

March 07 2025

**El Dorado County Museum Commission, Public Meeting
Commissioner Rigoli**

Good afternoon. I'm here today as a commissioner of the El Dorado County Historical Museum ("Museum") to address the recent prolonged closure of our Museum.

First, I want to emphasize that this Commission is dedicated to fulfilling its duty to maintain a vision and subsequent goals for the Historical Museum, as outlined in the Commission Ordinance of February 2000. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Museum Administration and County Supervisors. This is the foundation from which I speak today.

The nearly four-month closure of the Museum—still ongoing—is deeply disturbing and has been entirely avoidable. The continued denial of public access is inexcusable. The Library Administration—which oversees the Museum—has ignored offers of free assistance from accredited museums and experienced volunteers – resources that could have facilitated a partial reopening months ago. This is not merely a lack of urgency on the part of the Library Administration; it constitutes gross negligence and a profound dereliction of duty. The justifications, or lack thereof, have been wholly inadequate and fail to address the core issue: **the Museum remains closed, and the public is locked out.**

We have additionally witnessed a failure by the Library Administration to cultivate cooperative relationships with county historical and professional associations—relationships that are crucial to our Museum's vitality. We have also seen a failure to maximize the Museum's potential to enrich our county through partnerships, programming, and tourism, all of which are critical functions of a healthy museum.

Therefore, as a Museum Commissioner empowered by our bylaws to provide guidance and recommendations to the Library Administrator and County Supervisors, I assert that we—the commissioners and the public—require the following improvements:

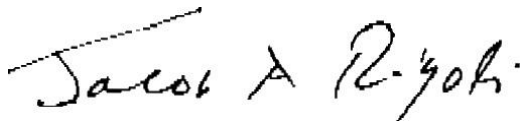
- **Prompt Reopening:** We expect the Museum to promptly reopen on a part-time basis, with a renewed commitment to serving the community.
- **Commitment to Mission and Community:** We expect the Library Administration to fully embrace the Museum's mission and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of its role in driving tourism and serving the needs of our El Dorado County and regional communities.
- **Enhanced Programming and Education:** We expect the Museum to develop and implement engaging programming for the community, including educational enrichment for schools and families.
- **Volunteer and Researcher Support:** We expect the Museum to provide a rewarding experience for volunteers and researchers, and to enhance the Museum's significance

and reputation within the community, particularly to our retirees who contribute substantially to our heritage preservation.

- **Inter-organizational Collaboration:** We expect the Museum administration and the Library system to actively pursue partnerships with other museums and non-profit organizations across El Dorado and surrounding counties, in order to enrich our programs, expand our reach, and better serve the public.
- **Sustainable Funding and Strategic Alignment:** We expect the Library Administration, Supervisors, and Museum Administration to advocate for and secure sustainable funding for the maintenance, safety, operation, programming, and civic activities of the Museum. This includes the acquisition and preservation of culturally and historically significant resources and the alignment of the Museum with county tourism initiatives. As the current collections management policy indicates, proper funding is necessary for the Museum to function in a manner that serves the public.

If the Library and Museum Administrations are unable or unwilling to meet these reasonable and realistic standards of performance, the Museum Commission is compelled to take under advisement recommendations or proposals to more appropriately align the administration of the Museum. This includes, but is not limited to, formally requesting a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors to present our findings and recommendations for alternative administrative structures, as authorized by our operating documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob A Rigoli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jacob Rigoli

Resident of Placerville

El Dorado County Museum Commissioner (newly elected Chair as of March 07 2025)