

*Statement from Defeat of Jesse James Day General Chair, Galen Malecha*

6-2-20

Dear friends of the Defeat of Jesse James Days celebration,

After months of discussion, and evaluation, the DJJD committee has made the heartbreaking decision to cancel the 2020 Defeat of Jesse James Days celebration. This decision was not made lightly, as we recognize the importance our celebration weekend holds for other nonprofits in our community and the impact it has on our local businesses, sponsors, celebration vendors and partners.

However, we recognize the potential impossibility of monitoring and enforcing social distancing requirements. The health and safety of community members, vendors and exhibitors has always been the number one priority of the DJJD committee as we plan for the celebration.

Although the official celebration as we know it has been canceled, our committee remains committed to continue to evaluate all options, and are hopeful that we can still find an alternative way to celebrate as a community on a local level whether that be in person or through virtual methods.

As it relates to our DJJD ambassador scholarship program, our 2020 Ambassadors and Junior Ambassadors have all committed to serve as ambassadors through summer 2021.

The committee extends our heartfelt thank you to the support we have received from members of the community, city staff, health & safety officials, and celebration partners.

We will continue to provide updates in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you again for your support of the Defeat of Jesse James Days celebration. We are proud to hold one of the largest hometown festivals in the state of Minnesota – we will get through this just like the brave citizens of Northfield did on that fateful day, September 7, 1876, together.

Galen Malecha, General Chairperson and The Defeat of Jesse James Days Committee

