

In the Matter Of:

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR AND EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 23, 2021

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

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6	In the Matter Of:
7	ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER
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12	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
13	SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
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1	32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
2	ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER
3	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
4	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
5	9:06 A.M.
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23	Reported by:
24	Stephanie Leslie CSR No. 12893
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1	32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
2	ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER
3	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
4	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
5	9:06 A.M.
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8	Meeting of the OCFEC Board of Directors,
9	stenographically reported by Stephanie Leslie, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of
10	California, commencing at 9:06 a.m. and ending at 1:20 p.m., Thursday, September 23, 2021, Via Zoom.
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14	APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:
15	Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, Chair
16	Doug La Belle, Vice Chair Sandra Cervantes, Member
17	Ashleigh Aitken, Member Barbara Bagneris, Member
18	Nick Kovaceivch, Member Melahat Rafiei, Member Robert Ruiz, Member
19	Robert Ruiz, Member
20	ALSO PRESENT:
21	Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer
22	Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer Summer Angus, Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant
23	Joan Hamill, Chief Business Development Officer
24	
25	



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1	APPEARANCE OF BOARD COUNSEL:
2	DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSHUA CAPLAN
3	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, California 92101-3375
4	Phone: 619-738-9000 Fax: 619-645-2271
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6	
7	
8	PUBLIC SPEAKERS:
9	Senator Dave Min Rose Ann Sharp
10	Ira Sharp Niccolas
11	Julia Demlow Susan Lew
12	Piper Benom Gary Levy
13	Jim Cairns William Ortiz
14	Pat Charles Blek
15	Ash Alvandi Peter Stein
16	Mary Blek Gibran Stout
17	Tiffany Cheuvront Reggie Mundekis
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5	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
6	9:06 A.M.
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9	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I don't have the
10	material in front of me, but I would like to call
11	this meeting to order.
12	Michele, if you would do me the favor of
13	reading me the opening statements on the agenda.
14	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Sure, I'd be happy to:
15	"All matters noticed on this
16	agenda in any category may be
17	considered for action as listed.
18	"Any item not so noticed may not
19	be considered.
20	"Items listed on this agenda may
21	be considered in any order at the
22	discretion of the Chairperson.
23	"The mission of the OC Fair and
24	Events Center is celebration of
25	Orange County's communities, interests,



1	agriculture, and heritage with results
2	justifying resources expended."
3	And we will now move to the pledge.
4	Chair.
5	If you'd like to call on someone to say
6	the pledge.
7	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
8	Director Aitken, would you please lead us
9	in the Pledge of Allegiance.
10	DIRECTOR AITKEN: I'd be happy to. Thank
11	you.
12	If you're able, please rise and place your
13	right hand over your heart.
14	(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)
15	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you,
16	Director Aitken.
17	I think at this point, we are at the
18	public comment portion of the agenda; is that
19	correct, Michele?
20	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes, that's correct.
21	So let me actually, if we could have
22	roll call first, and then we'll have a motion to
23	approve the minutes.
24	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Perfect.
25	Summer, can you please take roll call.
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1		DIRECTOR AGNUS: No problem.
2		Chair Rubalcava-Garcia.
3		CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Present.
4		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Vice Chair La Belle.
5		(No response.)
6		DIRECTOR RICHARDS: He's trying to log
7	back in,	Summer. If you could help him.
8		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yeah. I'll circle back.
9		DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Thank you.
10		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Cervantes.
11		DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Here.
12		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
13		DIRECTOR RUIZ: Present.
14		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Bagneris.
15		DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Here.
16		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
17		DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.
18		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Pham.
19		(No response.)
20		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Kovacevich.
21		DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Present.
22		DIRECTOR AGNUS: And Director Rafiei.
23		DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Present.
24		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Vice Chair La Belle, are
25	you conne	ected yet?

1	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I think I'm
2	connected.
3	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Great. Thank you.
4	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'm going to go
5	ahead and turn the meeting back over to Vice Chair
6	La Belle.
7	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Vice Chair La Belle,
8	this is Director Aitken. We just did the Pledge of
9	Allegiance and roll call, so we need to just
10	we're going to be moving on to the minutes and then
11	public comment, although I think Chair
12	Rubalcava-Garcia might want to introduce our
13	brand-new board member before and her letter.
14	Excuse me.
15	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Chair Garcia, why
16	don't you go ahead and introduce our new board
17	member at this point. I know you have a schedule
18	to leave soon, so
19	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.
20	Absolutely.
21	It is my great honor to welcome Melahat
22	Rafiei to the board of directors. She is really a
23	woman who needs no introduction, but we are
24	delighted to have her complete our board.
25	I believe we are now fully with all



1	directors, so welcome, Director Rafiei.
2	Would you like to say a couple of words?
3	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Well, thank you so much,
4	Madam Chair. And I look forward to serving with
5	all of you directors. Some of you, I know; some of
6	you, I don't, but I'm looking forward to the work
7	ahead. And thank you again so much for the
8	opportunity.
9	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Absolutely.
LO	Thank you so much for making the meeting. I know
L1	you recently got the message, so thank you for
L2	carving out the time to attend today.
L3	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Okay.
L4	Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, we're now on
L5	Item 5, which is approval of the minutes from the
L6	June 24th board meeting.
L7	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.
L8	Can I please get a motion to approve
L9	the
20	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is
21	Sandra Cervantes. I so move. This is Sandra
22	Cervantes.
23	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you,
24	Director Cervantes.
25	DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz. I

1	so second.
2	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, can you
3	please take roll call.
4	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes.
5	Chair Rubalcava-Garcia.
6	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
7	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Vice Chair La Belle.
8	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.
9	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Cervantes.
10	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.
11	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
12	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.
13	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Bagneris.
14	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.
15	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
16	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.
17	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Kovacevich.
18	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.
19	DIRECTOR AGNUS: And Director Rafiei.
20	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.
21	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.
22	At this time, I am going to go ahead and
23	turn it over to Vice Chair La Belle, but when we
24	do, I wanted to make a comment as we go on to the
25	first agenda item.

1		Thank you. Director La Belle, are you on
2	the call	?
3		VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I'm on the call,
4	Michele.	My screen just shows the flags.
5		There we go.
6		Okay. Could you matters of public
7	comment,	could you make that statement?
8		DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. I would be happy
9	to.	
10		"Public comment is not allowed on
11		issues not on the current agenda.
12		However, no debate sorry.
13		"However, no debate by the board
14		shall be permitted on such public
15		comments, and no action will be taken
16		on such public-comment items at this
17		time, as law requires formal public
18		notice to any action on a docket item."
19		And let me correct that. Sorry.
20		"Public comment is allowed on
21		issues not on the current agenda."
22		Yes.
23		"Speakers are requested to sign in
24		prior to the start of the meeting and
25		are limited to three minutes.



1	"Comments will be accepted on
2	agenda items during the meeting.
3	Speakers wishing to address the board
4	on items on the agenda are requested to
5	sign in prior to the start of the
6	meeting and identify the agenda item or
7	items on which you desire to address
8	the board. Speakers are limited to
9	three minutes."
10	So Summer has been collecting those that
11	wanted to make public comment.
12	So, Summer, do you want to introduce any
13	general public comment?
14	DIRECTOR AGNUS: I don't have anything for
15	general public comment for items that are not on
16	the agenda. Most of the public comments have to do
17	with Item 8F or 8E and F.
18	But if there's anybody that has dialed in
19	and you would like to make public comment, you are
20	muted, so you will have to press Star 6 to unmute
21	yourself.
22	For general public comment, please state
23	your name, and I will put you in the queue. This
24	is for items not on the agenda.
2.5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank vou. Summer.



1	Next item?
2	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Okay.
3	The next item is the consent calendar.
4	"All matters listed under consent
5	calendar are operational matters about
6	which the board has governing policies,
7	implementation of which is delegated to
8	the CEO. They will be enacted in one
9	motion.
LO	"There will be no discussion of
L1	these items prior to the time the board
L2	of directors votes on the motion,
L3	unless members of the board, staff, or
L4	public request specific items to be
L5	discussed separately and/or removed
L6	from this section.
L7	"Any member of the public who
L8	wishes to discuss consent calendar
L9	items should notify the chair of the
20	board at the time requested and be
21	recognized by invitation of the chair
22	to address the board."
23	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: CEO Richards, do you
24	have any items that you wish to pull from the
25	consent calendar?



1	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. The staff would
2	like to pull four items not to pull them from
3	consent, but, rather, to give some background
4	information.
5	Those terms are under Standard Agreements
6	SA037-21YR, SA088-21FT, and SA134-21PA.
7	And then under Rental Agreements R05021.
8	So those are the four items. And if the
9	board would like to approve the rest of the consent
LO	calendar, I can explain those items. Or if you'd
L1	like to take them all at once, I can do the
L2	explanation now.
L3	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Do any board members
L4	have items they would like to pull?
L5	(No response.)
L6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Hearing none, do we
L7	have any public speakers on the consent calendar,
L8	Summer?
L9	DIRECTOR AGNUS: No public speakers on the
20	consent calendar.
21	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.
22	Why don't we go ahead, Michele, and review
23	those four items, and then we can act on the
24	calendar as a whole.
25	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Sure. I'll be very

1	brief.
2	There aren't any problems with any of
3	these four items, but we do want to highlight them
4	because they're a bit unusual.
5	I'll start with SA037-21YR. That is the
6	contract for our sound monitoring services.
7	And the board will remember that the
8	original bid for this contract was protested, and
9	the district elected to reissue the RFP with
10	clarification.
11	Because the Department of General Services
12	took so long in their decision on that that
13	protest, the contract from the new RFP happened
14	after the June board meeting.
15	So according to board policy, the board
16	chair signed that agreement, so service is to be in
17	place for the fair, and we're bringing the contract
18	back now on the consent calendar.
19	SA088-21FT is for employee shuttle
20	services.
21	When the original budget was approved by
22	the board in November of last year, we were
23	planning on a much smaller fair, which would not
24	have allowed employees or, sorry, which would
25	have allowed employees to park on site.

1	When we increased the daily ticket cap
2	from 30,000 to 45,000, we needed to issue an RFP
3	for an employee shuttle to bring employees in from
4	off-site locations.
5	That bid was awarded after the June board
6	meeting, and once again, the board chair signed
7	that agreement according to board policy, and we're
8	bringing that back for approval now.
9	Both the sound monitoring and the employee
LO	shuttle contracts exceed the CEO's signing
L1	authority, and that's why the board chair signed.
L2	SA134-21PA, that's for the Hank Williams,
L3	Jr. concert, which is taking place tonight, by the
L4	way, in the Pacific amphitheater.
L5	This is a revenue-generating contract for
L6	the coproduction of Hank Williams, Jr. in the
L7	Pacific amphitheater. The coproduction involves a
L8	share in the expenses and the revenue from the
L9	show, and the agreement is written actually,
20	very well written without any risk or downside to
21	the district. We will only profit from the show.
22	Because the ticket sales for that concert
23	will come through the district's Ticket Master
24	account, the amount of the contract is over the

CEO's signing authority of \$400,000 for

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1	entertainment contracts, so the amount on the
2	contract reflects the maximum gross potential of
3	ticket sales for that concert. It does not
4	represent the amount of expense to the district.
5	So I wanted to make that very clear.
6	And then, lastly, R05021 under Rental
7	Agreements, we are pulling this item to highlight
8	it for the board.
9	This is a rental agreement for the August
LO	Cross-Roads of the West gun show, which was held
L1	last month. This contract was in place before
L2	SB264 was passed in the legislature, but after the
L3	last board meeting in June, and we know that this
L4	is a topic of great interest for the board, so we
L5	wanted to highlight that on the consent calendar as
L6	well.
L7	So those are the four items that we wanted
L8	to highlight.
L9	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Is there a motion to
20	approve the consent calendar?
21	DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz. I
22	so move that we accept it.
23	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is
24	Sandra Cervantes. Second. Okay.
25	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Summer, can

1	you call	the roll, please?
2		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia,
3	if she's	still on the line.
4		CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
5		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you.
6		Vice Chair La Belle.
7		VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.
8		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Cervantes.
9		DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.
10		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
11		(No response.)
12		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
13		DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. Yes.
14		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
15		Director Bagneris.
16		DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.
17		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
18		(No response.)
19		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
20		DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.
21		DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
22		Director Kovacevich.
23		DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.
24		DIRECTOR AGNUS: And Director Rafiei.
25		DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

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1	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
2	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Vice Chair La Belle,
3	that now concludes the consent calendar items, and
4	we're now ready to move to the governance process
5	with the first item.
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. CEO Richards,
7	as the prerogative of the chair, I'm going to move
8	Items 8E and 8F up on the agenda, so we'll begin
9	with Item 8E.
10	If you could go ahead and introduce the
11	item and then present staff comments. Then
12	following that, I'd like to request that we have
13	the comments from the speakers before we turn it
14	over to the directors.
15	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. This item was on
16	the agenda for a meeting of the board of directors
17	held last Monday, September 13th. There was a lot
18	of great discussion on this item on behalf of the
19	board members.
20	In the end, the board elected to table
21	this item and bring it back to this meeting.
22	But just as a matter of background,
23	following the September 13th meeting, as secretary
24	of the board of directors, I took copious notes
25	during that discussion and captured what I thought

1	were all of the ideas and sentiments
2	perspectives of individual board members during
3	that discussion.
4	Following the meeting, I redrafted a
5	letter that was reflective of those comments, and
6	that was included in the staff report.
7	So what is before the board of directors
8	today is a continuation of that discussion on the
9	communication to the governor's office regarding
LO	the economic impact of SB264 on the OC Fair and
L1	Events Center.
L2	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.
L3	Summer, did we have any speakers on
L4	Item 8E?
L5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: We do.
L6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.
L7	DIRECTOR AGNUS: If I can call Senator Min
L8	and/or Ash Alvandi followed by James Black
L9	[verbatim], Rose Ann Sharp, and Ira Sharp to start.
20	Senator Min, when you're ready.
21	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, if I may,
22	with the balance, may I give a comment on public
23	comment on the
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Go ahead.
25	(Telephone interruption.)

1	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.
2	I just wanted to also let the board know
3	that I did consult with legal counsel from Senator
4	Dave Min's office, and he did confirm what I had
5	thought, that we do have legislative as well as
6	as well as
7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Can we get someone
8	muted?
9	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Please. If you're
10	not speaking
11	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Sorry. I'll
12	start over. But I did have a chance to speak with
13	Josh Caplan, and he did confirm that the board
14	as policy makers appointed by the governor, we
15	are you know our scope goes far beyond the
16	(audio distortion) of the organization.
17	We are creating policy that governs the
18	direction for the staff here at the OC Fair and
19	Events Center.
20	And he did also confirm that the board has
21	legislated, as well as qualified immunity for any
22	actions taken on behalf of the OC Fair and Events
23	Center, and that would include any communications
24	sent to the governor, just simply making sure that
25	he has a heads-up and is aware of what has happened

1	to the OC Fair and Events Center and the reasons
2	why we might be opposing legislation that only
3	impacts the 32nd DAA and not all the other 59 DAAs
4	throughout the state.
5	That would also cover, if the board shows
6	up at their pleasure, decides to review any
7	contracts as requested by these promoters, to
8	consider hosting these events next year, since that
9	legislation has not been signed into law yet.
10	So I just wanted to make sure that
11	everybody was aware of that.
12	And Josh Caplan is on the call, so he
13	if you have questions, he can answer those further.
14	We also did receive word from DEFA or,
15	actually, I don't think it was DEFA, but it was the
16	Department of Agriculture, letting us know that we,
17	as a political body, have the ability to send a
18	letter to the governor and make him aware of how
19	the fair would be impacted.
20	So those are my comments, and we can go
21	ahead and take public comment now.
22	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Senator Min. When
23	you're ready.
24	SENATOR MIN: Sure. Thank you, by the
25	way.



1	And just as a procedural matter, I have a
2	time conflict a little bit later. Since this is my
3	bill that is primarily being discussed in Items 8E
4	and 8F, and because I understand that I was
5	actually my name has been discussed, and I guess
6	it's on the slide right now, I was wondering if I
7	could have a few extra minutes and just give
8	something like a five- to six-minute comment on
9	both Items 8E and 8F right now.
LO	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Senator Min, that
L1	would be fine. Take all the time you need.
L2	SENATOR MIN: Thank you very much. Thank
L3	you much, Chair La Belle. I appreciate it.
L4	And before I begin my remarks, I just want
L5	to commend you all and the staff of the fairgrounds
L6	for your outstanding work in putting together a
L7	tremendous Orange County Fair this year. I know
L8	how challenging it's been dealing with the COVID-19
L9	pandemic, and I wanted to congratulate you all on
20	putting together a very fun and hugely popular fair
21	this year.
22	Now, as you know, I am the author of SB264
23	which you are here to discuss today, and I realize
24	there would be many people attending this virtual

meeting who would disagree with SB264. Clearly

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there are people on this board who disagree with this bill, but I want to be clear this is what I -the people I represent in the 37th Senate district, which includes the fairgrounds, clearly want. As you may have heard and/or read, the

genesis of this bill came in 2019 near the beginning of my campaign for the state senate.

It was the weekend when we had the El Paso and Dayton mass shootings. My family and I came out to the fairgrounds that Sunday for family fun run and as we crossed the finish line, all of us, including my youngest, who was in a running stroller, were handed flyers to the gun show for the following weekend.

Now, this was very shocking to us given the events that had just occurred. You know, when I was growing up, the county fairgrounds were known as family-friendly venues.

In addition to the county fairs, you have rodeos, 4-H events and other family-friendly Today they're almost synonymous with gun events. The average county fairground across the shows. state hosts five qun shows a year, and I'm told that the OC Fair and Events Center has often held more than that.

That weekend, I pledged that if I was successful in my campaign for the state senate, the very first bill I introduced would be one ending the gun shows at the OC Fairgrounds.

I was very public and transparent about this. We issued press releases and that campaign promise was covered by numerous media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times.

I did, indeed, win that election and I followed through with my promise. The very first bill I introduced was SB264, which, as originally written, would have ended gun shows not only on the OC Fairgrounds, but on all state-owned property across the state.

Now, I understand that several of you asked why this bill was narrowed at the last minute to only cover Orange County. The change was made by the Assembly of Appropriations Committee through hostile amendment -- that was not my choice -- which was forced upon the bill.

My understanding is that many opponents of SB264, including the NRA, the California Rifle and Pistol Association, and Cross-Roads of the West, were lobbying for this very change, and apparently they were successful.

Now, I'll confess, I was disappointed the
bill was narrowed. We were confident we had the
votes to get a statewide ban through the assembly
and signed by the governor, and as you have may
have read, I have pledged to introduce a new bill
next year seeking to ban gun shows on state
property once again.
But at the same time, I've continued to

But at the same time, I've continued to push SB264 because I believe it still achieves important public policy purposes.

The fact of the matter is that we are in a gun violence crisis in this country, in this state, and, yes, in this community, and gun shows clearly are a major contributor to that crisis.

So ending gun shows at the OC Fairground, as I promised to do starting in the summer of -- back in the summer of 2019, is an important step towards making our communities safer.

Despite the claims being made that there are no sales of illegal or unlicensed firearms that take place at gun shows, that is clearly not true.

The California Bureau of Firearms has repeatedly found evidence of so-called straw sales and other sales of unlicensed guns at gun shows, including at the OC Fairgrounds.

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local economy.

1	Ghost guns, which are essentially gun kits
2	not typically equipped with serial numbers, and
3	which are I personally saw being sold
4	cash-and-carry out of the gun shows at the
5	OC Fairgrounds are an increasingly popular item at
6	gun shows.
7	But I will also say that even if there
8	were zero sales of unlicensed guns at gun shows,
9	they are still a major contributor to gun violence.
10	The fact is that the vast majority of guns
11	used in crimes were originally purchased through
12	legal avenues, including gun shows.
13	The vast majority of guns used in
14	incidents of gun violence, whether homicides,
15	suicides, assaults or accidents, were originally
16	purchased through legal avenues such as gun shows.
17	At each of these incidents of gun
18	violence, such as the mass shooting earlier this
19	year or the tragic murder of Aiden Leos on the 55
20	in an act of road rage or any of the shootings that
21	have plagued Orange County this year is like a
22	neutron bomb for the victim's family, friends, and
23	local community and has massive impacts on our

And the evidence is clear that more guns

1	lead to more gun violence. This is true whether we
2	compare country to country, state to state, county
3	to county, or even household to household.
4	And while I respect the Constitution and
5	the Bill of Rights, including the Second Amendment,
6	there is no requirement the State of California has
7	to be an accessory to, has to profit off the sale
8	of guns, when we know that this would invariably
9	lead to more gun violence and the astronomical
10	moral and social and economic cost.
11	And that is what SB264 is about. It's
12	about getting California out of the business of
13	selling guns, even if for this point, that's just
14	for one fairground.
15	And let's be clear, this bill is only
16	necessary because this board has continued to
17	insist on hosting gun shows at the OC Fairgrounds
18	despite overwhelming opposition from the local
19	community.
20	Now, several of you have explained to me
21	you don't believe
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Senator, could you
23	begin to wrap it up soon here, please?
24	SENATOR MIN: Thank you. I'll wrap it up
25	soon.



Several of you have explained to me you
don't believe you have any choice but to contract
for these gun shows, that no matter how strongly
the local communities oppose, your role is not to
represent people but simply to maintain the fiscal
solvency of the fairgrounds.

In fact, I vividly remember a conversation with the chair in which he told me something to the effect of: We have to take these gun contracts under current law. If you change the law to ban gun shows, we'll happily follow the law, but our job isn't to be politicians.

And that is a fair point. You are not elected representatives, you are gubernatorial appointees, and you do have limited discretion at times on responding to political concerns.

But what I would say is that your elected representatives have spoken loudly and clearly. I expressly ran on a campaign of ending gun shows at the OC Fairgrounds and I was elected with over 270,000 votes from my district.

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, who also represents the fairgrounds, has endorsed this bill. We passed SB264 out of the legislature with an overwhelming majority, and it's now going to the

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desk of Governor Newsom, who has previously said
 1
 2
     that permitting the sale of firearms and
 3
     ammunition, quote, "on state-owned property only
 4
     perpetuates" --
              CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I think this is
 5
     fine.
 6
 7
              VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, it is.
 8
              SENATOR MIN: Now, as a political matter,
 9
     this issue is a signed --
10
              VICE CHAIR LA BELLE:
                                    Senator --
11
              SENATOR MIN: -- disagree or agree with
12
     SB264 is a valid and transparent product of our
13
     democracy in action and I'm only asking you --
14
              VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Senator, you've had
15
     more than enough time.
16
              SENATOR MIN: I'm going to be asking you
17
     to be consistent with your past statements and the
18
     law --
19
              (Cross-talk.)
20
              VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Please, Senator,
21
     respect the request of the --
22
              SENATOR MIN: -- 264, and that means not
23
     signing a long-term contract --
24
              (Cross-talk.)
25
              VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Please request that
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30

1	the board chair should not I think you've made
2	your point very clear, and thank you very much for
3	your comments.
4	Summer, next item.
5	Next speaker, please.
6	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And then, Doug, I
7	just want to also comment on something. I know
8	that the board has discussed in the past the
9	viewpoint-neutral stance that we take on certain
10	topics.
11	If an item is legal in the State of
12	California, we are viewpoint neutral on the topic.
13	It's not a personal choice to choose what is held
14	on the fairgrounds.
15	I I just also want to comment, since
16	the senator pointed out me directly, his statement
17	is not accurate, and that is not an accurate
18	account of the conversation that we had, so I just
19	wanted to put that on the record.
20	But we are this board is intended to be
21	a viewpoint-neutral, and to indicate that one
22	type of event held on our fairgrounds is not
23	family-friendly is not really something for us to
24	determine.
25	There are there are different types of

1	families who choose to do different types of
2	activities.
3	That concludes my comment.
4	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I appreciate your
5	comment.
6	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Chair
7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Go ahead,
8	Robert.
9	DIRECTOR RUIZ: If we could be fair with
10	all the other speakers and just stick to the amount
11	of minutes that are allowed to the other speakers,
12	regardless of what status that person holds, I
13	would greatly appreciate it.
14	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I will do that. I
15	wanted to, out of respect for the senator, allow
16	him some additional time, but he did exceed that.
17	SENATOR MIN: Thank you. And I apologize.
18	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.
19	Summer, next speaker, please.
20	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. We have
21	James Black [verbatim] rescinded his comments, so
22	the next person is Rose Ann Sharp.
23	When you're ready
24	(No response.)
25	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Rose, are you there?
	20

1	MS. SHARP: Yes, I am. I'm sorry. I
2	thought someone was speaking ahead of me.
3	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Go right ahead.
4	MS. SHARP: Yes. Good morning.
5	My name is Rose Ann Sharp, and I am the
6	founder of Never Again CA. I am a neighbor in
7	Del Mar. I frequently am in Orange County and have
8	attended your Cross-Roads gun show.
9	It is well-documented that firearms and
10	ammunition purchased and stolen from your gun show
11	transit through Del Mar on their way to Mexico.
12	Like each of you, I also headed up a
13	business and several organizations. I have
14	attended virtually many of your board meetings, and
15	your last one made me wonder: Why does a board
16	appointed by the governor think it is good business
17	to send the governor, who is the CEO of our state,
18	a letter telling him about a million-dollar impact
19	loss from a gun show when the governor is already
20	on record signing AB893, which stopped the sale of
21	firearms and ammunitions at the Del Mar
22	Fairgrounds?
23	Why does the board, appointed by the
24	governor, want to challenge the legislation of an
25	elected official, Dave Min, and that of an elected

legislature, when the business of the board is to represent all of the citizens who enjoy benefits of the Orange County Fairgrounds?

Then why does a board appointed by the governor with \$50 million in revenues in 2018 and only one bad audit, which was corrected, think it is good business to tell the governor that this board, filled with business and organization leaders, does not have the ability to replace a million dollars of income when the governor has specifically stated that if California continues to permit the sale of firearms and ammunition on state-owned property, we are sending a signal that we value the sale of firearms above the lives of Americans?

Lastly, someone at the last board meeting described the gun show as a family-friendly event. Well, that may be what you saw during the curated tour with Mr. Templeton.

What I saw -- and I have pictures to prove it -- was Nazi (audio distortion) T-shirts with hateful slogans, and a small child in the aisle swinging a wooden machete as large as he was, and adults not wanting to go down that aisle for fear.

I saw a woman breast-feeding her baby in



1	front of a table full of unsecured large hunting
2	knives easily lifted on the spot.
3	I saw the dual incentives between
4	Cross-Roads and the NRA members, and, of course,
5	ghost guns.
6	Yes, it is all legal. Ghost guns that
7	look like a gun, shoot like a gun, and kill like a
8	gun, but are totally untraceable.
9	I believe it is not good business to bring
10	these weapons of death into our communities on
11	state-owned property.
12	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Could you please
13	wrap up your comments, please.
14	MS. SHARP: Yes. I ask you, with all your
15	experience, I hope you can answer your letter
16	answer in your letter how this is good business for
17	Orange County and your neighbors in San Diego.
18	Thank you.
19	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Summer, before we
20	have the next speaker, I'm very appreciative of the
21	fact that there are strong feelings on both sides
22	of this issue. We certainly want everyone to get
23	their thoughts out for the benefit of the board,
24	but if you can all try to adhere to the
25	three-minute limit, it would be very much



1	appreciated. I don't want to be in a situation of
2	needing to cut other speakers off.
3	I did allow, out of respect for
4	Senator Min, who is the author of the bill I did
5	allow him additional time to articulate his
6	thoughts.
7	So let's just try to stay focused, if we
8	can.
9	Summer, next speaker, please.
LO	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes.
L1	Vice Chair La Belle, I am timing the
L2	speakers, just so you know.
L3	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Perfect. Okay.
L4	Thank you so much.
L5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: We have Ira Sharp next.
L6	Ira, when you're ready.
L7	MR. SHARP: Okay. Good morning. I'm
L8	Ira Sharp, the cofounder, with Rose Ann Sharp, of
L9	Never Again CA.
20	In correspondence, and in the debate on
21	September 13 regarding the proposed letter of the
22	governor, much was made by some of the fact that
23	SB264 was amended in the state assembly to apply
24	solely to the 32nd DAA.
25	The insinuation was that this was somehow

25

1	unfair or nefarious. And nothing could be further
2	from the truth.
3	It's simply due to the fact that this is
4	the way the assembly operates. No member will
5	support a bill that applies to another assembly
6	member's district, unless that assembly member has
7	signed on to the bill.
8	When San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria was in
9	the assembly, he authored AB893, which solely
10	applied to the ban on the sale of firearms to the
11	Del Mar Fairgrounds.
12	Active chapters of Never Again CA and
13	several other counties asked them to include their
14	fairgrounds, and he conferred with the assembly
15	members who had those fairgrounds in their
16	district.
17	When they decided not to support a ban in
18	their district, the draft bill was narrowed to
19	22nd DAA.
20	That's what happened to SB264. When it
21	got through appropriations and when it was clear
22	that no other assembly member wished to add their
23	fairgrounds to the legislation, they were dropped.
24	It's totally just disingenuous to suggest

that any other motive was at work.

1	And I would like to make one further
2	response to something that the chair said earlier.
3	It's very clear in the regulations that govern
4	fairgrounds that each fairground is to make a
5	decision of its own based on the input from its
6	community.
7	It is not, as the chair implied, an
8	obligation to allow everything. We don't allow
9	cannabis. We don't allow other things. We make
10	those decisions in banning gun shows or the sale
11	of firearms on the fairgrounds is certainly one
12	that we should have made before and the assembly's
13	made for you and that you should not oppose. You
14	should embrace it to get back to your mission of
15	being family-friendly and a favorable place for all
16	people of Orange County.
17	Thank you very much.
18	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you, Ira.
19	I'm going to call the next group of
20	speakers. There was a Niccolas, followed by Susan
21	Lew, Julia Demlow, Piper Benom, Gary Levy, and
22	Jim Cairns.
23	Nicholas, when you're ready.
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: And, again, let's
25	all try to work to keep it to the three minutes,

25

1 please. 2 NICCOLAS: Thank you. Can you hear me? Go ahead. 3 DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Okay. I want to thank the 4 NICCOLAS: board for this meeting and the senator for his 5 time, and thank you all for allowing the speaker to 6 7 go on this public comment. 8 So briefly, just to -- really, I'm just a 9 concerned citizen. I have -- you know, I have 10 kids, and my daughter and I -- we went not too long 11 ago to the -- to a fairground, and we were actually 12 learning, and she got to shoot, you know, some 13 BB guns and got to experience what it was to, you 14 know, hold a gun and all the safety and everything. 15 And that's one thing I just want to 16 mention briefly, is that one thing that the senator 17 and many individuals don't realize is that the 18 impact that it has, obviously, on all of Southern 19 California, that when you take away a gun show, be 20 it in Orange County or Del Mar or anywhere, is that 21 you have a -- you have an absence of education, an 22 absence of a culture that is a healthy promoter. 23 You know, I think the State is -- it would 24 behoove the State to promote a good culture, there

by legal means of individuals.

While there may be nefarious things that
do happen, maybe, according to the senator I
didn't hear any facts presented other than just
hearsay, but if you don't have a legal culture,
then you don't promote that the mindset around
good what would be considered gun control or gun
education.
And I think that's critical for citizens

And I think that's critical for citizens who want to be law abiding, such as myself, and who want to have that ability to, you know, pass on to the next generation, you know, how to do it right and to be current on present-day issues regarding whatever it might be in regards to firearms.

I just think that aside from the fiscal impact, you're also taking away the cultural and educational impact that could be toward the betterment.

Because, remember, you're taking away, and what are you -- you're leaving a vacuum of education, of culture that you're not replacing with anything. You're just saying, "No. Take it away, and replace it with nothing."

And so I'm asking -- so the people who are law abiding, who do want those kinds of things, you know, what -- what are you giving them in return?

1	What are the other options, "Well, just go figure
2	it out," when you have in place right now, a
3	mechanism that can act as a positive force.
4	And I support the board in its putting
5	forward of a asking the governor to veto. I
6	myself have written to the governor to veto that.
7	And I just Senator, I believe you're
8	wrong when you think you only speak for everybody
9	in that regard.
LO	I think that you need to take into
L1	consideration the impact over all of Southern
L2	California and others who may be opposed to that.
L3	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you,
L4	Niccolas. That is time.
L5	NICCOLAS: Thank you.
L6	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
L7	Next up we have Julia Demlow.
L8	Julia, when you're ready.
L9	MS. DEMLOW: Hello. Can you hear me?
20	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Go right ahead.
21	MS. DEMLOW: Thank you. D-E-M-L-O-W.
22	I want to thank the board for giving us
23	the opportunity to speak today, and also to thank
24	the board for the fair that just went on that my
2.5	family and I participated in, and for tonight's



1	concert, the Hank Williams concert, which I will
2	also be attending. So I look forward to continuing
3	to enjoy events like this at the fairgrounds.
4	In regards to today, the letter being sent
5	to the governor, I'd kind of like to go through a
6	few points that I noticed on this letter, that I
7	found troubling.
8	In the first paragraph, it talks about no
9	state official, including Senator Dave Min,
10	reaching out to the board and (audio distortion)
11	to inquire about economic input.
12	First of all, as everyone knows, when a
13	bill does go through the legislative process, it
14	goes through an appropriations committee on both
15	the assembly side and the senate side, which is
16	fully responsible for looking at the economic
17	impacts, and those were looked at.
18	But we also and passed both the
19	state or the senate and the assembly side even
20	after looking at the economic impacts on the
21	fairgrounds' revenue.
22	We also have to take into consideration
23	the economic impacts that the State of California
24	incurs in regards to gun violence, which is

costs California \$81 billion a year, based on the

25

1	last Giffords report that was submitted to the
2	U.S. House of Representatives National Report on
3	the cost of gun violence throughout the country.
4	\$81 billion that California spends on gun
5	violence each year is a much bigger issue than the
6	lost revenue at the OC Fairgrounds, which I feel
7	fully confident with the fairgrounds staff that
8	that revenue will be recouped with even better and
9	more exciting events that the whole community can
10	enjoy.
11	Also, I had a concern in that and I
12	think Dave Min Senator Min discussed this
13	that Senator Min's campaign was fully transparent
14	in what he ran on, the platform of removing gun
15	shows at state-owned property.
16	And he and or Assemblywoman Cottie
17	Petrie-Norris both won their campaigns, and the
18	people have elected those representatives in order
19	to move forward on this initiative.
20	Now, as has been explained in another
21	state, AB893 was signed into law ending gun shows
22	in Del Mar, and then SB281 was actually to end gun
23	shows at Cal Palos Fairgrounds.
24	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay, Julia. That is
25	time. Thank you.

1	Next up, we have Susan Lew.
2	Susan, when you're ready.
3	MS. LEW: Hi. Good morning, everyone.
4	Okay. I heard an echo.
5	I wanted to thank the Fair board for
6	discussing this and allowing public comment.
7	To the comment that taking away gun shows
8	takes away from safety education, that is a
9	disingenuous argument. Gun safety can be taught in
10	community events like the Family Night Out that
11	every city hosts in August each year.
12	This is where families learn about fire
13	safety, earthquake safety, car seat safety, road
14	safety; and firearm safety can be added to events
15	like that without also promoting the sale of deadly
16	weapons and promoting the sale of the items that
17	specifically can harm children in their homes
18	accidentally.
19	I really urge the Fair board to reconsider
20	sending this letter expressing disdain for the law
21	that has been passed by the state legislature and
22	that was introduced by an elected official and that
23	has wide community support.
24	We all care so much about public safety,
25	and gun shows may have been something that we've

1	done forever, but we that doesn't mean that we
2	have to continue them.
3	It's been shown that guns in the
4	community the more guns in the community, the
5	more gun deaths. And as a public health
6	professional, I view this as a public health
7	problem.
8	And the OC Fair board, as a community a
9	set of community leaders should care more about
10	public health than finances.
11	Thank you very much.
12	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
13	Next up we have Piper Benom, B-E-N-O-M.
14	MS. BENOM: Hi. Good morning. I am an
15	Orange County resident, and I strongly support the
16	ban on gun shows at the fairground. The loss of
17	revenue from gun shows is not critical to the
18	Orange County Fair.
19	When Del Mar Fairground ended their gun
20	shows, they developed a strategic plan to replace
21	that lost revenue, and I think that Orange County
22	should do the same.
23	Orange County voted for Senator Min based
24	on his promise to introduce this legislation. This
25	is what the voters wanted and the taxpayers wanted.

1	I just am urging the board to follow the
2	spirit of SB264, which passed through the State
3	legislature with overwhelming and broad support.
4	Approving gun shows for 2022 or beyond
5	goes against the spirit of SB264 and directly
6	against the will of the voters and the families and
7	the communities that you serve. Thank you.
8	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you, Piper.
9	Next up we have Gary Levy or Levy.
10	MR. LEVY: It's Gary Levy, L-E-V-Y. Thank
11	you for taking me, ma'am.
12	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Go right ahead.
13	MR. LEVY: I'd like to express my support
14	for this board to send a letter to the governor
15	saying that they support gun shows in California
16	and they reject this Senate Bill 264.
17	A lot of lies are told about guns and gun
18	ownership: One, no guns are obtained at a gun
19	show. It just doesn't happen. It's just a big lie
20	that's been promulgated.
21	The lies about the causes of violence in
22	mass shootings okay. They didn't get them at
23	gun shows. These are criminals.
24	Gun owners lawful gun owners are not
25	the cause of violence in this society.

1	We had Senator Min and Ms. Sharp talk
2	about well-documented cases and major contributors
3	that obtain these implements of destruction at a
4	gun store.
5	Well, my question is this: They provided
6	no facts. Where are the prosecutions for these
7	well-documented violations at these gun stores?
8	The second thing I'd like to talk about is
9	restraint of trade. Most of these booths and
10	businesses at small at gun shows are small
11	businesses.
12	My first job was at the Orange County
13	Fairgrounds. It wasn't at the gun show, but it was
14	another event that promulgated small businesses.
15	But not only firearms are not all
16	businesses are firearms-related. There's a lot of
17	hunting, fishing, outdoors, even photography
18	businesses that participate in these gun shows.
19	The other thing I'd like to say is it
20	represents a culture of like-minded people, and it
21	violates the First Amendment if you try to cancel
22	that. There is something called freedom of
23	association. It's part of the First Amendment.
24	I grew up in Orange County, and, again, a
25	lot of these businesses that go to gun shows are

1	garage businesses. They start in people's garages.
2	I think this is a punishment for
3	Orange County. It's another carve-out where
4	they're singling out Orange County just like they
5	singled out Huntington Beach and they singled out
6	Orange County beaches and stuff for the pandemic
7	because the governor does not like Orange County.
8	It would not fly if it was a statewide ban at all
9	fairgrounds.
10	I think you stated your intent on what the
11	board what this board is supposed to do: It's
12	supposed to promulgate communities and culture in
13	Orange County, and this is part of the community
14	and culture of Orange County, and it should be
15	allowed to continue at the Orange County
16	Fairgrounds. Thank you.
17	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you.
18	Next up we have Jim Cairns. Jim, when
19	you're ready, if you are still on the line.
20	(No response.)
21	DIRECTOR AGNUS: One last call for Jim.
22	(No response.)
23	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Next up, we have William
24	Ortiz.
25	William, when you're ready.



1	MR. ORTIZ: Thank you for the opportunity
2	to speak.
3	I just would like to express my support
4	for the board to send out a letter to the governor
5	to ask him to veto these a bill. I have
6	personally written, as well, a request to the
7	governor.
8	I believe that the premise of this bill
9	that the gun shows pose a danger to the community
10	could not be any farther from the truth.
11	I have personally attended gun shows in
12	this community. I can attest that they're just as
13	safe as any other public event.
14	The purpose of this bill it just seems
15	to be interpreted that it's an attack on
16	law-abiding citizens and legal activities that are
17	actually protected by the U.S. Constitution.
18	And I do I understand that the board is
19	to be not it should be blind to what kind of
20	activity this is, but it is an activity that it
21	is supported by the community, and we have
22	communities that of like-minded attendants that
23	go to that community, and it's actually very, very
24	safe.
25	And I think the board should support the



1	view of those who are like-minded for sportsmanship
2	or firearms-related events.
3	Thank you very much.
4	DIRECTOR AGNUS: All right. Thank you,
5	William.
6	That concludes public comment on this
7	item.
8	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Let's bring it back
9	to the board for discussion.
10	Any comments from board members?
11	MR. BURTON: Can you allow one more public
12	comment, please? I'm sorry.
13	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Sure. That's fine.
14	Go ahead. And your name?
15	MR. BURTON: My name is Pat Burton. And
16	I'm sorry. I didn't realize that I had to sign up
17	in advance.
18	Just good morning, and thank you for the
19	opportunity to speak when I didn't sign up in
20	advance.
21	I just wanted to say that I fully respect
22	Senator Min's right to say that gun shows are not
23	friendly for his family and it's right to not take
24	his family to gun shows, but I would completely
25	draw the line at the fact of him saying that they

1	are not friendly for my family.
2	Four children, 15 grandchildren, and I see
3	them as perfectly family-friendly events. I think
4	the person who spoke up the lady who spoke up
5	after Senator Min spoke was correct, and the fact
6	that that is a very subjective statement.
7	For example, you mentioned that tonight
8	there is a Hank Williams, Jr. concert. And I would
9	say that there are people out there that would say
10	that that is not a family-friendly event. That is
11	left for families to decide.
12	So I respect Senator Min's decision for
13	his family, but I draw the line where he tries to
14	make the decision for my family.
15	Second, when the meeting began and the
16	mission of the Fair board was read, I would see
17	these gun shows as perfectly consistent with that
18	mission, and I think the past history of these gun
19	shows has demonstrated that.
20	And so I would say that this is consistent
21	with the mission of the fair.
22	And then just, lastly, also, as the lady
23	who spoke up after Senator Min spoke as I
24	followed this legislation through the California

legislature, it's been filled with his inaccurate

25

1	statements constantly, and someone called him on
2	several inconsistencies just this morning as he
3	spoke, with unsubstantiated facts.
4	So as a law-abiding person who sees the
5	value of gun shows and sees the enjoyment of gun
6	shows and sees the constitutional protection for
7	gun shows, I would just urge you, as a board, to
8	contact the governor and in opposition to
9	asking him to veto this law.
LO	And I would also urge you to continue to
L1	contract for gun shows for those of us who see them
L2	as family-friendly and see the value and the
L3	enjoyment of them.
L4	So thank you very much for the opportunity
L5	to speak and for your consideration and your
L6	potential action. Thank you.
L7	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
L8	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. One last
L9	time, any other public comments?
20	(No response.)
21	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Let's bring
22	it back to the board for board discussion and
23	action.
24	Fellow board members?
25	MR. BLEK: Excuse me, but this is Charles

52

1	Blek. I understand we signed up for public
2	comment.
3	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. We don't
4	believe we have that.
5	MR. BLEK: It's Mary Lee Blek and Charles
6	Blek.
7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Do you have that,
8	Summer?
9	DIRECTOR AGNUS: I have a James Black
10	[verbatim] on the that wanted to speak, but then
11	rescinded.
12	If I missed you, Charles, I apologize.
13	MR. BLEK: No. I came on this is
14	Charles Blek, B-L-E-K. And you should also have
15	Mary Lee Blek, B-L-E-K.
16	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Apologies if I missed
17	you.
18	Charles, go ahead.
19	MR. BLEK: Thank you.
20	I am Charles Blek. I am a retired
21	attorney. I'm past president of Brady
22	Orange County and currently an active board member.
23	I had the privilege of offering testimony
24	at the public safety committees of our state senate
25	and assembly in support of SB264.

1	I am a long-time resident of Orange County
2	and have been involved in this advocacy for better
3	than 25 years. In that time, I have witnessed a
4	real change in the philosophy of our county.
5	In regards to this item, the prohibition
6	of gun shows at the Orange County fairgrounds, it
7	would appear that the focus has shifted from when I
8	last spoke to you ten days ago with a current
9	emphasis on money.
10	With that in mind, please note that guns
11	and gun violence are costing the State of
12	California 14 billion, at \$14 billion annually.
13	Why in the world should our state promote and
14	facilitate the sale of guns, either actual or
15	ghosts?
16	The Orange County Fairgrounds should never
17	again host any gun show, period.
18	Thank you for your consideration.
19	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Is there one more
20	speaker, I believe?
21	MS. BLEK: I will speak I will speak
22	later on the discuss of the vote to approve,
23	preapprove gun contracts for gun shows. I'll do it
24	later.
25	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.

1	One last time, any other public comments?
2	(No response.)
3	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Let's bring
4	it back to the board for board discussion.
5	Board comments?
6	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah, Chair. This is
7	Director Ruiz.
8	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Go ahead, Robert.
9	DIRECTOR RUIZ: You know, I want to thank
LO	all the speakers who came to speak this morning,
L1	whether they're for the show or not for the show.
L2	There's a lot of unanswered questions here
L3	as far as you know, I know dissenters spoke
L4	about the majority of the people in the district
L5	wanting this gun show gone.
L6	I was just wondering if there was a poll
L7	taken of all the constituents and what the results
L8	of this poll were or was this just his opinion.
L9	The other one, this letter is just to let
20	the governor know to reconsider this, of the
21	economic impact it's going to take of the 32nd DAA.
22	And as a steward of the 32nd DAA, that's a
23	concern of mine.
24	We can sit here all day and argue what's
25	family-friendly and what isn't. You know, we have

25

1	tattoo shows they're on the grounds that
2	people can say: That's not family-friendly. Some
3	people may consider that family-friendly. I don't
4	know.
5	And so, you know, I don't think any of the
6	directors here, you know, can would disagree
7	that gun violence is a problem.
8	But there's a lot of questions that are
9	left unanswered when it comes to that.
10	So I'm in support of sending the letter
11	because I was somewhat disappointed with how the
12	process went through, how this was basically just
13	shoved down our throats. And I was under the
14	assumption that this was going to be for all state
15	fairgrounds.
16	And I know, Director La Belle, you had
17	asked the question last meeting of why did it just
18	all of a sudden come down OC right before the bill
19	was approved.
20	So that's a question that I would like
21	answered as well. Because, you know, there's other
22	senators who have not only one DAA, two, ten
23	some of them have even more. Why all of a sudden
24	this was changed and only affected us?



So as a steward of the 32nd DAA, this is a

1	huge economic impact, not only on us, but on small
2	businesses.
3	Someone made a comment, you know: This is
4	just not all about guns. I've been to this gun
5	show, and I've seen families having beef jerky,
6	selling peanuts, what have you. So that's my
7	concern.
8	I know I have reached out to the senator
9	prior to this bill being approved, and I asked if
LO	he could delay this bill until we, as a board, can
L1	come together and come up with a solution to
L2	replace the almost million dollars that we're about
L3	to lose if this was to go through.
L4	He said, "Okay. Let me talk to my staff."
L5	No one ever got back to me. No one ever
L6	got back to me.
L7	So I'm disappointed, again, in the way
L8	that the bill went through. I still stand by
L9	that this letter, and I just wanted to hear from
20	the other board members and see what their thoughts
21	are.
22	Thank you.
23	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you,
24	Director Ruiz.
25	Other board member comments?



1	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is
2	Sandra Cervantes. I attended the gun show for the
3	first time, and I think another really important
4	component that I saw were a lot of safeguards that
5	have been placed for education.
6	And as Director Rubalcava-Garcia stated,
7	and also Director Ruiz, you know, there might be a
8	lot of different ranges of normal on what we
9	perceive to believe that is family-friendly or not.
10	Some people might assume that family-friendly is
11	not the rainbow flag that we have on the grounds.
12	So with that said, I think that it is also
13	very, very important that we do have a safety
14	component in place. And I think that the gun show
15	provides this at large, and I will support as well
16	the letter.
17	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Chair La Belle, this is
18	Director Rafiei. If I may address everyone. I
19	want to well, this is my first board meeting,
20	but it's not the first one that I've watched. I
21	actually have gone back and watched a bunch of the
22	meetings, so I want to thank, one, all of you who
23	are on this call, not just the appointed board
24	members that I'm hoping to get to know better, but

the general public who's come here to speak on this

25

1	issue.
2	I'd like to ask our CEO, Ms. Rogers
3	Ms. Richards it's my understanding that we
4	are "we," as in the OC Fairgrounds, is one out
5	of, if not the only profitable fair that the state
6	has right now.
7	Is that accurate information that I have?
8	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Not entirely accurate.
9	There are fairs that operate profitably, but there
10	are about 11 that well, maybe even more than
11	that at this point with COVID, that are in
12	financial trouble.
13	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you so much for
14	that clarification.
15	So when I was onboarded by this very
16	quickly, the most important thing that I was told
17	was: This job is to oversee the business. I
18	thought: Great. I run three successful
19	businesses, so it's something that I can contribute
20	to the board.
21	And what we've seen in the last 18 months,
22	if not longer, not just with COVID, but business
23	owners have had to get very creative. And I think
24	it's the leadership of this board and the staff,
25	from what I've witnessed online, at least, has

allowed that to happen.

But we've also seen businesses take stands on moral issues, whether it's voting rights, whether it's vaccines, whether it's access to reproductive rights.

So as a business, we also need to consider the moral implications of these gun shows in our communities.

I do think that to Director Ruiz's question about polling, I'm actually positive that there is polling done on this issue, and I'll just forward it to you separately, since I know your information.

But this is something that isn't just on the fringe. The money, the million dollars -- again, one of the most successful fairs before I even got on this -- so I can tell you that there are ways to recoup this money a zillion fold.

Right now, September 22nd and 23rd, in Santa Rosa, there is a convention -- a trade convention going on called Hall of Flowers, the largest cannabis convention going on in the state, making millions of dollars in revenue and not killing anybody by accident, whether it is a joint that gets lost and is a ghost joint somewhere? No

one is going to get killed for it.

Also, I was told that we were writing this letter to inform the governor of this loss. I'm pretty sure that he's aware of it. He's signed everything that he can to be supportive of this legislation. So I don't think our job is to inform him on what's going to happen if this goes through, whether he signs it or leaves it on his desk for it to go effective.

And, again, the possibility of us raising funds that are needed in other avenues is there.

Of all the speakers that spoke today, I took notes. I'm also the secretary of an organization, so I take copious notes as well, Michele.

We had five speakers -- I'm sorry, four speakers supporting us sending the letter, five speakers supporting the ban of the gun shows.

All the speakers supporting this letter are men. The perspective of women was lost on this. All the women that spoke about the fear they have of these guns going rogue or the gun violence in our community are the voices that I'm hearing. And maybe that's the perspective that I was asked to bring to this board, but that's something that I

1	noted here.
2	So as a business, yes, we have to be
3	financially responsible, but we can do so without
4	necessarily this \$1 million of income.
5	We should be taking a position morally on
6	issues that affect our communities, Orange County
7	and beyond. And it is not our responsibility to
8	tell the CEO of the state what he already knows.
9	So I'm not going to be supporting sending
10	a letter to the governor.
11	Thank you so much for your time.
12	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
13	Rafiei.
14	Director Aitken? Director Bagneris?
15	Director Kovacevich, any comments?
16	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair La Belle, I just
17	want to, again, echo our new director's sentiment.
18	Thank you to everyone that is weighing in on this
19	issue. I know the minutes were not attached from
20	our meeting ten days ago, or, sorry, last Monday,
21	so I'm going to be repetitive only because I just
22	want to make sure the record is clear on why I'm
23	not going to be supporting this motion.
24	You know, I think we just had a public
25	strategic planning session, and one of the

questions and one of the things that we were talking about with our CEO and with our fellow board members are opportunities.

And we talked about self-producing events, the ability to make more money when we are bringing culturally relevant, diverse events onto these fairgrounds as opposed to just renting the property to people that are going to be putting on shows where we really cannot control the content.

So I disagree respectfully with the letter in saying that we cannot replace the income that we would lose if we did not have the gun shows. I think it is actually an opportunity to do things that really better reflect the values of our community.

I also want to reiterate the point that I do not think it is the role of this board -- and I respect that board members have disagreed with me -- that we inform the governor, who just won a very successful recall election to stay in office, how to do his job when he has been so consistent on this issue, where he has supported other fairgrounds in banning gun shows on state property. I think his history has been clear.

And even if not, I want to make sure that



1	over the last couple of years that I am consistent.
2	I agree with Director Ruiz. I don't think we
3	should be the arbiter of what is family-friendly
4	and what is not family-friendly. That is for every
5	individual that comes to the fairgrounds to decide.
6	But we do get to make the decision about
7	what is consistent with our values. And while we
8	might disagree, I do not think this is consistent
9	with our values, and I will not be supporting
LO	writing the governor to overturn a letter for
L1	legislation that has been voted on and approved by
L2	both our state senator and assembly member.
L3	So thank you for your time.
L4	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Chair La Belle, I
L5	actually have a comment. This is Chair
L6	Rubalcava-Garcia.
L7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Please, Chair, go
L8	ahead.
L9	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And my apologies.
20	I'm in a very noisy space.
21	So my comments are: First, I want to
22	thank all of our board members for weighing in on
23	the topic. I know this is a very difficult thing
24	to discuss, but I also want to highlight one thing.
25	I do disagree with some of the comments

1	respectfully disagree with some of my co-board
2	members' comments related to the fact that it's not
3	our fiduciary duty to at least get the loss on the
4	record for budget issues and to send this letter to
5	the governor, regardless of whether he is aware of
6	it.
7	We all know his position, but let's face
8	it, this ban is not changing providing any
9	comprehensive change to gun control. It's merely a
10	superficial way for an elected official to declare
11	victory on one of his campaign promises.
12	So I just want to remind, as a woman who
13	is basically saying, I think that we should allow
14	for these shows to continue, although that is not
15	the intention of the letter.
16	My opinion on the topic doesn't matter. I
17	think the issue that we have before the board that
18	we need to discuss right now is primarily the focus
19	on the letter, which is sending it to the governor
20	to have it on the record, and I don't see anything
21	wrong with that.
22	So I will be voting yes to approve the
23	letter that is drafted.
24	It is not a sharply worded letter. It is

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I'm a

not a letter threatening the governor.

25

1	supporter of the governor. I voted no on the
2	recall. I don't think that it's that has
3	nothing to do with the work of the 32nd DAA.
4	I do agree that there are other
5	opportunities, and I love the cannabis idea. I
6	think that there is opportunities, especially with
7	the City of Costa Mesa recently rolling back some
8	of their prohibition on allowing it in the city,
9	and there is opportunity to expand that.
10	But the issue before us today is whether
11	or not this SB the bill I can't remember the
12	bill. I don't have it in front of me whether
13	this bill, you know whether or not this Fair
14	Board should write a letter to the governor.
15	That's it. It's simple, very easy. So I
16	will be voting yes on the letter today.
17	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Chair
18	Rubalcava-Garcia, this is Director Kovacevich.
19	Could you explain further on why you think
20	it's important to get this on record with the
21	State?
22	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Absolutely.
23	So, you know, we are appointed members of
24	the we're the governing body. There's two
25	distinctions that I think is really important to

1	make: One, Del Mar and Cal Palos those boards
2	took a position to ban gun shows, which eventually
3	led to the (audio distortion).
4	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Chair
5	Rubalcava-Garcia, you're cutting in and out.
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I'm getting no
7	audio, Natalie.
8	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: as part of
9	this discussion.
10	But the difference is that those boards
11	took the position that they had. Dave Min went
12	around legislation. And I think it's important
13	from a PR it's a very successful (audio
14	distortion) sorry. I dropped off there.
15	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: I think we've lost
16	her.
17	Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, we're not able to
18	hear what you're saying. I don't know if you've
19	stepped into a different space.
20	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: While we're waiting
21	for that, this is Director Bagneris, and my
22	position has not changed on the letter. I
23	appreciate the fact that it was reworked, but I
24	will not be supporting this letter.
25	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director



1	Bagneris.
2	Is Director Pham on the line?
3	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: No, he's not.
4	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Michele, with
5	Natalie's bad connection, do you have any color as
6	to the importance of sort of getting the financial
7	loss on the record with the State?
8	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Well, you know, the
9	gun shows have typically, there have been up to
10	five shows per year, per calendar year. There have
11	been years where the revenue generated from those
12	contracts is close to a million dollars, and that
13	would include the rental fees, staffing fees,
14	equipment fees, and then, of course, the parking
15	fees and commissions on food and beverage
16	associated with the show.
17	So I can certainly speaking as the CEO
18	of this organization, I'm concerned anytime we
19	would lose a million dollars in revenue, take out
20	the topic altogether. It is a loss to the
21	organization.
22	Can it be replaced? It absolutely can be
23	replaced, but it can't be replaced overnight. Our
24	sales team is very good at generating interest in
25	new business, and our events team is phenomenal at

1	servicing our events that come back year after
2	year.
3	So I have faith that they can replace the
4	business, but it's not going to happen overnight.
5	And it will definitely have an impact on our
6	revenue stream for the year, but there is demand
7	for this property.
8	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: And is there any
9	I mean, I guess is there a thought that we would be
10	able to receive funds from the State if we make
11	them aware of this loss, or what's the kind of
12	thinking behind getting this on the record?
13	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: I have not heard of
14	any support that is pending, and I would be very
15	surprised if the State, you know, offered any
16	replacement funds.
17	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Okay. Well, this is
18	Director Kovacevich again. I haven't given my
19	comment, but just have been listening to everybody,
20	and it's been good to hear everyone's perspective
21	on this.
22	I agree with putting the specifics around,
23	you know, people's feelings around the gun show to
24	the side. I don't think it's relevant to what
25	we're discussing here.

24

25

1	I think the events have transpired. We
2	are in this situation. We're debating whether or
3	not to send this letter to the governor, and my
4	opinion is I don't see the merit there, the fruit
5	that this letter would yield.
6	And I think also I'm a believer in kind of
7	picking your battles, and I want to make sure that,
8	you know, if there's something where we do really
9	need the governor to support us, that we use, you
LO	know, our voice at that time to hopefully get an
L1	outcome that's needed; right?
L2	And I think in this scenario
L3	fortunately, we're in a good financial position
L4	that even with this loss and as a business
L5	owner, I hate to see a financial loss also,
L6	specifically targeted solely at our fair versus the
L7	rest of the fair. It doesn't seem fair, pun
L8	intended.
L9	But that said, I don't see this letter
20	resulting in recouping funds.
21	I also think that there may come a time
22	where we are in need, and I think that would be a
23	better time to submit a plea to the governor.
24	So in light of the fact that I don't see

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much fruit bearing out of sending this letter and

1	potentially the opposite occurring, where, you
2	know, the governor has demonstrated his support for
3	signing these types of bills, you know, I wouldn't
4	want to look like we're, you know, putting this out
5	there.
б	I think the letter's written really well,
7	and I don't think it would come across that way,
8	but just to avoid that, I'm going to take the
9	position of voting against sending the letter at
10	this time.
11	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I believe we've
12	heard from all the directors. Let me provide my
13	comments before we move on.
14	Between being a government employee and
15	being a government volunteer, as I am now, I've
16	been doing this for 57 years, and I've spent many
17	hours evaluating the process of how the legislative
18	process works at the state level. The bottom line
19	is: It is what it is. There is now a matter on
20	the desk of Governor Newsom. He will either sign
21	it or it will automatically go into law on the 10th
22	of October or he will veto it.
23	I agree with our new director. I believe

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both the dialogue we've had today as a board and

the dialogue we had on the 13th -- I'm sure the

24

25

1	governor is very aware of the economic issues that
2	the 32nd DAA will be facing.
3	I do have the same concern that
4	Director Ruiz mentioned, that only applying to
5	the 32nd DAA, but that's the way the process works.
6	That's the legislature has spoken. Now we just
7	wait for the governor.
8	I agree with Director Kovacevich. I'm a
9	firm believer in choosing one's battles in terms of
LO	what is important.
L1	I compliment the staff. Michele, I think,
L2	did a fantastic job of incorporating into the draft
L3	what the board's discussion was on the 13th.
L4	All of that being said, I would like to
L5	entertain a motion that we table this matter.
L6	Is there a
L7	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Mr. La Belle, is there
L8	a reason to table this? Or just let it pass? We
L9	either need a motion that says we're going to send
20	the letter, or I don't think we need a motion at
21	all. I don't think we need to table it.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: The option is take
23	no action at all.
24	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.
25	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: But tabling it,

1	that's basically no action. So but it's up
2	to if there's a motion to
3	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: This is Director
4	Rubalcava. I hope you can hear me at this time.
5	But I would like to make a motion to send
6	the letter to the governor. And I would also like
7	to make one comment.
8	This letter is not going to create
9	comprehensive change. We're simply getting it on
LO	the record. I'm not really sure what the issue is
L1	with our other board members who just don't want to
L2	get it on the record, regardless of whether or not
L3	the governor is aware of this. This is part of the
L4	process.
L5	So I would like to make a motion to go
L6	ahead and vote to send the letter.
L7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. There is a
L8	motion from Chair Garcia to send the letter.
L9	Is there a second?
20	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is
21	Sandra Cervantes. I second.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. We have a
23	motion and a second on the floor to send the
24	letter.
) 5	Is there any further discussion on the

1	part of the board?
2	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I call for the
3	previous question. I think we have had plenty of
4	discussion.
5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. The question
6	has been called. The question has been called.
7	Summer, can you call the roll, please?
8	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes.
9	Chair Rubalcava-Garcia.
10	CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
11	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Vice Chair La Belle.
12	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: No.
13	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Cervantes.
14	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.
15	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
16	(No response.)
17	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
18	DIRECTOR RUIZ: I'm sorry. That's a "yes"
19	for me.
20	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
21	Director Bagneris.
22	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No.
23	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
24	DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.
25	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Kovacevich.
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1	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: No.
2	DIRECTOR AGNUS: And Director Rafiei.
3	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: No.
4	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. The motion
5	fails.
6	Let's move on to Item 8F.
7	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Okay. 8F is kind of
8	on the same topic. The bill, SB264, banning gun
9	shows at the OC Fair and Events Center it
10	actually has an exemption in the bill that excludes
11	any rental agreements that are in place prior to
12	the bill's effective date of January 1st, and that
13	should be 2022. My apologies for that typo.
14	The promoter of Cross-Roads of the West
15	gun shows has approached us about whether or not
16	the board would consider preapproving its rental
17	agreements for 2022. Currently, there are five
18	dates that are on the calendar for our booking
19	calendar for those shows.
20	At the same time, the promoter
21	acknowledged prior conversations by the board
22	regarding those precursor firearm or firearm
23	precursor parts, or commonly known as ghost guns,
24	and has offered to consider eliminating those
25	exhibitors from its 2022 shows, if approved.

1	So the matter before the board would be
2	whether the board would approve the gun shows those
3	dates for 2022, which would include shows in
4	January, March, June, August, and November of 2022.
5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.
6	DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director
7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Go ahead, Director.
8	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Go ahead.
9	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: But if you'd like to
10	comment at this time, go ahead.
11	DIRECTOR RUIZ: I was just going to ask if
12	there was any public comments as well. I'm sorry.
13	Let's go ahead and take those first.
14	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Great. No problem.
15	Great. Thank you.
16	Any public comments, Summer?
17	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes, we do. Ash Alvandi,
18	If you want to make public comment, I have you on
19	the list still, followed by Rose Ann Sharp,
20	Ira Sharp, Julia Demlow. We'll take those first.
21	MR. ALVANDI: Thanks, Summer. No comment
22	at this time, but I will go ahead and put my
23	contact info in the chat if anybody would like to
24	reach out to the senator's office.
25	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you.



1	Rose Ann Sharp, are you ready?
2	MS. SHARP: Yes. I'd like to continue
3	with the discussion about best business practices.
4	27 years, I dealt with contracts with
5	entities like the Supreme Court of the
6	United States and major international litigation
7	law firms. I oppose the board's efforts to
8	circumvent the intent of SB264 by preapproving
9	contracts with Cross-Roads up to a year in advance.
10	Here are my reasons: There is no
11	precedence order for Cross-Roads to preauthorize
12	2022 contracts except to circumvent SB264.
13	In circumventing the intent of SB264, you
14	are basically telling the community that your power
15	overrides the power of its elected officials.
16	I am surprised that in your contract
17	negotiations, you do not have a similar clause.
18	Mr. Templeton is a convicted felon, among his
19	activities of selling guns to white South Africans
20	during the apartheid. I believe that his, quote,
21	"We will consider" stance on ghost guns is the
22	same.
23	He knows what ghost guns are doing to
24	thwart California's gun laws, and he thinks he has
25	the power to consider whether or not to sell them.



1	I am appalled that you would consider a
2	contract that would not restrict those sales. It
3	is your job to protect the community, and there is
4	no doubt that those guns put our recent citizens at
5	greater risk.
6	In your relationship with Mr. Templeton,
7	you are the customer, and somehow he thinks
8	otherwise.
9	Governor Newsom has stated that if
10	California continues to permit the sale of firearms
11	and ammunition on state-owned property, we are
12	sending a signal that we value the sale of firearms
13	above the lives of Americans.
14	There is no need for you to protect
15	Mr. Templeton's business over the lives of our
16	communities. For too long, the NRA and
17	Mr. Templeton has said, "We are legal."
18	What are what they really are are
19	mercenaries sending guns into our communities just
20	like they did in South Africa.
21	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
22	Ira Sharp, when you're ready.
23	MR. SHARP: I have no comment at this
24	time.
25	SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

1	Julia Demlow, when you're ready.
2	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Julia, are you still
3	there?
4	MS. DEMLOW: Yeah. I think I unmuted.
5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Go ahead.
6	MS. DEMLOW: Okay. You can hear me?
7	Perfect.
8	I would like to reiterate Rose Ann Sharp's
9	comments. She has outlined pretty much what I was
10	going to say.
11	The only addition to her is to share with
12	you the fact that there has never been a precedent
13	before. The board has never preapproved a year in
14	advance on any type of contracts like this and
15	never in regards to the gun show.
16	I haven't even seen the board yet approve
17	the November 2021 gun show contract, currently on
18	the Cross-Roads calendar, for over Thanksgiving,
19	which would have been a perfectly viable gun show
20	even prior to the SB264 law.
21	So I am asking the board not to consider
22	this offer by Bob Templeton. I have concerns in
23	regards of setting precedent of preapproving
24	contracts for years in advance.
25	And also, I have concerns with the

1	good-faith effort that Bob Templeton has written to
2	the board offering just to consider eliminating the
3	vendor's precursor parts, when, as when, as we
4	know, the majority of sales that are done at gun
5	shows are in ghost guns, and this would be a
6	definite reduction in his revenue if he actually
7	eliminated those exhibitors.
8	So I find it highly improbable that he
9	would move forward with that. And, therefore, I do
10	not support the board in preapproving 2022 gun
11	shows on their property.
12	Thank you.
13	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
14	I'll call the next group of speakers:
15	Susan Lew followed by Peter Stein, Mary Blek and/or
16	Charles Blek, and Gibran Stout.
17	Susan, when you're ready.
18	MS. LEW: Thank you. Can you hear me?
19	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Go ahead.
20	MS. LEW: Yes. Thank you so much.
21	I am an OC resident, a parent, and a
22	public health professional. I think that there are
23	already too many guns in circulation in our country
24	as a whole.
25	It is both common sense and

1	well-established in crime research and gun violence
2	research that more guns in circulation means more
3	crimes and more gun deaths, such as suicide and
4	accidents.
5	We elected Senator Min specifically for
6	this reason. I will be very proud to see my county
7	be a model in reducing guns in circulation by
8	banning gun shows on our publicly funded
9	fairgrounds for public health and safety reasons.
10	The voters elected Senator Min. Please do
11	not approve any gun shows for 2022. Doing so would
12	go against the spirit of SB264 and against the will
13	of the voters and the families and the communities
14	that you serve.
15	Thank you.
16	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
17	Peter Stein, when you're ready.
18	MR. STEIN: Hi. Hello?
19	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yeah. Go ahead.
20	MR. STEIN: I just want to say I mean,
21	Julia and Rose Ann have said more or less what I
22	wanted to say better than I could say it, but I
23	just want to go on record and say that this would
24	be clearly and intentionally, given that there's no
25	precedent, circumventing the bill that was passed.

1	There's no question that that's the goal of this
2	and that there's no other reason to preapprove
3	these.
4	And Senator Min was elected, in large
5	part, on this and other promises. The community
6	supports it, and you would be doing this despite
7	the support of the community for this ban.
8	And I would also emphasize that I'm
9	skeptical of the consideration to eliminate the
LO	sale of ghost guns. And if you do want to go ahead
L1	and if you do go ahead and allow this, or if you
L2	do go ahead and approve these contracts against
L3	the not just the spirit, but in circumvention of
L4	the law, that you at least do so with the
L5	elimination of sale of ghost guns actually in the
L6	contract rather than just having a vague
L7	consideration.
L8	Thank you.
L9	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you, Peter.
20	Mary Blek, when you're ready.
21	MS. BLEK: Good morning. Can you hear me?
22	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Go ahead.
23	MS. BLEK: Okay. My name is Mary Lee
24	Blek. I have become involved in the gun violence
25	prevention movement since 1995 following the death

of our son, Matthew, who was shot in the summer of 1994.

Many of my comments have been spoken that I had in my prepared cheat sheet here, but I do want to reiterate again the strong support in our community not to have a gun show.

As noted in Senator Min's letter to this board, there is clear linkage between firearm sales and gun violence, and certainly Orange County is not immune.

As a state taxpayer, I do not want the promotion and facilitation of sales of firearms, ammunition, and ghost gun kits at our Orange County Fairground.

Does it not seem incongruent to everyone that we facilitate selling these items during an epidemic of gun violence and then turn around and pay more taxes for all the resulting carnage that runs into billions in California?

However, as much as this is costing me financially as a taxpayer, it pales in comparison to the personal loss and grief in the murder of our beloved son, who was shot with a handgun held in the hands of a young person who was able to get a gun through illegal channels.

1	And may I remind everyone that guns don't
2	fall from the sky. They begin with a legal
3	purchase and then go into the illegal market.
4	Unfortunately, I am not alone in this
5	grief. And more importantly, it is preventable.
6	One can purchase a gun at a federally licensed gun
7	dealer shop. It is a very important decision to
8	purchase a gun. One could say it's a grave
9	decision.
10	Research has shown that a gun in the home
11	carries significant risks of suicide, homicide, and
12	unintentional injuries.
13	Our fairgrounds should be and I use the
14	word "family-friendly," not where children can get
15	a free watch, a free entrance to watch dad buy a
16	gun in a carnival-like atmosphere. Think depressed
17	teen or a curious ten-year-old.
18	Thank you for allowing me to speak.
19	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you, Mary.
20	Charles Blek, if you wanted to speak.
21	MR. BLEK: Just a sentence, please.
22	Having enjoyed 53 years of marriage to a fantastic
23	lady, I absolutely support Mary Lee's comments in
24	all regards.
25	Thank you.

1	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
2	Gibran Stout, when you're ready.
3	(No response.)
4	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Gibran, are you there?
5	MS. STOUT: Yeah. I'm here. Can you hear
6	me?
7	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yeah. Go ahead, Gibran.
8	MS. STOUT: Okay. Sorry. All right.
9	While I may not agree with other
10	viewpoints, I am grateful for the First Amendment,
11	which gives everyone the right to express their
12	opinion on any and every item.
13	I know that currently it is a fact that
14	the Second Amendment protects the right to bear
15	arms. Whether or not you like it or agree with it,
16	I think that the effort should be changing that.
17	And while I may not agree with every bill
18	or law, I do respect majority rules, and I think
19	that as long as a business and their activities are
20	in accordance with state and local laws on gun
21	control, which I do support, it is wrong for
22	Sacramento to tell the board which contracts they
23	can and cannot do business with.
24	So if the voters choose to ban gun sales
25	at all fairgrounds, so be it.

1	I wanted to point out, too, and let the
2	new director know that the reason we don't have
3	cannabis on site is because local ordinances and
4	businesses prohibit it. So that is one of the
5	challenges.
6	But currently the Cross-Roads event is
7	legal under state and federal law. In the current
8	economy, it is certainly not good business to turn
9	away any legal business.
LO	And the operator has offered to amend the
L1	contract to eliminate any ghost gun sales. So I
L2	think that speaks volumes.
L3	An earlier speaker mentioned a woman
L4	breast-feeding in the middle of the gun show. And
L5	that seems to me to be the very definition of a
L6	safe, family-friendly event.
L7	Additionally, as a daily user of the
L8	property of the equestrian center, I am here for
L9	the many, many, many events of the OCFEC. I will
20	say that many events foster loud and unruly
21	behavior, which is often seen during car rallies
22	and concerts, as well as the fair itself.
23	However, I can honestly say that none of

this behavior has ever been observed during the

Cross-Roads event, and I usually don't even know

24

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1	it's happening.
2	You have been chosen not to support spirit
3	of laws, but actual laws. I urge you not to throw
4	away nearly a million dollars of income and to buy
5	yourselves some time and opportunity to replace
6	that income for coming years.
7	I urge you, please, approve the contract.
8	It's one more year. It buys you some time to
9	replace that income. That's a lot of money.
10	And I think by approving the Cross-Roads
11	contract, you send a message that local business
12	and economy recovery are the priority. And I just
13	urge you to do that.
14	Thank you so much.
15	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
16	For the last three speakers, Piper Benom,
17	followed by William Ortiz, and then Tiffany
18	Cheuvront, C-H-E-U-V-R-O-N-T.
19	Piper, when you're ready.
20	MS. BENOM: Hi. Okay. Thank you.
21	I just want to say that preapproving
22	contracts with Cross-Roads of the West would be a
23	bold political statement. It's in direct contrast
24	to the community that you serve.
25	Gun shows are more than a source of



25

1	revenue. Look at the impact guns have on our
2	society. This board cannot in good conscience
3	allow gun shows any more gun shows at the
4	fairground.
5	The failed recall of our governor should
6	be a reminder to this board what our community
7	wants and what we value.
8	It's really simple: More guns means more
9	gun violence. We don't need any more guns in
10	Orange County. I just urge you to do the right
11	thing for our community and as a reflection of
12	what we have voted for.
13	Thank you.
14	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
15	William Ortiz, when you're ready.
16	MR. ORTIZ: Thank you for the opportunity
17	again.
18	I understand this motion is to approve a
19	schedule. However, it seems like the conversation
20	has turned over to the banning gun shows again and
21	just on the premise that they're a danger to the
22	community, and nothing can be could be more
23	disingenuous and farther from the truth.
24	I personally attended gun shows in the
25	community. I can attest they're just as safe as

1	any other public event, and it just seems that
2	the to just not approve it would be would
3	mean to be against a community of gun owners and
4	legal gun owners and the legal activities that are
5	protected by the U.S. constitution.
6	The purchase of a gun is a personal
7	choice, but it is protected for all citizens.
8	Purchasing or fabricating a firearm for personal
9	use is a legal activity that goes back to the
10	founding years of this country.
11	The sales of firearms and firearm parts
12	and ammunition is highly regulated in California,
13	and these laws apply no matter where the
14	transaction takes place in this state.
15	We already have laws that deal with ghost
16	guns, so-called ghost guns, that a certain number
17	must be provided and must be registered just like
18	any other guns.
19	Besides, they require a special tool and
20	knowledge to make them. So these numbers are
21	really minimum.
22	But besides the point, the voting will
23	mean that the gun show will not be in our
24	community, which is a direct attack to law-abiding
25	citizens and businesses.

1	So I do support that gun shows be
2	continue to be allowed in the OC Fair.
3	Thank you for the opportunity.
4	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you.
5	Tiffany Cheuvront, when you're ready.
6	MS. CHEUVRONT: Good morning.
7	My name is Tiffany Cheuvront. I'm with
8	Cross-Roads of the West and also with California
9	Rifle and Pistol Association, as their
10	representatives.
11	I'm a bit concerned this morning that the
12	people many of the people that I see on the call
13	are not even from Orange County. They are actually
14	from San Diego. They are trying to attempting
15	to persuade Orange County to take some of the steps
16	that were very detrimental in Del Mar.
17	And in Del Mar, they used their persuasion
18	to get that board to ban gun shows there, and it
19	was not good for the fairgrounds. They actually
20	lost in federal court, and that the fairgrounds
21	had to pay the fees, not the State.
22	So when you talk about whether or not you
23	want to continue these shows, I think it's more
24	than just the \$1 million in economic costs that you
25	have at stake here. There are legal costs that

could potentially come to this board, and there is very good precedent for that in federal court.

My other concern is from the comments of Ms. Sharp. She knows full well that the promoters of this show are approved by the DOJ, had everything in order, and had all the requirements that are necessary for promoting a lawful gun show in California.

She knows this, yet she keeps bringing it up in hopes that you'll put -- it will put some doubt into your minds about the person that you've been working with for 20 years.

It keeps coming up about safety at these gun shows. I have to say that all of these statistics that are thrown around -- you know, for general people who don't understand what's going on, they are concerning, but not one of those statistics has anything to do with this gun show.

Someone mentioned that you can buy a gun at a brick-and-mortar store. That's true. But did you know that the restrictions on purchasing a firearm or ammunition or prickers or parts at a gun show are the same if not a little bit more rigid than buying at a gun shop? They're the same or more.

1	And there are law enforcement there.
2	There are security people there. This is not a
3	location where criminals are getting their
4	firearms. Not one criminal activity in
5	Orange County is linked to the Orange County gun
6	show, and part of that is because this board has
7	security measures in place. The promoters have
8	security measures in place. And so does the DOJ
9	and law enforcement. To say anything else is just
10	completely disingenuous.
11	I think it's interesting that we in the
12	comments that I've heard so far, we have to define
13	what "family-friendly" is based on certain
14	considerations by particular people.
15	There are many
16	DIRECTOR AGNUS: That is time.
17	MS. CHEUVRONT: There are many people in
18	Orange County that consider this family-friendly,
19	and you should approve the contract.
20	Thank you.
21	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay.
22	We have one more speaker, Niccolas. When
23	you're ready.
24	NICCOLAS: Hi. Can you hear me?
25	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Go ahead.

1	NICCOLAS: All right. Thank you.
2	I'd just like to thank the board once more
3	for allowing me to speak, and thank you for your
4	time.
5	Just briefly, I do want to voice my
6	support for the approval, considering that, you
7	know, we are you are going to be out a million
8	dollars if and when this passes; and to be able to
9	tide you over to the next budget year, I think, is
10	fiscally responsible for the board, to consider
11	that, you know, you have some source of revenue to
12	replace.
13	We are one of the profitable ones in the
14	state. Why not keep it that way? Why chalk up a
15	loss? I mean, in any sense, I think it's good
16	business, on the terms of a business owner, and I
17	think that I still would love to be able to take
18	my family to an event. And I understand all and
19	respect all the viewpoints given, and I appreciate
20	your time, and I would just like to say that vote
21	an approval of the contracts.
22	Thank you very much.
23	DIRECTOR AGNUS: And apologies. We have a
24	couple more people that would like to speak.
25	Jeanine Robbins, followed by Pat, if

Pat, if you would like to speak, you would be after 1 2 Jeanine Robbins. 3 Jeanine, when you're ready. My name is MS. ROBBINS: Good morning. 4 5 Jeanine Robbins, and as an owner of a business that has operated on the fairgrounds for 42 years now, 6 as a small business owner, I certainly understand 7 8 what it is to have the rug pulled out from under you. 10 Now, you have the gun show, and whether 11 you're pro guns or anti guns, it is composed of 12 small businesses who are doing their best to come 13 back after a year that nobody in their wildest 14 imagination could have dreamt would have happened. 15 So -- and to make up that money is not as easy as 16 some of the board members think. 17 Just for the newest board member, who I --18 we don't know yet, you mentioned the event, I 19 believe, in Santa Rosa, the cannabis event. 20 Fair board has voted against any kind of cannabis 21 events. 22 And as an owner of Paradise Cigars, we 23 have sold glassware on the property for a dozen 24 years, at both the swap meet and the fair; and in 25 June of this year, they decided that we were no

1	longer allowed to sell that, so I have a living
2	room full of glassware, so I do understand what
3	it's like to have something happen unexpectedly.
4	I think that the contracts for next year
5	should be approved. I think that the business
6	owners need that time to reevaluate their
7	businesses. And I think that the fairgrounds does
8	need the money.
9	So that I mean, if things change on the
LO	cannabis, that would be great, but I don't
L1	anticipate that happening when they won't even
L2	allow the sale of a pipe on the property.
L3	So I sincerely doubt that we will make it
L4	up in cannabis sales.
L5	So all right. Thank you.
L6	DIRECTOR AGNUS: All right. Thank you,
L7	Jeanine.
L8	Pat, did you want to speak? You have your
L9	hand raised.
20	MR. BURTON: Yes. Thank you. I just
21	wanted to say that this has been made largely about
22	the economics, and I just want to take it back to
23	the issue that it's really about.
24	Certainly you guys have an economic
25	responsibility. Absolutely. But taking it back to

the issue that's really at heart, and that's the rights of law-abiding people.

And so I would just urge you to do the right thing and preapprove these contracts, protecting the rights of law-abiding people.

Also, secondarily, I would just like to thank you for the opportunity to speak and to say that -- take advantage of this opportunity that this bill gives you to preapprove these contracts so that when this clearly unconstitutional law is challenged, during that time, law-abiding people still have the right to exercise their rights at these family-friendly, as has been established, safe events of gun shows while this law can be challenged, by them giving you the opportunity to preapprove.

So once again, I would just take it back to the issue at heart, and that's protecting the rights of law-abiding people, please.

So I would urge you to take advantage of this opportunity they've given you and preapprove these contracts while the legality of this law can be dealt with, if it is signed by the governor.

So thank you, once again, for the opportunity to address you, and have a great day.

1	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Thank you.
2	That's all I have for public comment,
3	unless there's any other members on the line that
4	would like to speak.
5	State your name now, please.
6	(No response.)
7	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Hearing none, Vice Chair
8	La Belle, I turn it back over to you.
9	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.
LO	Let's open it up to the board for
L1	comments.
L2	Board comments at this point in time or
L3	questions?
L4	Go ahead. I'm sorry. Yes. Go ahead.
L5	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. Thank
L6	you, Vice-Chair.
L7	You know, there was a lot of important and
L8	good points brought up by a lot of speakers here.
L9	I think this has been turned into a you know, by
20	the way some of the speakers by their comments,
21	into whether this board supports the governor,
22	whether this board supports guns. It's not any of
23	that.
24	I think just about all of us support the
25	governor. I support the governor. My organization

1	that I belong to strongly supports the governor.
2	As a matter of fact, we were one of his first
3	sponsors when he first ran for office. So it's not
4	about any of that here. This is about the
5	financial impact to this 32nd DAA.
6	You know, we can get caught up on some of
7	these comments people are saying that we're having
8	guns in a carnival-like atmosphere, and that's not
9	true here.
10	The way some these comments sound is that
11	we're having a medieval gun show here, which
12	couldn't be further from the truth. This was
13	approved by the Department of Justice.
14	As one speaker said, there are great
15	security measures. You can't walk in here and buy
16	a gun illegally.
17	We have just two or three gun shops within
18	a 5-mile radius of our grounds, and my heart my
19	heart goes out to those people who spoke that they
20	lost family members. I have lost family members,
21	uncles, nephews here in Orange County who were
22	victims of gun violence. That's tragic. I'm not
23	going to dispute that.
24	But this here the approval of this gun
25	show, I think, just got lost in people thinking

that we're having an illegal gun show, that we're selling guns during fair time. That's the way all this was made out to sound like.

And I just wanted to say that that's not

And I just wanted to say that that's not true. That's not what we're doing here. I would be in favor of approving this for the sole reason because now I know it's going to go away, and this would buy us time, a year, at least, for us as a board to come up with another solution to replace the money that we're going to lose.

Jeanine Robbins was right -- is right.

We're not going to come up with a solution overnight and replace this money overnight. If cannabis it is -- if cannabis gets approved on our grounds sometime down the line, sure. Let's have it. That's fine.

And just -- I just wanted to say, you know, again, people say: Well, this is not a family-friendly atmosphere. I'm just going to tell you one quick story.

My neighbors, who are Muslim, I invited them. They are good friends of mine. I come over to their house. They come to mine. I invited them to go to the fair. They invited their in-laws.

An hour into the fair, they said, "We're



1	going to leave."
2	I said, "Why?"
3	And they said, "Well, there's too much
4	flesh being exposed and there's too much alcohol
5	with people. This is not family-friendly to watch,
6	so we're going to leave."
7	So I said, "That's fine. I respect that,
8	and that's too bad you see it that way."
9	So again, what is what's
LO	family-friendly to some may not be to others.
L1	So this is not what this is about. This
L2	is about, again, the financial impact to this
L3	ground, and as a steward of this ground, that
L4	definitely concerns me, and I would definitely be
L5	in favor of approving this, again, to buy us time
L6	to come up with something else as a board that will
L7	supplement this income that we're about to lose.
L8	Thank you.
L9	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Director La Belle, may I
20	make a comment?
21	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Go ahead,
22	Director.
23	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I would like
24	to I really appreciate what Director Ruiz said.
25	We are not only, you know, family members together,

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as a fair family. We are friends. And I know from my heart, having been through most meetings where we agree on the direction of the fair, that it is hard when we have issues like this, where we don't agree, because I do truly believe that we all in our heart are doing what we think is the best, as stewards of the fair.

And just to Mr. and Mrs. Blek, you know, my heart goes out to you, to the loss of your son. That just -- that breaks my heart, and congratulations on 50 years -- 53 years of marriage. My parents just celebrated 58, so you are leaders not only in your community, but on that issue as well, so congratulations.

I think this argument today has turned a little bit from kind of the issue to an economic argument, and so I would like to, given that I'm on the record on this issue, just kind of briefly address that.

Director La Belle and I, who have been here since a time -- a time that history forgot, being on the board as the longest serving board members -- I remember bringing up the issue of smoking during the fair time, and year one when I brought up the issue, that I was with my small



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1	children in the children's carnival and people were
2	openly smoking all sorts of things in a kids'
3	carnival, and that upset me, as a brand-new board
4	member.
5	There was a lot of push-back on that, that
6	that's just what the fair atmosphere is like.
7	The second year when I brought up this
8	issue, we were able to I was able to get my
9	fellow board members to agree that we were not
10	going to have smoking in the kids' carnival, one
11	small area of the fair. And we got a tremendous
12	amount of feedback positive feedback on that
13	issue.
14	The third year I brought it up again. We
15	went to nonsmoking sections at the fair, which were
16	very hard, obviously, on our staff to enforce.
17	And by the fourth year that I brought this
18	up, we ended up making the fairground a nonsmoking
19	fair.
20	And I bring this up only to say that
21	change is hard. There were economic arguments that
22	were brought up every single year that I fought for
23	this issue because it was change, and change is
24	difficult, and change is hard.

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But the amount of positivity and the

1	amount of families that wrote us letters saying
2	they would now come to the fair or they were now
3	excited to come back to the fair because it was
4	nonsmoking and because we out you know, we
5	banned smoking from the kids' carnival, gave us
6	kind of the gravitas to keep moving forward.
7	So yes, economic arguments are important,
8	but I think it's because you are going into the
9	unknown, not because it is going to be devastating
LO	to our fair's bottom line.
L1	So I just want to kind of bring in that
L2	piece of history, that, yes, change is hard, but
L3	sometimes change is the right thing to do.
L4	Thank you very much for your time.
L5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
L6	Aitken.
L7	Are there further comments from board
L8	members?
L9	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei.
20	Just a few comments to make. I want to, again,
21	thank everyone for their work.
22	I have been watching the meetings, so I
23	kind of know where everyone's leaning on this
24	issue.
25	For me, just seeing the last discussion

1	that we had, where we voted to not send an
2	unnecessary letter to the governor on this issue,
3	would mean that by voting to put these contracts
4	in, precedence or not, is just a political move at
5	this point.
6	If we are trying to not be political, this
7	would be a hyperpolitical move to fast-forward
8	these contracts for something that is clearly not
9	going to be moving forward otherwise.
LO	So I'm going to not support us signing
L1	these contracts ahead of time.
L2	As a business owner, as an entrepreneur,
L3	as a job creator myself, I understand what small
L4	businesses face in these uncertain times, but as a
L5	small business owner, I never count my chickens
L6	before they're hatched, so I'm hopeful that the
L7	small businesses that are going to be participating
L8	in this wouldn't be counting on this a year in
L9	advance since there's no signed contracts. And we
20	move forward from there.
21	Thanks for the opportunity. Thank you.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
23	Rafiei.
24	I'd like to at this point ask a question
25	of Josh Caplan, if I could.

1	Josh, refresh my memory. I know we've
2	discussed this in the past. At some point in time,
3	ghost guns are going to be totally illegal in
4	California.
5	Am I correct in that understanding? But
6	it's still a few years off; is that correct?
7	MR. CAPLAN: Director La Belle, I'm not
8	necessarily an expert on firearms law, and I would
9	caution the use of the term "ghost guns."
LO	The term "ghost guns," as far as I know,
L1	is not a legal term that is used in any pending
L2	legislation in California. I think it refers to
L3	"firearm precursor parts."
L4	I think there is legislation that would
L5	take effect in a few years, but, again, I am not
L6	prepared today to be able to tell the board
L7	specifically where to find that those bills or
L8	make any specific bill citations.
L9	I'm sure you're looking for more helpful
20	information, but that's all that I can provide the
21	board today. I don't want to in any way mislead
22	the public by providing any greater level of
23	specificity.
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Josh.
25	With respect to that, is there any other

1	comments relative to this item?
2	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. This is Director
3	Bagneris. I would not like us to set a precedent
4	to preapprove contracts. And I know that this bill
5	gives us that opportunity, but we don't know if the
6	governor is going to sign or not sign. We assume
7	he's going to sign it.
8	So I don't see a need to even deal with
9	this matter at that time. If he were not to sign
10	it and we go back and this all falls apart, that we
11	could come back and approve next year's gun show
12	contract. I don't think we need to preapprove
13	them.
14	And I would rather see us table this item
15	until we know what the outcome of signing that bill
16	is.
17	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: This is Director
18	Kovacevich. I agree with Director Bagneris. I
19	think we should continue to proceed in our normal
20	course. And obviously if this goes if this law
21	goes into effect, we won't be approving any gun
22	shows.
23	But I agree that we should continue to
24	proceed as we normally would and, you know, see how
25	this bill progresses at the governor's desk and go

1	from there.
2	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Any further board's
3	comments?
4	(No response.)
5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Is there a motion
6	that any board member would wish to make?
7	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Director La Belle, I
8	would make a motion to table this until January
9	2022.
10	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And I second.
11	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. We have a
12	motion on the floor to table this with a second
13	until January 2022.
14	Is there any further discussion on this
15	item?
16	(No response.)
17	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: With that, I would
18	call the question.
19	Summer, can you call the roll, please?
20	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes.
21	And just for the record, Chairman
22	Rubalcava-Garcia has dropped off the Zoom.
23	So Vice Chair La Belle.
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: On the motion to
25	table? Yes.

1	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Cervantes.
2	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.
3	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
4	(No response.)
5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Ruiz.
6	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Oh. That's a no. I vote
7	no.
8	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Bagneris.
9	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, to table.
10	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Aitken.
11	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.
12	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Director Kovacevich.
13	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.
14	DIRECTOR AGNUS: And Director Rafiei.
15	DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.
16	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
17	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. This
18	concludes this item. We'll go back to Item 8A.
19	Any member of the board like to take a
20	five-minute break or should we continue to proceed?
21	What's the pleasure of the board?
22	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Five-minute break is
23	great, yes.
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Five-minute
25	break, and then we'll reconvene at 11:20, give or
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1	take a couple minutes. And we'll begin with
2	Item 8A at that point in time.
3	Okay. We're in recess now.
4	(Recess.)
5	(Roll was taken again after the break.)
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. We're ready
7	to go.
8	Item 8A Michele, will you present the
9	staff report on this, please?
LO	MS. RICHARDS: I will. Absolutely.
L1	This is an information item only. As the
L2	board knows, I've been keeping you all informed of
L3	an initiative out of Sacramento to potentially form
L4	a joint powers authority. It is in draft form at
L5	this point, but I wanted to give a little bit more
L6	background and share some additional information
L7	that I've learned in attending meetings.
L8	As you know, the OC Fair has a board seat
L9	on the California Fairs Alliance, which is made up
20	of CEOs from throughout the fairgrounds
21	throughout the state.
22	This effort is in response to an item that
23	was in from the governor that was in the current
24	budget that talked about taking the next year "to
2.5	transition the State's relationship with fairs"

and I'm putting that in quotes because that was taken from the budget.

So at the request of the governor's office, and with further direction from California Ag Secretary Karen Ross, a framework is being developed for a joint exercise of powers agreement to establish a California authority for fairgrounds and expositions.

There is a draft proposal that goes into way more detail, but we've been told that that proposal is currently under review with the attorneys of the California Department of Food and Ag, and it has not yet been approved for release. So certainly as soon as it is, I will share that with the board.

But here are some things that have been shared in recent meetings, is that the joint powers authority would be governed by a board located in Sacramento. It would be comprised of 13 board members, one from each of the seven geographic areas that represent the current DAAs, one representing small fairs, one representing medium fairs, and one representing large fairs, another board member that would be appointed by Secretary Ross or the California Department of Food and Ag

1	secretary, one board member appointed by the
2	director of the California Department of Finance,
3	and one member from the rural county
4	representatives of California, the RCRC.
5	So it would be, you know, board members
6	from those various public agencies.
7	The primary purpose of the authority, just
8	like all joint powers authorities, would be to
9	develop and provide service programs and kind of
10	central administration that would represent the
11	common interests of the member fairs.
12	Such services might include, for example,
13	human resources, purchasing, procurement,
14	contracting and legal services.
15	It should be noted that the California
16	Food and Ag code currently provides that DAAs can
17	enter into joint powers agreements with the
18	approval of the California Department of Food and
19	Ag, and CDFA has been heavily involved in this
20	process and does approve the participation of DAAs
21	in that joint powers agreement.
22	While the JPA board would oversee the
23	property and the operation of the annual fairs,
24	each member fair could form a local nonprofit

organization that would maintain the fairgrounds

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1	and manage its current programs, including the
2	annual fair.
3	Current DAA board directors could serve on
4	those local nonprofit boards.
5	And as it stands right now, DAA employees
6	could either choose to maintain their status as
7	California state civil service employees or
8	potentially become employees of the local
9	nonprofit.
10	So in reading this, I know it generates
11	more questions than answers at this point, and,
12	unfortunately, I don't I don't have answers to
13	those questions.
14	But in an effort to keep the board and the
15	public apprised of these efforts, I wanted to bring
16	that forward today and certainly remain committed
17	to providing the board any additional information
18	and happy to, you know, stay on top of that draft
19	proposal and provide that to the board when it's
20	released or approved for release.
21	So I'm happy to take any questions that
22	anyone might have about this from the board.
23	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.
24	Are there any public comments, Summer?
25	DIRECTOR AGNUS: We have one, Reggie



1	Mundekis.
2	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Why don't we go
3	ahead and take the public comment, and then we'll
4	go back to the board.
5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay. Reggie, when
6	you're ready.
7	MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm R-E-G-G-I-E,
8	M-U-N-D-E-K-I-S. Thank you for the opportunity to
9	address you today. Thank you to CEO Richards for
10	keeping us updated on this issue. Thank you.
11	And in an effort to not make a long
12	meeting any longer, I'm just going to hit some high
13	points in my comments. You've already received a
14	long discussion of comments.
15	One comment one question that came up
16	today regarding the CAFE proposal is: Does CAFE
17	replace the current fairs and expositions branch in
18	the California Department of Food and Agriculture?
19	My second question deals with transition
20	of fair management and operations to nonprofits.
21	The annual fair is typically the largest single
22	source of revenue at a fairground, which is a DAA
23	for our discussions.
24	And if you're transitioning the largest
25	single source of revenue, you also need to

1	transition the current and future pension
2	obligations and retiree health care costs to that
3	nonprofit because if the nonprofit's getting the
4	money, they need to take the costs that generate
5	that money with them.
6	If you don't do that, you are privatizing
7	the profits and socializing the costs.
8	Thank you.
9	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
10	That's all for public comment, unless
11	there are any other speakers. If there are, please
12	state your name now, and we'll take your comment.
13	(No response.)
14	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Hearing none
15	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.
16	Are there any comments that the directors
17	would have at this time?
18	DIRECTOR AITKEN: I just want to make one
19	point of clarification for CEO Richards. On the
20	calls that you and I have been on, is this still
21	something that would be this would not be
22	mandatory? This would be something that we would
23	have to apply for?
24	Is that your understanding of where this
25	is going?

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DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. At this point,
it remains completely voluntary. I don't know if
that would ever change in the future, if the state,
you know, and the governor's budget did didn't
talk about transitioning the state's relationship
with fairs, but the proposal reportedly makes that
decision about DAAs' involvement entirely up to
local boards.
VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you Michele

For the -- for the benefit of my fellow board members, Ashleigh and I were here back when, when we went through the whole private decision issue, for lack of a better term, and that was an effort that the board clearly took final action to say we are not in, in support of anything that would alter the way that we operate as a DDA [verbatim].

And I would just add that certainly if there evolves anything out of this process that helps streamline our ability to do our job as a caretaker of the OC Fair and Events Center, I would be fully supportive of that.

I would not be supportive of anything that just adds another layer to the bureaucracy, if you will. I think most of my fellow board members have

1	been through some challenges that we've had in
2	terms of protests on RFPs, et cetera, et cetera.
3	And, you know, while I clearly understand
4	we are an entity of the State, there are already
5	enough safeguards in the system that provide check
6	and balances.
7	Michele and her staff worked extremely
8	hard to, you know, maximize our revenues and
9	minimize our costs. And, again, anything that
10	evolves out of this that would just add another
11	layer to the process, I would not be in support of.
12	But I'll just leave it at that.
13	Are there any further comments from the
14	other directors? It's an information item, so we
15	don't no action's necessary.
16	(No response.)
17	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Not hearing
18	any further, I would move on to Item 8B.
19	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Okay. On behalf of
20	the community affairs committee, we are celebrating
21	Hispanic heritage month, which started on
22	September 15th and moves to October 15th.
23	And the committee has worked with staff to
24	develop a presentation on the Hispanic community's
25	contributions to agriculture and the OC Fair and

1	Events Center.
2	So, Director Ruiz, did you want to walk
3	through that presentation, or would you like staff
4	to do that?
5	DIRECTOR RUIZ: You know what? I was
6	going to walk through it, but if the staff could do
7	it, that would be great.
8	And the reason I say that, I just got my
9	new prescription. I have vertical heterophoria
LO	I can't say that word I'm trying to say that
L1	word. So the reading part on my glasses is the
L2	words overlap.
L3	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Oh, no.
L4	DIRECTOR RUIZ: So I would be skipping
L5	some words. So I have to go back and get that
L6	corrected.
L7	So if the staff would do me the honor,
L8	that would be great.
L9	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: You bet.
20	DIRECTOR RUIZ: But I saw the
21	presentation, and it's a great presentation. It's
22	always Michele, you and the staff did an amazing
23	job, and I want to thank you for putting this
24	forward.
25	And I want to thank the Chair,

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1	Rubalcava-Garcia, for bringing this forward as well
2	to celebrate this and make the presentation before
3	the board and the audience on that.
4	So, again, I'm proud that this is on
5	there, and I wanted to do it along with Chair
6	Cervantes, because I know we both got appointed at
7	the same time, seven years ago, I think, and this
8	presentation is a great presentation. It gives
9	recognition to great leaders within the Latino
10	community.
11	And if you could do me the honor and go
12	through this, I would greatly appreciate it.
13	Thank you.
14	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: I would be honored to
15	do that.
16	So this month and through October 15th,
17	the community affairs committee would like to
18	highlight national Hispanic heritage month and the
19	many contributions of the Hispanic community to
20	Orange County.
21	Hispanic heritage month is observed from
22	September 15th through October 15th, and it
23	celebrates the contributions of people whose
24	ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean,
25	Central America, and South America.

1	Now, the celebration started as Hispanic
2	heritage week in 1968 by then-President Lyndon
3	Johnson, and it was expanded to a full month in
4	1988 by then-President Ronald Reagan.
5	Some people may wonder why Hispanic
6	heritage month is split between September and
7	October. Well, that's because several significant
8	dates during that 30-day period, from mid-September
9	to mid-October that are important to the
10	Hispanic community, their heritage and culture.
11	So starting with September 15th, that is
12	Independence Day in Costa Rica, El Salvador,
13	Honduras, and Nicaragua.
14	September 16th is Mexican Independence
15	Day.
16	September 18th is when Chile celebrates
17	its independence.
18	And October 12th is Día de la Raza, a
19	holiday celebrating the heritage and cultural
20	diversity of Latin America.
21	Now, did you know the difference between
22	the term "Hispanic" and "Latina," "Latino," or
23	"Latinx"?
24	They are often used interchangeably, but
25	"Hispanic" refers to a person who is from or a

1	descendant of someone who is from a
2	Spanish-speaking country.
3	"Latino," "Latina," or "Latinx" refers to
4	a person who is from or a descendant of someone who
5	is from a country in Latin America.
6	Nationally, Hispanic population has grown
7	from 50 million in 2010 to 62 million in 2020.
8	California has the highest Hispanic population of
9	any state in the past ten years, and the state's
LO	population Hispanic population grew by
L1	11 percent.
L2	Hispanics comprise 36 percent of
L3	Orange County's population, and that's 39 percent
L4	statewide, and are expected to comprise 43 percent
L5	by 2060.
L6	The high school graduation rate amongst OC
L7	Hispanics is high, 87-and-a-half percent, and
L8	that's up from 86 percent just a year ago.
L9	42 percent of California Hispanics own
20	their own homes, and the median household income
21	for Orange County Hispanics is over \$75,000.
22	Now, while 36 percent of Hispanic business
23	owners said their community was hit particularly
24	hard in the past 18 months, 60 percent say that
25	during the pandemia they have volunteered to help

1	their local community.
2	Hispanic heritage and culture is rich in
3	Orange County, and it started centuries ago when
4	families like the Yorba and Peralta families first
5	settled here from Mexico.
6	There was a huge demand for farm labor
7	during World War II, and in response, the U.S. and
8	Mexico entered into an agreement to create a guest
9	worker program officially called the Emergency Farm
10	Labor Agreement, or more commonly known as the
11	Bracero program.
12	This program brought nearly 70,000 men
13	from Mexico to work legally in Orange County
14	between 1942 and 1964, and many became citizens in
15	Orange County in the late 1960s.
16	Even as late as 1947, California schools
17	were still segregated. Gonzalo Mendez and four
18	other fathers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit
19	in Mendez versus Westminster.
20	That preceded the landmark 1954 U.S.
21	Supreme Court decision in Brown versus the Board of
22	Education that ended segregation in the U.S.
23	The Hispanic community is thriving in
24	Orange County. Today Hispanics hold leadership
25	positions in every sector of the Orange County

1	community, including business, industry, education,
2	government, the arts, and nonprofit work.
3	Hispanic leadership in government is
4	strong representing Orange County, starting with
5	U.S. Senator from California, Alex Padilla, and
6	U.S. Congress Members Linda Sanchez and Lou Correa,
7	both representing California.
8	And from the California legislature,
9	representing Orange County, is State Senator Bob
10	Archuleta and State Assemblywoman Sharon
11	Quirk-Silva.
12	The Hispanic community celebrates many
13	accomplished leaders, including Marcelo Rios, CEO
14	of Human Options; Reuben Franco, CEO of OC Hispanic
15	Chamber; Richard Porras, VP of External Affairs for
16	AT&T Gustavo Arellano, journalist for the
17	Los Angeles Times.
18	There is America Brocko, CEO of the Latino
19	Health Access, and Al Mijares, Superintendent of
20	Orange County Department of Education.
21	And then, of course, the Hispanic
22	community is well represented on the OC Fair and
23	Events Center board of directors with Chair
24	Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, Director
25	Sandra Cervantes, and Director Robert Ruiz.

1	In agriculture, Michael Flores is the
2	Deputy Agriculture Secretary under Karen Ross.
3	Mike Lopez is the President of the
4	Orange County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
5	And, of course, we would be remiss in not
6	honoring Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm
7	Workers Association, who worked tirelessly to
8	improve conditions for farm workers throughout
9	California and the nation.
LO	So how can we celebrate Hispanic heritage
L1	month? Well, here are some fun ideas: You can
L2	support a Hispanic or Latinx-owned business.
L3	You can make a special playlist of
L4	Hispanic artists.
L5	You can visit a museum highlighting Latinx
L6	or Hispanic culture.
L7	You can learn about Mexican Independence
L8	Day or read books by Hispanic and Latinx authors.
L9	You can hold your own Spanish-language
20	film festival.
21	You can enjoy a classic Latin American
22	dinner or attend a Hispanic heritage month
23	celebration in your own city.
24	So that concludes our presentation of
2.5	national Hispanic heritage month.

1	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you so much,
2	Michele.
3	This is Director Sandra Cervantes, and I
4	would like to make a quick comment. I am an
5	immigrant from Mexico City, and I really feel and
6	believe that with my work in real estate and
7	translating and negotiating for my parents' first
8	home when I was nine years old allowed me to go
9	ahead and just feel how important it is to be a
10	homeowner.
11	And I believe Latinos are the future of
12	the housing industry. According to the Urban
13	Institute, 70 percent of homeownership growth over
14	the next 20 years will come from Latinos.
15	Homeownership really drastically improves a
16	household's ability to build wealth in that pride
17	of ownership that I was able to share with my
18	parents.
19	And thank you so much for celebrating
20	Hispanic homeownership month and also Hispanic
21	pride month as well. Thank you.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you,
23	Director Cervantes.
24	Go ahead.
25	DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz, and

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1	I wanted to thank the staff for a great job. My
2	dad immigrated to this country as a 17-year-old,
3	and later on he became a farm worker as well.
4	So this covered it pretty much covered
5	the history of that. And I just wanted to thank,
6	again, the staff for a great job, a great
7	presentation, and thank you.
8	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is
9	Director Cervantes again, and I wanted to thank
10	you, Director Ruiz, and for building this and
11	putting this together with our Chair, Director
12	Rubalcava-Garcia, in celebrating a lot of the
13	wealth that we have with the different
14	celebrations.
15	So national Hispanic heritage month and so
16	many others that we have been celebrating in a way
17	that empowers us and allows us to communicate with
18	each other and be curious to go ahead and engage
19	and learn from each other and have nowhere to go
20	but up, since we're a melting pot of just good
21	stuff.
22	So thank you again for the work that you
23	and Nick Kovacevich did. Thank you again.
24	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Sandra.
25	Thank you, Robert. It was an excellent

1	presentation and very informative. Thank you again
2	so much.
3	Okay. The next item I believe we are
4	ready for is Item 8C. That is an update on the
5	2021 fair.
6	Michele?
7	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Absolutely. Yes. And
8	we will keep this brief. It was a time for fun,
9	during the fair, and now is a time to celebrate.
10	So how did we fare?
11	Well, let's start off with reviewing what
12	our goals were. You know that the board and staff
13	went on a nearly year-long journey together with
14	many twists and turns to plan a safe and healthy
15	fair, and these are the important goals that we
16	outlined along the way.
17	Number one, we wanted to limit our daily
18	ticket sales to control capacity, so we set a goal
19	of 75,000 or, sorry, 75 percent of our normal
20	daily attendance. So the goal was 45,000 tickets
21	per day.
22	We wanted to create an exceptional guest
23	experience measured by our survey results. We
24	wanted to achieve a 3.5 rating or higher in our
25	guest survey categories, and I'll share the results

of that with you in a few minutes.

We wanted to minimize the impact of the fair in surrounding neighborhoods, and we measured that by neighbor feedback, and it was very, very positive.

We wanted to produce a 2021 OC Fair that was safe and healthy. And as the board knows, we worked very, very closely with the Orange County Health Care Agency, the California Department of Public Health, and, of course, adhering to CDC quidelines.

And we wanted to make sure that this year's fair was profitable and either met or exceeded our budget goals. So I'll review the results about all of that.

What was different about this fair?

Well, there were a lot of differences.

First and foremost is that our guests purchased their tickets online in advance of the fair, and that was a long time in coming, trying to get away from the on-site ticket booth sales and to coax our guests into purchasing online, and they absolutely did that. The pandemic certainly taught our guests that they needed to purchase their tickets that way.

We had, indeed, reduced daily capacity,
which created more elbow room, although at times,
we felt like all 45,000 people were on site all at
one time because people came and stayed for hours
and hours. The length of stay was much greater
this year than it had been in previous years.

We had some programming changes. We did not activate the action sports arena with shows for two reasons: We needed to use that for back-of-house operations to provide more on-site parking for our guests, but also that the typical shows that we have had in the past in the action sports arena were loss leaders. They were not profitable, and we just couldn't afford to take those on this year.

We extended our Pacific amphitheater schedule. Because of artists' schedules and wanting to push a little bit later in the summer, our Pacific amphitheater series did not get started until we were well into fair and has continued throughout August and September. Our last show is tonight in the Pacific amphitheater.

And we held a virtual junior livestock auction, and that's because working with our 4H and FFA programs, they were already far down the line,



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1	and it was just too late for them to be able to do
2	an on-site show, so we did that virtually with very
3	good success.
4	We had some layout changes, which our
5	guests loved. We moved the pig races out of the
6	livestock area and put them front and center in
7	Park Plaza. People loved it.
8	We reprogrammed Plaza Pacifica to include
9	the hypnotist, and we introduced dueling pianos,
LO	which was very popular with our guests.
L1	And we didn't do the kids explorium tent,
L2	but we moved the kids programming into the OC
L3	Promenade with a wonderful exhibit on the national
L4	parks, and families just really, really loved it.
L5	During the lead-up to the fair, as we were
L6	making our preparations, we applied for and
L7	received the GBAC Star Facility certification
L8	through the global bio risk advisory council, which
L9	deemed our enhanced cleaning and sanitation
20	procedures top notch, so we were very proud of that
21	designation.
22	Our contactless transactions started in
23	the parking lot through people paying through
24	electronic devices right in the parking lot. And

for those of you that came through the gate, you

1	know how wonderful our new gate security screening
2	system was, absolutely touchless, and it put people
3	through the gate flawlessly and quickly.
4	Our guests had a lot of great things to
5	say about the fair. We sent out a daily survey to
6	all who purchased tickets to the OC Fair.
7	Remember that 3.5 goal that we set? Well,
8	we exceeded it in every category: Overall
9	enjoyment, 4.2; overall experience, 4.1; overall
10	value, 3.6.
11	Over 1,200,000 video views on our social
12	media platforms. Our social media platforms
13	Twitter, Instagram, Facebook were very, very
14	active. We added TikTok this year as well, and you
15	can see the results of that: Almost 1.6 million
16	total engagements on social media, and that's a
17	23.2 percent increase over the last fair in 2019.
18	Because our guests purchased their tickets
19	online, we were able to capture all of that
20	customer contact data, and our e-mail database list
21	grew by 73 percent. We added 238,000 new contacts
22	to that list.
23	And we're very proud that our guest
24	comments were overwhelmingly positive. Complaints
25	were down 75 percent. So in a normal year, we'll

1	get well over 100 written comments. These are
2	guests who are on site that stop by our guest
3	services booth and write a written comment.
4	We had 42 this year compared to a typical,
5	you know, 160, 170 comments. So we're also very
6	proud of that.
7	We received a posting on one of our social
8	media sites that I wanted to read quickly because I
9	think it really sums up what a great atmosphere the
LO	fair and what a great experience it provided.
L1	This is from a guest named Jessica. She
L2	says:
L3	"Thank you," with many exclamation
L4	points, "to the directors and staff who
L5	put the fair together and the many
L6	workers at the fair," more exclamation
L7	points.
L8	"I'm from San Diego and make it my
L9	mission to always attend the OC Fair.
20	This is my fifth coming, and it never
21	disappoints. I have brought many
22	friends and family, and they love it as
23	well.
24	"Keep up the amazing work that you
25	do, and thank you for keeping it clean

1	and just being on top of it. Can't
2	wait until next year. You guys stay
3	safe, and God bless, from Jessica."
4	I just wanted to share that one example.
5	So let's look at the numbers. Well, our
6	attendance was 1,055,770.
7	Our OC Fair guest demographic very closely
8	matched the greater OC Fair or Orange County
9	demographic, and that's really important to us
10	because we want to make sure that the fair is
11	accessible to all in our community and that we're
12	reaching everyone.
13	16 out of our 23 days were sold out. We
14	reached our maximum ticket sales of 45,000.
15	Almost 10,000 competitive entries were
16	submitted by members of the community in lots of
17	categories: Quilts and baked goods and beautiful
18	woodworking. We gave out over 4,500 ribbons and
19	awards, and there were 74 best-of-show awards.
20	If you look at that top photo, you'll see
21	Director Aitken and Chair Rubalcava-Garcia helping
22	us give out those 74 best-of-show awards, so that
23	was great fun during the fair.
24	Over 2.5 million carnival rides
25	individual rides were enjoyed by guests.

1	We had 20 sold-out shows in the hangar,
2	nine sold-out shows in the Pacific amphitheater.
3	There were 338 community entertainment performers
4	right from right here in Orange County who
5	performed on three stages.
6	155 small business merchants and
7	concessionaires came together to help put on the
8	fair.
9	And we want to highlight our recycling
10	efforts. They were strong this year. 6,300 pounds
11	of plastic was recycled; 600 pounds of glass;
12	800 pounds of aluminum; 66,000 pounds of cardboard;
13	and over 6,000 gallons of cooking oil were recycled
14	as a result of the fair.
15	So what were the numbers? Well, they were
16	very good. Let me explain this chart real quick.
17	If you look on the right-hand side, you'll
18	see the revenue and expense numbers from the 2019
19	fair. The numbers in the middle column are
20	preliminary numbers from the 2021 OC Fair.
21	I say "preliminary" because our Pacific
22	amphitheater season concert season went past the
23	fair into the end of August and September, and so
24	that \$35.2 million number will go up as a result.
25	But if you look at the comparison, full

1	fair with approaching 1.4 million people in 2019
2	generated revenue of 36.5 million, but our fair
3	with 45,000 people per day, with limited capacity,
4	generated 35.2 million in revenue. People came to
5	the fair, and they spent generously, and we're very
6	grateful for that.
7	Our labor expenses, you can see, went way
8	down compared to 2019. A smaller fair, a
9	controlled fair with controlled attendance doesn't
10	need as many employees.
11	And we too had our challenges with hiring
12	people as well.
13	Our nonlabor expenses the staff did a
14	phenomenal job of managing expenses. In 2019,
15	14.8 million in nonlabor expenses compared with
16	8.7 million in 2021.
17	So the bottom line, results were in
18	2019 with a full fair, unlimited attendance, our
19	net proceeds were 14.5 million compared to
20	preliminary net proceeds from the 2021 fair of
21	22 million.
22	So we have some analysis to do and some
23	recommendations, but primarily, what did we learn
24	from this year's fair?
25	Well, we did learn that our guests will



1	purchase tickets ahead of time online, and I think
2	they will continue to do that in the future.
3	We learned that limited capacity creates
4	huge demand for the fair.
5	We also learned that a carefully produced
6	fair with limited capacity can actually be more
7	profitable than unlimited attendance.
8	We also learned that increasingly more
9	attendance every year is not a metric that we want
LO	to chase anymore. The goal of putting more and
L1	more and more people on this property in those 23
L2	days is not necessarily the direction we should
L3	take.
L4	And, finally, not something new that we
L5	learned, but certainly something that we confirmed
L6	is that our community loves the OC Fair.
L7	So that concludes our presentation, but
L8	we're happy to take any questions the board might
L9	have.
20	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.
21	Any questions or comments from the board?
22	DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: This is Director
23	Kovacevich. I'll make a comment.
24	Again, congratulate Michele and the staff
25	on a fantastic fair. And this presentation was

1	phenomenal, and you can kind of see here in a quick
2	snapshot just the results of all of your hard work
3	and how it truly paid off this year.
4	So, again, congratulations, and thank you.
5	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Thank you.
6	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: This is Director
7	Bagneris. The financial monitoring and audit
8	committee met a week ago Friday, and when I first
9	saw these numbers of how the fair did compared to
10	2019, I almost fell out of my seat. That was an
11	incredible, incredible fair.
12	I didn't think I was going to be able to
13	make the fair this year. I was with my new
14	grandson in Houston, and I ended up coming back
15	early, and I am so glad I did.
16	I thoroughly enjoyed the fair. There was
17	room to move around, and I'm like you, Michele. I
18	think a couple of nights, I think all 45,000 showed
19	up at the same time. And I think they probably
20	left and came back.
21	So just an outstanding job to every member
22	of our staff, our executive staff, as well as every
23	employee.
24	I did attend the employee appreciation
25	event after the fair, and it's just incredible, how

1	our workers have been with us for 30 years or more,
2	just an incredible job.
3	The talent that we have on our staff, the
4	creativity that we have I always learn something
5	new when I come. You would not have known we were
6	in the midst of a pandemic at the fair this year.
7	So I want to thank everyone, and I'm
8	looking for many more years of fairs in
9	Orange County.
10	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
11	Bagneris.
12	Any further comments?
13	(No response.)
14	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I would just ditto
15	what Nick and Barbara have said. The presentation
16	was excellent. And the fact that we're looking at,
17	give or take, 22 million versus 14 million really
18	emphasizes the fact that more is not necessarily
19	better.
20	And also what that does, it translates
21	into us being able to address all of the attendant
22	traffic and parking issues and the storage issues
23	on site. As Barbara knows, that's kind of a
24	continuing issue that we need to address over the
25	long term.

1	So, again, kudos to staff. Each and every
2	one of you did a fantastic job.
3	And if there are no further comments,
4	we'll move on to the next item.
5	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Vice Chair La Belle,
6	this is the item to appoint a chair and vice-chair
7	nominating committee.
8	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.
9	In consultation with Chair
10	Rubalcava-Garcia, we're appointing to former
11	Chairperson Bagneris and Former Chairperson Aitken
12	to the nominating committee.
13	Okay. Next item, 8E.
14	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. These are our
15	committee reports.
16	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.
17	Starting with the leadership committee,
18	pursuant to board policy, Natalie and I met prior
19	to the start of the fair with our security
20	director, UFA, and all of the attendant public
21	safety entities just to get a briefing on what we
22	were doing in preparation for the fair.
23	That would be the Costa Mesa PD; fire;
24	Orange County sheriff; our medic team in
25	attendance.

1	In addition to Natalie and I was CEO
2	Michele Richards and COO Ken Karns. We were all in
3	attendance.
4	Nick did a fantastic job. We had a really
5	good handle on what the security was going to be
6	for the fair.
7	Also, consistent with board policy,
8	roughly midterm during the fair, Natalie and I,
9	again, met with, at this time, Michele and Ken and
10	Nick and the executive staff from the Orange County
11	Sheriff's Department, who gave us an update on what
12	was occurring, and both of those meetings were very
13	positive.
14	I have nothing further on that. I'd like
15	to turn it over to the financial monitoring
16	committee. That would be I don't believe
17	Director Pham is on the meeting, so, Barbara, do
18	you have anything you'd like to add to what was
19	presented in terms of the budget?
20	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. I'll just make a
21	few comments.
22	Director Pham was not able to be here
23	today, our chair, but we did have our regular
24	meeting on Friday, the 17th.
25	Just for our new director's benefit, the

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1	committee monitors the organization's financial
2	position and ensures financial controls are in
3	place. We focus on monthly financial oversight;
4	the annual budget review; the annual audit process.
5	Special projects, right now, the 2020
6	financial audit. As you know, we did produce a
7	larger fair, as you just saw, than originally
8	budgeted, and we did extremely well, as you just
9	saw, so I don't need to go back over any of those
10	numbers.
11	I will say that as of August 31st, 2021,
12	our cash in investments are 62.3 million, which is
13	an increase of 16.8 million over August of 2020.
14	And I want to always keep mentioning these numbers
15	because it's amazing to me the growth that we've
16	seen at this fair even in the midst of a pandemic.
17	I will also say that we are forecasting
18	the year-end net proceeds of 12.7 million, which is
19	a \$24.5 million improvement on the \$11.8 million
20	loss that we projected originally in the 2021
21	budget.
22	The committee did receive an update from
23	staff on the status of the 2020 financial audit.
24	The team of Lasso and Lungert [phonetic] is now on
25	site and conducting an audit, which is expected to

1	be completed before the end of the year.
2	Our next committee meeting will be
3	October 22nd, and if there are any questions, I'd
4	be happy to answer them, or Michele.
5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
6	Bagneris.
7	Let me back up a quick second. Were there
8	any public comments on the governance reports that
9	I should have called on beforehand?
10	Summer, any
11	DIRECTOR AGNUS: No. I have two public
12	comments for committees, Reggie Mundekis on the
13	committees, and then Gibran Stout for the
14	facilities committee.
15	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Why don't we
16	go ahead and complete the reports, then, and we'll
17	circle back to the public comments at that time.
18	Facilities committee we have a report
19	there. I believe Director Aitken is the chair of
20	that.
21	Ashleigh, you have a report to make?
22	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Thank you so much.
23	I would like to just refer everybody to
24	our attached report. One thing I would like to
25	highlight is that we had several meetings, and one

1	of our last meetings, September 15th, Director Ruiz
2	and I met with the current equestrian center
3	operator, and we have discussed several times as a
4	full board we are on a month-to-month contract and
5	have been for several years with the operator.
6	I would request that the board that the
7	chair or vice-chair agendize for the next meeting
8	the ability for us to enter into a year-long
9	contract with the current operator while we are
LO	going through the strategic planning process.
L1	It helps us bring this the current LOU
L2	up to current legal standards. And that will buy
L3	us some time, while we are discussing how we can
L4	move forward with the equestrian center.
L5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
L6	Aitken.
L7	Next item is the governance committee.
L8	Director Cervantes, do you have any report
L9	to make at this time?
20	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Not at this time,
21	Director La Belle.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Sandra.
23	The community affairs committee
24	Director Ruiz?
25	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. Hi. Yes. Yes, Vice

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1	Chair La Belle.
2	Yeah. As you all know, Director
3	Kovacevich and I have been pushing, as part of our
4	diversity committee, to put something on our
5	grounds that would celebrate the diversity and rich
6	history of Orange County.
7	So what Michele and the staff did is we
8	put out a survey during fair time, and I'm excited
9	that there were over 300 people who took the
10	survey, so I'm looking forward to seeing what the
11	results were.
12	The committee report said they would get
13	those to us in the next few weeks, because I'm
14	really excited to see what those people what the
15	survey's going to reveal on their ideas that they
16	have for us. So that's going to be for my report.
17	Again, I'm excited. I'm excited 300
18	people participated in this survey, and hopefully,
19	we can get something on our grounds here pretty
20	soon.
21	Thank you.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you,
23	Director Ruiz.
24	Centennial Farms. Director Cervantes,
25	anything to report?

1	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I do not have
2	anything to report on this subject. Thank you.
3	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. I don't know
4	if the staff has any follow-up on that, Michele
5	or
6	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Or Joan?
7	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Or Joan. Yeah.
8	MS. HAMILL: Yes. This is Joan, and the
9	Centennial Farm Foundation did have a meeting on
LO	September 16th. On the agenda were items that they
L1	were discussing, possibilities for future
L2	fund-raisers and also are seeking new board members
L3	to sit on that.
L4	So they discussed the progress they were
L5	having with that.
L6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Joan.
L7	The Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation
L8	Sandra and I attended and Joan was there as well
L9	and Carol by a Zoom board meeting on Monday of
20	this past week, the 20th.
21	We are continuing to, you know, discuss
22	various fundraising options. As a matter of fact,
23	we're going to be through the president,
24	Mr. Berardino, we are going to be sending letters
2.5	out to a number of business organizations with



1	municipal and governmental contacts in an attempt
2	to generate some additional donations from those
3	organizations. And, at a minimum, we will get
4	about 20 different businesses more familiar with
5	the foundation and what it does in terms of the
6	Heroes Hall Veterans Museum.
7	Also, Chair Berardino indicated that he
8	was aware that the board would be pursuing
9	legislation that will address the nonprofit issue,
LO	and he indicated his full support of that and will
L1	be preparing a communication that we can forward to
L2	the legislative process when it takes place.
L3	I did share that with Michele Richards,
L4	and my understanding is that obviously sometime
L5	after the first of the year, legislation that would
L6	address that whole issue of nonprofits, we hope to
L7	get introduced.
L8	With that, that would conclude my comments
L9	on that.
20	We do have two public comments, if we
21	could circle back, Summer, and have those. And
22	then as we need to respond to those comments, we
23	can do so.
24	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. We have Reggie

Mundekis followed by Gibran Stout.

1	Reggie, when you're ready.
2	MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Thank you for this
3	opportunity to address you today.
4	Regarding the equestrian center LOU, a
5	one-year LOU with the current operator, when it's
6	brought up to with updated legal language that's
7	reasonable and gives the board the opportunity to
8	make smart decisions, that LOU needs to be followed
9	up with an RFP within that one-year time frame.
10	I also request that there be a detailed
11	report on the repairs that have been made to the
12	equestrian center at operator expense.
13	The infrastructure analysis report noted
14	that there were multiple areas of the equestrian
15	center that needed to be repaired. And, again, the
16	contract the LOU requires operator to pay for
17	those repairs.
18	I also have a question from the Heroes
19	Hall Veterans Foundation report. There was a
20	statement made that there was a nonprofit issue,
21	which is being addressed with the legislature
22	that's being brought forward by Nick Berardino by
23	from the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation.
24	And I would just like a quick one- or

two-sentence summary on what is being addressed.

1	Thank you.
2	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you, Reggie.
3	Gibran Stout, when you're ready.
4	MS. STOUT: Okay. Can you hear me?
5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. Go ahead.
6	MS. STOUT: Okay. Great.
7	Hello. Good morning from the equestrian
8	community over at the on-site equestrian center. I
9	would like to thank staff for including us in the
LO	2021 fair.
L1	It was, indeed, an amazing fair, and we
L2	really enjoyed it. We enjoyed the synergy, and it
L3	was just fantastic. So we look forward to many
L4	more future collaborations with the equestrian
L5	during the fair.
L6	The equestrian center had a very busy
L7	summer bringing the joy of horses to local
L8	community members young and old.
L9	As we watched other Orange County boarding
20	facilities close their doors, our facilities
21	enjoyed full capacity plus a waiting list that's
22	growing daily.
23	We are looking forward to once again
24	having our annual Halloween costume, a great
25	contest on October 23rd It's a fun event where

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1	kids and horses dress themselves up. There will be
2	games for horses and riders as well as photo
3	booths.
4	We would like to invite everyone to come,
5	and we would once again like to extend an
6	invitation to any staff or board member who would
7	like to serve as a special VIP judge.
8	We also enjoyed listening to the board's
9	strategic planning session, which inspired our own
10	group of committed equestrians to do the same.
11	We have been busy brainstorming our own
12	slots and great ideas for visionary headlines,
13	which we would love to be able to share with the
14	facilities committee, especially in light of the
15	new LOU that you are discussing for the next year.
16	We think it would be great to incorporate this.
17	We understand the decision was made to
18	come up with a strategic plan before gathering
19	public input. However, know that we are here to
20	streamline that process.

We would like to formally request a study session or a meeting with the facilities committee in advance of the strategic plan drafting to share our unique and substantial data, information, expertise, and experience, not only as independent



1	professionals, but as daily users of the thriving,
2	busy, unique corner of the property.
3	So we would really like to share the
4	information that we have and be part of that
5	process.
6	So, please, again, a formal request to
7	have a meeting or be included in that, that would
8	be fantastic.
9	So thank you so much for your time today.
10	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Thank you.
11	That concludes public comment.
12	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Michele, could you
13	take a moment just to kind of do a quick update on
14	the nonprofit legislation that we are going to be
15	seeking support for through the legislature?
16	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes.
17	So currently there is no statutory
18	authorization in government code that allows for us
19	to provide use of the property for free or at a
20	discount to community groups or nonprofits.
21	So we are working with local local
22	legislators to see if we can amend or add to the
23	government code to allow the local fair boards to
24	make decisions regarding those discounts or fee
25	waivers.

1	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.
2	Just a quick comment in response to
3	Gibran's comments.
4	As Ashleigh indicated, the facilities
5	committee will be recommending a one-year agreement
6	that will go before the board at our October
7	meeting.
8	The attempt is to give us the ability to
9	get through the strategic planning process and
10	determine what it is exactly we are going to be
11	doing, not only in terms of the equestrian center,
12	but literally all of the uses that are currently
13	and potentially on the site in the future.
14	The board has gone on record on a number
15	of occasions, and it has indicated that the
16	equestrian center will be there.
17	The key is: Will it be there only as a
18	boarding facility, or will it be there as a
19	year-round activity center, such as centennial
20	farms, Heroes Hall, et cetera?
21	And the board is ultimately going to have
22	to make that determination, and then obviously when
23	that determination is made, the type of RFP will
24	obviously evolve from that process.
25	We have had our initial strategic planning



1	session and have gone through a number of
2	exercises. The board's decision is that we want to
3	make sure that we have put together a document that
4	gives focus to what it is in terms of the board's
5	direction.
6	And that document will be a draft
7	document. There will be plenty of opportunity for
8	input from all of our stakeholders, but the board's
9	directive is that we have that draft document in
10	place so that our stakeholders have something to
11	react to as we move forward towards a final
12	product.
13	Okay. With that, I think that concludes
14	the governance process.
15	And next item on the agenda is closed
16	session.
17	Are you ready to take us to closed
18	session?
19	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Yes. I'm building the
20	breakout room right now. If you'll just give me a
21	moment. Thank you.
22	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: So the board will
23	break out into closed session relative to the
24	matters of the agenda, and we'll return to open
25	session following that.



1	(Recess.)
2	(Roll call.)
3	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Summer, he had to
4	leave the meeting, as well as Director Bagneris.
5	DIRECTOR AGNUS: Okay.
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: We do have a quorum.
7	I do want to state for the record that the
8	board considered the advice of the legal advice
9	of counsel on the matters that are listed on the
LO	closed session agenda and has nothing to report at
L1	this time.
L2	Okay. Michele, do you want to do your
L3	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Yes. I know it's been
L4	a long meeting. Just a few quick updates.
L5	I wanted to report that a few weeks before
L6	the fair opened, Ken Karns, Joan Hamill, and I were
L7	joined by Costa Mesa Mayor pro tem Andrea Marr and
L8	Vick Bakkila from the Costa Mesa Police Department.
L9	We held two meetings in the surrounding
20	neighborhoods to talk about the impact that the
21	fair has and to assure our neighbors that we were
22	going to do all we could to minimize something we
23	call TNT: Traffic, noise, and trash.
24	And we were warmly met by the neighbors,
25	and it was important in continuing that strong



1	relationship between the city and the fair and to
2	let the neighbors know that we care and we are
3	listening.
4	I was very honored to be appointed to
5	serve on the advisory council for Cal Poly San Luis
6	Obispo's College of Agriculture, Food and
7	Environmental Science, specifically to advise on
8	the university's fairs and exposition management
9	program.
10	This is an excellent opportunity for us to
11	mentor students, serve as guest lecturers, and help
12	shape the next generation of fair leaders.
13	Strategic planning was mentioned on
14	September 9th. The board met for a kickoff session
15	of a three-year strategic planning process. We had
16	a great session, laying the foundation, and we are
17	looking at tentative dates to continue the process
18	in October. So stay tuned for more.
19	Chair Rubalcava-Garcia and I visited the
20	OC swap meet a few weeks ago to participate in a
21	ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome 13 new
22	merchants, all recent graduates of Cal State
23	Fullerton's Small Business Development program.
24	I'm very happy to report that the new swap

meet continues to grow and is thriving. There are

1	now over 170 merchants, most joining from the
2	former OC marketplace, but lots of new merchants as
3	well. It was really, really impressive, so we
4	encourage you to go.
5	Once again, the readers of OC Parenting
6	Magazine have named the 2021 OC Fair the best fair
7	or festival in Orange County.
8	The 19th annual Readers Choice awards were
9	announced last week, and they featured the best of
LO	the best in Orange County, and we were very proud
L1	to receive that honor.
L2	And to top it off, Kids Guide named
L3	Centennial Farms as one of their top family outing
L4	ideas in L.A. and Orange County.
L5	And we have launched our 2022 budget
L6	process. We are working with the financial
L7	monitoring committee to schedule a date for a
L8	public budget study session in early November, and
L9	then the budget will be presented to the full board
20	in 2022. So wish us luck on that.
21	And then speaking of the budget, just very
22	quickly looking at our financials for the month,
23	our year-to-date revenue for the period
24	eight-month period ending August 31st is

44.9 million. We had budgeted revenue of

1	22.5 million, so very favorable to budget.
2	And please remember that that original
3	budget that the board approved was with a much
4	smaller fair. That's why you're seeing these great
5	variances.
6	Year-to-date expenses are below budget
7	with a favorable variance, so our year-to-date net
8	proceeds at this point in time, we had budgeted a
9	5.3, almost \$5.4 million loss. We're now at an
10	18 nearly \$18.9 million net proceeds. That's a
11	variance positive variance of 24.2 million.
12	And as Director Bagneris mentioned
13	earlier, our cash position improved tremendously
14	because of the fair, so we're very, very grateful
15	that so many people were able to come.
16	As we have been doing every month this
17	year or every month since the budget was
18	approved, is reforecasting for a year end.
19	So the original budget approved by the
20	board showed an \$18.8 million loss that we
21	expected. We're now forecasting that we'll come in
22	at about a \$12.6 million net profit. So quite a
23	turnaround. Very happy about that.
24	And we've got some great events coming up

for the rest of the month and into October, and we

1	encourage everybody to check out our website at						
2	OCFair.com for all the information.						
3	And don't forget to visit Centennial Farm						
4	and Heroes Hall. They're both reopened now.						
5	That completes my report.						
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.						
7	Any questions?						
8	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: No, but wishing a very						
9	happy birthday to Directors Cervantes and Ruiz, who						
10	are both celebrating birthdays this week.						
11	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you so much.						
12	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Happy birthday to						
13	both.						
14	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you.						
15	Thank you to everyone.						
16	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Doug, I think we're						
17	ready to wrap it up.						
18	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Let's go						
19	around the table and see what comments we might						
20	have.						
21	Director Bagneris, do you have any						
22	comments?						
23	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I want to follow up,						
24	again, about the fair and how good it was and						
25	thanking the staff for all that they did.						

1	And I also mentioned earlier that I went
2	to the employee appreciation, and I believe
3	Michele 35 years?
4	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: Oh. Not yet. 20
5	years.
6	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: 20 years. Okay.
7	Because you were only five when you came to the
8	party?
9	DIRECTOR RICHARDS: That's right.
LO	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So 20 years. And she
L1	was able to get that announcement made at the event
L2	as well.
L3	But I just want to thank everybody.
L4	Welcome to our newest director. I know
L5	she's not on right now, but I can see she's going
L6	to be a valuable addition to our team.
L7	And I just wish everybody the best of the
L8	rest of the month.
L9	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara.
20	Director Aitken?
21	DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. Thank you.
22	Congratulations to our CEO and staff on an amazing
23	fair. Those numbers are so exciting.
24	And, yeah, welcome to our new board
25	member. It's nice to be back up to 100 percent.

1	So see everybody next month.
2	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Director Cervantes?
3	(No response.)
4	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Sandra?
5	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Can you hear me?
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: We can hear you.
7	DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Hi. Yes. I ditto
8	everything that has been said. It is really
9	exciting to have have had such a successful
10	fair, and also acknowledging all the hard work that
11	the actual staff did paid off.
12	And congratulations to our newest addition
13	to the board of directors. And I agree. We're
14	going to have nowhere to go but up now, and just
15	make sure that everything we touch and do is going
16	to be better than it was.
17	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Sandra.
18	Director Ruiz?
19	DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you, Vice-Chair. I
20	also want to echo the comments of the other
21	directors. I congratulate the CEO, Michele, and
22	her staff for an amazing fair.
23	You know, just at the beginning of this
24	year, we weren't sure if we were going to have one
25	or not, and it turned out to be a great success,

1	and I'm really proud of the job they did and just
2	thank everyone for their efforts.
3	And I also want to congratulate our newest
4	director.
5	Thank you.
6	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you,
7	Director Ruiz.
8	I ditto the comments from the board
9	members. Obviously 18 million is a significant
10	increase, if you will, and far beyond what we
11	anticipated when we got into this.
12	And my congratulations to my fellow
13	members of the board for their hard work and
14	Michele and her staff for all the work that she did
15	to make all of this happen.
16	I did want to end and obviously
17	congratulations to our new board member. I know
18	she's going to be a tremendous asset as we go
19	through our strategic planning process over the
20	next few months.
21	I did want to add one item. I happened to
22	be watching the History Channel over the weekend,
23	and they had the Barrett-Jackson inaugural auction
24	from Houston, so they're now in Scottsdale and
25	Houston, and I think Ashleigh and I were probably

1	the only two board members that were here for the
2	first two years that Barrett-Jackson was on site.
3	They were a tremendous draw of people.
4	I think Michele can correct me, but I
5	think the basic revenue was somewhere around
6	400,000, plus whatever else was generated from it,
7	and they left for various reasons.
8	I don't know if those reasons still exist,
9	but I would very much like to consider, as we look
10	at alternative revenues, to making a full-court
11	press doing whatever we can to see if we can, not
12	just from our sales force, but from the board to
13	the CEO to see what we can do to see if we can
14	entice them back.
15	My son and I almost bid on an antique fire
16	truck, and that was probably the best decision we
17	made not to do that. But it was just a tremendous
18	experience.
19	And some of the cars they were selling,
20	believe it or not, on the Houston auction were
21	going for a million dollars and up.
22	So, anyway, I just add that as an added
23	item.
24	And with that, I have no further comments.
25	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I just have a go-back.

1	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Go ahead.
2	DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I want to commend you
3	on chairing this meeting. You did an outstanding
4	job for getting back in the saddle.
5	VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara.
6	I appreciate it.
7	With that, we stand adjourned to
8	October 28th.
9	(Whereupon, the OCFEC Board of Directors Meeting
10	was hereby adjourned at 1:20 p.m.)
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2	CERTIFICATE
3	OF
4	CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
5	* * *
6	
7	
8	The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter of
9	the State of California does hereby certify:
10	That the foregoing Proceeding was taken before me
11	at the time and place therein set forth.
12	That the testimony and all objections made at the
13	time of the Proceeding were recorded stenographically by me
14	and were thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a
15	true and correct copy of the proceedings thereof.
16	In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name,
17	this date: 10/08/2021
18	
19	4.00
20	Out del.
21	STEPHANIE LESLIE, CSR No. 12893
22	
23	
24	
25	



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