

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

First of all, we thank the HRC for the opportunity to hear the opposing opinions of the community. Although we put an open invitation forth to the community to discuss the use of the festival name of Ypsitucky Jamboree, only 1 resident took us up on the offer. Now that we have actually heard the concerns of the opposition, we are looking at the broader picture and it is evident by the letters of support we have received and the independent mlive poll that the community as a whole is supportive of this endeavor.

It is the opinion of the DTCDC that the word Ypsitucky is the appropriate word to showcase the festival and we will hold to the name Ypsitucky Jamboree. The DTCDC has a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the festival represents our heritage in a positive manner. We feel that Ypsitucky is not a discriminatory or derogatory term. In the meeting with the HRC, several or our detractors acknowledged that the word Ypsitucky is ok to use in certain instances, for example the Ypsitucky Kernals and the proposed Ypsitucky Bourbon. Like the uses outlined in these examples, the Ypsitucky Jamboree is simply a 2 day music festival which appropriately highlights the Southern heritage in this area.

In order to be sensitive to the feelings presented in Monday night's meeting, the DTCDC has made some compromises in the design of the festival. First, we have created committees dedicated to highlighting the history behind our southern heritage and also to educate attendees on the great Southern migration. We decided to implement a broad-based survey that will solicit opinions of the appropriateness and relevance of the name. Over the next 4 months we will be evaluating and deciding if this name will continue for future use and we will report our findings to the HRC at that time. We invite all of the members of the HRC to be our guests at the festival.

Kaci Sicheneder

Andy French

Gerry French

Merrill Guerra

Candace Pinaud