

*PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO HONORING*

***Kent Blackmer and Erik Skarvan***

***WHEREAS**, Kent Blackmer is an avid cyclist who has spent many years riding up and down the Capitol Creek and Snowmass Creek drainages near his home in Little Elk Creek. Erik Skarvan is a local adventure sports entrepreneur, and the two of them have a “thing” about littering; and*

***WHEREAS**, over a decade ago, Kent Blackmer decided that instead of riding past trash he saw along the roadway, he should dismount and pick it up. He started yelling at other cyclists passing by to do the same. That didn’t go over too well; and*

***WHEREAS**, Kent Blackmer came up with a better idea of rewarding cyclists for picking up trash. He created the “Pristine Riders” whereby a cyclist could get a custom-made bike jersey if they picked up one piece of trash every time they rode. Instead of yelling at passing cyclists, he’d hold up one finger, his index finger, signaling to them to pick up one piece of trash; and*

***WHEREAS**, Kent Blackmer was able to raise enough money, including investing some of his own money, to purchase 250 Pristine Riders bike jerseys that were quickly snapped up by enthusiastic cyclists-turned-trash collectors. But Kent didn’t like fundraising and promoting. That’s where Erik Skarvan stepped in; and*

***WHEREAS**, Erik Skarvin embraced the Pristine Riders concept and turned it into a 501 C-3 non-profit, promoted it on his GrassRoots television show, and shares Blackmer’s commitment to picking up trash. Skarvan also hosts the annual “Trash Crush” event in Aspen; and*

***WHEREAS**, the coveted Pristine Riders bike jerseys are long gone but the non-profit is open to benefactors interested in funding the next batch. Kent Blackmer, Erik Skarvan and at least 250 other Pristine Riders in the community continue to pick up at least one piece of trash every time they ride.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** the Pitkin County Commissioners and the people of Pitkin County are honored to recognize Kent Blackmer and Erik Skarvan with a Pitkin County Cares “Community Pride” award.*

*Dated this 13th day of September 2022*

*County Manager*

*Pitkin County Board of Commissioners*

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*Jon Peacock*

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*Patti Clapper - Chair*