

Resolution No. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING THE 143RD DIXON MAY FAIR, MAY 10-13, 2018 AND THE POSITIVE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF FAIRS LOCALLY AND ACROSS THE STATE

WHEREAS, the Dixon May Fair, the oldest district fair in California, along with the Dixon May Fairgrounds, are owned and governed by the 36th District Agricultural Association. The Dixon May Fairgrounds, which operate year-round, also has the distinction of being the oldest fairgrounds in the state. The fair celebrates its 143rd year when it opens its doors to the public, May 10-13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Dixon May Fair stretches back to 1876, when residents began hosting a May Day celebration. In 1886, a group of locals were looking for a place to race their horses and purchased 20 acres along First Street to build the Dixon Driving Park. This land has served as home to every May Day celebration and Dixon May Fair ever since. Dixon's May Day celebration would also go on to become the site of the Solano County Fair in 1916. By 1950, however, the Solano County Fair moved to Vallejo and it was around this time Dixon changed the name of its May Day celebration to the Dixon May Fair; and

WHEREAS, fairs such as the Dixon May Fair are a reflection of their community. Their exhibits and educational offerings are family oriented, as is the entertainment, which range from local talent to critically acclaimed and world renowned acts. The Dixon May Fair provides a venue for livestock shows and educational programs such as 4-H, FFA and Grange where youth and individuals show their projects and promote the agricultural heritage of Solano County; and

WHEREAS, the Dixon May Fair, and fairs like it across the state, offer non-profit groups an opportunity to raise money through fundraising booths. The Friends of the Dixon May Fair, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is the fundraising arm of the Dixon May Fair. In the last 17 years, the Friends of the Fair has raised and distributed \$175,000 in college scholarship funds to local students in addition to raising funds for repairs and safety improvements at the fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, fairs contribute to their local economy. A 2015 economic impact study by the California Department of Food and Agriculture estimated that the Dixon May Fair generated roughly \$7.5 million in spending activity, helping to create jobs and generate tax revenue. The annual fair and yearlong slate of events at the Dixon May Fairgrounds created an estimated \$2.7 million in overall salary and benefits for employees, the equivalent of 72 jobs. Statewide, the Network of California Fairs, which includes the Solano County Fair, generated nearly \$4 billion in economic activity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize the historical, cultural and economic impacts of the Dixon May Fair as it embarks on its 143rd year as a time-honored community celebration.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2018

JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk