

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SPINACH FESTIVAL DATE CHANGE

### Dear Crystal City and Surrounding Communities,

The Crystal City Festival Association (CCFA) Board of Directors unanimously decided to move the annual Spinach Festival to the first weekend of November 2025. This decision was made solely based on the availability of our new carnival provider to ensure that our attendees have the best possible festival experience.

### A Look Back at 2023

In the interest of transparency, we want to address what transpired in 2023. The carnival we had worked with for many years breached its contract with CCFA, resulting in fewer rides than expected. Contrary to what some may have assumed, we were not given advance notice of this issue. We only learned about the missing rides along with you - our community - when they didn't arrive.

Despite this setback, we met with the carnival representative and reached what we believed was a fair resolution. We planned to reconvene at the end of the festival to finalize the matter and receive payment. Unfortunately, that meeting never happened because their representative left town without notice. Despite numerous attempts to resolve the situation, no further action was taken by the carnival.

Immediately, I

began searching for a new, reliable carnival provider and successfully signed a contract with one that this past November (2024) delivered the quality experience our festival deserved. We trust that everyone can agree that this was the right decision, and last year's experience only reinforced that.

### A Festival for the Community, By the Community

Planning and executing an event of this scale takes tremendous dedication, teamwork, and effort. With the support of our community, businesses, volunteers, and law enforcement, we have been able to continue this cherished tradition.

It's easy to criticize when challenges arise, but we want to remind everyone that our mission is to bring the community together. We are always open to constructive feedback and new ideas to improve the festival. If you have suggestions, we encourage you to share them with us. Additionally, if you'd like to volunteer or assist with festival operations, we would love to hear from you!

### A Heartfelt Thank You

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who plays a role in making the Spinach Festival possible:

- The Crystal City and surrounding area communities
- Seasonal workers and volunteers
- Local businesses and sponsors
- Local and State Law Enforcement
- CCFA Board Members and Staff

Mistakes will happen along the way, but what truly matters is the lessons we learn and the improvements we make to create a better experience for everyone.

For any questions, suggestions, or to learn how you can get involved in our 2025 events, please reach out to me at [cctxspinachfestival@gmail.com](mailto:cctxspinachfestival@gmail.com).

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to an amazing festival in November!

*~ Robert G. Gutierrez*