



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 12, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Pima County Historical Commission Update**

This memorandum provides an update creating a Pima County Historical Commission separate from the City of Tucson.

As noted in my [August 31, 2022](#) communication, in June 2022 the National Park Service (NPS) began investigating how many Certified Local Governments (CLG) have joint commissions throughout the nation, and was working on a national policy/rule. Additionally, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) CLG Coordinator recommended that the County and City *"stop working on separating the commissions until NPS issues its formal policy."*

The following has occurred since that time:

- August 2022: SHPO staff arranged a meeting among County, City, NPS, & SHPO, for October 2022.
- October 2022: Cory Kegerisi from the National Park Service (NPS) and Arianna Urban and Eric Vondy from SHPO met with Pima County (Linda Mayro, Manabendra Changkakoti, Courtney Rose) and the City of Tucson (Koren Manning, Lynne Burkenbine, and Jodie Brown,) to discuss and receive guidance on CLG rules for maintaining a Historical Commission. The results of the meeting indicated:
 - The original statement by an NPS staffer of the need to split the current joint Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission was incorrect. The source of the confusion derived from situations in other states where several counties and municipalities joined to create a single CLG for multiple jurisdictions (which is not acceptable to NPS and should not have been approved in those states) and then created a joint historical commission to serve all those government entities.
 - Both the City of Tucson and Pima County have separate certifications as CLGs. Therefore, the NPS has concluded that it is acceptable for separately certified CLGs to have a joint historical commission. As long as the City and County maintain their separate CLG certifications, we can maintain a joint commission.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

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December 12, 2022

Page 2

- December 2022: Pima County and the City of Tucson are awaiting a formal NPS written response to the Arizona SHPO CLG coordinator (originally expected in early November) on the issue of joint commissions.

Once the formal NPS response is received, staff will provide a further update and assessment for Board consideration of the costs and benefits of proceeding with establishing separate City and County historical commissions, versus maintaining a joint commission.

JKL/dym

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation