil over a flag during        |
| 22 | these times when there's people who are losing their     |
| 23 | businesses and their homes and their lives. I think we   |
| 24 | all can agree that it's an important issue. And I think  |
| 25 | that comparing it to little league is a mistake because  |



15

clearly this is a larger issue.

As an equestrian, 50-year equestrian and a daily user of the property for the last eight years as well as a former 4-H leader, I can tell you that we do not want an equestrian flag flying. What we would like to see and what is more important, I think, for all of us to agree on is actions speak louder than words. And not to make light of the flag, but I feel like the flag is really words and I think what is more important is actions.

And I think we would like to see actions on the part of the Board to include diverse -- the diverse community we live in, which is Orange County, and to really see programs and to see actions. I want to see actions, and we have some great opportunities with some great space here and some great people to really see some community collaboration and integration. And let's -- I would really like to see the focus on the actions more so than the flags.

As I said, I've been on the property daily, using it for the last eight years. It's not the flag that I see, it's the people, it's the faces. It's the people that you interact with on a daily basis. So I think that that's where the important focus is especially now during these trying times. So thank you



so much for letting me talk.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. We have Erin McCall, when you're ready.

ERIN MCCALL: Hello. Yes. My name is Erin McCall. Thank you so much for this time. I'm a Costa Mesa resident and an avid fair visitor. And I just wanted to say first off thank you so much for taking the brave steps of having the Pride flag flying over. As a young person I cannot highlight what it means to see the Pride flag as a young person who grew up and lives in Orange County.

The Trevor Project just released a survey of the young people during the pandemic and showed that up to 40 percent of the young people in the United States are facing forms of oppression and depression to that, and that's leading some of those young folks to consider suicide because they are not feeling accepted. And it's a very simple fix and that is to show acceptance.

And so the things that I would like to see as a resident of Costa Mesa and frequent user of the -- of the event space is not only to continue the use of the flag and continue to show that solidarity for our young LGBT people but also to highlight the amazing crafters and business owners who are a part of this community

| 1  | that reside in Orange County but might not necessarily   |
|----|--|
| 2  | have a space or platform to amplify their businesses, to |
| 3  | amplify their arts.                                      |
| 4  | And so creating opportunities such as, you               |
| 5  | know, the LGBT Street Fair or, you know, what you mean,  |
| 6  | like, or, you know, highlighting LGBT artists is a great |
| 7  | opportunity to not only just show the symbol of the      |
| 8  | support that our state-sponsored center is doing, but    |
| 9  | also to, like, once again reiterate that action of that  |
| 10 | support and, you know, increasing the diversity. So      |
| 11 | thank you so much for this opportunity, and thank you    |
| 12 | for hearing my voice. Have a great day.                  |
| 13 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Thank you.               |
| 14 | Great feedback idea there on getting the community more  |
| 15 | involved in the events that are happening. So thank you  |
| 16 | for that.  |
| 17 | Summer, do we have more?                                 |
| 18 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Wendy Leece followed by                 |
| 19 | Pamela Smith.  |
| 20 | Wendy, when you're ready, or if you'd still              |
| 21 | like to speak. You're on mute, Wendy.                    |
| 22 | WENDY LEECE: Thank you so much for this                  |
| 23 | wonderful opportunity for us to give input. I know       |
| 24 | you're not voting today. I missed my fair food fix this  |
| 25 | summer, but I love the Fair. I've got my daughter        |



had some pictures. She worked at the art exhibit a few years ago, and she had some early Costa Mesa pictures framed for me.

I think we should -- we have such a diverse community in Orange County. Two things I'd like to have you consider. For many years, even as a young mom, I worked in what was called Noah's Ark, and it was where the group called Child Evangelism asked for volunteers and we were able to share Bible stories in the ark. And it was kind of a diversion. The parents could kind of take a break and let their kids go in and hear just a short three-minute Bible story. Usually it was about Noah and the ark.

A few years ago, that was -- that door was closed. So if we're going to talk about diversity and inclusion, I think we need to look at that as a part of our community of faith-based people who like to continue this long tradition of the ark. I think the ark is still stored somewhere.

The other issue that I participated in for many years was a table or a booth that passed out pro-life materials to women or people that wanted to know about other options for a crisis pregnancy. And that table was taken away. I remember one year I had to stand outside on the sidewalk. We were permitted to do that.



| I work at a mental hospital. I teach kids who           |
|---|
| are there because of their depression and anxiety and   |
| they are suicidal. So I I the last thing I want         |
| to say is I think it's really important that this year, |
| as soon as we're able to open up, that we go out of our |
| way to provide all the mental health resources for      |
| everyone. That that everybody's been through a long     |
| haul here, hopefully things will get better. But young  |
| people, mental health I have several young people who   |
| are struggling with their identity.                     |

And, yes, they are depressed and they're anxious about it and they've been rejected, but there are other kids too that are there for many other issues -- family issues too, family support. You know we're in a whole new era. So as far as the flag, I think if we're going to fly the flag, we might have to fly for other organizations or other political causes too, but I also think we need to restore the ark and allow everybody who wants to pass out literature the freedom to do that at the Fair. So thank you for giving me the time to speak today.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Thank you, Wendy. And sorry to hear you couldn't make it to the drive-thru fair food event we had this summer. I actually got to go, myself. It was quite delicious.



1 WENDY LEECE: I'll try. 2 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Well, we'll see you next summer, so -- all right. 3 Summer. SECRETARY ANGUS: Pamela Smith, when you're 4 5 ready. Hi everybody. Thank you for 6 PAMELA SMITH: 7 having me. I was also ready to speak on the flag issue, but I hope that what I say could maybe be applied more 8 9 broadly and somewhat in reply to some of the other 10 comments. 11 I'm also a regular fair goer, and I've grown up 12 and lived in Orange County most of my life. I think 13 these past -- this past year, most certainly, but these 14 past several years have really shown a spotlight on the 15 inequities of the county -- cities, county, country, 16 kind of all of the above. 17 And I think, too, when I hear kind of comparisons made of, you know, the Pride flag, what it 18 19 represents compared to, like, little league or this or 20 that, I go back to the comments some others have shared 21 about the particular marginalization and the risks that 2.2 come with that for LGBTQ individuals, especially 23 teenagers and especially at this time when many of them 24 have unfortunately been stuck in households with bigoted 25 family members.



| We also know that acceptance versus rejection          |
|--|
| is one of the major kind of differences in LGBTQ       |
| individuals who do well in terms of mental health and  |
| contribution to the community and well-being versus    |
| those who struggle with substance abuse, with suicidal |
| ideation, and other problems of mental health and      |
| physical health as well.                               |

And so I think like others -- to echo what other people said, it's really not a fair comparison because we're talking about people's inherent identity, not something that they learned or something that they chose. And certainly it's not politics if we're talking about somebody's sense of self. So I don't really see how that's a fair comparison.

But I do want to reiterate, when you feel rejected by many of the people in your life, especially the people who are supposed to love you, when you see that symbol -- and the flag is a symbol. You're right it's not action. It is just symbolic, but that symbol is very important because that symbol is an invitation. And it's not just an invitation to LGBTQ individuals.

It's a message of -- I think what -- I'm sorry
I forget your name, but what Mr. Kovacevich was saying
is that it is a diverse fair and it has diverse
participants and if we want to keep that door open, we



| 1  | have to have symbols available and activities available  |
|----|--|
| 2  | that make people feel welcome. Because when you're at    |
| 3  | risk of death, when you're at risk of rejection, you go  |
| 4  | try to be with people that you don't feel like will hurt |
| 5  | you and that creates this void.                          |
| 6  | So I think that's what I wanted to share,                |
| 7  | just in my professional experience, teaching             |
| 8  | developmental psychology, being a marriage and family    |
| 9  | therapist, specializing in teenagers and children, and   |
| 10 | having seen people of all ages, with all variety of      |
| 11 | identity issues, that's why the Pride flag is so         |
| 12 | important. It's not politics. It's not just a hand       |
| 13 | wave. It represents feeling safe and included in our     |
| 14 | county at a time when, you know, there's a lot of        |
| 15 | violence and hatred right now. So thank you very much.   |
| 16 | I'm kind of nervous. I've never spoken at one of these,  |
| 17 | but that's what I wanted to share from my personal and   |
| 18 | professional experience. Thank you.                      |
| 19 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you for sharing.              |
| 20 | We appreciate it.  |
| 21 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Up next we have My                |
| 22 | VROC, when you're ready.                                 |
| 23 | VROC: Hello, everyone. Good afternoon. Nice              |
| 24 | seeing you all. My name is May, and I'm from Viet        |
| 25 | Rainbow of Orange County, other known as VROC. I'm also  |



23

| 1  | here talking about the Pride flag, but also want to     |
|----|---|
| 2  | highlight some things. I think a lot of the results     |
| 3  | here that I've seen in my opinion is coming from a      |
| 4  | difference of approach, right? That a lot of typical,   |
| 5  | like, you know, county-funded or a lot of               |
| 6  | governmentally-funded programs happen is to stop.       |
| 7  | There's a detachment between outreach and               |
| 8  | engagement, right? And so what, you know, the reason    |
| 9  | why I'm here is actually the lack of engagement that is |
| 10 | happening, and I think in hopes of talking about the    |
| 11 | Pride flag similar to Pamela that this really reflects  |
| 12 | to the diversity conversation. I think, you know, what  |
| 13 | you are doing here is great.                            |
| 14 | This is the first to what I know of what you            |
| 15 | all are, you know, having this community participatory  |
| 16 | act, right? The survey was great, though. My issue was  |
| 17 | that the survey was sent out, to my knowledge, was      |
| 18 | told was that to Orange County residents, and now I'm   |
| 19 | hearing that it's constituents or whatnot of OC Fair. I |
| 20 | feel like there's a lack of transparency in my case     |
| 21 | since, you know, looking at the survey's questions,     |
| 22 | you know, it does not align, right?                     |
| 23 | But, you know, bringing back to the Pride flag          |
| 24 | conversation, I think, the entertainment of that        |
| 25 | conversation these past few months really sends a       |



message to the community right now. And it's the message that OC fairground is having a lack of effort representing all Orange County residents, right?

Because you're entertaining a conversation of exclusion, right? I mean the Pride flag is definitely not the only solution to, you know, our LGBTQ problem. It's definitely not a solution, but, you know, for us it actually shows that history of exclusion and hate, right, towards LGBTQ community.

And so I, you know, I think, no, we're not talking about the Pride flag but I want to affirm or really push a message to you all and the directors from the Board is that, you know, in keeping the Pride flag or even entertaining that conversation really doesn't help our community. And to make sure that you're putting out a message that say that LGBTQ people are safe here and that we're welcome here, right?

And so I ask you to stop, you know, to stop the focus or even stop entertaining that conversation and really begin focus on what you're doing right now, actually engaging the community in active questions, right? And I think, you know, really reevaluating the questions that you're requesting, right? Instead of going to the community and having the community do the work for you and depends on what do you want, it's more



| 1  | what can we do for the community and really look at the  |
|----|--|
| 2  | pathway to how we can bring that in. Thank you.          |
| 3  | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.                          |
| 4  | SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you My. Pat Davis,                |
| 5  | when you're ready.                                       |
| 6  | PAT DAVIS: Hi. Thank you. I see that Liz                 |
| 7  | Sanchez had asked to be on that list well before I       |
| 8  | joined in. Could she go first or they go first and       |
| 9  | I'll join in.  |
| 10 | SECRETARY ANGUS: If that's okay. If that's               |
| 11 | okay, sure. You said Liz Sanchez. I must have missed     |
| 12 | her. Okay. Liz Sanchez, when you're ready.               |
| 13 | LIZ SANCHEZ: Pat, thank you so much. That's              |
| 14 | so incredible of you to think of me, and thank you for   |
| 15 | paying attention and helping out there. I absolutely     |
| 16 | appreciate that. Okay.                                   |
| 17 | Hi, all. My name is Liz Sanchez. My pronouns             |
| 18 | are they/them/theirs. I am a college educator in the     |
| 19 | North Orange County Community College district. I teach  |
| 20 | intro to LGBTQ studies. I also partner with ethnic       |
| 21 | study teachers in Orange County as well to bring a queer |
| 22 | lens and queer curriculum to ethnic studies and to, you  |
| 23 | know, so collaborating on education in our local         |
| 24 | schools.   |
| 25 | I want to start off about the experiences, you           |



know, of my students and also as a queer educator how difficult it is to explore our histories. How difficult it is to talk about our civil rights leaders. How difficult it is to talk about our lived experiences because that symbolic interaction is often missing within our communities. A Pride flag, you know, it represents more than -- I think what a lot of people envision is sort of like, you know, the summertime pride parade, and it's a celebration.

What I want to connect it to is the POW flag.

A lot of people -- there's I think majorities,
cisgender, hetero folks are comfortable and the American
flag and the POW flag because it represents something
very historical for them and I don't see much debate
over those flags. But for someone like myself and my
students, we reflect on our civil rights leader who have
gone missing and who have died trying to thrive and
survive here in this country.

You know, trans women, drag queens, drag kings, gender nonconforming folks, gender benders, you know, queer folks, everyone across the spectrum of the LGBTQ community has faced some type of violence and even the worst, again, when it comes to death and going missing. And we lose, we are losing members of community and we have historically. So that flag reminds us of our queer



and trans ancestors. And when my students are learning about this at higher education, so many of them are always asking, like, why didn't I learn this? Why didn't I learn this growing up? Why didn't I have these role models talk to me in education?

And so we have to fill in those gaps. And we're trying to do that now because Orange County historically has not provided those opportunities or they have not provided us teachers specifically the support. The FAIR Act was passed many years ago. CHIA was passed, but we are still fighting to implement these curriculums within our schools. So having a flag flown at, you know, the fairgrounds, that is a huge thing for us. That symbol is our history. It's a reminder of what we're trying to survive, and it's honoring those we have lost.

The survey, I have to admit, was rather -- I do turn to my community and I ask -- I see folks that I do organize with and have crossed paths with. Let's definitely do better trying to distribute this survey. I barley got it yesterday, and I truly wish that, you know, we're able to get it beforehand. But I also don't, you know, blame activists' commitments. I want to really, you know, push this board to make sure it is distributed in a very fair manner, so it's like we're



outreaching to teachers who are involved, the community 1 2 organizations, making sure that you're being intentional 3 and that we are getting surveys such as these. I believe I -- that's basically -- I just want 4 5 to really just reiterate like it's important that we put 6 this flag up. It's part of our history. I want my 7 students to feel prideful. I want them to feel 8 represented. I want our history to be taught to others 9 because it's important that we're intersectional in our 10 everyday lives, meaning that we are honoring all of 11 those who have been historically disadvantaged no matter what institution that we are in. 12 13 So please, whatever decision is made or what 14 conversation looks like, let's -- let's work towards 15 keeping that flag up there and other flags that 16 represent cultural communities that have been 17 disadvantaged within this country and need their stories 18 to be told. Thank you so much. 19 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you. Real quick 20 because I know this is coming a couple times about this 21 survey. Michele, do you want to go over how that -- how 22 that survey was administered, just so everyone is kind 23 of on the same page? 24 CEO RICHARDS: Sure, sure.



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DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

| 1  | CEO RICHARDS: First of all, we engaged the               |
|----|--|
| 2  | services of a professional survey company. We wanted to  |
| 3  | make sure that, you know, that we had very, very good    |
| 4  | professional advice on getting the survey out. It was    |
| 5  | sent to a database, actually there were several channels |
| 6  | that we used. One being our regular newsletter           |
| 7  | database, and those are people that have signed up for   |
| 8  | our newsletter, that have expressed interest in the OC   |
| 9  | Fair & Event Center and what we do here. We also put it  |
| 10 | out on all of our social media channels and probably     |
| 11 | many of you picked it up from there. It went out on      |
| 12 | Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and then we post it on |
| 13 | our website as well.                                     |
| 14 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Michele. All             |
| 15 | right. Do we have I think we have another speaker        |
| 16 | behind Liz.  |
| 17 | SECRETARY ANGUS: We do have several more. Pat            |
| 18 | Davis followed by Reggie Mundekis, Gabrielle Gutierrez,  |
| 19 | and Robert Fisher are the next ones in the queue. So     |
| 20 | Pat Davis, when you're ready.                            |
| 21 | PAT DAVIS: Thank you, Summer, balancing all              |
| 22 | this must be fun. I did have a question as to            |
| 23 | Nicholas's first question and having been in board       |
| 24 | meetings before and back last Summer when the whole      |
| 25 | issue with the flag came up, and I guess I was surprised |



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to see how it came up so I see the confusion. And thank you for the clarification on the survey because I wrote to ask about it after the Voice of OC article.

But I do agree with so many of the other comments that are so open to just the bigger picture that the flag represents and I think that there are other things the Fair Board needs to manage and look at, and certainly that Market Place, that's usually when I've been in the room because I've watched friends' businesses just shrivel and fall apart.

So again, I support the work of the community. I'm glad you clarified up front, and I think everybody here will hold you to the fact that the flag will stay and there will be increased openness in moving forward with addressing that issue. So thank you for being open to that. And Nicholas, I know someone wanted to answer your question, and my question of that was it may clear the scope to this committee, so we could make comments similarly. Thank you.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

CEO RICHARDS: Nick, could I also add too that anyone who missed the survey and have contacted us, they've been invited to submit their thoughts through our ocfinfo@ocfair.com email address and that's what you refer to about additional emails and feedback from this



meeting will be combined with the feedback from the 1 2 survey too. I just wanted to clarify that if there were 3 people that sent in e-mails, rest assured that, you know, the Board will see all of those. 4 5 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Great point, Michele, great point. 6 7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Reggie Mundekis, when 8 you're ready. 9 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Afternoon. 10 Reggie Mundekis, and thank you for this opportunity to 11 address you today. I'd like to open by stating that I 12 support the rainbow flag and whatever varient the LGBTQ+ 13 community wants, I support that. The LGBTO+ community 14 has contributed greatly to society over the decades and 15 has not been given their fair due, and needs to be 16 acknowledged, and the flag is one small way of 17 acknowledging that. 18 And I'd also like to attempt to quote something 19 that Director Ashleigh Aitken said at a meeting that 20 getting your rights is not like getting a piece of pie, 21 just because someone else got their rights, doesn't mean 22 you get less of your rights. Rights are not pie. 23 with that, I'd like to move on to a more pressing issue 24 than a flying of a flag. No offense to anybody who



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supports the flag. It's just the appalling lack of

diversity in Orange County businesses at the OC Fair.

We need an OC Fair that actually has businesses and food and beverages from Orange County. We have an extraordinary Viet community, but I can't get a Banh mi sandwich at the OC Fair. We have Little Arabia in Anaheim, and I can't get a decent kebab or a falafel at the OC Fair. One example of the lack of diversity is that ballots for elections in Orange County are printed in Spanish, Farsi, which is spoken by Persian people, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, which is the Filipino language, Japanese, Hindu, Hindi, and Gujarati.

The OC fairgrounds communicates mostly in English, occasionally in Spanish, we need to change that by welcoming people in their language and speaking their languages you get them to participate and feel welcome. And then once you get them to participate and feel welcome and understand how to access your resources and activities, you will start to see more of their businesses.

The other issue I'd like to address is the lack of Orange County businesses at the Orange County Fair. At the 2019 fair over 95 percent of the space given to selling food and beverages was given to sellers outside of Orange County. Including over 13 percent of that selling space given to companies -- to a company from



| Florida.

Over 70 percent of the merchandise selling space at the 2019 OC Fair was given to companies outside of Orange County. What happens when those businesses from outside of Orange County get that sales money? They take that money and their profits, and they leave Orange County. Yeah, I know we get sales tax. Yeah, I know we get like five week part-time jobs out of this deal.

We want people to actually be able to come in to their fair, the people who actually live in Orange County, the people who actually have restaurants and food carts and unique items. We want them to actually be able to sell at the Orange County Fair. We need to become more Orange County focused and less focused on businesses from Florida, less focused on businesses from Arizona, less focused on businesses from San Diego. We want our focus of our Orange County to be Orange County people, culture, businesses, and food. Thank you.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Reggie.

Great, great comments there on looking at the food vendors and all of the vendors at the OC Fair so it's certainly something this committee can look into.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Up next, we have Gabrielle Gutierrez, followed by Robert Fisher, Joshua Block, and



Craig Cooley. Gabrielle, when you're ready.

GABRIELLE GUTIERREZ: Hi. My name is Gabrielle Gutierrez, my pronouns are she/her. And my fiance and I are new residents of Orange County. We moved here September of 2019. I moved here from Long Beach in a very wonderfully LGBTQI+ affirming area. And recently with the election and with all the hatred that has been happening towards disenfranchised groups, my fiance and I, who are both members of the LGBTQI community, have faced discrimination, vandalism.

We're in the middle right now of trying to move out of our condo, and we are certainly considering leaving Orange County even though he works for a theme park in Orange County and I also work in Orange County. I think the question of having a Pride flag and having other flags be represented, and I agree with other people who are voicing their opinions.

Nobody is telling little league that they cannot thrive. Nobody is trying to actively disband the little league community or any other communities that have been brought. To compare the two is comparing apples to oranges. Yes. They're both fruit, but they're vastly different. Who I am and who I choose to love, who my fiance is and how he chooses to gender affirm is not the same as little league and sports and



other groups.

And I think that Orange County needs to stand firmly with exclusivity and diversity and not stand with divisiveness, division, hatred, not allow a small privileged group of people who happen to live in Orange County hold everything. I also agree that we need to have more diversity in our parks, in our communities to have the fairgrounds. I worked at the fairgrounds for Halloween and for Christmas this year. I was very, very blessed to have a job -- not this year, last year. Apologies.

And I was shocked with how much, I mean, nothing was from Orange County, practically nothing was from Orange County. So I think that it's important to have more meetings like this. I think that it's important to put resources and efforts to getting surveys out more, to hearing people's voices more, to see what really will help people feel included because as of right now, there are people who don't feel included. And it's really hard for me not even to cry.

I love living in Orange County. We live very close to the service storm center, and I love where we live but I don't love the hate that comes with Orange County. Orange County is a very, very purple area, but it seems like only certain voices are being heard, as



opposed to trying to hear all voices and trying to make 1 2 sure that groups that are about inclusivity and 3 diversity are being heard instead of groups that are 4 trying to actively squash and deminish a person's voice and a person's name. Thank you very much for your time. 5 6 I appreciate everything. 7 Thank you for sharing. DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: 8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Robert Fisher, when you're 9 ready. 10 ROBERT FISHER: I appreciate your time today. 11 I came in prepared to discuss the flag as well. Blazing 12 and ready to go, but I appreciate what everyone's 13 already said thus far. Nicholas, I think you bring up a 14 really important question, and I think there's a 15 wonderful opportunity there as far as topics of 16 diversity and inclusion that are important and that 17 should be brought up to the community and something that I'm working on, I'm a representative of Taco Bell in 18 19 Irvine. 20 Specifically, I'm the chair of Live Mas Pride, 21 which is our pride LGBTQ employee resource group. And 22 we are one of five employee resource groups at the 23 company. And something that we're working on right now 24 is furthering develop programs and events with



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educational and cultural activities that celebrate

diverse cultures, programs that offer educational experiences related to history or to the environment of particular -- particular groups or to particular people to effectively bring people together.

And especially in a climate right now, people have that desire to learn and to grow and to change come together with those shared experiences, those social divisions are often dissolved naturally. So what I'm hoping for is a closer collaboration with the OC Fair group. Similar to the OC Japan Fair, I mean, what a wonderful event to educate and enlighten and inspire people to a culture that they may not be familiar with.

I think there's a great opportunity to collaborate with local school groups, organizations like the LGBTQ Center of OC, and business ERGs like my own to help establish strong programs in solidarity to support those cultural groups. And with the work of the OC Fair Board to continue to foster that education of the hearts and the minds of our community.

And there are penalty of businesses like Taco
Bell, we have Latinx, a women's group, a black group and
Asian group. Blizzard Entertainment has ERGs as well as
the Disneyland resort. I would like to raise my hand
and be happy to collaborate with you and the Board on
some of those events and activations to really get our



community involved in furthering that discussion in 1 2 education and enrichment. Thank you. 3 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Robert. 4 thanks for offering your services there. I appreciate 5 it. 6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Joshua Block, when you're 7 readv. 8 JOSHUA BLOCK: Hey, there. My name is Joshua, 9 and like a lot of other speakers I totally came here to talk about the Pride flag, but it seems like it's 10 11 already been covered. So I just wanted to affirm my 12 support for it and to recall other speakers who spoke 13 about it because it's such an important issue. 14 this I also wanted to take the opportunity to talk about 15 local small businesses. 16 A lot of small businesses have been really, 17 really hurt by the pandemic so I think that the OC Fair 18 has a really unique opportunity to promote them in a way 19

has a really unique opportunity to promote them in a way that it hasn't before. I also think that a particular emphasis should be on black and brown owned local businesses and LGBT+ owned local businesses which have been renewed tension to because of the racial injustice

movement recently but deserve attention at all times.

And I think that the Fair has a unique opportunity to up those voices, the select small



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| 1  | businesses and voices all across Orange County. I've     |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | been going to the Fair since I was young, and there's a  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | lot of I'd say like white and greasy food to not put     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | it the nicest, but I think there's a real opportunity to |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | have food from different cultures across from Orange     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | County and Southern California, which I didn't really    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | see that often. But thank you for that, and thank you    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | for not removing the Pride flag out of the location.     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | Thank you.   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Craig Cooley, when you're               |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | ready.   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | CRAIG COOLEY: Can you hear me?                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | SECRETARY ANGUS: We can hear you. Go ahead.              |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | CRAIG COOLEY: Oh, I'm so sorry. First of all,            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | I would like to shout out to Robert Fisher and Taco Bell |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | for a business stepping up to the plate and doing some   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | good things for the LGBT community. Thank you. I'm       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | president of Laguna Beach Pride 365, we're a year-round  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | organization. We're not just a pride festival once a     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | year. And I just want to say I agree with so many great  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | words that were spoken today, but I could add a few      |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | things.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | My personal experience last year or actually             |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | the year before was the first time we had participated   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | with OC Fair and it was out at the Fair event and we     |  |  |  |  |  |



had -- we were there. And there were so many people that were so appreciative of our presence there. It was amazing. And there were tears shed and new friendships made and it was a very heart-warming experience and we were there for only one day.

It would be great to be there for longer, but we were there for only one day. And to see the rainbow flag on the offices there when we came up to the event was very heart warming. I appreciate that. And one other comment I want to say is Laguna Beach, itself, has declared June gay forever and here -- forever on, and it is a proclamation before the city, we read. But more to the point is that they decided that they would fly the flag every year for a month -- even on Main Beach -- that it is a flag of diversity, a nonpolitical flag because they are very much concerned about being fair with all political organizations.

It is like someone said the veterans flag. It is a flag that should be recognized for diversity because that's the way we look at it as being diverse. I hope we can be there again next year at Laguna Beach Pride and support the community where, like I said, we're here year-round and we do lots of things to support the homeless and the needy and it's all good. And it's all good like Robert Fisher, but thank you for



1 listening. 2 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you. 3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Up next we have 4 Jerilynn, followed by Jeanine Robbins, Vikki Shepp, Megan, Toya Fitzgerald, and Dylan Dao. 5 I'm ready. So I've been 6 JERILYNN: 7 participating in the calls with the OC Board of Directors for several months on this particular flag 8 issue and diversity, and so what I kind of want to say 10 today is I'm a bit perplexed about the conversation 11 because the conversation is about diversity not about 12 eliminating one or another but allowing a plethora of ideas, right? 13 14 Bringing in all kind of different differences, 15 I guess I might say. So I'm kind of sorry that this has 16 taken on such a tone of only allowing one flag and not 17 considering other people who might want to have a voice 18 in flags as well. That would be my position. I came in 19 with the position saying, I've noticed that there's a 20 flag flying there that is for the LGBT community, let's 21 have some other flags flown that represent other 22 people's interests. 23 And that's what diversity is all about. 24 Allowing other people to express what is important to 25 them. Not saying that one person cannot have what's



| 1  | important to them versus another, right? We want to     |
|----|---|
| 2  | allow everybody's opinion and be diverse. So that's     |
| 3  | what I thought that this diversity group is about.      |
| 4  | Let's talk about other things we can do as well to make |
| 5  | other people feel more inclusive, right? So that's my   |
| 6  | perspective.  |
| 7  | I didn't get the survey either, and I've been           |
| 8  | on these calls for months and the survey wasn't sent to |
| 9  | me, so maybe we do need to do something, a little more  |
| 10 | outreach to a bigger crowd for, you know get other      |
| 11 | perspectives and be more diverse in what we're doing.   |
| 12 | But all that to say I would like to have other flags    |
| 13 | flown at the OC fairgrounds as well. Lots of different  |
| 14 | things that can be done, and we just shouldn't just     |
| 15 | limit it to one. So that would be my perspective.       |
| 16 | Thank you so much.                                      |
| 17 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.                         |
| 18 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Jeanine Robbins, when you're           |
| 19 | ready.  |
| 20 | JEANINE ROBBINS: Mike and I have been vendors           |
| 21 | at the Orange County Market Place for 41 years, and     |
| 22 | we're vendors of the Fair for over 20 years. During     |
| 23 | that time, we've had many experiences of discrimination |
| 24 | against the LGBTQ population. We are and therefore      |
| 25 | we fully support the flying of this flag. We are very   |



very active in fairground politics so many of the board members on this meeting are used to hearing from us on a regular basis. But just -- I'm going to speak tonight in the interest of time.

What some of you may not know is that Mike and I are full-time homeless advocates. Up to 40 percent of homeless youth are members of the LGBTQ population. I hear people say that flags should be flown to represent other interests. Well the Pride flag is not an interest. It is a segment of the population that has been horribly discriminated against, especially in this county.

Let me tell you a story, what happened with us at the swapmeet, maybe about 10 years ago, maybe even 15. We were selling, and a young gentleman ran into the stand yelling for help. He was black, he was gay, and he was wearing a star of David necklace. He was being chased by a group of white supremacists throughout the swapmeet. He ran into the stand, customers and my husband blocked the other people from entering the stand, we put him in the truck and locked it to keep him safe while other vendors around us went to go get the sheriffs.

The sheriffs came, they took the people away who were chasing him, he went on his way. I will



| 1  | guarantee that he never came back. But what I would      |
|----|--|
| 2  | like to say is that the sheriffs did come back to us on  |
| 3  | another day and tell us that those people who they       |
| 4  | arrested were part of a wellknown white supremacist      |
| 5  | family gang from South Orange County. While that should  |
| 6  | not be happening and people should feel welcome and they |
| 7  | should feel included, and being gay is not an interest.  |
| 8  | What I also want to say about the survey is              |
| 9  | that the distribution of it was very poor. I, myself,    |
| 10 | probably forwarded the survey for a hundred different    |
| 11 | people who were asking for it. They didn't know where    |
| 12 | to find it, and somehow or other that does need to be    |
| 13 | changed for the future. So thank you so much for your    |
| 14 | time, and I hope that you will keep flying that flag.    |
| 15 | It represents so many people whether you're gay or       |
| 16 | whether you're not. It represents inclusion, and that's  |
| 17 | important to all of us. Thank you.                       |
| 18 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thanks, Jeanine.                    |
| 19 | Appreciate you sharing that story.                       |
| 20 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Vikki Shepp, when you're                |
| 21 | ready.   |
| 22 | VIKKI SHEPP: Thank you for the opportunity.              |
| 23 | You know, I want to talk a broader scale on diversity.   |
| 24 | Diversity, equity, and inclusion best practices really   |
| 25 | include providing opportunities for people to learn by   |



hearing and to heal and grow by sharing their stories, so many of you are probably familiar with projects like Story Corps and The Humans of New York. Those are two great examples of the power of stories.

So I'd like to propose that the Orange County
Fair & Event Center work with all or as many possible of
the diverse Orange County communities and organizations
to create a place or event or repository of and for the
stories and for story sharing of the diverse people who
call Orange County home and who work to make Orange
County great. Thank you.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Megan. There's a Megan that wanted to speak when you're ready.

MEGAN INMAN: Hi. Yeah. Thanks for letting me speak. My name is Megan Inman. I'm just a community member. I live in Huntington Beach. My pronouns are she and her. I grew up in Orange County. I live in Orange County. I'm an LGBT person who lives here. I just wanted to talk about, a little bit about diversity and inclusion and what that means in a lot of different ways.

A lot of people talked about the importance of the inclusion of the flag, which is really valid and hugely important. So I just want to talk about what the removal of the flag will say to our community and to us



as LGBT+ people. Before I talk about that, though, I want to echo the sentiments of others that flying the Pride flag is perhaps the smallest thing that can be done to show support for LGBT+ people. Like one speaker is more akin to words than actions.

LGBT businesses and people should also be supported in tangible ways that progress their success as they're routinely excluded and disenfranchised from almost every aspect of society. So when even one of the small and easiest ways to show public affirmation of our people becomes an issue for debate, how are we to believe even more meaningful efforts to validate and support us will be mobilized and welcome? That's a pretty crushing hope that our community, particularly our young people can't afford.

Removal of the flag sends a message to us that our identies are up for debate and somehow a political issue. Disappearance of the flag sends a message to us that our community should continue to fly, if you will, under the radar. It will embolden homophobia in our community. Removal of the flag validates the ignorance of those that believe our identities are not valid, are unnatural, should not be talked about, and should not exist topically in our society.

Diversity is a bit of a broad term, like others



have already touched on. It's important to differentiate between the diversity of human beings themselves and the diversity of interests and passions of those human beings. My identity as a queer woman is not an interest or a passion. I did not choose it.

LGBT+ identities are not a special interest, a belief system, a social group, an extracurricular activity, or a political alignment.

We are human beings who exist. We do not choose to be who we are like someone chooses an interest or a belief system. Removal of the flag is a reminder that our existence should be censored in certain parts of society. It reminds us that while we may be allowed to access public gatherings, talking about our experiences as LGBT people or having a platform is unwelcome.

The idea that LGBT being openly accepted is a politic -- is a political statement -- is born of homophobia because it stems from this homophobic belief that intolerance to LGBT people is a simple difference of opinion instead of what it is, which is intolerance and hate. So that's all I have to say on that subject is that it's pretty hugely important for us to see that flag and it's even more, I think, of a striking message to then take it down, and that's all I have to say.



1 Thank you for listening. 2 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you for sharing. 3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Toya Fitzgerald, when you're 4 ready. TOYA FITZGERALD: 5 Hello. 6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead. 7 TOYA FITZGERALD: Can you hear me? Okay. Yeah. I just -- and my heart is just heavy for 8 Great. 9 so many people who have been discriminated against. That just breaks my heart, and I'm so sorry for anybody 10 11 that that's happened to. That's just -- that's just not 12 what life should be about. So I just want to say I'm 13 sorry. 14 And I want to say thank you so much to the 15 community for hearing people on this issue. I am going 16 to speak to the flag issue, but I do want to say thank 17 And I say thank you for the Orange County fairgrounds, and I look forward to being able to go back 18 19 there one of these days. I, too, would love to see more 20 diversity in the food, that would be fantastic. 21 And I -- and just diversity overall I have 22 loved in the past love going to the Anatolian Festival. 23 It's one of my favorite things I've done with my kids 24 over the years, so bringing festivals like that I think 25 are just really special and, you know, educational,



informative for all of us. And really cultivates that diversity that we want to see.

And I, too, think that diversity is super important, and so in terms of the flag issue, I mean my first reaction was, it just seems like it should be simplified and just have -- just, I mean, I hope and I know that this obviously, just from hearing all the comments, people do not feel this way, and I'm so sorry that they don't. But I feel like the United States of America flag should be representative of diversity.

And, I mean, I know that some members in the LGBTQ community and other communities don't feel that way and I understand that.

I would love for it to, you know, that's our hope and dream some day. And so I would just love to advocate for either inclusion of many other flags, and I'm not talking about little league. I'm talking about flags that represent people of all different walks of life, who identify as Christians, as Jews, as Muslims, as, you know, in terms of religious groups I think that would be great because I think there's a need there.

But either to include a lot of other flags or just simplify it. And it certainly -- I can understand why somebody would say taking down the flag would be hurtful. I totally get that. I don't think anybody's



advocating taking down the flag altogether. I think it's just being flown year-round, and maybe we can, you know, rotate other flags or I don't know how we can do that. I know it's a tricky issue, and I certainly am sensitive to other people's hurts and desires. So thanks for hearing me out, and thanks for having the committee. And I look forward to getting back to the fairgrounds soon.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Up next we're going to have Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Marr, followed by Dylan Dao, Gia Gaffaney, Todd Martin, and Cross. Mayor Pro Tem, when you're ready.

MAYOR PRO TEM ANDREA MARR: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I was first informed about this item about a week ago from the members of the LGBT community who contacted me specifically concerned that the flag was being taken down. From what I understand, there wasn't a staff report. So I guess I'm a little bit confused about whether there's a proposal to take it down or not, and I think that's probably the case for a lot of people.

About a year and a half ago, we flew the Pride flag for the first time at City Hall, and the messages of love and support and appreciation that we received



made me cry for about a week. That city council meeting was probably -- I've had a couple of emotional city council meetings in my term in office, but that was one that was so striking for so many people and I think what was the most impressive for me was the number of folks who didn't think this was an issue, who didn't think it affected them, who didn't know anyone who was gay, and thought, why is this a thing that the city is doing?

And then they heard the stories, the stories like the ones that we are hearing on this call. The stories from people who called in, who wrote in, who expressed themselves and said this matters so much. This is a symbol that represents so much. And to hear folks in the community who then have no connection with the Pride flags, that changed my heart -- is the reason that that flag should continue to fly at Costa Mesa City Hall and at the OC Fair because inclusion matters, because honorary people in our community matter, and if there's one thing I'm able to do in my term in city council is if I'm able to do this and I will consider myself a success -- is to lift up people who have not previously had a voice or been recognized to the extent that they should.

And so if we can take every opportunity under the sun to celebrate people especially after a really



| 1  | crappy year, right? I want to run by that flag every    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | single day and be happy that it's there and that it is  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | celebrating people in the community who have not always |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | had the voice that they should have. So I appreciate    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | this very much that you are having this opportunity for |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | folks to speak. I think there's a little bit of clarity |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | necessary about what the proposal from the fairgrounds  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | is. Please, please, continue to celebrate               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | pride.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem.          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Appreciate you joining us.                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Dylan Dao, when you're ready.          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | DYLAN DAO: Hi. So my name is Dylan Dao. I'm             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | a 15-year-old student from Fountain Valley High School. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | As a queer member of the as a member of the queer       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | community, I've seen so much hatred for people in my    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | community. I've seen a friend nearly drive himself to   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | suicide because of hate comments, and I myself, I'm     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | waiting until the day that I receive hate comments,     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | myself. This is the life that I was born in.            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | This would not happen if there were more                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | support shown for queer people like I am, like my       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | friends, like all the other students in my club. So I   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | know people have brought up this a lot, but for to me   |  |  |  |  |  |  |



25

it would be incredibly important to see more

youth-friendly spaces for minors who are queer. As a minor, I can't go into a gay bar, I can't walk up to an adult and get to know them because I can only connect so much to an adult an entire generation away from me.

And I feel like a lot of other minors like me can empathize. To me the OC Fair is a wonderful opportunity to be able to show that -- to show opportunities for queer spaces for minors because my friends go there. I go there. I know a lot of other kids go there for the rides and stuff. So it would be incredibly -- incredibly important for me and probably for a lot of other people to have such great representation in this. I hope you give this a thought, and thank you for listening to me.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Gia Gaffaney, when you're ready.

GIA GAFFANEY: Sorry I was talking, and I didn't unmute myself. It's Gia, and I wanted to speak because I think I represent just, like, a regular person in Orange County who goes to the Fair with my kids. I was a Girl Scout leader for five years, a soccer mom. I'm also a community youth advocate. And I also was involved with a lawsuit where I sued the State of California.



| And here's why I bring that up. The majority            |
|---|
| of the complaints that I received through that lawsuit, |
| without violating anyone's confidentiality, were from   |
| Orange County. Orange County is known, statewide, as a  |
| place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender     |
| children do not have a safe place to learn. It's known  |
| as the place where Blaze Bernstein was murdered in a    |
| local park. It's known as the place where there's sort  |
| of a undercurrent of christianity that is tribal and    |
| closed instead of open and inclusive.                   |

This is how our county is known, statewide, and I know this because I sued the State of California. So I guess what I'm saying is this is not really an issue of let's have a flag for everybody. This should be looked at, to me, as a regular soccer mom, who likes to bring my kids places as a place where everyone can feel safe. And when I see the rainbow, even as a straight white person, Christian, I feel included.

I feel like this is a wonderful place that loves everyone because I don't want to offend anyone or say things harshly but I mean even though today may have been an inclusive day in our country, LGBTQ+ kids are still the most marginalized group. Transgender kids have a suicide rate that is astronomically higher than any other group. This is just about a flag. So like

somebody else said, this is like a minimum standard, but, I mean, I just -- I don't know who else wants their flag to be flown because it's been very hard to get information about this. I was really happy to find the Zoom meeting. But when I see the rainbow flag, I think oh, good. I can take my kids there, and I can take my friends there, and it's a safe place for everyone. So I guess I wish everyone looked at it like that. That's all.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you. Just wanted to comment because I know it came out a couple times, maybe people didn't hear in the beginning, just to reiterate. There is no issue before the committee or the Board -- initiative to take down the flag or, quite frankly, any initiative to put up other flags. I think this is something that we wanted to hear from the community. And I think it's been great to hear all the stories and thoughts that you guys have shared.

But just wanted to reiterate that nothing has been proposed to take down the flag, so do not worry about that. And we can keep going just to bring back to the original question, and I know we've been having a great discussion -- or certainly dialogue here, but I do want to know what topics interest the community. And I think we've heard a few already and certainly the Pride



| 1  | flag flying is important to a lot of folks here at this |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | meeting and we've heard that loud and clear.            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | I do appreciate actually hearing the stories.           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | It's been nice. I just want to stay focused as we are   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | already at 5:15. I know Director Ruiz has to leave at   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | 5:30, so anyways. Let's get back to the queue here,     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | Summer, and again, the question is really what topics   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | are of interest to the community that the Community     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | Affairs Committee could take up?                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Also, that brings me to another point. It is            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | the Community Affairs Committee, not the diversity      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | committee, but the Community Affairs Committee has      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | agreed to take up diversity initiatives within our      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | committee. So just wanted to correct that because that  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | was mentioned earlier. Sorry. Summer, go ahead.         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | SECRETARY ANGUS: I have three more speakers.            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Todd Martin, followed by Cross, and Andrew Conner.      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Todd, when you're ready.                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | TODD MARTIN: Okay. Can you guys hear me all             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | right?  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | TODD MARTIN: Okay. My name's Todd Martin.               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | I've been a resident here in Costa Mesa my entire life, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | you know, like 62 years, and, you know, I'll make this  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | brief. There's obviously not a lot of time left, but I  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



don't see the flags up there as being diverse. It's literally our state flag, and our California flag, and I think that's great, and then one other flag that's been up there full-time, but I don't see the allowance for other flags which is my concern. It's anything but diverse, and I'd like to see a change.

I thought there was a -- oh, gosh. What was it, a petition -- not a petition put out there, but they did a -- what do you call that? Sorry. I'm just spacing out, but there's a lot of people who have weighed in on this issue, and --

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: We did a survey.

TODD MARTIN: Yes. Survey. That's the word I was looking for. Thank you. And, you know, the survey that I saw -- at least the results were that most people were in favor of just having those two flags and then occasionally flying other flags but not having preference for any specific group. And that's why I see unfairness.

You know, and I understand people's concern for, you know, the gay pride and things like that, but there's also other groups out there who I would like to be recognized as well. There's flags I would love to see flying up there full-time, but the fact that they're not allowed to and only one specific group is, it seems



1 very unfair to me. So anyway that's my reason for 2 weighing in, and I'll sign out at this point. Thank you 3 very much for allowing me to voice my opinion. 4 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you. 5 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Todd. 6 Cross, when you're ready. 7 Can you hear me okay? CHRISTINA CROSS: Hi. 8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead. CHRISTINA ROSS: 9 Sorry about the name. I'm actually Christina Ross. It came through as Cross. 10 11 currently living in Irvine, and I grew up in Los Angeles 12 County, not in Orange County. Yeah, I know I'm another 13 person talking about the flag and I'll try to keep it But my folks, when I was a kid were like, no, 14 15 we're going to the Orange County Fair. 16 We never went to the LA County Fair. I think 17 LA doesn't know how to do it. LA can't do it right. 18 Orange County -- you want to go to a fair, you go to 19 Orange County. So it's a pretty -- kind of not 20 intended. It's a destination for people who don't even 21 live in the county. And honestly it's nice to see that 22 it's welcoming. Obviously the traditional pride things 23 that you'd see during the Summer really haven't happened 24 this year, so it's always nice to have the community 25 recognition that we do.



I really -- Orange County still has progress to make on these things. Irvine's nasty anti-LGBTQ ordinance, Measure M, was put in place in the eighties. It only was repealed less than a year ago. I really think we're not quite at the point where you can put the queer community representation aside like, oh, we already achieved that.

It's -- we're still in the stage of needing to make people feel explicitly welcome because in a lot of senses they're explicitly not, you know, it's not -- and I think a lot of people in this, if you don't explicitly know you're welcome, it can be very nerve-racking. You can't just assume you're wanted there. And I wanted to also reiterate what Dylan Dao said. He's absolutely right that the community needs more spaces that are friendly to minors.

It can't just be an issue of bars or temporary events, so the sense of welcome is very valuable. And I don't know -- it's not a matter of crowding anybody else out. It's not a matter of saying having the Pride flag is a reason we probably shouldn't have any others, but keeping it up is important and it's -- can be, I think, hard to realize for some folks how important even just a small gesture like seeing the flag when you go by is.

So I'm glad that it's flying. And I hope that it



| 1  | continues to fly and it's really not an expression of   |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | hostility towards anybody else. That was it. I said my  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | peace. Thank you for your time.                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Thank you. Andrew                |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | Conner, when you're ready.                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | OC PRIDE: Hi, everybody. Just to clear it up,           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | that's Andrew Conner, I'm Bryan Terry. We work with OC  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | Pride. I'm the director of marketing and Andy is my     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | assistant. I came in here not fully prepared just       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | because I just found out about this meeting, but it     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | sounds like everybody had amazing opinions so I'm not   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | going to repeat what everybody else has said.           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | All I will say is that the flag is the very             |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | definition of inclusivity and diversity. That flag      |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | represents, you know, the LGBT community, it represents |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | black folk, brown folk, like, straight allies. It       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | touches everybody. So I'm so happy to hear that there's |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | no initiative to take down the flag. I just think that  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | there's a misunderstanding for people who aren't maybe  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | in the know about that Pride flag and what it actually  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | represents.   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | They just possibly think, oh, you know, gay             |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | people, I think they are getting special treatment.     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | That's not necessarily the case. It is everybody. It's  |  |  |  |  |  |



| 1  | my ally mom. It's, you know, your brother, your sister.  |
|----|--|
| 2  | We are part of your community, and we are not going      |
| 3  | anywhere, so I don't understand the pushback that I keep |
| 4  | seeing. We should be encouraging these things.           |
| 5  | So, again, I'm very proud to hear that                   |
| 6  | everybody is kind of on the same page for the most part  |
| 7  | that we just want to make sure that we are sticking to   |
| 8  | diversity. I'll close just by doing a shameless plug.    |
| 9  | If you are interested in helping out with OC Pride and   |
| 10 | strengthening our community, just reach out to me,       |
| 11 | bryan@prideoc.com. B-r-y-a-n. Thank you. Awesome.        |
| 12 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.                          |
| 13 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. I want to say Mianjali            |
| 14 | Budla? Go ahead.   |
| 15 | MAYA BODLA: Hi. It's just Maya. Thank You.               |
| 16 | I forgot to change my name. Give me one second. Sorry.   |
| 17 | My connection is a bit staticky. Obvious. So hello, my   |
| 18 | name is Maya Bodla, a 15 who is FHS and a member of the  |
| 19 | LGBTQ community. The Pride flag while to others may      |
| 20 | just be a symbol of what we are and what it means and    |
| 21 | what and that's all it means to them, but to us it's     |
| 22 | so much more.  |
| 23 | You don't know how many times my heart goes              |
| 24 | racing or I get a spark of joy when I see something that |
| 25 | is friendly to us. Showing the flag at your wonderful    |

fair will help -- will really help people, who maybe like me, are just looking for a place where we can be ourselves and not risk being hurt or scorned. I've experienced that and I can assure you it is the worst feeling that someone doesn't accept you. It makes you want to crawl in a hole and disappear so you don't have to deal with what's going on.

Maybe if possible -- maybe if possible more inclusion of different people in the LGBTQ community would be nice. So I know -- as I know, some of my friends who are members do not have much representation about them. Even just having speakers of people who understand what we go through and experience would be good for us and show that you care.

Having events or information on social media can help people as like in my instance I felt like I was alone and thought there was no one I could speak to. I hope you consider my opinion. I wrote this before I realized that the flag -- that you weren't going to take it down. So really -- that you weren't -- that wasn't an issue that you're really discussing, but thank you so much for hearing me.

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.

SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. And then we have Luis Huang when you're ready.



| 1  | LUIS HUANG: Yes. Thank you. And appreciate              |
|----|---|
| 2  | the opportunity to speak with a distinguished group of  |
| 3  | OC Fair leaders. Let's flash back to 2004, I was in San |
| 4  | Francisco. I was a senior in high school, and my mayor, |
| 5  | Gavin Newsom legalized gay marriage. And I as a high    |
| 6  | school student who didn't really know anything, I saw   |
| 7  | I saw the gay marriages happening in my city at City    |
| 8  | Hall. And I thought it was the most beautiful thing.    |
| 9  | And I'm just thinking back. The whole                   |
| 10 | symbolism of taking down a Pride flag, not just at OC   |
| 11 | Fair, not just anywhere in the world now in 2021 is,    |
| 12 | like, you know, it's like going back to reversing gay   |
| 13 | marriage anywhere in the world. It's it's               |
| 14 | you know, I'm not going to mark on everything that      |
| 15 | everyone has already said but that's regressing instead |
| 16 | of progressing.   |
| 17 | So that's really my only comment. Please,               |
| 18 | please, definitely do you know let's let's              |
| 19 | let's keep the flag. And let's keep doing more for      |
| 20 | LGBT+, and let's and I'm going to end my time. Thank    |
| 21 | you so much.  |
| 22 | DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you.                         |
| 23 | SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Kovacevich, I                 |
| 24 | believe that was the last speaker that I have in the    |
| 25 | queue. I could be wrong. There's lots going on in the   |

chat, so if anybody else would like to speak. 1 2 Jackie Garcia just raised her hand -- would like to 3 speak. Go ahead, Jackie. 4 JACKIE GARCIA: Okay. Thank you. I just --I'll make it short and sweet because everybody covered 5 so much, and I really appreciate that we're having this 6 7 meeting, that we're having these conversations. And I 8 can only speak to -- I reflect on myself, a young, you know, 15-year-old gay girl in Irvine. And you know I'm just so proud of Maya and Dylan and these people 10 11 speaking up -- sorry to get emotional, but it's -- it's so true that feeling alone and not being able to talk to 12 13 anyone and not feeling like, Orange County, is there a 14 space for us? 15 And so that flag is a great start, but having 16 these conversations, figuring out a way to continue to 17 push that visibility of acceptance and safetiness in the community is huge. And I think when you think about the 18 19 fairgrounds and going to the Fair, like, I think about having my own children. And I'm getting to that point 20 where I think about, well, am I going to feel 21 22 comfortable being with my partner and being with our 23 children.

So I think about those things and it starts here, you know, I'm going to try to push and help the



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community so that, you know, I can be a proud parent. 1 2 And also, you know, if I have a child who is part of the 3 LGBT community, I want to know that they feel safe. So 4 it's just so important, so I think I'm just grateful for 5 everybody's input and bravery. I'm just astounded by it, and I hope that we can continue to work together and 6 7 collaborate and make this home our home, truly. And that's it. 8 9 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Okay. Thank you. 10 thanks everyone. I believe we have -- all the speakers 11 were able to speak. And we're right at 5:30, so it's 12 perfect timing. You know I want to, of course, thank 13 everyone. I think this was great. I hope that we can 14 continue to have dialogue. I really appreciate 15 everyone. 16 The way that you folks approached this in a very, just very professional manner and being able to 17 18 have an open dialogue about something that's important 19 to the community and also bringing up some issues. There were a lot of issues discussed outside of the 20 21 flag, which is great too. And we have taken those down, 22 and this is exactly what we hope to get out of this -out of this discussion is for ideas from the community 23

So next steps, we will be gathering this

that we can then take and put to work.



24

feedback, we've received emails, we've reviewed those, so we've gotten all the feedback there, and, of course, the survey, which we've talked about. And we'll be putting that in our report, Director Ruiz and I will, as the community affairs report for the next board meeting which is on January 28.

Again, there's not going to be any action items at the board meeting on January 28 either. So there's literally nothing scheduled to vote on, and we're just going to continue, you know, to do what we do here with this committee now that we have some direction, I think it gives us, you know, some areas that we can think about and eventually take action down the road.

So again, this was helpful. We hope to have more of these meetings and then seek more input from the community. I want to let Director Ruiz -- the opportunity to say anything he'd like to say before we adjourn the meeting.

DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you, Nick. I just wanted to thank everyone for their participation.

Lots of great input from anyone. I didn't expect it to be this much participation, but I'm glad it did. I'm sorry I have to cut out because I have another Zoom meeting coming up real shortly.

Again, I just want to thank everyone. Lots of



| great input. And like Director Kovacevich said, we're    |
|--|
|  |
| going to take this information back to our board meeting |
| on the 28th. We'll discuss it. Again, we won't be        |
| taking any action. I look forward to working with all    |
| of you in the next coming meeting and hopefully get more |
| input so we can change the OC Fair and get more          |
| diversity going in our fair in this coming year. Once    |
| again, thank, everyone for your participation.           |
| DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Thanks,                  |
|  |

DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: All right. Thanks,

Director Ruiz. And thank you to Summer for helping us

with the roll call and getting all the speakers the

opportunity to speak. I certainly learned a lot, and it

was very great to hear from everyone. So CEO Richards,

do you have any comments before we adjourn?

CEO RICHARDS: Well, I just wanted to thank everybody. This was an amazing meeting. You all are very important to us at the OC Fair & Event Center. All of your voices are important. Everyone's voice is important to us and so happy that so many of you could come and share your stories and your -- your opinions. We value them highly.

So I know the Community Affairs Committee is going to have an ongoing interest in reflecting at the OC Fair and our other programs what is important to the community at large so there will be many opportunities



```
to give feedback on this and other issues and we hope
 1
 2
     that you'll participate. So thank you everybody.
                                                           Have
     a nice evening.
 3
 4
              DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, everyone.
 5
     Take care.
 6
               (Whereupon, the OCFEC Community Affairs
     Committee Workshop was hereby adjourned at 5:33 p.m.)
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| 1  | CERTIFICATE  |
|----|--|
| 2  | OF   |
| 3  | CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER                             |
| 4  | * * *  |
| 5  |  |
| 6  |  |
| 7  | The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter of the      |
| 8  | State of California does hereby certify:                 |
| 9  | That the foregoing Proceeding was taken before me        |
| 10 | at the time and place therein set forth.                 |
| 11 | That the statements made at the time of the              |
| 12 | Proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were |
| 13 | thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true and |
| 14 | correct copy of the proceedings thereof.                 |
| 15 | In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name, this      |
| 16 | date: 1/30/2021  |
| 17 |  |
| 18 |  |
| 19 |  |
| 20 | Patricia Garrido, CSR No. 14364                          |
| 21 |  |
| 22 |  |
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