

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, TO SUPPORT THE ALLOCATION
OF BOTH HARNESS AND THOROUGHBRED RACING
DATES AT THE BIG FRESNO FAIR

WHEREAS, the Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, stands as one of California's oldest and most celebrated annual fairs, serving as a cornerstone of Fresno's agricultural heritage and a vital gathering place across the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, live horse racing has been an integral part of the Big Fresno Fair experience, preserving Fresno County's deep-rooted tradition in equestrian sport, agriculture and community celebration; and

WHEREAS, the Fresno Fairgrounds is home to one of the few remaining racetracks in Central California capable of hosting live horse racing events that meet the California Horse Racing Board's operational and safety standards; and

WHEREAS, the continuation and expansion of live horse racing at the Big Fresno Fair supports Fresno's economic vitality, generating millions of dollars in annual economic activity and sustaining hundreds of local jobs in agriculture, animal care, hospitality, tourism, concessions, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, securing race dates for both thoroughbred and harness horse racing will strengthen the Fair's year-round programming, enhance its competitiveness as a premier regional destination, and attract horsemen and visitors from across California and the nation; and



WHEREAS, the expansion of live racing at the Big Fresno Fair aligns with the City of Fresno's goals for inclusive economic development, regional tourism growth, and preservation of local culture; and

WHEREAS, located in the heart of California, Fresno remains a competitive and attractive location for horsemen from across the United States to compete and engage with California's historic equine industry; and

WHEREAS, bringing both harness and thoroughbred horse racing to the Fresno Fairgrounds ensures that Central Valley residents have equitable access to the same world-class cultural and sporting experiences available in larger metropolitan regions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno recognizes that horse racing is a key component of the Big Fresno Fair experience, driving economic vitality and encouraging our youth to learn more about agriculture and Fresno's rich history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The City of Fresno formally supports and urges the California Horse Racing Board to allocate race dates for both harness and thoroughbred horse racing at the Fresno Fairgrounds, recognizing Fresno as a vital statewide venue for equine sport and agricultural entertainment.

2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the California Horse Racing Board, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and the Board of Directors of the 21st District Agricultural Association expressing the City's support consistent with this resolution.

3. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, TODD STERMER, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2025.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2025
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2025
Mayor Veto: _____, 2025
Council Override Vote: _____, 2025

TODD STERMER, MMC
City Clerk

By: _____ Date
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREW JANZ
City Attorney

By: _____ Date
Angela M. Karst
Senior Deputy City Attorney