



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

July 11, 2017

Resolution in Support of the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard

Background

The 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard has been a mainstay in our community, our Nation, and the World's peacekeeping efforts for over 60 years. As one of the region's larger employers and an attractor of significant tourism income resulting from training foreign pilots, the Wing is also a major contributor to our economy, and has provided a career path for a large number of Tucsonans. The Wing is an important component of Pima County's Economic Development Plan effort to protect our existing major employment base.

With a major focus on training over 7,600 pilots since 1969, the 162nd Wing also has potential to grow our economy as the pilot shortage in the Air Force continues to gain attention. Appropriate facilities and community support are key factors in the decision making process related to expanded missions in the region.

Over time, the needs of the military and their missions as well as changing operational standards dictate necessary changes to facilities. Security standards have tightened and operational efficiencies are more important for all military installations. Pima County has been working for some time with the 162nd Wing, Tucson Airport Authority, Raytheon and the City of Tucson to address some of those needs through advanced planning and prioritization of efforts to insure continuity of mission and maximum safety and efficiency.

The relocation of the Valencia Gate is necessary to address both base security as well as community traffic issues on Valencia, a heavily travelled arterial. Relocating the entry point from Valencia at Campbell to Park Avenue south of Valencia addresses both needs well. Timely execution of the steps needed to accomplish this long standing goal is important not only for the base, but will also benefit the community. It is imperative that the community support these opportunities when they become available as military installation construction funds have many competing demands.

Equally as important is the location of the munitions storage area in an area south of Raytheon created when the County relocated the Hughes Access Road. Location of the planned site is close to similar Raytheon facilities which allows both entities to more efficiently utilize land needed for such operations and provides the Air Guard access to the site without utilizing public roads. This area is part of a Tucson Airport Authority runway safety Environmental Impact Study which will lead to the eventual land transfer from the airport to the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

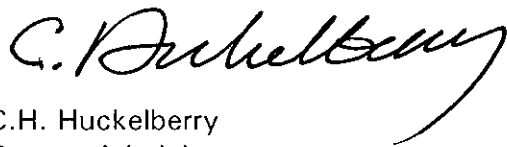
The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Resolution in Support of the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard**
July 11, 2017
Page 2

This resolution is in support of timely execution of both of these critical projects.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the attached Resolution in Support of the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/dr (June 30, 3017)

Attachment

RESOLUTION No. 2017 – _____

**PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF THE ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
PARK ENTRY GATE**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing is the largest Air National Guard training organization in the Air Force, and
2. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing is a major employer in the region with nearly 1,900 total jobs, and
3. WHEREAS, the support of the 162nd Wing is a key element of Pima County's Economic Development Plan, and
4. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing is a major tenant and user of Tucson International Airport which is also a key element of the Pima County Economic Development Plan, and
5. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing is a major component in the Air Force program to train more pilots to address critical shortages, and manages a fleet of more than 70 F-16 Fighting Falcons and has graduated more than 7,600 fighter pilots since 1969, and
6. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing is the "face of the USAF to the world" providing the best-trained coalition war-fighting partners for the United States Air Force and our allies, and
7. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing operates a 24/7 alert detachment to provide a rapid reaction force ensuring air sovereignty over the Southwest; provides support for visiting flying units from around the world looking to train in the optimal weather conditions and ample ranges of southern Arizona; and is engaged in operational and training missions regarding remotely piloted aircraft in daily combat missions as well as domestic emergency management support of local and state agencies, and
8. WHEREAS, the 162nd Wing has facility needs to meet updated DoD force protection and safety standards, and
9. WHEREAS, the current Valencia access gate is suitable as a secondary access point it does not meet DoD force protection standards and is a contributor to congestion on this major arterial requiring construction of a primary access gate off of south Park Avenue, and
10. WHEREAS, Pima County has been working with the 162nd Wing, Raytheon, City of Tucson, and Tucson Airport Authority to master plan a compatible munitions storage area in the buffer area planned between the abandoned Hughes Access Road and the Aerospace Parkway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors fully supports and encourages:

- a) The expedited transfer of Tucson Airport Authority and City of Tucson property to the National Guard Bureau to facilitate the construction of the Park Avenue Entry Facility; and
- b) Timely transfer of approximately 54 acres of Tucson Airport Authority land in the Raytheon Buffer area to the National Guard Bureau in order to relocate the Munitions Storage Area in order to insure full compliance with DoD Force Protection Standards.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Thomas Weaver, Deputy County Attorney