



In the Matter Of:

O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 27, 2022

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

9:33 A.M.

MEETING HELD

VIA ZOOM

**CERTIFIED COPY**

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Stenographically Reported by:  
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Registered Professional Reporter

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DOUG LA BELLE  
Chairperson

NEWTON PHAM  
Vice Chairperson

SANDRA CERVANTES

ASHLEIGH AITKEN

BARBARA BAGNERIS

MELAHAT RAFIEI

---o0o---

STAFF

MICHELE RICHARDS  
Chief Executive Officer

KEN KARNS  
Chief Operating Officer

SUMMER AGNES  
Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant

JOAN HAMILL  
Chief Business Development Officer

---o0o---

BOARD COUNSEL

JOSH CAPLAN  
Deputy Attorney General

---o0o---

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

REGGIE MUNDEKIS

---o0o---

1	I N D E X	
2	AGENDA ITEM	PAGE
3	1. CALL TO ORDER	6
4	2. THE MISSION OF OCFEC IS...	6
5	3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	7
6	4. ROLL CALL	7
7	5. MINUTES:	
8	A. Board meeting held December 7, 2021	8
9	B. Board meeting held December 16, 2021	9
10	6. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT: None.	10
11	7. CONSENT CALENDAR:	11
12	A. Standard Agreements (New): SA-007-22YR	
13	i. Standard Agreement Amendments	
14	(Exercise Option): SA-062-20YR	
15	(Amend.#1); SA-110-20YR (Amend. #1);	
16	SA-129-20YR (Amend. #1); SA-134-20YR	
17	(Amend. #1)	
18	B. Rental Agreements: R-002-22; R-004-22;	
19	R-005-22; R-006-22; R-007-22; R-008-22;	
20	R-012-22; R-018-21; R-021-22; R-022-22;	
21	R-039-22; R-041-22; R-042-22; R-043-22;	
22	R-046-22; R-048-22; R-051-22; R-052-22;	
23	R-053-22; R-054-22	
24	i. Rental Agreement Amendments:	
25	R-041-22 (Amend. #1); R-043-22	
	(Amend. #1)	
	(Removed from consent: R-007-22)	11
	(Removed from consent: R-048-22)	12
	C. Active Joint Powers Authority	
	Agreements (New): None.	

1	I N D E X   C O N T I N U E D	
2	AGENDA ITEM	PAGE
3	D. Correspondence	
4	i. None.	
5	E. CDFA Correspondence:	
6	i. 12/03/2021 - Circular Letter F2021-11	
7	ii. 01/06/2022 - State Rules for California Fairs	
8	-- End of Consent Calendar --	
9	8. GOVERNANCE PROCESS	
10	A. 3-Year Strategic Planning Workshop #4 to Discuss Property Strategic Direction	13
11	B. Discuss and Vote on Whether to Approve Fourth Amendment to Food Service Management Agreement Between Ovations Fanfare, L.P. and the District	31
12	C. Presentation of Carnival Services Agreement and Vote on Whether to Approve	34
13	D. Consideration of and Vote on Whether to Approve Resolution and Policy Recognizing February as Black History Month and Direction for Staff to Fly Pan-African Flag on the Fairgrounds for the Month of February	37
14	E. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report Information Item	
15	i. Leadership Committee (Chair La Belle, Committee Chair; Vice Chair Pham)	51
16	ii. Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee (Director Kovacevich, Committee Chair; Director Bagneris)	51
17	iii. Facilities Committee (Director Ruiz, Committee Chair; Director Aitken)	53

1	I N D E X   C O N T I N U E D	
2	AGENDA ITEM	PAGE
3	8. GOVERNANCE PROCESS (Continued)	
4	G. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee /	
5	Liaison Report Information Item	
	(Continued)	
6	iv. Governance Committee (Director	55
7	Cervantes, Committee Chair;	
	Director Rubalcava-Garcia)	
8	v. Community Affairs Committee	58
9	(Director Bagneris, Committee	
	Chair; Director Rafiei)	
10	vi. Entertainment and Business	55
11	Development Committee (Director	
12	Rubalcava-Garcia, Committee Chair;	
	Director Pham)	
13	vii. Governmental Relations Committee	56
14	(Director Aitken, Committee	
	Chair; Director Pham)	
15	viii. Centennial Farm Foundation	58
16	Liaison (Director Kovacevich,	
	Director Rafiei)	
17	ix. Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation	58
18	Liaison (Director Cervantes,	
	Chair La Belle)	
19	9. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to the Public) --	
20	Not held	
21	10. CEO'S OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	60
22	11. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MATTERS OF INFORMATION	67
23	12. NEXT BOARD MEETING: February 24, 2022	74
24	13. ADJOURNMENT	74
25	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	75
	---o0o---	

1 Thursday, January 27, 2022, 9:33 a.m.

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3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Let's go ahead and get  
4 started. Michele, can you make the introduction  
5 relative to the items that are on the agenda.

6 MS. RICHARDS: I will.

7 So welcome, everyone, to the January 2022 Board  
8 of Directors meeting for the OC Fair & Event Center.

9 Chair La Belle, I will turn it over to you to  
10 call the meeting to order and read the mission. Or I  
11 can read the mission for you. But all matters noticed  
12 on this agenda in any category may be considered for  
13 action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be  
14 considered. Items listed on this agenda may be  
15 considered in any order at the discretion of the  
16 chairperson.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. The  
18 mission of the Orange County Fair & Event Center is the  
19 celebration of Orange County's communities, interest,  
20 agriculture, and heritage with results justifying  
21 resources expended.

22 Melahat, can I ask you if you would lead us in  
23 the Pledge.

24 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: It would be my honor. Please  
25 put your hand over your heart and repeat after me.

1 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited  
2 in unison.)

3 MS. RICHARDS: Summer, can I ask you to call  
4 the roll, please.

5 MS. ANGUS: It would be my pleasure.  
6 Chair La Belle.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Here.

8 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

9 DIRECTOR PHAM: Here.

10 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

13 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Here.

14 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Here.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Here.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

21 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Here.

22 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

23 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Here.

24 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. The next item.



1 The minutes of the December 7th and  
2 December 16th meeting. Let's take those separately if  
3 we can.

4 Is there a motion and a second for -- to  
5 approve the minutes of December 7th?

6 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: So moved. This is Director  
7 Rafiei.

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director Bagneris. Second.

9 MS. RICHARDS: Please call the roll, Summer.

10 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

12 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ANGUS: I will circle back.

17 Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

18 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

19 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

24 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

25 MS. ANGUS: Director Rafiei.

1 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: And one more time for Vice Chair  
3 Pham.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Is he on mute, maybe?

5 MS. ANGUS: He is. But we have a -- we have a  
6 quorum and vote.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Very good.

8 The motion and a second for the  
9 December 16th minutes?

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: So moved. This is Director  
11 Rafiei.

12 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Second. Director  
13 Kovacevich.

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, please call the  
15 roll.

16 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I will abstain.

22 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

2 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I made a mistake. I  
3 realized I wasn't at that meeting, so I probably  
4 shouldn't have been the one to second it. And I will  
5 have to abstain. If someone wants to take the second.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I will go ahead and  
7 second it, as the Chair.

8 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

9 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

10 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Michele, can -- pardon  
12 me. Can you introduce the matters of public comment,  
13 please.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Happy to.

15 Public comment is allowed on issues not on the  
16 current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall  
17 be permitted on such public comments and no action will  
18 be taken on such public comment items at this time, as  
19 the law requires formal public notice prior to any  
20 action on a docket item. Speakers are requested to sign  
21 in prior to the start of the meeting and are limited to  
22 three minutes.

23 Comments will be accepted on all other agenda  
24 items at the time each item is listed on the agenda.  
25 Speakers wishing to address the Board on items on the

1 agenda are requested to sign in prior to the start of  
2 the meeting and identify the agenda item on which you  
3 desire to address the Board.

4 Speakers are limited to three minutes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

6 Summer, do we have any public comments?

7 MS. ANGUS: I don't have anyone that has  
8 indicated through the chat. But I would just like to  
9 make an announcement, for those of the public who are  
10 dialed in and would like to make public comment, general  
11 public comment, they will need to \*6 to unmute yourself.  
12 And if you would like to make public comment, please  
13 state your name now.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, I will turn it back  
16 to you, Chair La Belle.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. If we could move  
18 to Item 7, which is the consent calendar.

19 Michele, do you wish to pull anything, or do  
20 any of the directors wish to pull anything from the  
21 consent calendar?

22 MS. RICHARDS: I do have two items to omit from  
23 the consent calendar. That is Item R-007-22, under  
24 Rental Agreements. This is our rental agreement with  
25 the County for emergency response.

1           We were initially planning on doing a rental --  
2   an additional rental agreement, but the County has  
3   decided to exercise their option year from the previous  
4   contract, so a rental agreement is not needed. So that  
5   can be eliminated from the list.

6           And the other one is under rental agreements,  
7   R-048-22. This was an event for El Toro High School for  
8   their winter formal, and the high school has decided to  
9   move the event to their campus. So that contract is  
10   being canceled.

11           Other than that, the list is good.

12           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

13           With those two deletions, is there a motion to  
14   approve the consent calendar?

15           DIRECTOR AITKEN: This is Director Aitken. I  
16   move to approve the consent calendar.

17           DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director Bagneris. I  
18   second.

19           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We have a motion and a  
20   second.

21           Summer, please call the roll, if you would.

22           MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

23           MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

24           MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

25           (No response.)

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

2 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

3 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

4 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

8 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We will move on  
13 to Item 8A. I would like to make an introductory  
14 comment that on each of these action items, I would  
15 request that the staff, or whoever the presenter is,  
16 make the presentation. Obviously, directors can ask  
17 questions during the course of the presentation. Then  
18 we will get public comments and then bring it back to  
19 the directors for whatever action that we choose to  
20 take.

21 So with that, Michele, can you go ahead and  
22 proceed with Item 8A.

23 MS. RICHARDS: I will.

24 This is the continuation of our strategic  
25 planning process, per Board Policy 4.05. We completed

1 our discussion in the first three workshops regarding  
2 programming at the OC Fair & Event Center. And today  
3 we'll continue that process by set -- the Board setting  
4 direction for the property.

5           There were two documents that were referred to  
6 in preparation for this discussion: One is the  
7 Infrastructure Audit Report. The other is the Draft  
8 Master Site Plan Concept. Both of those documents have  
9 been posted on our website for both the Board and the  
10 public.

11           So a very quick review, as we come into  
12 Workshop Number 4: Everything in red -- our purpose,  
13 our programming -- we've completed. There is still some  
14 detail to be done on specific, measurable, goals for  
15 each strategic direction, and staff is continuing to  
16 work on that. We'll bring that back in draft form for  
17 the Board to approve at a later date.

18           But today, we focus on the last slice of the  
19 orange, which is the strategic direction for our  
20 property. So, basically, what buildings, grounds, and  
21 other facilities are needed to achieve the direction  
22 that the Board has set for programming related to the  
23 annual OC Fair: Our year-round events program, our  
24 educational assets, and our relationship with our  
25 foundation, for the Equestrian Center, and community

1 support during emergencies.

2 So as we go through this Workshop Number 4, I  
3 think it would be very helpful for the Board to think  
4 about our property and how does it support the strategic  
5 direction for programming that the Board has already  
6 set? What buildings and grounds currently support the  
7 annual fair, our year-round events program, the  
8 Equestrian Center, educational assets, and community  
9 support goals?

10 And probably more importantly is what changes,  
11 if any, need to be made to achieve the Board's strategic  
12 direction?

13 Does the Draft Master Site Plan Concept provide  
14 some answers?

15 And what does the Infrastructure Audit say  
16 about the current condition of the property?

17 And, finally, what are the priorities for the  
18 Board as we go through recommendations regarding the  
19 property?

20 So very quickly, both the Board and the public  
21 were provided with the Strategic Direction Statements  
22 that the Board has already drafted. I will go over  
23 those very quickly:

24 For the Equestrian Center. The OC Fair & Event  
25 Center's Equestrian Center will serve as a true public



1 asset to ensure greater access to a broader group of  
2 constituents throughout Orange County. It will be  
3 operated as a "best in breed" equine venue, with the  
4 highest standards of care for boarded horses and animals  
5 in need of shelter during emergencies.

6 OC Fair & Event Center staff will operate the  
7 Equestrian Center, planning and executing program to the  
8 maximum benefit of the public. The programming will be  
9 focused on equine education and entertainment for the  
10 public.

11 The Equestrian Center programming will be  
12 integrated into other OC Fair & Event Center activities  
13 throughout the year, including the Annual OC Fair and  
14 Imaginology.

15 And then, finally, for the Equestrian Center,  
16 that the business model for the Equestrian Center will  
17 balance the requirement to operate as a public benefit  
18 venue with the need to be financially sound.

19 The Board has developed those Strategic  
20 Planning Direction Statements in Workshops 1 and 2, and  
21 they were reviewed and approved by the Board at the  
22 October 2021 Board meeting.

23 These statements were also developed during  
24 that early work -- two workshops and approved by the  
25 Board regarding the annual OC Fair:

1           That the fair will establish public-private  
2 partnerships designed to benefit and increase  
3 accessibility to lower income residents of Orange  
4 County, so that all who are served are provided a full  
5 fair experience;

6           That the annual OC Fair will create an  
7 opportunity for -- each year for increased local  
8 business participation for merchants and  
9 concessionaires;

10           That marketing and advertising plans will focus  
11 on promoting and highlighting free-of-charge programming  
12 at the annual OC Fair in order to become the number one  
13 destination of choice for family activities each Summer;

14           The OC Fair will be, quote, "A place where you  
15 can break out with your family without breaking the  
16 bank";

17           And then, finally, in that category, that the  
18 OC Fair will be the number one fair in the state of  
19 California and in the top five in the U.S. for providing  
20 an exceptional guest experience to include educational  
21 offerings, exhibits that highlight the community, and  
22 activities that promote traditions and family  
23 connections.

24           Now, the following strategic statements for the  
25 year-round events program, our educational assets,

1 Centennial Farm, Heroes Hall, and our community support  
2 efforts, were drafted following the strategic planning  
3 Workshop Number 3. So the Board expressed their  
4 preferences for year-round events and community support  
5 and our educational assets. Staff stepped away, and we  
6 have developed these draft statements. So we're  
7 presenting them here, in draft form, and the Board will  
8 have an opportunity to further review and approve during  
9 the February Board meeting.

10 So regarding year-round events:

11 That the OC Fair will curate and offer more  
12 self-produced events to deliver relevant content and  
13 unique experiences to OC residents, particularly focused  
14 on youth, diversity, and community;

15 Number two: That the OC Fair & Event Center  
16 will create opportunities for small and local businesses  
17 to connect with a robust workforce in Orange County by  
18 sponsoring job fairs that bring together employers and  
19 employees, particularly youth.

20 Number three: Entertainment offerings in the  
21 Pacific Amphitheater will expand to include activities  
22 outside of the traditional fair dates.

23 And number four: That the OC Fair & Event  
24 Center will expand exposure to the business community in  
25 order to become a well known and frequently used venue

1 for Orange County businesses and business leaders.

2 With regard to our educational assets and  
3 working with our foundations, the Board discussed that  
4 the OC Fair & Event Center will be able to offer public  
5 officials the opportunity to hold official events at no  
6 cost at Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall;

7 That Centennial Farm will host more events to  
8 introduce more students to agriculture,  
9 agriculture-related topics, including nutrition and  
10 healthy eating;

11 That the Equestrian Center will be integrated  
12 into the educational offerings at Centennial Farm;

13 And that Heroes Hall and Centennial Farm will  
14 work with our two foundations to better define the  
15 connection and relationship between the Board and the  
16 foundations in order to provide more access to students  
17 and community groups that may face barriers to  
18 attendance;

19 That Heroes Hall will connect Orange County  
20 youth with veterans from Orange County through community  
21 events, school tours, and other educational  
22 opportunities, including producing the premier Veterans  
23 Day Celebration in Orange County.

24 And that the OC Fair & Event Center will launch  
25 a media campaign to inform the public about the

1 contributions the organization makes to the community,  
2 including at Heroes Hall, Centennial Farm, and with our  
3 emergency support services.

4 Okay. In terms of community support, that the  
5 OC Fair & Event Center will mobilize stakeholders and  
6 partners to complement the organization's efforts in  
7 supporting the community;

8 That the OC Fair & Event Center will ensure  
9 that proper resources are allocated for responding to  
10 emergencies, including equipment and staffing;

11 That the OC Fair & Event Center will be  
12 accessible to nonprofits and community groups through  
13 rental fee waivers and discounts;

14 And that the OC Fair & Event Center will work  
15 with the OC Sheriff's Department and the OC Fair --  
16 sorry. Not OC Fair Department -- OC Fire Department to  
17 ensure kids feel safe with interacting with law  
18 enforcement.

19 So I know that was a long review, but now that  
20 we have had that good review of the draft strategic  
21 direction for each of our programming areas, let's  
22 revisit the process that the Board went through in the  
23 development of the Draft Master Site Concept.

24 So you see that this process actually started  
25 in early to mid-2016, where a Master Site Plan process

1 was initiated and we released an RFP.

2 Later that year, in November, the consulting  
3 contract was awarded to Johnson Consulting and work  
4 began, in early 2017, with a series of stakeholder  
5 meetings to gather input.

6 By September of 2017, a workshop was held with  
7 the Board of Directors. A CEQA study was requested; and  
8 an RFP process was completed for that, but, however, no  
9 work was initiated.

10 In April of 2018, the Draft Master Site Plan  
11 Concept, which you all referred to, in preparation, was  
12 presented to the Board of Directors; and the Board voted  
13 to put the project on hold pending a full Infrastructure  
14 Audit of the property.

15 Once again, an RFP process was initiated for  
16 the audit.

17 CCA began work on the Infrastructure Audit in  
18 November of 2019.

19 The Facilities Committee held a public  
20 stakeholder meeting in October 2020.

21 And then we flash forward to January of 2021:  
22 We received the Final Infrastructure Audit Report, which  
23 consisted of the Executive Summary and the eight zone  
24 reports.

25 So that's where we are right now.

1           There were six phases that were introduced in  
2 that Draft Master Site Concept. Some things in that  
3 Master Site Plan, the Draft, don't apply anymore,  
4 because things have changed. But I thought it would be  
5 helpful to go through the phases to see what was  
6 recommended at the time, and then the Board can kind of  
7 focus their discussion on where we go from here.

8           So because the Draft Plan involved permanently  
9 displacing three departments of employees that are in  
10 outlying buildings within the footprint of the  
11 fairgrounds, it was suggested that the main  
12 administration building be expanded to include those  
13 additional employees and work areas. So that originally  
14 was -- consisted of Phase 1 of the Draft Master Site  
15 Plan Concept.

16           Phase 2 included developing the current  
17 livestock area, right here, and the Action Sports Arena,  
18 right here, into a livestock and equine agriplex for  
19 public education and entertainment.

20           Phase 2A would involve removing most of the  
21 structures that are already in that area -- and those  
22 are outlined in red -- and building a livestock barn  
23 with exhibit and show space, as well as additional  
24 storage space.

25           Phase 2B would involve building open-air barns

1 and horse paddocks to support agricultural and equine  
2 initiatives and events with outdoor lunging areas.

3 Phase 2B would also include replacing the bench  
4 seating in the Action Sports Arena with stadium seating,  
5 and creating a sound wall for the neighborhood to the  
6 north of the fairgrounds.

7 And please feel free to stop me, as Chair  
8 La Belle said, if there are any questions or comments  
9 that you would like to make.

10 Phase 3 of the Draft Plan suggested removing  
11 the Equestrian Center barns and offices and creating  
12 multipurpose ground space for year-round use, which  
13 could also be used for back-of-house parking and storage  
14 during the annual OC Fair.

15 Phase 4 called for demolishing Building 15, and  
16 that is this building right here on the north side of  
17 Centennial Farm, along with Century Barn and the trailer  
18 currently rented by the Orange County Wine Society.  
19 That's in this area, this area here.

20 This phase also suggested building an education  
21 center here, at Centennial Farm, which could be used as  
22 a multipurpose ag education classroom, an outdoor  
23 kitchen for nutrition classes, a new farm activity  
24 building, and replacing Century Barn. This particular  
25 building is in great -- great disrepair at this point.



1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: CEO Richards --

2 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Can you just go back one  
4 slide for me.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Sure.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And you talked about the  
7 back-of-house options.

8 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Was that, like, 50 percent  
10 of what we need? Is it 90 percent of what we need? Did  
11 it fulfill all of our needs? I don't remember.

12 MS. RICHARDS: You know, I don't know that that  
13 was specified in the Draft Master Site Plan Concept, but  
14 it certainly expanded our ability to fix our storage  
15 needs, for sure.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I know COO Karns  
18 is on the line if -- I don't know, Ken, if you had any  
19 specifics related to that question.

20 MR. KARNS: Good morning, everyone.

21 I don't, but we can analyze that. And I  
22 wouldn't want to hazard a guess at how far that improves  
23 our challenges at this point.

24 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Very good.

25 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Then that means that it's

1 safe to say, it doesn't fix all the problems.

2 MR. KARNS: That would be safe to say.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. KARNS: But it would -- it would have a  
5 significant positive impact.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Good. Okay.

8 Moving on to Phase 5. This phase suggested  
9 installing a perimeter fence around the property, adding  
10 wayfinding signage and an all-grounds PA system.

11 Phase 6 calls for realigning the main entrance  
12 with the main mall and The Hangar building. Right now,  
13 the entrance is a little further to the west. This  
14 would create a grand entrance to the property off Fair  
15 Drive. It also -- this phase also includes removing the  
16 former marketplace buildings and building a new  
17 community building just south of Heroes Hall.

18 Okay. And then Phase 7 included a variety of  
19 other projects, including building a parking structure  
20 and then facade improvements to our exhibit buildings in  
21 main mall.

22 Okay. So as the Board assesses the property  
23 needs to carry out the programming direction that you  
24 have all set, I think it would be very helpful to  
25 revisit the information that was included in both the

1 Draft Master Site Plan Concept and the Infrastructure  
2 Audit to review the existing conditions map.

3           You can see from the color-code legend here,  
4 that the building and structures on the property were  
5 deemed in either fair condition -- meaning they only  
6 needed cosmetic improvements -- to medium condition --  
7 that they just need some systems repairs -- and then to  
8 poor condition -- meaning they needed system  
9 replacement -- like HVAC, roofing, etc.; and then  
10 several structures that you see indicated in red that  
11 are in very poor condition and were recommended by both  
12 the Infrastructure Study and the Master Site Plan for  
13 removal.

14           So to help with the discussion, we're going to  
15 present some considerations and recommendations at this  
16 time. And then, you know, Chair La Belle, I will turn  
17 it over to you to facilitate a discussion with the board  
18 members.

19           But when we looked at all of the reports  
20 layered together: The statements from -- the  
21 directional statements from the Board, study that  
22 against the Draft Master Site Plan, and then, on top of  
23 that, the Infrastructure Study, there were some things  
24 that really, really stood out. So we would like to  
25 offer these for consideration and recommendations:

1           That, number one, we start research and  
2 development of the proposed livestock equine agriplex to  
3 replace what is currently in the livestock area and the  
4 Action Sports Arena zone.

5           The Board was very clear in its direction for  
6 additional agriculture and equine-related public  
7 programming activities and education, which are  
8 integrated into the fair, our year-round events, and  
9 Imaginology.

10           Number two: We would recommend to have the  
11 Board give direction to a committee to map out next  
12 steps for the Equestrian Center and report back in  
13 February or March. The Board set specific goals for  
14 self-operation of the Equestrian Center and serving as a  
15 public benefit venue. So this deserves some further  
16 study and consideration by the Board.

17           And, then, 3, and lastly, to schedule a future  
18 Board meeting for the full Board to review the Draft  
19 Master Site Plan Concept, phase by phase, you know, in  
20 more detail than what I just reviewed; comparing each  
21 phase against the Board's strategic direction to  
22 determine what elements should remain and which are no  
23 longer relevant; and then to provide to staff a  
24 priorities list, which can be used to amend the Draft  
25 Plan or identify any immediate capital projects that we

1 can move forward on.

2 So Chair La Belle, I will turn it back to you  
3 and we can have a discussion.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.  
5 Very thorough and complete.

6 I would like to see what public comments we  
7 have at this point in time, and then we will bring it  
8 back to the directors for a discussion and direction.

9 So do we have any public comments on this item,  
10 Summer?

11 MS. ANGUS: I do not have any identified  
12 through the chat. But, again, for those members of the  
13 public who are dialed in, if you would like to make  
14 public comment at this time, please state your name.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, Chair La Belle, I  
17 turn it back to you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

19 Let's go back to the directors. Comments from  
20 the directors relative to Michele's presentation?

21 And I do appreciate very much providing us with  
22 a focus in terms of that last slide, so we can kind of  
23 focus on that.

24 Any comments from the directors?

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Doug, I have a

1 comment. This is Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Go ahead, Natalie.

3 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

4 First of all, I just want to say, thank you for  
5 making this a top priority for the strategic planning  
6 initiative because I think we need to resolve, or at  
7 least make a decision, on the Master Site Plan in order  
8 to move forward with strategic planning and complete  
9 that process. So thank you for that.

10 I actually agree with the recommendations that  
11 staff is bringing. And I would -- you know, I think  
12 that we should just move forward with that.

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Natalie.

14 Any other comments at this time?

15 I think the only thing that I would add -- and  
16 I think I'm very fine with all of the recommendations.  
17 I would -- in terms of the second recommendation, I  
18 would suggest that we refer that to the Facilities  
19 Committee, Director Ruiz and Director Aitken. They have  
20 spent a lot of time at this point going through various  
21 aspects of the Infrastructure Study, and I would make  
22 that as a suggestion to modify the second point.

23 Are there any other questions?

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. This is Director  
25 Bagneris. I agree with everything that's just been

1 said, and I agree with that recommendation for Number 2.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good, Barbara.

3 Thank you.

4 Is there any additional comments?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Is there a motion then?

7 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I will make a  
8 motion to approve the recommendation.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director Bagneris. I  
10 second it.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion  
12 and a second.

13 Is there any discussion relative to the  
14 recommendation?

15 (No response.)

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I will just --

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Go ahead.

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I just want to make sure  
19 that we did include that as -- as corrected, as far as  
20 which committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So we're voting on that  
23 committee as well in this motion.

24 Natalie, is that what you intended?

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Very good.

2 Summer, will you call the roll, please.

3 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

6 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

8 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

12 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

13 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

14 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

15 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

16 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

17 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: And, again, Michele,  
19 thank you very much. That was a very, very thorough and  
20 complete presentation, and I want to thank you for that.

21 Okay. Let's move on to the next item, 8B.

22 Michele, will you introduce and present the  
23 staff report on this?

24 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. I would be happy to.

25 The current agreement that the district has



1 with our master concessionaire, Ovations Fanfare, known  
2 as Spectra, includes an expiration date of August 1st,  
3 2024. That date should jump off the page to anybody,  
4 because the end date of that agreement is very  
5 problematic is that it would expire in the middle of the  
6 2024 OC Fair, potentially creating quite an issue with  
7 having to change master concessionnaires while the fair  
8 is in session.

9 So in order to push the contract expiration  
10 date past the 2024 fair, and in consideration of the  
11 lost year of revenue that Spectra experienced in 2020,  
12 this item is to amend the current agreement with Spectra  
13 to include an expiration date of October 1st of 2025,  
14 essentially extending the agreement an additional 14  
15 months.

16 I will say that while we're not able to  
17 disclose any specific, confidential, and private  
18 settlement discussions that occurred during the  
19 district's lawsuit against Spectra, over operation of  
20 the OC Market place, we can share, at this time, that  
21 approval of this contract extension is the district's  
22 consideration to settle that lawsuit and dismiss the  
23 case. So a copy of that amendment was attached to the  
24 staff report.

25 So I will turn it back to you, Chair La Belle.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

2 Are there any public comments, Summer?

3 MS. ANGUS: There are none.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Hearing no public  
5 comments, any questions from the directors?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: That being said, is  
8 there a motion and a second to approve the  
9 recommendation?

10 DIRECTOR AITKEN: This is Director Aitken. I  
11 make a --

12 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I move. This is Director  
13 Rafiei. I will second Ashleigh's motion.

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a --  
15 Ashleigh moved and Melahat seconded.

16 Is there any discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Call for the question.

19 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

20 MS. RICHARDS: Oh, yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

22 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

24 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

25 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

3 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

4 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

5 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

6 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

7 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

8 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Next item is 8C.  
10 Michele, will you --

11 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: -- introduce this and  
13 present the staff report?

14 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We are moving right along.

15 The item before the Board is final approval of  
16 our carnival services agreement. The current agreement  
17 with Ray Cammack shows, our current carnival provider,  
18 expired on December 31st of 2021. As the Board and the  
19 public know -- because we have discussed this for  
20 several months during Board meetings -- that the staff  
21 released an RFP on October 18th. That was after  
22 thorough review by the Finance Committee and legal  
23 review.

24 And after completing the review and the scoring  
25 process, we issued a Notice of Proposed Award on

1 December 23rd of 2021, to Ray Cammack Shows.

2 So the contract is attached to the staff  
3 report. And I'm sorry. I am just seeing this  
4 recommendation at the bottom. That was from last --  
5 last month's Board meeting. So sorry about that error.  
6 That is not the case there.

7 This is, per the Board's discretion, but the  
8 staff is putting that contract before the Board for  
9 final approval.

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

11 Summer, there any public comments on this item?

12 MS. ANGUS: There are none, unless anyone that  
13 is dialed in, please state your name.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, Chair La Belle, I  
16 turn it back to you.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

18 To the directors, any questions or comments  
19 from the directors?

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director La Belle, I would  
21 like to make a motion that we approve this  
22 recommendation.

23 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. And I will  
24 second that. I will second that motion, Director La  
25 Belle. This is Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

1           And I just want to add, I had an opportunity to  
2 go on a backstage tour of how it's run during the fair,  
3 and the operation was really impressive. So I'm not  
4 surprised that it was recommended to go ahead and move  
5 forward with RCS, and I'm confident that they will  
6 continue to deliver topnotch service, so with my second.

7           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion  
8 and a second to approve the contract with RCS.

9           Any further comments from the directors?

10          (No response.)

11          Call the question.

12          Summer, please call the roll.

13          MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

14          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

15          MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

16          DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

17          MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

18          DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

19          MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

20          DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

21          MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

22          DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

23          MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

24          DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

25          MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

1 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Next item is  
4 Item 8D.

5 Director Bagneris, would you like to present  
6 the report relative to this item?

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Actually, Director Melahat  
8 is going to.

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Oh, go ahead, Melahat.

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Good morning, everybody. I  
11 think -- and I think we're a little bit late. I was  
12 going to have Councilwoman Letitia Clark chime in, but I  
13 thought we were going to be a little bit later. She has  
14 a comment she wanted to make, and I can actually read  
15 her comment if you would like.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Would you.

17 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: But, you know, I was not on  
18 the Board when this was first brought up, but I did go  
19 back and do my homework and watch the meeting, and I  
20 understand perspectives on this.

21 But it's a very simple request, from my  
22 perspective. Again, being a new board member, so I'm  
23 curious to hear from our other board members, and I  
24 would like to address any questions and concerns they  
25 have with this.

1           28 days is the shortest month of the year.  
2 It's February. It's Black History Month. We're asking  
3 that the Pan-American flag be flown for those 28 days in  
4 an effort to, again, be the inclusion -- inclusive  
5 organization and fairgrounds that we are.

6           The Community Affairs Committee has prepared to  
7 put together a, you know, program to address other  
8 options we have. Anything flown or brought forward.  
9 But I don't think the fact that another group might come  
10 forward should be the reason we don't do this. In the  
11 year that's passed since that last vote, no one came  
12 forward trying to fly any sort of flag.

13           And as a constituent before I was a director, I  
14 learned a couple years ago about the flying of the Pride  
15 flag. I was so excited for our county, for our  
16 fairground. And I think moving forward with this makes  
17 sense. I don't think that it's a big ask, and I ask if  
18 there's any questions about moving forward. I'm happy  
19 to talk about it, bring forward my own experience. I  
20 understand that. But in any household, it's 50 percent  
21 of the population, because my son is Black. And for  
22 some of the other fairgrounds, now a director on this  
23 Board, I don't think it's asking a lot of our colleagues  
24 here to support flying this flag for 28 days.

25           And in an effort to knock things out, I wanted

1 to have Letitia Clark come on, but now we move forward  
2 sooner than I expected and that's okay. So if it's okay  
3 with by colleagues, I'm going to read the letter that  
4 Letitia was going to read, Councilmember Clark was going  
5 to read, coming on (as read):

6 "Greetings, Orange County Fair Board of  
7 Directors. I greet you today."

8 That's Letitia, not me. I'm not going to  
9 pretend to be a Black woman in my life. They have had  
10 it harder than everybody.

11 "Hi. I greet you today not only as  
12 an elected official, but as one of the  
13 very few African Americans in an elected  
14 role in Orange County. As an elected  
15 official in Orange County, I take  
16 seriously the importance of our history  
17 and our constituents' story. I believe it  
18 strengthens everyone when we weave our  
19 journeys together into an interlocking  
20 whole. I have learned many times over the  
21 importance of visual representation and  
22 making people feeling included in that  
23 whole.

24 "February is Black History Month. It  
25 seems appropriate and timely for our



1 county to showcase the diversity in that  
2 history at its root and as it has flowered  
3 in the United States.

4 "By flying the Pan-American flag,  
5 among the others, we help all parts of  
6 Black community feel seen and valued. It  
7 can only serve to encourage those of all  
8 backgrounds to see the flag and spark  
9 their interest in finding out more about  
10 what it represents.

11 "Black history is an American  
12 history. And bringing attention to that,  
13 to the many contributions of African  
14 Americans is something that all Americans  
15 should care about. Every effort to do so  
16 makes an important statement about us as a  
17 nation and as we work to unite our people,  
18 not further divide them.

19 "Respectfully, former mayor and  
20 current councilmember, Leticia Clark."

21 For me, again, as a constituent, as a mother  
22 raising a Black son in Orange County -- my nieces are  
23 half Indian, half Persian; we're half Lebanese and  
24 Persian. When they look at these things and these  
25 flags, they ask questions. They begin to wonder. And I

1 think wonder leads to good things: Asking questions and  
2 learning more about each other.

3 So I respectfully ask that we unanimously  
4 support flying of this flag for Black History Month  
5 every year, moving forward.

6 Those are the end of my questions. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Melehat. Are  
8 there any -- pardon me. Are there any public comments  
9 on this item, Summer?

10 MS. ANGUS: We do.

11 Reggie Mundekis, when you are ready.

12 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi, good morning. Reggie  
13 Mundekis.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to address you  
15 this morning on this item.

16 I have two issues about this. I have a quick  
17 question. Are we keeping the Rainbow flag up while we  
18 fly the Pan-African flag?

19 And the second issue is, I just want to caution  
20 the Community Affairs Committee on reconsidering taking  
21 public applications to fly flags at public requests.

22 And the reason I caution you on that is that  
23 there's a case in front of the Supreme Court involving  
24 the City of Boston, where the City of Boston has a  
25 similar program.

1           And there was a Christian group that came up,  
2 applied for the program, wanted to fly their Christian  
3 flag. They were turned down, and it's gone up to the  
4 Supreme Court. So -- and I can send you that case.

5           So one way -- another path to get us to where  
6 we want to go is, we fly -- we fly flags to commemorate  
7 what the Board is celebrating that month. And that also  
8 includes things like when we celebrate California fairs  
9 and California agriculture.

10           If you go down that road, there's some  
11 concepts, such as Latino History Month, that don't have  
12 flags. So staff would either have to design a flag or  
13 see if there's an existing flag that could be used.

14           So I like this. I just have my question on the  
15 Rainbow flag and the cautionary statement.

16           So thank you.

17           MS. ANGUS: That concludes public comment,  
18 Director La Belle, unless there's anyone dialed in and  
19 would like to make comment. Please state your name now.

20           (No response.)

21           MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, I turn it back to  
22 you, Chair La Belle.

23           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

24           To respond to one of Reggie's questions, I  
25 think the Rainbow flag would continue to fly. There's

1 not any intent that it would be removed.

2 Am I correct in that?

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: That's correct.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. All righty. Back  
5 to the directors.

6 Any further questions of Barbara or Melahat?

7 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director La Belle,  
8 I have a couple of questions.

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes. Go ahead, Natalie.

10 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

11 Well, thank you for bringing this issue  
12 forward.

13 I know, Director Rafiei, you mentioned that you  
14 audited the meeting where this discussion was brought  
15 forward, and it did result in about a year's worth of  
16 various flag initiatives coming before the Board.

17 I have a couple questions. One of the concerns  
18 that I raised the last time we had this issue was  
19 whether or not the Black community as a whole, does this  
20 flag represent the community? And I'm speaking from  
21 experience as a Mexican-American woman. The Hispanic  
22 community does not have one flag that represents us. So  
23 I'm curious on that front.

24 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Well, I will tell you,  
25 Director Rubalcava-Garcia, thank you for the question.

1           And it's the flag that's been brought forward  
2 to us by Black leaders in Orange County.

3           So as I talked to staff about what do we do  
4 with other months, the Hispanic Heritage Month -- it's  
5 not Mexican, it's not -- (Zoom malfunction) -- so if  
6 that comes and if it's time to do that, my suggestion  
7 has been for us to reach out to the community and not  
8 assume that we would know what flag or what colors or  
9 what would represent that community.

10           But from my understanding and from my  
11 conversations with Black leaders, not just elected but  
12 Black leaders in Orange County, this is the flag that  
13 was brought forward for this -- for this month, for  
14 flying for during Black History Month.

15           DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And I would just tag on to  
16 that, Director Rubalcava-Garcia. It's also the flag  
17 that you will see around most of the country who have  
18 already started to celebrate Black History Month by  
19 flying the Pan-African flag. It's nothing more than  
20 red, a stripe of red, black, and green. And that is the  
21 universal African flag representation. So we -- the  
22 Black community would definitely support this flag.

23           DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Do other state  
24 agencies fly this flag, or any other flags related to  
25 race or culture?

1           DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I believe -- didn't  
2 Boston -- I think Boston approved it last year for their  
3 state. I would have to go back and validate that. But  
4 I know that other places have brought forth this flag  
5 and have flown this flag in the past.

6           DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: But not in  
7 California?

8           DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I'm aware of school districts  
9 throughout California of predominantly -- I don't know  
10 which ones they are, off the top of my head, and I can  
11 get them to you -- that have predominantly African  
12 American students, and they do raise the Pan-African  
13 flag during Black History Month.

14           So I think those are -- again, it's not a state  
15 agency, but they're school districts that see the need  
16 for visualizing our support. And I think that's what's  
17 important.

18           I will tell you, even if nobody else did it and  
19 we were the first ones, I would be okay with that too.  
20 I don't think we're the first ones. I don't think we're  
21 pioneering this in any way, whatsoever. But we're just  
22 adding on to the great work that this board did with the  
23 Pride flag, and now adding this, I think -- and it makes  
24 sense for me, as someone having these conversations  
25 regularly.

1           DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. You know, I  
2 think the one thing that kind of -- I'm a little  
3 disappointed about is that this committee brought one  
4 flag but not a slate of flags to approve at this time.  
5 And I get that it's, you know, related to Black History  
6 Month, but it would have been nice because we had so  
7 many of these discussions at a very, very detailed  
8 level.

9           We even got to the point of discussing a flag  
10 that represented all cultures in Orange County,  
11 whether -- you know, and it was one flag that had all of  
12 them in there. So I guess my only request would be --  
13 and I'm going to support this flag. I mean, it's a  
14 no-brainer, as a minority woman in Orange County, that  
15 we support this flag.

16           I did not support this flag the first time, and  
17 there are other reasons for that. And I know that you  
18 did look back at the -- at the minutes and probably  
19 watched the video. And I was actually called a racist  
20 for not supporting it, and I am not racist. I will be  
21 supporting it this time.

22           But I am going to ask this committee to go back  
23 and come back with a slate of recommendations for other  
24 cultures to represent. That includes Asian Pacific  
25 Islander Month, Hispanic Heritage Month.

1           And I believe we provided a list of different  
2     cultures that were celebrated across the state of  
3     California or at least recognized by the state and had a  
4     month. So it would be fantastic if, at the next  
5     meeting, we could have that discussion.

6           I also know that we have a mural that is going  
7     up that we're very proud of.

8           But I know that communities feeling welcome  
9     goes beyond a flag, and I want to make sure that we  
10    reinforce the fact that all people are welcome  
11    regardless of what flag that flies. And we are -- our  
12    board is -- takes great pride in the safety measures  
13    that we have here at the fairgrounds that also reinforce  
14    that fact. But, you know, thank you guys for bringing  
15    this back.

16           If there -- I mean, I would like to make a  
17    motion to approve.

18           But I just have those questions, and thank you  
19    for answering them.

20           DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Sure. And I will tell you,  
21    Director Rubalcava-Garcia, being new on this committee,  
22    I have a lot of ideas, and you know that about me.

23           One of the things I thought about, like in the  
24    city of Irvine, for example, the Iranian American  
25    community is huge and they work with the city and raise



1 money into a nonprofit to help push the flags up. So we  
2 have an incredible county, with over 3.3 million people.  
3 One out of one -- every hundred Americans alive today  
4 lives in our county, and that's a diverse county. So I  
5 think for us, I agree with that. We'll work on that.  
6 And I want to go to the community to get this  
7 information.

8 I don't know what is best for every cultural  
9 group. And I would like to get involved -- feedback  
10 from everybody. On our board, we have a diverse board,  
11 but not diverse enough to represent all of Orange  
12 County. So I think it would be great to do that  
13 outreach. And, yes, absolutely bring forward to make  
14 sure everyone feels welcome.

15 You know, I was telling Director Bagneris,  
16 being an immigrant to this country and a refugee to this  
17 country, growing up, I always saw the Rainbow flag as  
18 Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. And as I got older,  
19 I associated it with the Pride flag.

20 So I want -- I would hope that this  
21 organization will be a safe place for all groups to come  
22 to, to have discussions about making sure that they feel  
23 highlighted and seen.

24 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah.

25 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: So I will make that motion.

1           DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I will -- I will  
2 just also mention, the reason why I voted no last time  
3 was the Pride flag represents all cultures, right? It's  
4 not related to culture.

5           And one of the reasons why that flag fled --  
6 flew was for that very reason, and we didn't have any  
7 ethnic flags related to race or ethnicity. So that's  
8 why I initially had voted no.

9           But knowing that you will come back with flags  
10 that represent the other cultures, that -- I can  
11 definitely move forward with this.

12           So, yes, I would like to make a motion to  
13 approve the Pan-African flag fly in February.

14           DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I second it. Thank you.

15           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We have a motion and a  
16 second.

17           Natalie, does that also include adopting the  
18 resolution that is presented?

19           DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I think we  
20 already had a resolution that we approved, but yes.

21           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion  
22 and a second.

23           Any further discussion?

24           (No response.)

25           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I will call the

1 question.

2 Summer can you call the roll, please.

3 MS. ANGUS: Before I call the roll, Chair La  
4 Belle, I just wanted to announce that Director Cervantes  
5 has joined the meeting.

6 And I will take the roll call now.

7 Chair La Belle.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

10 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

12 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

13 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

14 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

15 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

17 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

19 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

20 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

22 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good. Thank you,  
25 Barbara and Melahat. That was an excellent

1 presentation.

2 Next item will be our committee reports.

3 Leadership Committee. We have met. Obviously,  
4 we have provided input to Michele in terms of agenda  
5 items and that sort of thing. So -- and we'll continue  
6 to meet on a monthly basis to keep providing whatever  
7 guidance we, as the chair and vice chair, can provide.

8 Let's go next to the Financial Monitoring and  
9 Audit Committee.

10 Director Kovacevich.

11 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes. Thank you, Chair La  
12 Belle.

13 We posted a report, and I will read through it.  
14 The committee was able to meet on January 21st. You  
15 know, we -- the purpose of the meeting was, you know, to  
16 go through the organization's financial position and  
17 ensure the financial controls are in place.

18 We looked at monthly -- or we discussed monthly  
19 financial oversight, annual budget review, annual audit  
20 process, and we also even discussed the scoring process  
21 for the RFPs, including the one that we approved  
22 earlier.

23 So the summary of the meeting was, you know,  
24 going through the financials and looking at year to  
25 date, December 21, 2021, revenue being favorable to

1 budget by a whopping \$27 million, \$26.9. So that was  
2 incredible.

3 I also saw that operating expenses were almost  
4 in line, slightly unfavorable to budget, to the tune of  
5 \$473,000. And that was mainly due to additional labor  
6 and facility costs associated with the fair last year  
7 and other year-round events. And that's no surprise,  
8 giving -- given what's happening broadly in the state  
9 and in the country with the labor markets.

10 And then also, you know, a big -- a big note  
11 that net proceeds were favorable to budget year to date  
12 to the tune of \$27.7 million.

13 So we talked a lot about -- well, the last one  
14 as well is the cash and cash investments are  
15 \$59.6 million, which is an increase of \$18.2 million  
16 over the year, going from December 2020 to  
17 December 2021.

18 We talked about the reason for that being with  
19 COVID. We took a very conservative approach to  
20 budgeting, which we believe was the right approach.  
21 None of us knew what it was going to be like, and I know  
22 we talked a lot about it, but we were very pleased to be  
23 able to time the fair very well last year and pull off  
24 an extremely successful fair, which obviously led to the  
25 dramatic improvement in the actuals versus what was

1 budgeted.

2           So I just wanted everyone to understand the  
3 context there. And we also, like I said, discussed the  
4 carnival services RFP. We talked about the timing of  
5 the audit. And we expect to be able to complete that  
6 before the 2022 fair.

7           And we have scheduled another meeting for  
8 February.

9           And that concludes the report for today.

10          MS. RICHARDS: Doug. You are on mute.

11          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Sorry about that.

12          Thank you, Nick.

13          Barbara, do you have anything you would like to  
14 add?

15          DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No, I don't. Nick did a  
16 great job.

17          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good. Thank you  
18 much.

19          Next is Facilities Committee. Director Aitken.

20          DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Thank you.

21          We have a pretty detailed report attached to  
22 the agenda. So if you have any questions, please refer  
23 to that.

24          We obviously are going to be continuing our  
25 updates on a monthly basis of our major capital

1 expenditures projects as they are going forward. But  
2 one thing I did want to highlight from our last board  
3 meeting is the work that we have done on the Serenity  
4 Walk project.

5 We have initially reached out to CCA. As the  
6 Board knows, we're limited on what we can do in scope  
7 and in cost in-house. And so they are a state agency  
8 that we work with. And we reached out to them just to  
9 try to get a timeline and some initial information and  
10 so we can bring it back to the Board as to the scope of  
11 the project, the cost of the project, and then a  
12 realistic timeline.

13 So I'm really -- I'm thankful to the staff for  
14 jumping on this right away. They have already reached  
15 out to CCA, and I know they have been on the property.  
16 And so we are trying to get a letter of understanding  
17 together and stick to our commitment to actually have  
18 something for the Board to weigh in on and approve going  
19 forward before the fair.

20 So Ken, would you like to add anything to that  
21 report?

22 MR. KARNS: No. Great job. Thank you,  
23 Ashleigh.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Ashleigh.

25 Governance Committee. Sandra, Natalie, any

1 comments?

2 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Sandra, are you on  
3 the line or do you want me to go ahead?

4 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you so much. Yes.  
5 I am real sick for some reason. But yes, thank you.  
6 Please go ahead.

7 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: No problem.  
8 So the Governance Committee met on  
9 January 14th, and we did start a preliminary review of  
10 all of the policies that we have, and we also identified  
11 a few that needed to be updated that we will continue  
12 reviewing and bring back to the Board for review,  
13 discussion, and vote at a later time.

14 And that concludes the report.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Natalie.  
16 The Entertainment Committee.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That's us too.

18 We met on January 14th, and we did discuss the  
19 current line-up for 2022. And we did ask staff and  
20 Michele -- or CEO Richards to provide us with a list of  
21 booked talent and continue to update the Board on that  
22 area as she -- as we continue to book more talent.

23 And that's all we have to report at this time.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good. Thank you,  
25 Natalie.



1 Anything additional, Sandra?

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No. We're -- I think this  
3 is going to be a work in progress, and hopefully we can  
4 see whatever changes we want to see shortly. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Natalie and  
6 Sandra.

7 Okay. Governmental Relations Committee.

8 Ashleigh, I would like to, as Chair, request  
9 that the Governmental Relations Committee look at a  
10 program that I was very familiar with in my past life,  
11 relative to the LA County Fair, for three or four years  
12 on the site prior to the fair, during the fair, or after  
13 the fair.

14 There was about an acre devoted to constructing  
15 a Habitat for Humanity home on the site. And various  
16 community groups would come in, as well as Home Depot  
17 and others would come in, and do various portions of the  
18 construction activity.

19 One of the things -- the area city managers  
20 group came in on an annual basis, for one day, as a part  
21 of our effort and did various things like roofing and so  
22 on and so forth. And then the following day, they would  
23 bring somebody in who knew what they were doing and take  
24 care of all the mess-ups that we had. But seriously, it  
25 was a very, very beneficial program.

1           The homeowner who would be taking the home,  
2   once it was completed, participated, obviously, in the  
3   activities and had a responsibility there.

4           One of the challenges is, once the home is  
5   completed and nearing the finishing stages, you need to  
6   find a permanent site for it. And, generally,  
7   communities have surplus properties left over from a  
8   right-of-way, roadway extension, whatever. I know City  
9   of Huntington Beach had some of these.

10          We -- as a matter of fact, one year, the home  
11   that was constructed was moved to a site in Chino Hills.  
12   I went to the city council and said we have four or five  
13   surplus parcels. Interestingly enough, it was adjacent  
14   to a golf course, so we had a good view as well as a  
15   location for the home. And the city council approved,  
16   declaring that surplus.

17          I would like to ask the Governmental Affairs  
18   Committee to work with the staff and to see what options  
19   there might be out there to do similar programming. It  
20   wouldn't have to be Habitat for Humanity. I know there  
21   are a number of organizations out there that are  
22   actively working on providing homes for various groups.

23          And I think -- I will just leave it at that and  
24   ask that they take a look at that as a part of their  
25   ongoing efforts.

1           DIRECTOR AITKEN: I would be happy to look into  
2 that, and maybe Michele and I can schedule with Director  
3 Pham a call that can explore it. I think it's a  
4 wonderful idea to have community service projects as  
5 part of our property and vision.

6           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Ashleigh.  
7 Centennial Farms Committee.

8           Nick has asked, given his workload, to kind of  
9 be relieved of that committee assignment. And I have  
10 spoken with Director Ruiz, and Robert will be serving  
11 along with Melahat on that particular Centennial Farms  
12 Committee.

13           The last one is Heroes Hall. And at this  
14 point, I have nothing -- nothing further to report.  
15 We'll be meeting, I think, probably within the next 30  
16 to 60 days, and I will have a further report at the  
17 February meeting. With that --

18           MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle, I think we  
19 skipped over the Community Affairs Committee, and I  
20 believe they have an update on the mural project.

21           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: My apologies.

22           Barbara, Melahat, go -- please make your  
23 presentation.

24           DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Barbara, are you taking this  
25 one?

1           DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I actually don't have that  
2 one in front of me. But we did have a committee  
3 meeting, and we did discuss the updates to the project.  
4 And so I'm going to defer to CEO Richards since I don't  
5 have that in front of me.

6           MS. RICHARDS: Sure. I would be happy to.

7           So the committee met on January 17th by Zoom,  
8 and staff provided them a report on the community  
9 diversity public art project, which will incorporate  
10 lighting and the light towers at Plaza Pacifica, as  
11 approved previously by the Board. Those towers will  
12 become sort of the canvas that we will use to display  
13 the message of celebration of diversity, equity, and  
14 inclusion.

15           The project is currently on dual tracks:

16           The Facilities Department is currently  
17 assessing the structure, refurbishing the light towers  
18 as needed, cleaning, new paint, etc., getting them  
19 ready.

20           And then Chief Business Development Officer  
21 Joan Hamill is coordinating an effort with staff, as  
22 directed by the Board, to plan for creating and  
23 developing art work, including engaging staff for  
24 creative input in design, exploring various artistic  
25 media, and providing critical feedback.

1           So the goal is to have the project completed  
2 and unveiled in time for the 2022 fair. And so the  
3 committee will -- staff will continue to keep the  
4 committee up to date on that project and we'll report  
5 out each month at board meetings.

6           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.  
7 Anything further on the committees?

8           (No response.)

9           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Next item.

10          At this time, there's nothing specific we need  
11 to address in terms of closed session. So we'll move on  
12 to the next item.

13          MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

14          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: CEO's operational  
15 announcements and update.

16          MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Thank you so much.

17          Paul Dillard is the national commander of the  
18 American Legion, and he visited Heroes Hall in December  
19 and was joined by staff and members of the Heroes Hall  
20 Veterans Foundation. It's a real honor to have the  
21 national commander visit any veterans facility  
22 throughout the country, and so we were especially  
23 honored to have him at Heroes Hall, and, obviously, he  
24 was very impressed with the exhibits and grounds of  
25 Heroes Hall.

1           We're happy to report that the OC Fair fun van  
2 has arrived. Our newly wrapped van, acquired from  
3 Fairview State Hospital, runs on corn dogs, cotton  
4 candy, and fun. Our team will be out and about in the  
5 community, handing out fair goodies and promoting the  
6 2022 fair: "Feel the Sunshine." So if you see us out  
7 there, be sure to honk and wave.

8           A small group of staff returned last week from  
9 the Western Fairs Association Convention in Reno,  
10 Nevada, after a full schedule of workshops, meetings,  
11 and networking events.

12           The OC Fair brought back an amazing list of  
13 achievement awards, including second place for our  
14 agricultural programming; and first place honors for our  
15 virtual and live junior livestock auction; our "All for  
16 Fun" fair theme; our new California Fresh Exhibit in the  
17 Promenade; the Great Kids Exhibit, "Experience the Great  
18 Outdoors"; our fair theme logo; our TV commercial; and  
19 several photo entries.

20           So congratulations to everyone for a great  
21 showing at this year's WFA Convention.

22           On May 16, Heroes Hall Museum and Education  
23 Center will open a new special exhibit called "Fighting  
24 for the Right To Fight: African American Experiences in  
25 World War II." This is produced by the National World

1 War II Museum, and the exhibit features artifacts,  
2 photographs, and oral histories to highlight some of the  
3 extraordinary achievements and challenges of African  
4 Americans during World War II, both overseas and on the  
5 home front.

6 Heroes Hall will host an opening ceremony on  
7 Saturday, February 19th, to commemorate the exhibit, and  
8 we hope you can all attend. You can look for more  
9 information about that on our website.

10 In September of 2016, Senate Bill 1383 was  
11 signed into law, setting strict targets in California  
12 for the reduction of organic waste: 50 percent by 2022;  
13 and 75 percent by 2025.

14 Our facilities director, Jerry Eldridge, has  
15 been leading the effort for compliance by the OC Fair &  
16 Event Center and our partners.

17 And as the industry prepares for written  
18 regulations from the State, OCFEC began making small  
19 steps toward full compliance. For example, at the 2019  
20 fair, we made it a requirement for our concessionaires  
21 to only provide recyclable and compostable straws and to  
22 eliminate styrofoam to-go containers and plates.

23 And then late last year, we received the final  
24 written regulations and requirements for the fair  
25 industry, which we will begin implementing with this

1 year's fair. They include gathering as much organic  
2 waste as possible and diverting it from our landfills,  
3 requiring our concessionaires to replace all plastic  
4 utensils and noncompostable serving containers and  
5 plates with recyclable products. And then placing  
6 signage around the grounds to educate our patrons on  
7 what we are doing to help accomplish our goals. So look  
8 for that during the 2022 fair.

9 And we're very sad to report the passing of Ed  
10 Russell, the gentleman on the right in this photo, of  
11 Russell Brothers Circus. The family circus has been an  
12 annual fixture at the OC Fair for as long as any of us  
13 can remember.

14 Near the green gate entrance, you could always  
15 hear Ed's distinctive voice saying, "Ladies and  
16 gentlemen, boys and girls." I know many of our board  
17 members' children and grandchildren have enjoyed the  
18 Russell Brothers Circus performances for many years. Ed  
19 will definitely be missed.

20 So on that sad note, I just want to reiterate  
21 what the Finance Committee and Chair Kovacevich said:  
22 We are ending the year on a very, very good, high note;  
23 in excellent position with net proceeds of just under  
24 \$16 million. And in a year when we projected another  
25 loss, we were able to work hard to bring back our



1 year-round events in the fair in a safe and healthy  
2 manner, and that's a result we can all be very proud of.

3 Our cash position is very healthy. At the end  
4 of 2020, our cash and cash reserves was down to  
5 \$41 million, and we were able to replace our losses and  
6 then some, to end with just under \$60 million. And  
7 that's a year over year increase of over \$18 million.

8 So I will turn it over to Chief Business  
9 Development Joan Hamill with a few announcements about  
10 our upcoming events.

11 Joan?

12 MS. HAMILL: Thank you.

13 Well, we're busy in the events program. I just  
14 want to highlight some of the things that are coming up  
15 this month. We have a great slate of events. This  
16 Saturday we have the young men's gymnast invitational  
17 taking place. It's the seventh annual Wu Guonian  
18 Classic. And it's United States of America Gymnastics,  
19 USAG. It's a sanctioned men's gymnastics invitational  
20 where athletes ages 6 to 19 compete.

21 Taking place the 5th through the 7th, we have  
22 the Union of Vietnamese Student Association. They will  
23 be presenting the Tet Festival of Southern California,  
24 and this is recognized as the nation's largest  
25 Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival. And 2022 is the

1 Year of the Tiger.

2 We have on the 12th and the 26th, we have the  
3 Original OC Swap Meet taking place. That's a wonderful  
4 return on that.

5 Get the next slide there.

6 Other wonderful events taking place:  
7 February 17th is OC Fight Club taking place right here  
8 in The Hangar. And if you remember, this is the most  
9 fun you can have in OC on a Thursday night. We couldn't  
10 agree more.

11 February 18th through the 20th, there is the  
12 Pacific Coast Sports Fish, Tackle, Boat -- Sports  
13 Fishing -- sorry. Sports Fishing, Tackle, Boat, and  
14 Travel Show. I'm sorry about that. That's in the Costa  
15 Mesa and Huntington Beach Buildings along with the Santa  
16 Ana Pavilion.

17 Farmers Market takes place every Thursday.

18 And COVID testing is takes place Monday through  
19 Friday, and that will go through April 1. And that's in  
20 Lot D.

21 As Michele mentioned, the Heroes Hall is closed  
22 right now in preparation for the new exhibit that's  
23 coming in. It will make its soft opening on  
24 February 16th. It runs through September 18th, so it  
25 will be open throughout the fair. And the opening

1 reception takes place Saturday the 19th at 11:00 a.m.,  
2 and everyone is invited.

3 At Centennial Farm, it's very busy at  
4 Centennial Farm with school tours and Discovery Days.  
5 We're welcoming back students throughout the county and  
6 in the southland visiting Centennial Farm, and they  
7 couldn't be more delighted to be back, and we couldn't  
8 be more delighted to be hosting them.

9 And then on the 5th, we have a truffle making  
10 class. It makes its return, just in time for  
11 Valentine's Day. So I would encourage people to sign up  
12 if they are interested in learning about how to make  
13 truffles.

14 And that concludes my report.

15 MS. RICHARDS: And that concludes our update.

16 Back to you, Chair La Belle.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele,  
18 Joan, and Ken.

19 Any questions from the directors?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I think the next  
22 item is --

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'm sorry, Director  
24 La Belle. I was slow to get off of mute.

25 I love that van, the bus. That is a great

1 idea, and I can't wait to see that on the street.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Ditto. I think that's a  
3 good way to let the communities know that we are back in  
4 business in terms of the annual fair. That might be  
5 something that the Governmental Affairs Committee might  
6 want to look at in terms of making an outreach, taking  
7 it around to various city facilities in other  
8 communities. I'm sure that between staff and the  
9 Governmental Affairs Committee, you can look at options.

10 And I agree completely, Barbara. It's a great  
11 idea.

12 Okay. Anything further?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The next Board meeting  
15 is February 24th.

16 And let's go around the table and get comments  
17 from the directors. Let's go ahead and start with you,  
18 Barbara.

19 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I don't know why I'm so  
20 slow coming off of mute.

21 This is a happy New Year. I will say that  
22 first and foremost. We're still in January, but it  
23 seems like January is gone already. So is that an  
24 indication of how fast this year will go? I don't know.

25 But I would like to thank the board members

1 today for your vote for flying the Pan-African flag.  
2 I'm looking forward to Black History Month and all the  
3 great things that will happen going forward, from year  
4 to year.

5 And I would like to thank our staff. I mean,  
6 we have such a creative organization. I never thought  
7 about painting a sign on a van and driving it around the  
8 city to be a marketing idea. But they come up with  
9 those ideas, and I just so appreciate the creativity  
10 that we have within our own organization, that we can  
11 utilize year-round.

12 So thank you.

13 And, with that, I will pass it on.

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara.  
15 Nick.

16 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yeah. Thank you, Chair  
17 La Belle and staff. Great job preparing for this  
18 meeting and getting us through expeditiously.

19 2022 is off to a great start. Hopefully  
20 everyone shares my same positivity for this year.

21 I do like the fact that we were able to get  
22 this flag approved for February. And, again, doing it  
23 in a very positive manner, and hopefully we can continue  
24 that. You know, I hope we never have to go back to the  
25 days after arguments over flags when all we're really

1 trying to do here is ensure everybody is included and  
2 celebrated. So great job to the Community Affairs  
3 Committee there.

4 And the last thing I will say is, you know, I'm  
5 a Niners fan. Got a big game this weekend against the  
6 Rams. I know my fellow Director Ruiz and I, we're going  
7 to be friends going into Sunday but maybe not so much  
8 Sunday night. But I'm sure we will be friends again at  
9 some point. Anyways, excited for the game. If you are  
10 lucky enough to go there, hopefully you are wearing red.

11 Have a good weekend, everyone.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Nick, this is Doug. I  
13 just have to comment.

14 I saw something on Nextdoor. There was a photo  
15 of a marquee in front of a church, and the marquee said,  
16 "God has no favorites, but the sign guy does. Go Rams."  
17 So I would just share that with you.

18 Okay. Melahat.

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I wanted to thank all my  
20 board members. This has been a wonderful experience for  
21 me working with all of you.

22 I want to thank Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia for  
23 showing me how to get on this board and do all this  
24 work. Honestly, I came on when she was Chair, and she's  
25 helped guide me through this.

1           And I want to thank staff for all of your work.  
2   It's been a pleasure working with you and seeing all the  
3   hard work that you do. You love this fairgrounds, you  
4   love everything that happens here, and we can tell from  
5   the work product.

6           So thank you.

7           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Melahat.  
8           Newton.

9           DIRECTOR PHAM: Yeah. This is Newton.

10          I would like to thank staff for putting the  
11   exhibits together. This has been a really smooth  
12   meeting. Actually, one of the smoothest ones I have  
13   ever remembered. And go Niners.

14          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Sandra.

15          DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I would like to thank the  
16   staff and the Board. And have a beautiful weekend and  
17   Happy Valentine's Day, if I don't talk to you before  
18   that. Bye bye.

19          CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Sandra.  
20          Ashleigh.

21          DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you, everybody. A  
22   great meeting.

23          And Michele, I'm like so sad about the Russell  
24   brothers. I think there was a couple years of my life  
25   where I went to see their show every single day of the

1 fair for, like, six years. So I'm just so sad. If we  
2 haven't sent anything to the family, I would love to get  
3 their contact information and send them something from  
4 the Board or even from me personally.

5 And Nick and Robert, I'm Switzerland. So on  
6 Sunday, I'm going to just say, "Go sports teams."

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good. Okay.

8 I too want to thank not only staff. I think  
9 the presentation on the strategic plan was outstanding,  
10 very informative, very helpful to the Board. And I want  
11 to thank Michele and her staff for all the hard work  
12 they put in to put that together.

13 And I want to thank all of the committees for  
14 their work, and I think it was a great meeting. And I  
15 look forward to getting together, maybe not as soon as  
16 we would like, but hopefully within the next several  
17 months, we'll be able to have an in-person meeting.

18 I think that concludes everything.

19 Michele --

20 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Chair La Belle, can  
21 I go ahead and say something really quick?

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Oh, I'm sorry, Natalie.

23 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That's okay. I  
24 know it wasn't on purpose.

25 I just wanted to mention, I know that Bobby



1 McDonald is a friend to many of us at the fair. He is  
2 also, I think, on the board of Heroes Hall. But he  
3 recently lost his father, Vernon Myers McDonald. He was  
4 97. He passed away on January 13th.

5 And I just wanted to highlight a couple of  
6 things: Bobby is also the CEO of the Black Chamber, and  
7 he's a very good friend of mine. And I know he was very  
8 close to his father and many of you may have met him.

9 He also does -- he did a significant amount of  
10 things for our country, but he served in both the  
11 European and Pacific Theaters with an all-Negro 1321st  
12 Engineer General Service Regiment. He was an  
13 electrician, a member of IBEW.

14 So he just had a tremendous impact on  
15 California. He lived in Los Angeles and spent some time  
16 in Orange County.

17 Also received the Silver Beaver Award from the  
18 Boy Scouts of America.

19 So if you would like to just send your  
20 condolences to Bobby, I think we would probably  
21 appreciate that, as a friend of the fair.

22 They also have -- in lieu of flowers, they are  
23 accepting donations to the Vernon and Rita McDonald  
24 Veteran and STEM Scholarship at Los Angeles Harbor  
25 College.

1           So if you would like that information, let me  
2 know, and I can provide it to you. But I just wanted to  
3 mention that, since Bobby is so close to the fair and  
4 does do a lot for the Heroes Hall.

5           DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Natalie, thank you for  
6 doing that. My condolences to their family.

7           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Natalie.

8           And my sincere apologies for not calling on  
9 you. It certainly was no intent. I just -- you know,  
10 sitting here and listening to everything that's being  
11 said. So thank you very much.

12           And I do concur with making an outreach to  
13 Bobby. He's been very, very helpful in terms of all of  
14 the work on Heroes Hall and that. So if we could send,  
15 Michele, condolences on behalf of the Fair Board and  
16 staff, I would ask that we do that.

17           MS. RICHARDS: Absolutely.

18           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Anything else?

19           DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No.

20           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Have I missed anybody  
21 else?

22           DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Director  
23 La Belle. I think that's a great idea. Thank you.

24           CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. With that, being  
25 nothing further, we are adjourned.

1               Next Board meeting will be February 24th.   And  
2 we stand adjourned.

3               (Proceedings concluded at 11:00 a.m.)

4                               ---o0o---

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KATHRYN S. SWANK, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the  
foregoing proceedings were reported, to the best of my  
ability, in shorthand by me, Kathryn S. Swank, a  
Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California,  
and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or  
attorney for any of the parties to said proceedings nor  
in any way interested in the outcome of said  
proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
this 8th day of February 2022.

*Kathryn Swank*

KATHRYN S. SWANK, CSR  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License No. 13061

<hr/>	<b>2017</b> 21:4,6	<hr/>	<b>acquired</b> 61:2	<b>ages</b> 64:20
<b>\$</b>	<b>2018</b> 21:10	<b>6</b>	<b>acre</b> 56:14	<b>agree</b> 29:10,25 30:1 48:5 65:10 67:10
<b>\$16</b> 63:24	<b>2019</b> 21:18 62:19	<b>6</b> 11:11 25:11 64:20	<b>action</b> 6:13 10:17,20 13:14, 19 22:17 23:4 27:4	<b>agreement</b> 11:24 12:2,4 31:25 32:4,12,14 34:16
<b>\$18</b> 64:7	<b>2020</b> 21:20 32:11 52:16 64:4	<b>60</b> 58:16	<b>actively</b> 57:22	<b>agreements</b> 11:24 12:6
<b>\$18.2</b> 52:15	<b>2021</b> 16:22 21:21 34:18 35:1 51:25 52:17	<b>7</b>	<b>activities</b> 16:12 17:13,22 18:21 27:7 57:3	<b>agricultural</b> 23:1 61:14
<b>\$26.9</b> 52:1	<b>2022</b> 6:1,7 53:6 55:19 60:2 61:6 62:12 63:8 64:25 68:19	<b>7</b> 11:18 25:18	<b>activity</b> 23:23 56:18	<b>agriculture</b> 6:20 19:8 27:6 42:9
<b>\$27</b> 52:1	<b>2024</b> 32:3,6,10	<b>75</b> 62:13	<b>actuals</b> 52:25	<b>agriculture-</b> <b>related</b> 19:9
<b>\$27.7</b> 52:12	<b>2025</b> 32:13 62:13	<b>7th</b> 8:1,5 64:21	<b>add</b> 29:15 36:1 53:14 54:20	<b>agriplex</b> 22:18 27:2
<b>\$41</b> 64:5	<b>20th</b> 65:11	<b>8</b>	<b>adding</b> 25:9 45:22,23	<b>ahead</b> 6:3 10:6 13:21 29:2 30:17 36:4 37:9 43:9 55:3,6 67:17 71:21
<b>\$473,000</b> 52:5	<b>21</b> 51:25	<b>8A</b> 13:13,22	<b>additional</b> 12:2 22:13,23 27:6 30:4 32:14 52:5 56:1	<b>Aitken</b> 7:18,19 8:21,22 9:24,25 12:15 13:5,6 29:19 31:11,12 33:10 34:2,3 36:21,22 50:17, 18 53:19,20 58:1 70:21
<b>\$59.6</b> 52:15	<b>21st</b> 51:14	<b>8B</b> 31:21	<b>address</b> 10:25 11:3 37:24 38:7 41:14 60:11	<b>alive</b> 48:3
<b>\$60</b> 64:6	<b>23rd</b> 35:1	<b>8C</b> 34:9	<b>adjacent</b> 57:13	<b>all-grounds</b> 25:10
<hr/>	<b>24th</b> 67:15 74:1	<b>8D</b> 37:4	<b>adjourned</b> 73:25 74:2	<b>all-negro</b> 72:11
<b>-</b>	<b>26th</b> 65:2	<b>9</b>	<b>administration</b> 22:12	<b>Allegiance</b> 7:1
<hr/>	<b>27</b> 6:1	<b>90</b> 24:10	<b>adopting</b> 49:17	<b>allocated</b> 20:9
<b>---o0o---</b> 6:2 74:4	<b>28</b> 38:1,3,24	<b>97</b> 72:4	<b>advertising</b> 17:10	<b>allowed</b> 10:15
<hr/>	<b>2A</b> 22:20	<b>9:33</b> 6:1	<b>Affairs</b> 38:6 41:20 57:17 58:19 67:5,9 69:2	<b>amazing</b> 61:12
<b>1</b>	<b>2B</b> 22:25 23:3	<b>A</b>	<b>African</b> 39:13 40:13 44:21 45:11 61:24 62:3	<b>amend</b> 27:24 32:12
<b>1</b> 16:20 22:14 65:19	<hr/>	<b>a.m.</b> 6:1 66:1 74:3	<b>ag</b> 23:22	<b>amendment</b> 32:23
<b>11:00</b> 66:1 74:3	<b>3</b>	<b>ability</b> 24:14	<b>agencies</b> 44:24	<b>America</b> 64:18 72:18
<b>12th</b> 65:2	<b>3</b> 18:3 23:10 27:17	<b>absolutely</b> 48:13 73:17	<b>agency</b> 45:15 54:7	<b>American</b> 40:11 45:12 47:24 60:18 61:24
<b>1321st</b> 72:11	<b>3.3</b> 48:2	<b>abstain</b> 9:21 10:5	<b>agenda</b> 6:5,12,14 10:16,23,24 11:1,2 51:4 53:22	<b>Americans</b> 39:13
<b>1383</b> 62:10	<b>30</b> 58:15	<b>accepted</b> 10:23		
<b>13th</b> 72:4	<b>31st</b> 34:18	<b>accepting</b> 72:23		
<b>14</b> 32:14	<hr/>	<b>access</b> 16:1 19:16		
<b>14th</b> 55:9,18	<b>4</b>	<b>accessibility</b> 17:3		
<b>15</b> 23:15	<b>4</b> 14:12 15:2 23:15	<b>accessible</b> 20:12		
<b>16</b> 61:22	<b>4.05</b> 13:25	<b>accomplish</b> 63:7		
<b>16th</b> 8:2 9:9 65:24	<hr/>	<b>achieve</b> 14:21 15:11		
<b>17th</b> 59:7 65:7	<b>5</b>	<b>achievement</b> 61:13		
<b>18th</b> 34:21 65:11, 24	<b>5</b> 25:8	<b>achievements</b> 62:3		
<b>19</b> 64:20	<b>50</b> 24:9 38:20 62:12			
<b>19th</b> 62:7 66:1	<b>5th</b> 64:21 66:9			
<b>1st</b> 32:2,13				
<hr/>				
<b>2</b>				
<hr/>				
<b>2</b> 16:20 22:16 30:1				
<b>2016</b> 62:10				

40:14 48:3 62:4 <b>amount</b> 72:9 <b>Amphitheater</b> 18:21 <b>Ana</b> 65:16 <b>analyze</b> 24:21 <b>Angeles</b> 72:15,24 <b>ANGUS</b> 7:5,8, 10,12,14,16,18, 20,22,24 8:10, 12,14,16,19,21, 23,25 9:2,5,16, 18,20,22,24 10:1,8,10 11:7, 15 12:22,24 13:1,3,5,7,9,11 28:11,16 31:3,5, 7,9,11,13,15,17 33:3,19,21,23,25 34:2,4,6,8 35:12, 15 36:13,15,17, 19,21,23,25 37:2 41:10 42:17,21 50:3,9,11,13,15, 17,19,21,23 <b>animals</b> 16:4 <b>announce</b> 50:4 <b>announcement</b> 11:9 <b>announcements</b> 60:15 64:9 <b>annual</b> 14:23 15:7 16:13,25 17:6,12 23:14 51:19 56:20 63:12 64:17 67:4 <b>answering</b> 47:19 <b>answers</b> 15:14 <b>anymore</b> 22:3 <b>apologies</b> 58:21 73:8 <b>applications</b> 41:21 <b>applied</b> 42:2 <b>apply</b> 22:3 <b>approach</b> 52:19, 20 <b>approval</b> 32:21 34:15 35:9	<b>approve</b> 8:5 12:14,16 14:17 18:8 30:8 33:8 35:21 36:8 46:4 47:17 49:13 54:18 <b>approved</b> 16:21, 24 45:2 49:20 51:21 57:15 59:11 68:22 <b>April</b> 21:10 65:19 <b>area</b> 22:17,21 23:19 27:3 55:22 56:19 <b>areas</b> 20:21 22:13 23:2 <b>Arena</b> 22:17 23:4 27:4 <b>arguments</b> 68:25 <b>arrived</b> 61:2 <b>art</b> 59:9,23 <b>artifacts</b> 62:1 <b>artistic</b> 59:24 <b>Ashleigh</b> 33:15 54:23,24 56:8 58:6 70:20 <b>Ashleigh's</b> 33:13 <b>Asian</b> 46:24 <b>aspects</b> 29:21 <b>assesses</b> 25:22 <b>assessing</b> 59:17 <b>asset</b> 16:1 <b>assets</b> 14:24 15:8 17:25 18:5 19:2 <b>assignment</b> 58:9 <b>Association</b> 61:9 64:22 <b>assume</b> 44:8 <b>athletes</b> 64:20 <b>attached</b> 32:23 35:2 53:21 <b>attend</b> 62:8 <b>attendance</b> 19:18 <b>attention</b> 40:12 <b>auction</b> 61:15	<b>audit</b> 14:7 15:15 21:14,16,17,22 26:2 51:9,19 53:5 <b>audited</b> 43:14 <b>August</b> 32:2 <b>Award</b> 34:25 72:17 <b>awarded</b> 21:3 <b>awards</b> 61:13 <b>aware</b> 45:8 <hr/> <b>B</b> <hr/> <b>back</b> 8:16 11:15 13:18 14:16 24:3 27:12 28:2,8,17, 19 32:25 35:16 37:19 42:21 43:4 45:3 46:18,22,23 47:15 49:9 54:10 55:12 61:12 63:25 66:5,7,16 67:3 68:24 <b>back-of-house</b> 23:13 24:7 <b>backgrounds</b> 40:8 <b>backstage</b> 36:2 <b>Bagneris</b> 7:16,17 8:8,19,20 9:22, 23 12:17 13:3,4 24:1,3,6,9,16,25 25:3,6 29:24,25 30:9,16,18,22 31:9,10 33:25 34:1 35:20 36:19,20 37:5,7, 16 43:3 44:15 45:1 48:15 50:15,16 53:15 59:1 66:23 67:19 73:5 <b>balance</b> 16:17 <b>bank</b> 17:16 <b>Barbara</b> 30:2 43:6 50:25 53:13 58:22,24 67:10, 18 68:14	<b>barn</b> 22:22 23:17,24 <b>barns</b> 22:25 23:11 <b>barriers</b> 19:17 <b>basically</b> 14:20 <b>basis</b> 51:6 53:25 56:20 <b>Beach</b> 57:9 65:15 <b>beautiful</b> 70:16 <b>Beaver</b> 72:17 <b>began</b> 21:4,17 62:18 <b>begin</b> 40:25 62:25 <b>behalf</b> 73:15 <b>Belle</b> 6:3,9,17 7:6,7,25 8:10,11 9:4,14,16,17 10:6,11 11:5,16, 17 12:12,19,22 13:12 23:8 24:17 26:16 28:2,4,16, 18 29:2,13 30:2, 6,11,17,21 31:1, 3,4,18 32:25 33:1,4,7,14,18, 19 34:9,12 35:10,15,17,20, 25 36:7,13,14 37:3,9 41:7 42:18,22,23 43:4,7,9 49:15, 21,25 50:4,7,8, 24 51:12 53:11, 17 54:24 55:15, 24 56:5 58:6,18, 21 60:6,9,14 66:16,17,21,24 67:2,14 68:14,17 69:12 70:7,14,19 71:7,20,22 73:7, 18,20,23,24 <b>bench</b> 23:3 <b>beneficial</b> 56:25 <b>benefit</b> 16:8,17 17:2 27:15 <b>big</b> 38:17 52:10 69:5	<b>Bill</b> 62:10 <b>bit</b> 37:11,13 <b>black</b> 38:2,21 39:9,24 40:6,11, 22 41:4 43:19 44:2,11,12,14, 18,20,22 45:13 46:5 68:2 72:6 <b>board</b> 6:7 10:16, 25 11:3 13:25 14:3,9,17,22 15:3,5,18,20,22 16:19,21,22,25 18:3,7,9 19:3,15 20:22 21:7,12 22:6 25:22 26:17,21 27:5, 11,13,16,18 34:15,18,20 35:5,8 37:18,22, 23 38:23 39:6 42:7 43:16 45:22 47:12 48:10 54:2,6,10,18 55:12,21 59:11, 22 60:5 63:16 67:14,25 69:20, 23 70:16 71:4,10 72:2 73:15 74:1 <b>Board's</b> 15:11 27:21 35:7 <b>boarded</b> 16:4 <b>Boat</b> 65:12,13 <b>Bobby</b> 71:25 72:6,20 73:3,13 <b>book</b> 55:22 <b>booked</b> 55:21 <b>Boston</b> 41:24 45:2 <b>bottom</b> 35:4 <b>Boy</b> 72:18 <b>boys</b> 63:16 <b>break</b> 17:15 <b>breaking</b> 17:15 <b>breed</b> 16:3 <b>bring</b> 13:18 14:16 18:18 28:7 38:19 48:13 54:10 55:12 56:23 63:25
--	---	---	---	--

<b>bringing</b> 29:11 40:12 43:11 47:14 <b>broader</b> 16:1 <b>broadly</b> 52:8 <b>brothers</b> 63:11, 18 70:24 <b>brought</b> 37:18 38:8 43:14 44:1, 13 45:4 46:3 61:12 <b>budget</b> 51:19 52:1,4,11 <b>budgeted</b> 53:1 <b>budgeting</b> 52:20 <b>building</b> 22:12, 22,25 23:15,16, 20,24,25 25:12, 16,17,19 26:4 <b>buildings</b> 14:20 15:6 22:10 25:16,20 65:15 <b>bus</b> 66:25 <b>business</b> 16:16 17:8 18:24 19:1 59:20 64:8 67:4 <b>businesses</b> 18:16 19:1 <b>busy</b> 64:13 66:3 <b>bye</b> 70:18 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <hr/> <b>calendar</b> 11:18, 21,23 12:14,16 <b>California</b> 17:19 42:8,9 45:7,9 47:3 61:16 62:11 64:23 72:15 <b>call</b> 6:10 7:3 8:9 9:14 12:21 31:2 33:18 36:11,12 49:25 50:2,3,6 58:3 <b>called</b> 23:15 46:19 61:23 <b>calling</b> 73:8 <b>calls</b> 25:11	<b>Cammack</b> 34:17 35:1 <b>campaign</b> 19:25 <b>campus</b> 12:9 <b>canceled</b> 12:10 <b>candy</b> 61:4 <b>canvas</b> 59:12 <b>capital</b> 27:25 53:25 <b>care</b> 16:4 40:15 56:24 <b>carnival</b> 34:16, 17 53:4 <b>carry</b> 25:23 <b>case</b> 32:23 35:6 41:23 42:4 <b>cash</b> 52:14 64:3,4 <b>category</b> 6:12 17:17 <b>caution</b> 41:19,22 <b>cautionary</b> 42:15 <b>CCA</b> 21:17 54:5, 15 <b>celebrate</b> 42:8 44:18 <b>celebrated</b> 47:2 69:2 <b>celebrating</b> 42:7 <b>celebration</b> 6:19 19:23 59:13 <b>Centennial</b> 18:1 19:6,7,12,13 20:2 23:17,21 58:7,11 66:3,4,6 <b>center</b> 6:8,18 14:2,25 15:8,24, 25 16:6,7,11,12, 15,16 18:15,24 19:4,11,24 20:5, 8,11,14 23:11,21 27:12,14 61:23 62:16 <b>Center's</b> 15:25 <b>Century</b> 23:17, 24 <b>CEO</b> 24:1 55:20 59:4 72:6	<b>CEO's</b> 60:14 <b>CEQA</b> 21:7 <b>ceremony</b> 62:6 <b>Cervantes</b> 7:10 50:4,13,14 55:4 56:2 70:15 73:19,22 <b>chair</b> 6:9 7:6,8 8:10,12,14 9:2, 16,18 10:7 11:16 12:22,24 23:7 26:16 28:2,16 31:3,5 32:25 33:19,21 35:15 36:13,15 42:22 50:3,7,9 51:7,11 56:8 58:18 63:21 66:16 68:16 69:24 71:20 <b>chairperson</b> 6:3, 16,17 7:7,25 8:11 9:4,14,17 10:6,11 11:5,17 12:12,19 13:12 24:17 28:4,18 29:2,13 30:2,6, 11,17,21 31:1,4, 18 33:1,4,7,14, 18 34:9,12 35:10,17 36:7,14 37:3,9 41:7 42:23 43:4,9 49:15,21,25 50:8,24 53:11,17 54:24 55:15,24 56:5 58:6,21 60:6,9,14 66:17, 21 67:2,14 68:14 69:12 70:7,14,19 71:7,22 73:7,18, 20,24 <b>challenges</b> 24:23 57:4 62:3 <b>Chamber</b> 72:6 <b>change</b> 32:7 <b>changed</b> 22:4 <b>chat</b> 11:8 28:12 <b>Chief</b> 59:20 64:8 <b>children</b> 63:17 <b>chime</b> 37:12	<b>Chino</b> 57:11 <b>choice</b> 17:13 <b>choose</b> 13:19 <b>Christian</b> 42:1,2 <b>church</b> 69:15 <b>circle</b> 8:16 <b>circus</b> 63:11,18 <b>city</b> 41:24 47:24, 25 56:19 57:8, 12,15 67:7 68:8 <b>Clark</b> 37:12 39:1,4 40:20 <b>class</b> 66:10 <b>classes</b> 23:23 <b>Classic</b> 64:18 <b>classroom</b> 23:22 <b>cleaning</b> 59:18 <b>clear</b> 27:5 <b>close</b> 72:8 73:3 <b>closed</b> 60:11 65:21 <b>Club</b> 65:7 <b>Coalition</b> 48:18 <b>Coast</b> 65:12 <b>colleagues</b> 38:23 39:3 <b>College</b> 72:25 <b>color-code</b> 26:3 <b>colors</b> 44:8 <b>commander</b> 60:17,21 <b>commemorate</b> 42:6 62:7 <b>comment</b> 10:12, 15,18 11:10,11, 12 13:14 28:14 29:1 37:14,15 42:17,19 69:13 <b>comments</b> 10:17, 23 11:6 13:18 23:8 28:6,9,19, 24 29:14 30:4 33:2,5 35:11,18 36:9 41:8 55:1 67:16 <b>commercial</b>	61:18 <b>commitment</b> 54:17 <b>committee</b> 21:19 27:11 29:19 30:20,23 34:22 38:6 41:20 46:3, 22 47:21 51:2,3, 9,14 53:19 54:25 55:8,16 56:7,9 57:18 58:7,9,12, 19 59:2,7 60:3,4 63:21 67:5,9 69:3 <b>committees</b> 60:7 71:13 <b>communities</b> 6:19 47:8 57:7 67:3,8 <b>community</b> 14:25 15:8 17:21 18:1,4,14,24 19:17,20 20:1,4, 7,12 25:17 38:6 40:6 41:20 43:19,20,22 44:7,9,22 47:25 48:6 56:16 58:4, 19 59:8 61:5 69:2 <b>comparing</b> 27:20 <b>compete</b> 64:20 <b>complement</b> 20:6 <b>complete</b> 28:5 29:8 31:20 53:5 <b>completed</b> 13:25 14:13 21:8 57:2, 5 60:1 <b>completely</b> 67:10 <b>completing</b> 34:24 <b>compliance</b> 62:15,19 <b>compostable</b> 62:21 <b>Concept</b> 14:8 15:13 20:23 21:11 22:2,15 24:13 26:1 27:19 <b>concepts</b> 42:11
--	---	---	--	---



<p><b>concerns</b> 37:24 43:17</p> <p><b>concessionaire</b> 32:1</p> <p><b>concessionaires</b> 17:9 62:20 63:3</p> <p><b>concessionnaires</b> 32:7</p> <p><b>concluded</b> 74:3</p> <p><b>concludes</b> 42:17 53:9 55:14 66:14,15 71:18</p> <p><b>concur</b> 73:12</p> <p><b>condition</b> 15:16 26:5,6,8,11</p> <p><b>conditions</b> 26:2</p> <p><b>condolences</b> 72:20 73:6,15</p> <p><b>confident</b> 36:5</p> <p><b>confidential</b> 32:17</p> <p><b>congratulations</b> 61:20</p> <p><b>connect</b> 18:17 19:19</p> <p><b>connection</b> 19:15</p> <p><b>connections</b> 17:23</p> <p><b>consent</b> 11:18,21, 23 12:14,16</p> <p><b>conservative</b> 52:19</p> <p><b>consideration</b> 26:25 27:16 32:10,22</p> <p><b>considerations</b> 26:15</p> <p><b>considered</b> 6:12, 14,15</p> <p><b>consisted</b> 21:23 22:14</p> <p><b>constituent</b> 38:13 40:21</p> <p><b>constituents</b> 16:2</p> <p><b>constituents'</b> 39:17</p>	<p><b>constructed</b> 57:11</p> <p><b>constructing</b> 56:14</p> <p><b>construction</b> 56:18</p> <p><b>consulting</b> 21:2,3</p> <p><b>contact</b> 71:3</p> <p><b>containers</b> 62:22 63:4</p> <p><b>content</b> 18:12</p> <p><b>context</b> 53:3</p> <p><b>continuation</b> 13:24</p> <p><b>continue</b> 14:3 36:6 42:25 51:5 55:11,21,22 60:3 68:23</p> <p><b>continuing</b> 14:15 53:24</p> <p><b>contract</b> 12:4,9 21:3 32:9,21 35:2,8 36:8</p> <p><b>contributions</b> 20:1 40:13</p> <p><b>controls</b> 51:17</p> <p><b>Convention</b> 61:9, 21</p> <p><b>conversations</b> 44:11 45:24</p> <p><b>COO</b> 24:17</p> <p><b>coordinating</b> 59:21</p> <p><b>copy</b> 32:23</p> <p><b>corn</b> 61:3</p> <p><b>correct</b> 43:2,3</p> <p><b>corrected</b> 30:19</p> <p><b>cosmetic</b> 26:6</p> <p><b>cost</b> 19:6 54:7,11</p> <p><b>Costa</b> 65:14</p> <p><b>costs</b> 52:6</p> <p><b>cotton</b> 61:3</p> <p><b>council</b> 57:12,15</p> <p><b>councilmember</b> 39:4 40:20</p>	<p><b>Councilwoman</b> 37:12</p> <p><b>country</b> 44:17 48:16,17 52:9 60:22 72:10</p> <p><b>county</b> 6:18 11:25 12:2 16:2 17:4 18:17 19:1, 19,20,23 23:18 38:15 39:6,14,15 40:1,22 44:2,12 46:10,14 48:2,4, 12 56:11 66:5 72:16</p> <p><b>County's</b> 6:19</p> <p><b>couple</b> 38:14 43:8,17 70:24 72:5</p> <p><b>Court</b> 41:23 42:4</p> <p><b>COVID</b> 52:19 65:18</p> <p><b>create</b> 17:6 18:16 25:14</p> <p><b>creating</b> 23:5,11 32:6 59:22</p> <p><b>creative</b> 59:24 68:6</p> <p><b>creativity</b> 68:9</p> <p><b>critical</b> 59:25</p> <p><b>cultural</b> 48:8</p> <p><b>culture</b> 44:25 49:4</p> <p><b>cultures</b> 46:10,24 47:2 49:3,10</p> <p><b>curate</b> 18:11</p> <p><b>curious</b> 37:23 43:23</p> <p><b>current</b> 10:16 15:16 22:16 31:25 32:12 34:16,17 40:20 55:19</p> <hr/> <p><b>D</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>date</b> 14:17 32:2, 3,4,10,13 51:25 52:11 60:4</p>	<p><b>dates</b> 18:22</p> <p><b>day</b> 19:23 56:20, 22 66:11 70:17, 25</p> <p><b>days</b> 38:1,3,24 58:16 66:4 68:25</p> <p><b>debate</b> 10:16</p> <p><b>December</b> 8:1,2, 5 9:9 34:18 35:1 51:25 52:16,17 60:18</p> <p><b>decided</b> 12:3,8</p> <p><b>decision</b> 29:7</p> <p><b>declaring</b> 57:16</p> <p><b>deemed</b> 26:5</p> <p><b>defer</b> 59:4</p> <p><b>define</b> 19:14</p> <p><b>deletions</b> 12:13</p> <p><b>delighted</b> 66:7,8</p> <p><b>deliver</b> 18:12 36:6</p> <p><b>demolishing</b> 23:15</p> <p><b>Department</b> 20:15,16 59:16</p> <p><b>departments</b> 22:9</p> <p><b>Depot</b> 56:16</p> <p><b>deserves</b> 27:15</p> <p><b>design</b> 42:12 59:24</p> <p><b>designed</b> 17:2</p> <p><b>desire</b> 11:3</p> <p><b>destination</b> 17:13</p> <p><b>detail</b> 14:14 27:20</p> <p><b>detailed</b> 46:7 53:21</p> <p><b>determine</b> 27:22</p> <p><b>developed</b> 16:19, 23 18:6</p> <p><b>developing</b> 22:16 59:23</p> <p><b>development</b> 20:23 27:2 59:20 64:9</p>	<p><b>devoted</b> 56:14</p> <p><b>dialed</b> 11:10 28:13 35:13 42:18</p> <p><b>Dillard</b> 60:17</p> <p><b>directed</b> 59:22</p> <p><b>direction</b> 14:4, 15,19,21 15:5, 12,21 16:20 20:21 25:23 27:5,11,21 28:8</p> <p><b>directional</b> 26:21</p> <p><b>director</b> 6:24 7:9, 10,12,13,14,16, 17,18,19,20,21, 22,23 8:6,8,17, 18,19,20,21,22, 23,24,25 9:1,10, 12,20,21,22,23, 24,25 10:1,2,8,9 12:15,17 13:1,2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 24:1,3,6,9,16,25 25:3,6 28:25 29:1,3,19,24 30:7,9,16,18,22, 25 31:6,7,8,9,10, 11,12,13,14,15, 16 33:10,12,22, 23,24,25 34:1,2, 3,4,5,6,7 35:20, 23,24,25 36:16, 17,18,19,20,21, 22,23,24,25 37:1,5,7,10,16, 17 38:13,22 42:18 43:3,7,10, 13,24,25 44:15, 16,23 45:1,6,8 46:1 47:20,21 48:15,24,25 49:1,14,19 50:4, 10,11,12,13,14, 15,16,17,18,19, 20,21,22 51:10, 11 53:15,19,20 55:2,4,7,17 56:2 58:1,2,10,24 59:1 62:14 66:23 67:19 68:16 69:6,19 70:9,15, 21 71:20,23 73:5,19,22</p>
---	---	--	---	--



<p><b>directors</b> 6:8 11:20 13:16,19 21:7,12 28:8,19, 20,24 33:5 35:18,19 36:9 39:7 43:5 66:19 67:17</p> <p><b>disappointed</b> 46:3</p> <p><b>disclose</b> 32:17</p> <p><b>discounts</b> 20:13</p> <p><b>Discovery</b> 66:4</p> <p><b>discretion</b> 6:15 35:7</p> <p><b>discuss</b> 55:18 59:3</p> <p><b>discussed</b> 19:3 34:19 51:18,20 53:3</p> <p><b>discussing</b> 46:9</p> <p><b>discussion</b> 14:1,6 22:7 26:14,17 28:3,8 30:13 33:16 43:14 47:5 49:23 55:13</p> <p><b>discussions</b> 32:18 46:7 48:22</p> <p><b>dismiss</b> 32:22</p> <p><b>displacing</b> 22:9</p> <p><b>display</b> 59:12</p> <p><b>disrepair</b> 23:25</p> <p><b>distinctive</b> 63:15</p> <p><b>district</b> 31:25</p> <p><b>district's</b> 32:19, 21</p> <p><b>districts</b> 45:8,15</p> <p><b>Ditto</b> 67:2</p> <p><b>diverse</b> 48:4,10, 11</p> <p><b>diversity</b> 18:14 40:1 59:9,13</p> <p><b>diverting</b> 63:2</p> <p><b>divide</b> 40:18</p> <p><b>docket</b> 10:20</p> <p><b>documents</b> 14:5, 8</p>	<p><b>dogs</b> 61:3</p> <p><b>donations</b> 72:23</p> <p><b>Doug</b> 28:25 53:10 69:12</p> <p><b>draft</b> 14:7,16 15:13 18:6,7 20:20,23 21:10 22:2,3,8,14 23:10 24:13 26:1,22 27:18,24</p> <p><b>drafted</b> 15:22 18:2</p> <p><b>dramatic</b> 52:25</p> <p><b>Drive</b> 25:15</p> <p><b>driving</b> 68:7</p> <p><b>dual</b> 59:15</p> <p><b>due</b> 52:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>earlier</b> 51:22</p> <p><b>early</b> 16:24 20:25 21:4</p> <p><b>eating</b> 19:10</p> <p><b>Ed</b> 63:9,18</p> <p><b>Ed's</b> 63:15</p> <p><b>educate</b> 63:6</p> <p><b>education</b> 16:9 22:19 23:20,22 27:7 61:22</p> <p><b>educational</b> 14:24 15:8 17:20,25 18:5 19:2,12,21</p> <p><b>effort</b> 38:4,25 40:15 56:21 59:21 62:15</p> <p><b>efforts</b> 18:2 20:6 57:25</p> <p><b>El</b> 12:7</p> <p><b>Eldridge</b> 62:14</p> <p><b>elected</b> 39:12,13, 14 44:11</p> <p><b>electrician</b> 72:13</p> <p><b>elements</b> 27:22</p> <p><b>eliminate</b> 62:22</p>	<p><b>eliminated</b> 12:5</p> <p><b>emergencies</b> 15:1 16:5 20:10</p> <p><b>emergency</b> 11:25 20:3</p> <p><b>employees</b> 18:19 22:9,13</p> <p><b>employers</b> 18:18</p> <p><b>encourage</b> 40:7 66:11</p> <p><b>end</b> 32:4 41:6 64:3,6</p> <p><b>ending</b> 63:22</p> <p><b>enforcement</b> 20:18</p> <p><b>engaging</b> 59:23</p> <p><b>Engineer</b> 72:12</p> <p><b>enjoyed</b> 63:17</p> <p><b>ensure</b> 16:1 20:8, 17 51:17 69:1</p> <p><b>entertainment</b> 16:9 18:20 22:19 55:16</p> <p><b>entrance</b> 25:11, 13,14 63:14</p> <p><b>entries</b> 61:19</p> <p><b>Equestrian</b> 14:25 15:8,24,25 16:7, 11,15,16 19:11 23:11 27:12,14</p> <p><b>equine</b> 16:3,9 22:18 23:1 27:2</p> <p><b>equine-related</b> 27:6</p> <p><b>equipment</b> 20:10</p> <p><b>equity</b> 59:13</p> <p><b>error</b> 35:5</p> <p><b>essentially</b> 32:14</p> <p><b>establish</b> 17:1</p> <p><b>ethnic</b> 49:7</p> <p><b>ethnicity</b> 49:7</p> <p><b>European</b> 72:11</p> <p><b>event</b> 6:8,18 12:7,9 14:2 15:24 16:6,12 18:15,23 19:4,24 20:5,8,11,14</p>	<p>62:16</p> <p><b>events</b> 14:23 15:7 17:25 18:4,10,12 19:5,7,21 23:2 27:8 52:7 61:11 64:1,10,13,15 65:6</p> <p><b>excellent</b> 50:25 63:23</p> <p><b>exceptional</b> 17:20</p> <p><b>excited</b> 38:15 69:9</p> <p><b>executing</b> 16:7</p> <p><b>Executive</b> 21:23</p> <p><b>exercise</b> 12:3</p> <p><b>exhibit</b> 22:23 25:20 61:16,17, 23 62:1,7 65:22</p> <p><b>exhibits</b> 17:21 60:24 70:11</p> <p><b>existing</b> 26:2 42:13</p> <p><b>expand</b> 18:21,24</p> <p><b>expanded</b> 22:12 24:14</p> <p><b>expect</b> 53:5</p> <p><b>expected</b> 39:2</p> <p><b>expeditiously</b> 68:18</p> <p><b>expended</b> 6:21</p> <p><b>expenditures</b> 54:1</p> <p><b>expenses</b> 52:3</p> <p><b>experience</b> 17:5, 20 38:19 43:21 61:17 69:20</p> <p><b>experienced</b> 32:11</p> <p><b>experiences</b> 18:13 61:24</p> <p><b>expiration</b> 32:2, 9,13</p> <p><b>expire</b> 32:5</p> <p><b>expired</b> 34:18</p> <p><b>explore</b> 58:3</p>	<p><b>exploring</b> 59:24</p> <p><b>exposure</b> 18:24</p> <p><b>expressed</b> 18:3</p> <p><b>extending</b> 32:14</p> <p><b>extension</b> 32:21 57:8</p> <p><b>extraordinary</b> 62:3</p> <p><b>extremely</b> 52:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>facade</b> 25:20</p> <p><b>face</b> 19:17</p> <p><b>facilitate</b> 26:17</p> <p><b>facilities</b> 14:21 21:19 29:18 53:19 59:16 62:14 67:7</p> <p><b>facility</b> 52:6 60:21</p> <p><b>fact</b> 38:9 47:10, 14 57:10 68:21</p> <p><b>fair</b> 6:8,18 14:2, 23 15:7,24 16:6, 12,13,25 17:1,5, 6,12,14,18 18:11,15,22,23 19:4,24 20:5,8, 11,14,15,16 23:14 25:14 26:5 27:8 32:6,7,10 36:2 39:6 52:6, 23,24 53:6 54:19 56:11,12,13 60:2 61:1,5,6,12,16, 18 62:15,20,24 63:1,8,12 64:1 65:25 67:4 71:1 72:1,21 73:3,15</p> <p><b>fairground</b> 38:16</p> <p><b>fairgrounds</b> 22:11 23:6 38:5, 22 47:13 70:3</p> <p><b>fairs</b> 18:18 42:8 61:9</p> <p><b>Fairview</b> 61:3</p> <p><b>familiar</b> 56:10</p>
---	--	--	--	---

<b>family</b> 17:13,15, 22 63:11 71:2 73:6 <b>fan</b> 69:5 <b>Fanfare</b> 32:1 <b>fantastic</b> 47:4 <b>farm</b> 18:1 19:6,7, 12,13 20:2 23:17,21,23 66:3,4,6 <b>Farmers</b> 65:17 <b>Farms</b> 58:7,11 <b>fast</b> 67:24 <b>father</b> 72:3,8 <b>favorable</b> 51:25 52:11 <b>favorites</b> 69:16 <b>features</b> 62:1 <b>February</b> 18:9 27:13 38:2 39:24 49:13 53:8 58:17 62:7 65:7,11,24 67:15 68:22 74:1 <b>fee</b> 20:13 <b>feedback</b> 48:9 59:25 <b>feel</b> 20:17 23:7 40:6 48:22 61:6 <b>feeling</b> 39:22 47:8 <b>feels</b> 48:14 <b>fellow</b> 69:6 <b>fence</b> 25:9 <b>Festival</b> 64:23,25 <b>Fight</b> 61:24 65:7 <b>Fighting</b> 61:23 <b>final</b> 21:22 34:15 35:9 62:23 <b>finally</b> 15:17 16:15 17:17 <b>Finance</b> 34:22 63:21 <b>financial</b> 51:8,16, 17,19 <b>financially</b> 16:18 <b>financials</b> 51:24	<b>find</b> 57:6 <b>finding</b> 40:9 <b>fine</b> 29:16 <b>finishing</b> 57:5 <b>Fire</b> 20:16 <b>Fish</b> 65:12 <b>Fishing</b> 65:13 <b>fix</b> 24:14 25:1 <b>fixture</b> 63:12 <b>flag</b> 38:3,12,15, 24 40:4,8 41:4, 17,18 42:3,12, 13,15,25 43:16, 20,22 44:1,8,12, 16,19,21,22,24 45:4,5,13,23 46:4,9,11,13,15, 16 47:9,11 48:17,19 49:3,5, 13 68:1,22 <b>flags</b> 40:25 41:21 42:6,12 44:24 46:4 48:1 49:7,9 68:25 <b>flash</b> 21:21 <b>fled</b> 49:5 <b>flew</b> 49:6 <b>flies</b> 47:11 <b>flowered</b> 40:2 <b>flowers</b> 72:22 <b>flown</b> 38:3,8 45:5 <b>fly</b> 38:12 41:18, 21 42:2,6,25 44:24 49:13 <b>flying</b> 38:14,24 40:4 41:4 44:14, 19 68:1 <b>focus</b> 14:18 17:10 22:7 28:22,23 <b>focused</b> 16:9 18:13 <b>footprint</b> 22:10 <b>foremost</b> 67:22 <b>form</b> 14:16 18:7 <b>formal</b> 10:19 12:8	<b>forward</b> 21:21 28:1 29:8,12 36:5 38:8,10,12, 16,18,19 39:1 41:5 43:12,15 44:1,13 48:13 49:11 54:1,19 68:2,3 71:15 <b>foundation</b> 14:25 60:20 <b>foundations</b> 19:3,14,16 <b>free</b> 23:7 <b>free-of-charge</b> 17:11 <b>frequently</b> 18:25 <b>Fresh</b> 61:16 <b>Friday</b> 65:19 <b>friend</b> 72:1,7,21 <b>friends</b> 69:7,8 <b>front</b> 41:23 43:23 59:2,5 62:5 69:15 <b>fulfill</b> 24:11 <b>full</b> 17:4 21:13 27:18 61:10 62:19 <b>fun</b> 61:1,4,16 65:9 <b>future</b> 27:17	<b>goals</b> 14:14 15:9 27:13 63:7 <b>God</b> 69:16 <b>golf</b> 57:14 <b>good</b> 9:7 12:11 20:20 24:20,24 25:7 30:2,21 31:1 37:10 41:1, 12 50:24 53:17 55:24 57:14 63:22 67:3 69:11 71:7 72:7 <b>goodies</b> 61:5 <b>Governance</b> 54:25 55:8 <b>Governmental</b> 56:7,9 57:17 67:5,9 <b>grand</b> 25:14 <b>grandchildren</b> 63:17 <b>great</b> 23:25 45:22 47:12 48:12 53:16 54:22 61:17,20 64:15 66:25 67:10 68:3,17,19 69:2 70:22 71:14 73:23 <b>greater</b> 16:1 <b>green</b> 44:20 63:14 <b>greet</b> 39:7,11 <b>ground</b> 23:12 <b>grounds</b> 14:20 15:6 60:24 63:6 <b>group</b> 16:1 38:9 42:1 48:9 56:20 61:8 <b>groups</b> 19:17 20:12 48:21 56:16 57:22 <b>growing</b> 48:17 <b>guess</b> 24:22 46:12 <b>guest</b> 17:20 <b>guidance</b> 51:7 <b>guide</b> 69:25	<b>Guonian</b> 64:17 <b>guy</b> 69:16 <b>guys</b> 47:14 <b>gymnast</b> 64:16 <b>gymnastics</b> 64:18,19
<b>H</b>				
				<b>Habitat</b> 56:15 57:20 <b>half</b> 40:23 <b>Hall</b> 18:1 19:6, 13,19 20:2 25:17 58:13 60:18,19, 23,25 61:22 62:6 65:21 72:2 73:4, 14 <b>Hamill</b> 59:21 64:9,12 <b>hand</b> 6:25 <b>hanging</b> 61:5 <b>Hangar</b> 25:12 65:8 <b>happen</b> 68:3 <b>happening</b> 52:8 <b>happy</b> 10:14 31:24 38:18 58:1 59:6 61:1 67:21 70:17 <b>Harbor</b> 72:24 <b>hard</b> 63:25 70:3 71:11 <b>harder</b> 39:10 <b>hazard</b> 24:22 <b>head</b> 45:10 <b>healthy</b> 19:10 64:1,3 <b>hear</b> 37:23 63:15 <b>Hearing</b> 11:15 28:16 33:4 35:15 42:21 <b>heart</b> 6:25 <b>held</b> 21:6,19 <b>helped</b> 69:25 <b>helpful</b> 15:3 22:5 25:24 71:10
<b>G</b>				
		<b>game</b> 69:5,9 <b>gate</b> 63:14 <b>gather</b> 21:5 <b>gathering</b> 63:1 <b>general</b> 11:10 72:12 <b>generally</b> 57:6 <b>gentleman</b> 63:10 <b>gentlemen</b> 63:16 <b>girls</b> 63:16 <b>give</b> 27:11 <b>giving</b> 52:8 <b>goal</b> 60:1		

<p>73:13 <b>heritage</b> 6:20 44:4 46:25 <b>Heroes</b> 18:1 19:6,13,19 20:2 25:17 58:13 60:18,19,23,25 61:22 62:6 65:21 72:2 73:4,14 <b>high</b> 12:7,8 63:22 <b>highest</b> 16:4 <b>highlight</b> 17:21 54:2 62:2 64:14 72:5 <b>highlighted</b> 48:23 <b>highlighting</b> 17:11 <b>Hills</b> 57:11 <b>Hispanic</b> 43:21 44:4 46:25 <b>histories</b> 62:2 <b>history</b> 38:2 39:16,24 40:2, 11,12 41:4 42:11 44:14,18 45:13 46:5 68:2 <b>hold</b> 19:5 21:13 <b>home</b> 56:15,16 57:1,4,10,15 62:5 <b>homeowner</b> 57:1 <b>homes</b> 57:22 <b>homework</b> 37:19 <b>Honestly</b> 69:24 <b>honk</b> 61:7 <b>honor</b> 6:24 60:20 <b>honored</b> 60:23 <b>honors</b> 61:14 <b>hope</b> 48:20 62:8 68:24 <b>horse</b> 23:1 <b>horses</b> 16:4 <b>Hospital</b> 61:3 <b>host</b> 19:7 62:6 <b>hosting</b> 66:8</p>	<p><b>household</b> 38:20 <b>huge</b> 47:25 <b>Humanity</b> 56:15 57:20 <b>hundred</b> 48:3 <b>Huntington</b> 57:9 65:15 <b>HVAC</b> 26:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>IBEW</b> 72:13 <b>idea</b> 58:4 67:1,11 68:8 73:23 <b>ideas</b> 47:22 68:9 <b>identified</b> 28:11 55:10 <b>identify</b> 11:2 27:25 <b>II</b> 61:25 62:1,4 <b>Imaginology</b> 16:14 27:9 <b>immigrant</b> 48:16 <b>impact</b> 25:5 72:14 <b>implementing</b> 62:25 <b>importance</b> 39:16,21 <b>important</b> 40:16 45:17 <b>importantly</b> 15:10 <b>impressed</b> 60:24 <b>impressive</b> 36:3 <b>improvement</b> 52:25 <b>improvements</b> 25:20 26:6 <b>improves</b> 24:22 <b>in-house</b> 54:7 <b>in-person</b> 71:17 <b>include</b> 17:20 18:21 22:12 23:3 30:19 32:13 49:17 63:1</p>	<p><b>included</b> 22:16 25:18,25 39:22 69:1 <b>includes</b> 25:15 32:2 42:8 46:24 <b>including</b> 16:13 19:9,22 20:2,10 25:19 51:21 59:23 61:13 <b>inclusion</b> 38:4 59:14 <b>inclusive</b> 38:4 <b>income</b> 17:3 <b>incorporate</b> 59:9 <b>increase</b> 17:2 52:15 64:7 <b>increased</b> 17:7 <b>incredible</b> 48:2 52:2 <b>Indian</b> 40:23 <b>indication</b> 67:24 <b>industry</b> 62:17, 25 <b>inform</b> 19:25 <b>information</b> 25:25 48:7 54:9 62:9 71:3 73:1 <b>informative</b> 71:10 <b>Infrastructure</b> 14:7 15:15 21:13,17,22 26:1,12,23 29:21 <b>initial</b> 54:9 <b>initially</b> 12:1 49:8 54:5 <b>initiated</b> 21:1,9, 15 <b>initiative</b> 29:6 <b>initiatives</b> 23:2 43:16 <b>input</b> 21:5 51:4 59:24 <b>installing</b> 25:9 <b>integrated</b> 16:12 19:11 27:8</p>	<p><b>intended</b> 30:24 <b>intent</b> 43:1 73:9 <b>interacting</b> 20:17 <b>interest</b> 6:19 40:9 <b>interested</b> 66:12 <b>Interestingly</b> 57:13 <b>interlocking</b> 39:19 <b>introduce</b> 10:12 19:8 31:22 34:12 <b>introduced</b> 22:1 <b>introduction</b> 6:4 <b>introductory</b> 13:13 <b>investments</b> 52:14 <b>invitational</b> 64:16,19 <b>invited</b> 66:2 <b>involve</b> 22:20,25 <b>involved</b> 22:8 48:9 <b>involving</b> 41:23 <b>Iranian</b> 47:24 <b>Irvine</b> 47:24 <b>Islander</b> 46:25 <b>issue</b> 32:6 41:19 43:11,18 <b>issued</b> 34:25 <b>issues</b> 10:15 41:16 <b>item</b> 6:13 7:25 10:20,24 11:2, 18,23 13:13,22 28:9 31:21 32:12 34:9,15 35:11 37:3,4,6 41:9,15 51:2 60:9,12 66:22 <b>items</b> 6:5,14 10:18,24,25 11:22 13:14 51:5</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Jackson's</b> 48:18 <b>January</b> 6:1,7 21:21 51:14 55:9,18 59:7 67:22,23 72:4 <b>Jerry</b> 62:14 <b>Jesse</b> 48:18 <b>Joan</b> 59:21 64:9, 11 66:18 <b>job</b> 18:18 53:16 54:22 68:17 69:2 <b>Johnson</b> 21:3 <b>joined</b> 50:5 60:19 <b>journneys</b> 39:19 <b>jump</b> 32:3 <b>jumping</b> 54:14 <b>junior</b> 61:15 <b>justifying</b> 6:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Karns</b> 24:17,20 25:2,4 54:22 <b>keeping</b> 41:17 <b>Ken</b> 24:18 54:20 66:18 <b>kids</b> 20:17 61:17 <b>kind</b> 22:6 28:22 46:2 58:8 <b>kitchen</b> 23:23 <b>knew</b> 52:21 56:23 <b>knock</b> 38:25 <b>knowing</b> 49:9 <b>Kovacevich</b> 7:20, 21 8:23,24 9:12, 13 10:1,2 13:7,8 31:13,14 34:4,5 36:23,24 50:19, 20 51:10,11 63:21 68:16</p>
---	--	---	--	--

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>La</b> 6:3,9,17 7:6,7,25 8:10,11 9:4,14,16,17 10:6,11 11:5,16,17 12:12,19,22 13:12 23:8 24:17 26:16 28:2,4,16,18 29:2,13 30:2,6,11,17,21 31:1,3,4,18 32:25 33:1,4,7,14,18,19 34:9,12 35:10,15,17,20,24 36:7,13,14 37:3,9 41:7 42:18,22,23 43:4,7,9 49:15,21,25 50:3,7,8,24 51:11 53:11,17 54:24 55:15,24 56:5,11 58:6,18,21 60:6,9,14 66:16,17,21,24 67:2,14 68:14,17 69:12 70:7,14,19 71:7,20,22 73:7,18,20,23,24</p> <p><b>labor</b> 52:5,9</p> <p><b>Ladies</b> 63:15</p> <p><b>landfills</b> 63:2</p> <p><b>largest</b> 64:24</p> <p><b>lastly</b> 27:17</p> <p><b>late</b> 37:11 62:23</p> <p><b>Latino</b> 42:11</p> <p><b>launch</b> 19:24</p> <p><b>law</b> 10:19 20:17 62:11</p> <p><b>lawsuit</b> 32:19,22</p> <p><b>layered</b> 26:20</p> <p><b>lead</b> 6:22</p> <p><b>leaders</b> 19:1 44:2,11,12</p> <p><b>Leadership</b> 51:3</p> <p><b>leading</b> 62:15</p> <p><b>leads</b> 41:1</p> <p><b>learned</b> 38:14 39:20</p>	<p><b>learning</b> 41:2 66:12</p> <p><b>leave</b> 57:23</p> <p><b>Lebanese</b> 40:23</p> <p><b>led</b> 52:24</p> <p><b>left</b> 57:7</p> <p><b>legal</b> 34:22</p> <p><b>legend</b> 26:3</p> <p><b>Legion</b> 60:18</p> <p><b>Leticia</b> 40:20</p> <p><b>Letitia</b> 37:12 39:1,4,8</p> <p><b>letter</b> 39:3 54:16</p> <p><b>level</b> 46:8</p> <p><b>lieu</b> 72:22</p> <p><b>life</b> 39:9 56:10 70:24</p> <p><b>light</b> 59:10,17</p> <p><b>lighting</b> 59:10</p> <p><b>limited</b> 10:21 11:4 54:6</p> <p><b>line-up</b> 55:19</p> <p><b>list</b> 12:5,11 27:24 47:1 55:20 61:12</p> <p><b>listed</b> 6:13,14 10:24</p> <p><b>listening</b> 73:10</p> <p><b>live</b> 61:15</p> <p><b>lived</b> 72:15</p> <p><b>lives</b> 48:4</p> <p><b>livestock</b> 22:17,18,22 27:2,3 61:15</p> <p><b>local</b> 17:7 18:16</p> <p><b>location</b> 57:15</p> <p><b>logo</b> 61:18</p> <p><b>long</b> 20:19 63:12</p> <p><b>longer</b> 27:23</p> <p><b>looked</b> 26:19 51:18</p> <p><b>Los</b> 72:15,24</p> <p><b>loss</b> 63:25</p> <p><b>losses</b> 64:5</p> <p><b>lost</b> 32:11 72:3</p>	<p><b>lot</b> 29:20 38:23 47:22 52:13,22 65:20 73:4</p> <p><b>love</b> 66:25 70:3,4 71:2</p> <p><b>lower</b> 17:3</p> <p><b>lucky</b> 69:10</p> <p><b>Lunar</b> 64:25</p> <p><b>lunging</b> 23:2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>made</b> 10:2 15:11 62:20</p> <p><b>main</b> 22:11 25:11,12,21</p> <p><b>major</b> 53:25</p> <p><b>make</b> 6:4 11:9,10,12 13:13,16 23:9 28:13 29:7,21 30:7,18 33:11 35:21 37:14 42:19 47:9,16 48:13,25 49:12 58:22 65:23 66:12</p> <p><b>makes</b> 20:1 38:16 40:16 45:23 66:10</p> <p><b>making</b> 29:5 39:22 48:22 62:18 66:9 67:6 73:12</p> <p><b>malfunction</b> 44:5</p> <p><b>mall</b> 25:12,21</p> <p><b>managers</b> 56:19</p> <p><b>manner</b> 64:2 68:23</p> <p><b>map</b> 26:2 27:11</p> <p><b>March</b> 27:13</p> <p><b>Market</b> 32:20 65:17</p> <p><b>marketing</b> 17:10 68:8</p> <p><b>marketplace</b> 25:16</p> <p><b>markets</b> 52:9</p>	<p><b>marquee</b> 69:15</p> <p><b>master</b> 14:8 15:13 20:23,25 21:10 22:2,3,14 24:13 26:1,12,22 27:19 29:7 32:1,7</p> <p><b>matter</b> 57:10</p> <p><b>matters</b> 6:11 10:12</p> <p><b>maximum</b> 16:8</p> <p><b>mayor</b> 40:19</p> <p><b>Mcdonald</b> 72:1,3,23</p> <p><b>meaning</b> 26:5,8</p> <p><b>means</b> 24:25</p> <p><b>measurable</b> 14:14</p> <p><b>measures</b> 47:12</p> <p><b>media</b> 19:25 59:25</p> <p><b>medium</b> 26:6</p> <p><b>meet</b> 51:6,14 65:3</p> <p><b>meeting</b> 6:8,10 8:2 10:3,21 11:2 16:22 18:9 21:20 27:18 35:5 37:19 43:14 47:5 50:5 51:15,23 53:7 54:3 58:15,17 59:3 67:14 68:18 70:12,22 71:14,17 74:1</p> <p><b>meetings</b> 21:5 34:20 60:5 61:10</p> <p><b>Melahat</b> 6:22 33:15 37:7,9 43:6 50:25 58:11,22 69:18 70:7</p> <p><b>Melehat</b> 41:7</p> <p><b>member</b> 37:22 72:13</p> <p><b>members</b> 26:18 28:12 37:23 60:19 67:25 69:20</p>	<p><b>members'</b> 63:17</p> <p><b>men's</b> 64:16,19</p> <p><b>mention</b> 49:2 71:25 73:3</p> <p><b>mentioned</b> 43:13 65:21</p> <p><b>merchants</b> 17:8</p> <p><b>Mesa</b> 65:15</p> <p><b>mess-ups</b> 56:24</p> <p><b>message</b> 59:13</p> <p><b>met</b> 51:3 55:8,18 59:7 72:8</p> <p><b>Mexican</b> 44:5</p> <p><b>Mexican-american</b> 43:21</p> <p><b>Michele</b> 6:4,17 10:11 11:5,19 12:12 13:21 28:4 31:18,22 34:10 35:10 51:4 55:20 58:2 60:6 65:21 66:17 70:23 71:11,19 73:15</p> <p><b>Michele's</b> 28:20</p> <p><b>mid-2016</b> 20:25</p> <p><b>middle</b> 32:5</p> <p><b>million</b> 48:2 52:1,12,15 63:24 64:5,6,7</p> <p><b>mine</b> 72:7</p> <p><b>minority</b> 46:14</p> <p><b>minutes</b> 8:1,5 9:9 10:22 11:4 46:18</p> <p><b>missed</b> 63:19 73:20</p> <p><b>mission</b> 6:10,11,18</p> <p><b>mistake</b> 10:2</p> <p><b>mobilize</b> 20:5</p> <p><b>model</b> 16:16</p> <p><b>modify</b> 29:22</p> <p><b>Monday</b> 65:18</p> <p><b>money</b> 48:1</p> <p><b>Monitoring</b> 51:8</p> <p><b>month</b> 38:1,2 39:24 41:4 42:7,</p>
---	--	---	--	--



11 44:4,13,14,18 45:13 46:6,25 47:4 60:5 64:15 68:2 <b>month's</b> 35:5 <b>monthly</b> 51:6,18 53:25 <b>months</b> 32:15 34:20 44:4 71:17 <b>morning</b> 24:20 37:10 41:12,15 <b>mother</b> 40:21 <b>motion</b> 8:4 9:8 12:13,19 30:6,8, 11,23 33:8,13 35:21,24 36:7 47:17 48:25 49:12,15,21 <b>move</b> 11:17 12:9, 16 13:12 28:1 29:8,12 31:21 33:12 36:4 39:1 49:11 60:11 <b>moved</b> 8:6 9:10 33:15 57:11 <b>moving</b> 25:8 34:14 38:16,18 41:5 <b>multipurpose</b> 23:12,22 <b>Mundekis</b> 41:11, 12,13 <b>mural</b> 47:6 58:20 <b>Museum</b> 61:22 62:1 <b>mute</b> 9:4 53:10 66:24 67:20 <b>Myers</b> 72:3	<b>national</b> 60:17, 21 61:25 <b>nearing</b> 57:5 <b>needed</b> 12:4 14:21 26:6,8 55:11 59:18 <b>neighborhood</b> 23:5 <b>net</b> 52:11 63:23 <b>networking</b> 61:11 <b>Nevada</b> 61:10 <b>newly</b> 61:2 <b>Newton</b> 70:8,9 <b>Nextdoor</b> 69:14 <b>nice</b> 46:6 <b>Nick</b> 53:12,15 58:8 68:15 69:12 71:5 <b>nieces</b> 40:22 <b>night</b> 65:9 69:8 <b>Niners</b> 69:5 70:13 <b>no-brainer</b> 46:14 <b>noncompostable</b> 63:4 <b>nonprofit</b> 48:1 <b>nonprofits</b> 20:12 <b>north</b> 23:6,16 <b>note</b> 52:10 63:20, 22 <b>notice</b> 10:19 34:25 <b>noticed</b> 6:11,13 <b>November</b> 21:2, 18 <b>number</b> 14:12 15:2 17:12,18 18:3,15,20,23 27:1,10 30:1 57:21 <b>nutrition</b> 19:9 23:23	<hr/> <b>O</b> <hr/> <b>OC</b> 6:8 14:2,23 15:24 16:6,12, 13,25 17:6,12, 14,18 18:11,13, 15,23 19:4,24 20:5,8,11,14,15, 16 23:14 32:6,20 61:1,12 62:15 63:12 65:3,7,9 <b>occurred</b> 32:18 <b>OCFEC</b> 62:18 <b>October</b> 16:22 21:20 32:13 34:21 <b>offer</b> 18:11 19:4 26:25 <b>offerings</b> 17:21 18:20 19:12 <b>Officer</b> 59:20 <b>offices</b> 23:11 <b>official</b> 19:5 39:12,15 <b>officials</b> 19:5 <b>older</b> 48:18 <b>omit</b> 11:22 <b>ongoing</b> 57:25 <b>open</b> 61:23 65:25 <b>open-air</b> 22:25 <b>opening</b> 62:6 65:23,25 <b>operate</b> 16:6,17 <b>operated</b> 16:3 <b>operating</b> 52:3 <b>operation</b> 32:19 36:3 <b>operational</b> 60:14 <b>opportunities</b> 18:16 19:22 <b>opportunity</b> 17:7 18:8 19:5 36:1 41:14 <b>option</b> 12:3 <b>options</b> 24:7 38:8	57:18 67:9 <b>oral</b> 62:2 <b>orange</b> 6:18,19 14:19 16:2 17:3 18:17 19:1,19, 20,23 23:18 39:6,14,15 40:22 44:2,12 46:10,14 48:11 72:16 <b>order</b> 6:10,15 17:12 18:25 19:16 29:7 32:9 <b>organic</b> 62:12 63:1 <b>organization</b> 20:1 38:5 48:21 68:6,10 <b>organization's</b> 20:6 51:16 <b>organizations</b> 57:21 <b>Original</b> 65:3 <b>originally</b> 22:13 <b>outdoor</b> 23:2,22 <b>Outdoors</b> 61:18 <b>outlined</b> 22:22 <b>outlying</b> 22:10 <b>outreach</b> 48:13 67:6 73:12 <b>outstanding</b> 71:9 <b>Ovations</b> 32:1 <b>overseas</b> 62:4 <b>oversight</b> 51:19	<b>Pan-american</b> 38:3 40:4 <b>parcels</b> 57:13 <b>pardon</b> 10:11 41:8 <b>parking</b> 23:13 25:19 <b>part</b> 56:20 57:24 58:5 <b>participated</b> 57:2 <b>participation</b> 17:8 <b>partners</b> 20:6 62:16 <b>partnerships</b> 17:2 <b>parts</b> 40:5 <b>pass</b> 68:13 <b>passed</b> 38:11 72:4 <b>passing</b> 63:9 <b>past</b> 32:10 45:5 56:10 <b>path</b> 42:5 <b>patrons</b> 63:6 <b>Paul</b> 60:17 <b>Pavilion</b> 65:16 <b>pending</b> 21:13 <b>people</b> 39:22 40:17 47:10 48:2 66:11 <b>percent</b> 24:9,10 38:20 62:12,13 <b>performances</b> 63:18 <b>perimeter</b> 25:9 <b>permanent</b> 57:6 <b>permanently</b> 22:8 <b>permitted</b> 10:17 <b>Persian</b> 40:23,24 <b>personally</b> 71:4 <b>perspective</b> 37:22 <b>perspectives</b> 37:20
<hr/> <b>N</b> <hr/> <b>Natalie</b> 29:2,13 30:24 43:9 49:17 54:25 55:15,25 56:5 69:22 71:22 73:5,7 <b>nation</b> 40:17 <b>nation's</b> 64:24			<hr/> <b>P</b> <hr/> <b>PA</b> 25:10 <b>Pacific</b> 18:21 46:24 65:12 72:11 <b>Pacifica</b> 59:10 <b>paddocks</b> 23:1 <b>paint</b> 59:18 <b>painting</b> 68:7 <b>Pan-african</b> 41:18 44:19 45:12 49:13 68:1	

<p><b>Pham</b> 7:8,9 8:12, 14 9:3,18 12:24 31:5,6 33:21,22 36:15,16 50:9,10 58:3 70:9</p> <p><b>phase</b> 22:14,16, 20,25 23:3,10, 15,20 25:8,11, 15,18 27:19,21</p> <p><b>phases</b> 22:1,5</p> <p><b>photo</b> 61:19 63:10 69:14</p> <p><b>photographs</b> 62:2</p> <p><b>pioneering</b> 45:21</p> <p><b>place</b> 17:14 32:20 48:21 51:17 61:13,14 64:17,21 65:3,6, 7,17,18 66:1</p> <p><b>places</b> 45:4</p> <p><b>placing</b> 63:5</p> <p><b>plan</b> 14:8 15:13 20:25 21:10 22:3,8,15 23:10 24:13 26:1,12,22 27:19,25 29:7 59:22 71:9</p> <p><b>planning</b> 12:1 13:25 16:7,20 18:2 29:5,8</p> <p><b>plans</b> 17:10</p> <p><b>plastic</b> 63:3</p> <p><b>plates</b> 62:22 63:5</p> <p><b>Plaza</b> 59:10</p> <p><b>pleased</b> 52:22</p> <p><b>pleasure</b> 7:5 70:2</p> <p><b>pledge</b> 6:23 7:1</p> <p><b>point</b> 23:25 24:23 28:7 29:20,22 46:9 58:14 69:9</p> <p><b>policies</b> 55:10</p> <p><b>Policy</b> 13:25</p> <p><b>poor</b> 26:8,11</p> <p><b>population</b> 38:21</p> <p><b>portions</b> 56:17</p>	<p><b>position</b> 51:16 63:23 64:3</p> <p><b>positive</b> 25:5 68:23</p> <p><b>positivity</b> 68:20</p> <p><b>posted</b> 14:9 51:13</p> <p><b>potentially</b> 32:6</p> <p><b>predominantly</b> 45:9,11</p> <p><b>preferences</b> 18:4</p> <p><b>preliminary</b> 55:9</p> <p><b>premier</b> 19:22</p> <p><b>preparation</b> 14:6 21:11 65:22</p> <p><b>prepared</b> 38:6</p> <p><b>prepares</b> 62:17</p> <p><b>preparing</b> 68:17</p> <p><b>present</b> 26:15 31:22 34:13 37:5</p> <p><b>presentation</b> 13:16,17 28:20 31:20 51:1 58:23 71:9</p> <p><b>presented</b> 21:12 49:18</p> <p><b>presenter</b> 13:15</p> <p><b>presenting</b> 18:7 64:23</p> <p><b>pretend</b> 39:9</p> <p><b>pretty</b> 53:21</p> <p><b>previous</b> 12:3</p> <p><b>previously</b> 59:11</p> <p><b>pride</b> 38:14 45:23 47:12 48:19 49:3</p> <p><b>prior</b> 10:19,21 11:1 56:12</p> <p><b>priorities</b> 15:17 27:24</p> <p><b>priority</b> 29:5</p> <p><b>private</b> 32:17</p> <p><b>problem</b> 55:7</p> <p><b>problematic</b> 32:5</p> <p><b>problems</b> 25:1</p>	<p><b>proceed</b> 13:22</p> <p><b>proceedings</b> 74:3</p> <p><b>proceeds</b> 52:11 63:23</p> <p><b>process</b> 13:25 14:3 20:22,24,25 21:8,15 29:9 34:25 51:20</p> <p><b>produced</b> 61:25</p> <p><b>producing</b> 19:22</p> <p><b>product</b> 70:5</p> <p><b>products</b> 63:5</p> <p><b>program</b> 14:23 15:7 16:7 17:25 38:7 41:25 42:2 56:10,25 64:13</p> <p><b>programming</b> 14:2,13,22 15:5 16:8,11 17:11 20:21 25:23 27:7 57:19 61:14</p> <p><b>progress</b> 56:3</p> <p><b>project</b> 21:13 54:4,11 58:20 59:3,9,15 60:1,4</p> <p><b>projected</b> 63:24</p> <p><b>projects</b> 25:19 27:25 54:1 58:4</p> <p><b>Promenade</b> 61:17</p> <p><b>promote</b> 17:22</p> <p><b>promoting</b> 17:11 61:5</p> <p><b>proper</b> 20:9</p> <p><b>properties</b> 57:7</p> <p><b>property</b> 14:4,20 15:4,16,19 21:14 25:9,14,22 26:4 54:15 58:5</p> <p><b>proposed</b> 27:2 34:25</p> <p><b>proud</b> 47:7 64:2</p> <p><b>provide</b> 15:13 19:16 27:23 51:7 55:20 62:21 73:2</p> <p><b>provided</b> 15:21 17:4 47:1 51:4 59:8</p>	<p><b>provider</b> 34:17</p> <p><b>providing</b> 17:19 28:21 51:6 57:22 59:25</p> <p><b>public</b> 10:12,15, 17,18,19 11:6,9, 10,11,12 13:18 14:10 15:20,25 16:8,10,17 19:4, 25 21:19 22:19 27:6,15 28:6,9, 13,14 33:2,4 34:19 35:11 41:8,21 42:17 59:9</p> <p><b>public-private</b> 17:1</p> <p><b>pull</b> 11:19,20 52:23</p> <p><b>purpose</b> 14:12 51:15 71:24</p> <p><b>push</b> 32:9 48:1</p> <p><b>put</b> 6:25 21:13 38:7 71:12</p> <p><b>putting</b> 35:8 70:10</p> <hr/> <p><b>Q</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>question</b> 24:19 33:18 36:11 41:17 42:14 43:25 50:1</p> <p><b>questions</b> 13:17 23:8 29:23 33:5 35:18 37:24 38:18 40:25 41:1,6 42:24 43:6,8,17 47:18 53:22 66:19</p> <p><b>quick</b> 14:11 41:16 71:21</p> <p><b>quickly</b> 15:20,23</p> <p><b>quorum</b> 9:6</p> <p><b>quote</b> 17:14</p> <hr/> <p><b>R</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>R-007-22</b> 11:23</p>	<p><b>R-048-22</b> 12:7</p> <p><b>race</b> 44:25 49:7</p> <p><b>racist</b> 46:19,20</p> <p><b>Rafiei</b> 6:24 7:22, 23 8:6,7,25 9:1, 10,11 10:8,9 13:9,10 31:15,16 33:12,13 34:6,7 36:25 37:1,10,17 43:13,24 45:8 47:20 48:25 49:14 50:21,22 58:24 69:19</p> <p><b>Rainbow</b> 41:17 42:15,25 48:17, 18</p> <p><b>raise</b> 45:12 47:25</p> <p><b>raised</b> 43:18</p> <p><b>raising</b> 40:22</p> <p><b>Rams</b> 69:6,16</p> <p><b>Ray</b> 34:17 35:1</p> <p><b>RCS</b> 36:5,8</p> <p><b>reach</b> 44:7</p> <p><b>reached</b> 54:5,8, 14</p> <p><b>read</b> 6:10,11 37:14 39:3,4,5 51:13</p> <p><b>ready</b> 41:11 59:19</p> <p><b>real</b> 55:5 60:20</p> <p><b>realigning</b> 25:11</p> <p><b>realistic</b> 54:12</p> <p><b>realized</b> 10:3</p> <p><b>reason</b> 38:10 41:22 49:2,6 52:18 55:5</p> <p><b>reasons</b> 46:17 49:5</p> <p><b>received</b> 21:22 62:23 72:17</p> <p><b>recently</b> 72:3</p> <p><b>reception</b> 66:1</p> <p><b>recited</b> 7:1</p> <p><b>recognized</b> 47:3 64:24</p>
--	---	--	---	--

<p><b>recommend</b> 27:10</p> <p><b>recommendation</b> 29:17 30:1,8,14 33:9 35:4,22</p> <p><b>recommendations</b> 15:18 26:15,25 29:10,16 46:23</p> <p><b>recommended</b> 22:6 26:11 36:4</p> <p><b>reconsidering</b> 41:20</p> <p><b>recyclable</b> 62:21 63:5</p> <p><b>red</b> 14:12 22:22 26:10 44:20 69:10</p> <p><b>reduction</b> 62:12</p> <p><b>refer</b> 29:18 53:22</p> <p><b>referred</b> 14:5 21:11</p> <p><b>refugee</b> 48:16</p> <p><b>refurbishing</b> 59:17</p> <p><b>regard</b> 19:2</p> <p><b>Reggie</b> 41:11,12</p> <p><b>Reggie's</b> 42:24</p> <p><b>Regiment</b> 72:12</p> <p><b>regularly</b> 45:25</p> <p><b>regulations</b> 62:18,24</p> <p><b>reinforce</b> 47:10, 13</p> <p><b>reiterate</b> 63:20</p> <p><b>related</b> 14:22 24:19 44:24 46:5 49:4,7</p> <p><b>Relations</b> 56:7,9</p> <p><b>relationship</b> 14:24 19:15</p> <p><b>relative</b> 6:5 28:20 30:13 37:6 56:11</p> <p><b>released</b> 21:1 34:21</p> <p><b>relevant</b> 18:12 27:23</p>	<p><b>relieved</b> 58:9</p> <p><b>remain</b> 27:22</p> <p><b>remember</b> 24:11 63:13 65:8</p> <p><b>remembered</b> 70:13</p> <p><b>removal</b> 26:13</p> <p><b>removed</b> 43:1</p> <p><b>removing</b> 22:20 23:10 25:15</p> <p><b>Reno</b> 61:9</p> <p><b>rental</b> 11:24 12:1,2,4,6 20:13</p> <p><b>rented</b> 23:18</p> <p><b>repairs</b> 26:7</p> <p><b>repeat</b> 6:25</p> <p><b>replace</b> 27:3 63:3 64:5</p> <p><b>replacement</b> 26:9</p> <p><b>replacing</b> 23:3, 24</p> <p><b>report</b> 14:7 21:22 27:12 31:23 32:24 34:13 35:3 37:6 51:13 53:9, 21 54:21 55:14, 23 58:14,16 59:8 60:4 61:1 63:9 66:14</p> <p><b>reports</b> 21:24 26:19 51:2</p> <p><b>represent</b> 43:20 44:9 46:24 48:11 49:10</p> <p><b>representation</b> 39:21 44:21</p> <p><b>represented</b> 46:10</p> <p><b>represents</b> 40:10 43:22 49:3</p> <p><b>request</b> 13:15 37:21 46:12 56:8</p> <p><b>requested</b> 10:20 11:1 21:7</p> <p><b>requests</b> 41:21</p> <p><b>requirement</b></p>	<p>16:17 62:20</p> <p><b>requirements</b> 62:24</p> <p><b>requires</b> 10:19</p> <p><b>requiring</b> 63:3</p> <p><b>research</b> 27:1</p> <p><b>reserves</b> 64:4</p> <p><b>residents</b> 17:3 18:13</p> <p><b>resolution</b> 49:18, 20</p> <p><b>resolve</b> 29:6</p> <p><b>resources</b> 6:21 20:9</p> <p><b>respectfully</b> 40:19 41:3</p> <p><b>respond</b> 42:24</p> <p><b>responding</b> 20:9</p> <p><b>response</b> 7:11,15 8:13,15 9:19 11:14,25 12:25 28:15 30:5,15 33:6,17 35:14 36:10 42:20 49:24 60:8 66:20 67:13</p> <p><b>responsibility</b> 57:3</p> <p><b>result</b> 43:15 64:2</p> <p><b>results</b> 6:20</p> <p><b>return</b> 65:4 66:10</p> <p><b>returned</b> 61:8</p> <p><b>revenue</b> 32:11 51:25</p> <p><b>review</b> 14:11 18:8 20:19,20 26:2 27:18 34:22,23,24 51:19 55:9,12</p> <p><b>reviewed</b> 16:21 27:20</p> <p><b>reviewing</b> 55:12</p> <p><b>revisit</b> 20:22 25:25</p> <p><b>RFP</b> 21:1,8,15 34:21 53:4</p>	<p><b>RFPS</b> 51:21</p> <p><b>Richards</b> 6:6 7:3 8:9 9:7 10:14 11:22 12:23 13:23 24:1,2,5,8, 12,24 25:7 31:24 33:20 34:11,14 53:10 55:20 58:18 59:4,6 60:13,16 66:15 73:17</p> <p><b>right-of-way</b> 57:8</p> <p><b>righty</b> 43:4</p> <p><b>Rita</b> 72:23</p> <p><b>road</b> 42:10</p> <p><b>roadway</b> 57:8</p> <p><b>Robert</b> 58:10 71:5</p> <p><b>robust</b> 18:17</p> <p><b>role</b> 39:14</p> <p><b>roll</b> 7:4 8:9 9:15 12:21 31:2 36:12 50:2,3,6</p> <p><b>roofing</b> 26:9 56:21</p> <p><b>root</b> 40:2</p> <p><b>Rubalcava-garcia</b> 7:12,13 8:17,18 9:20,21 13:1,2 28:25 29:1,3 30:7,25 31:7,8 33:23,24 35:23,25 36:17, 18 43:7,10,25 44:16,23 45:6 46:1 47:21 48:24 49:1,19 50:11,12 55:2,7,17 69:22 71:20,23</p> <p><b>Ruiz</b> 7:14 29:19 58:10 69:6</p> <p><b>run</b> 36:2</p> <p><b>runs</b> 61:3 65:24</p> <p><b>Russell</b> 63:10,11, 18 70:23</p>	<p><b>S</b></p> <p><b>sad</b> 63:9,20 70:23 71:1</p> <p><b>safe</b> 20:17 25:1,2 48:21 64:1</p> <p><b>safety</b> 47:12</p> <p><b>sanctioned</b> 64:19</p> <p><b>Sandra</b> 54:25 55:2 56:1,6 70:14,19</p> <p><b>Santa</b> 65:15</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> 62:7 64:16 66:1</p> <p><b>schedule</b> 27:17 58:2 61:10</p> <p><b>scheduled</b> 53:7</p> <p><b>Scholarship</b> 72:24</p> <p><b>school</b> 12:7,8 19:21 45:8,15 66:4</p> <p><b>scope</b> 54:6,10</p> <p><b>scoring</b> 34:24 51:20</p> <p><b>Scouts</b> 72:18</p> <p><b>seating</b> 23:4</p> <p><b>seconded</b> 33:15</p> <p><b>self-operation</b> 27:14</p> <p><b>self-produced</b> 18:12</p> <p><b>Senate</b> 62:10</p> <p><b>send</b> 42:4 71:3 72:19 73:14</p> <p><b>sense</b> 38:17 45:24</p> <p><b>separately</b> 8:2</p> <p><b>September</b> 21:6 62:10 65:24</p> <p><b>Serenity</b> 54:3</p> <p><b>serve</b> 15:25 40:7</p> <p><b>served</b> 17:4 72:10</p> <p><b>service</b> 36:6 58:4 72:12</p>
--	---	---	--	---

<p><b>services</b> 20:3 34:16 53:4 <b>serving</b> 27:14 58:10 63:4 <b>session</b> 32:8 60:11 <b>set</b> 14:3,22 15:6 25:24 27:13 <b>setting</b> 14:3 62:11 <b>settle</b> 32:22 <b>settlement</b> 32:18 <b>seventh</b> 64:17 <b>share</b> 32:20 69:17 <b>shares</b> 68:20 <b>shelter</b> 16:5 <b>Sheriff's</b> 20:15 <b>shortest</b> 38:1 <b>shortly</b> 56:4 <b>show</b> 22:23 65:14 70:25 <b>showcase</b> 40:1 <b>showing</b> 61:21 69:23 <b>shows</b> 34:17 35:1 <b>sick</b> 55:5 <b>side</b> 23:16 <b>sign</b> 10:20 11:1 66:11 68:7 69:16 <b>signage</b> 25:10 63:6 <b>signed</b> 62:11 <b>significant</b> 25:5 72:9 <b>Silver</b> 72:17 <b>similar</b> 41:25 57:19 <b>simple</b> 37:21 <b>sincere</b> 73:8 <b>single</b> 70:25 <b>site</b> 14:8 15:13 20:23,25 21:10 22:2,3,14 24:13 26:1,12,22 27:19 29:7 56:12,15</p>	<p>57:6,11 <b>sitting</b> 73:10 <b>skipped</b> 58:19 <b>slate</b> 46:4,23 64:15 <b>slice</b> 14:18 <b>slide</b> 24:4 28:22 65:5 <b>slightly</b> 52:4 <b>slow</b> 66:24 67:20 <b>small</b> 18:16 61:8 62:18 <b>smooth</b> 70:11 <b>smoothest</b> 70:12 <b>Society</b> 23:18 <b>soft</b> 65:23 <b>son</b> 38:21 40:22 <b>sooner</b> 39:2 <b>sort</b> 38:12 51:5 59:12 <b>sound</b> 16:18 23:5 <b>south</b> 25:17 <b>Southern</b> 64:23 <b>southland</b> 66:6 <b>space</b> 22:23,24 23:12 <b>spark</b> 40:8 <b>Speakers</b> 10:20, 25 11:4 <b>speaking</b> 43:20 <b>special</b> 61:23 <b>specific</b> 14:14 27:13 32:17 60:10 <b>specifics</b> 24:19 <b>Spectra</b> 32:2,11, 12,19 <b>spent</b> 29:20 72:15 <b>spoken</b> 58:10 <b>sponsoring</b> 18:18 <b>sports</b> 22:17 23:4 27:4 65:12,13 71:6</p>	<p><b>stadium</b> 23:4 <b>staff</b> 13:15 14:15 16:6 18:5 27:23 29:11 31:23 32:24 34:13,20 35:2,8 42:12 44:3 54:13 55:19 57:18 59:8,21,23 60:3,19 61:8 67:8 68:5,17 70:1,10,16 71:8, 11 73:16 <b>staffing</b> 20:10 <b>stages</b> 57:5 <b>stakeholder</b> 21:4,20 <b>stakeholders</b> 20:5 <b>stand</b> 74:2 <b>standards</b> 16:4 <b>start</b> 10:21 11:1 27:1 55:9 67:17 68:19 <b>started</b> 6:4 20:24 44:18 <b>state</b> 11:13 17:18 28:14 35:13 42:19 44:23 45:3,14 47:2,3 52:8 54:7 61:3 62:18 <b>statement</b> 40:16 42:15 <b>statements</b> 15:21 16:20,23 17:24 18:6 26:20,21 <b>States</b> 40:3 64:18 <b>STEM</b> 72:24 <b>stepped</b> 18:5 <b>steps</b> 27:12 62:19 <b>stick</b> 54:17 <b>stood</b> 26:24 <b>stop</b> 23:7 <b>storage</b> 22:24 23:13 24:14 <b>story</b> 39:17 <b>strategic</b> 13:24 14:15,19 15:4,</p>	<p>11,21 16:19 17:24 18:2 20:20 27:21 29:5,8 71:9 <b>straws</b> 62:21 <b>street</b> 67:1 <b>strengthens</b> 39:18 <b>strict</b> 62:11 <b>stripe</b> 44:20 <b>structure</b> 25:19 59:17 <b>structures</b> 22:21 26:4,10 <b>Student</b> 64:22 <b>students</b> 19:8,16 45:12 66:5 <b>study</b> 21:7 26:12, 21,23 27:16 29:21 <b>styrofoam</b> 62:22 <b>successful</b> 52:24 <b>suggest</b> 29:18 <b>suggested</b> 22:11 23:10,20 25:8 <b>suggestion</b> 29:22 44:6 <b>summary</b> 21:23 51:23 <b>Summer</b> 7:3 8:9 9:14 11:6 12:21 17:13 28:10,18 31:2 33:2 35:11, 17 36:12 41:9 42:23 50:2 <b>Sunday</b> 69:7,8 71:6 <b>Sunshine</b> 61:6 <b>support</b> 15:1,4,6, 9 18:1,4 20:3,4 23:1 38:24 41:4 44:22 45:16 46:13,15,16 <b>supporting</b> 20:7 46:20,21 <b>Supreme</b> 41:23 42:4</p>	<p><b>surplus</b> 57:7,13, 16 <b>surprise</b> 52:7 <b>surprised</b> 36:4 <b>Swap</b> 65:3 <b>Switzerland</b> 71:5 <b>system</b> 25:10 26:8 <b>systems</b> 26:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>table</b> 67:16 <b>Tackle</b> 65:12,13 <b>tag</b> 44:15 <b>takes</b> 47:12 65:17,18 66:1 <b>taking</b> 41:20 57:1 58:24 64:17,21 65:3,6, 7 67:6 <b>talent</b> 55:21,22 <b>talk</b> 38:19 70:17 <b>talked</b> 24:6 44:3 52:13,18,22 53:4 <b>targets</b> 62:11 <b>team</b> 61:4 <b>teams</b> 71:6 <b>telling</b> 48:15 <b>terms</b> 20:4 28:22 29:17 51:4 60:11 67:4,6 73:13 <b>testing</b> 65:18 <b>Tet</b> 64:23 <b>thankful</b> 54:13 <b>Theaters</b> 72:11 <b>theme</b> 61:16,18 <b>thing</b> 29:15 46:2 51:5 54:2 69:4 <b>things</b> 22:2,4 26:23 38:25 40:24 41:1 42:8 47:23 56:19,21 64:14 68:3 72:6, 10 <b>thought</b> 22:4</p>
--	--	---	---	--



O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER  
Board of Directors Meeting on 01/27/2022

37:13 47:23 68:6 <b>Thursday</b> 6:1 65:9,17 <b>Tiger</b> 65:1 <b>time</b> 9:2 10:18,24 22:6 26:16 28:7, 14 29:14,20 32:20 43:18 44:6 46:4,16,21 49:2 52:23 55:13,23 60:2,10 66:10 72:15 <b>timeline</b> 54:9,12 <b>timely</b> 39:25 <b>times</b> 39:20 <b>timing</b> 53:4 <b>to-go</b> 62:22 <b>today</b> 14:2,18 39:7,11 48:3 53:9 68:1 <b>top</b> 17:19 26:22 29:5 45:10 <b>topics</b> 19:9 <b>topnotch</b> 36:6 <b>Toro</b> 12:7 <b>tour</b> 36:2 <b>tours</b> 19:21 66:4 <b>towers</b> 59:10,11, 17 <b>tracks</b> 59:15 <b>traditional</b> 18:22 <b>traditions</b> 17:22 <b>trailer</b> 23:17 <b>Travel</b> 65:14 <b>tremendous</b> 72:14 <b>true</b> 15:25 <b>truffle</b> 66:9 <b>truffles</b> 66:13 <b>tune</b> 52:4,12 <b>turn</b> 6:9 11:15 26:16 28:2,17 32:25 35:16 42:21 64:8 <b>turned</b> 42:3	<b>TV</b> 61:18 <hr/> <b>U</b> <hr/> <b>U.S.</b> 17:19 <b>unanimously</b> 41:3 <b>understand</b> 37:20 38:20 53:2 <b>understanding</b> 44:10 54:16 <b>unfavorable</b> 52:4 <b>Union</b> 64:22 <b>unique</b> 18:13 <b>unison</b> 7:2 <b>unite</b> 40:17 <b>United</b> 40:3 64:18 <b>universal</b> 44:21 <b>unmute</b> 11:11 <b>unveiled</b> 60:2 <b>upcoming</b> 64:10 <b>update</b> 55:21 58:20 60:15 66:15 <b>updated</b> 55:11 <b>updates</b> 53:25 59:3 <b>USAG</b> 64:19 <b>utensils</b> 63:4 <b>utilize</b> 68:11 <hr/> <b>V</b> <hr/> <b>Valentine's</b> 66:11 70:17 <b>validate</b> 45:3 <b>valued</b> 40:6 <b>van</b> 61:1,2 66:25 68:7 <b>variety</b> 25:18 <b>venue</b> 16:3,18 18:25 27:15 <b>Vernon</b> 72:3,23 <b>versus</b> 52:25	<b>Veteran</b> 72:24 <b>veterans</b> 19:20, 22 60:20,21 <b>vice</b> 7:8 8:12,14 9:2,18 12:24 31:5 33:21 36:15 50:9 51:7 <b>video</b> 46:19 <b>Vietnamese</b> 64:22,25 <b>view</b> 57:14 <b>virtual</b> 61:15 <b>vision</b> 58:5 <b>visit</b> 60:21 <b>visited</b> 60:18 <b>visiting</b> 66:6 <b>visual</b> 39:21 <b>visualizing</b> 45:16 <b>voice</b> 63:15 <b>vote</b> 9:6 38:11 55:13 68:1 <b>voted</b> 21:12 49:2, 8 <b>voting</b> 30:22 <hr/> <b>W</b> <hr/> <b>wait</b> 67:1 <b>waivers</b> 20:13 <b>Walk</b> 54:4 <b>wall</b> 23:5 <b>wanted</b> 37:14 38:25 42:2 50:4 53:2 69:19 71:25 72:5 73:2 <b>War</b> 61:25 62:1,4 <b>waste</b> 62:12 63:2 <b>watch</b> 37:19 <b>watched</b> 46:19 <b>wave</b> 61:7 <b>wayfinding</b> 25:10 <b>wearing</b> 69:10 <b>weave</b> 39:18 <b>website</b> 14:9 62:9	<b>week</b> 61:8 <b>weekend</b> 69:5,11 70:16 <b>weigh</b> 54:18 <b>welcoming</b> 66:5 <b>west</b> 25:13 <b>Western</b> 61:9 <b>WFA</b> 61:21 <b>whatsoever</b> 45:21 <b>whopping</b> 52:1 <b>Wine</b> 23:18 <b>winter</b> 12:8 <b>wishing</b> 10:25 <b>woman</b> 39:9 43:21 46:14 <b>wonderful</b> 58:4 65:3,6 69:20 <b>work</b> 14:16 16:24 19:14 20:14 21:3,9,17 22:13 40:17 45:22 47:25 48:5 54:3,8 56:3 57:18 59:23 63:25 69:24 70:1,3,5 71:11, 14 73:14 <b>workforce</b> 18:17 <b>working</b> 19:3 57:22 69:21 70:2 <b>workload</b> 58:8 <b>workshop</b> 14:12 15:2 18:3 21:6 <b>workshops</b> 14:1 16:20,24 61:10 <b>World</b> 61:25 62:4 <b>worth</b> 43:15 <b>wrapped</b> 61:2 <b>written</b> 62:17,24 <b>Wu</b> 64:17 <hr/> <b>Y</b> <hr/> <b>year</b> 12:3 16:13 17:7 21:2 32:11	38:1,11 41:5 45:2 51:24 52:6, 11,16,23 57:10 62:23 63:22,24 64:7,25 65:1 67:21,24 68:3,4, 20 <b>year's</b> 43:15 61:21 63:1 <b>year-round</b> 14:23 15:7 17:25 18:4,10 23:12 27:8 52:7 64:1 68:11 <b>years</b> 38:14 56:11 63:18 70:24 71:1 <b>young</b> 64:16 <b>youth</b> 18:14,19 19:20 <hr/> <b>Z</b> <hr/> <b>zone</b> 21:23 27:4 <b>zoom</b> 44:5 59:7
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