October 2, 2014

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
c/o Pima County Administrators Office
130 W Congress 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Chairman Hecker and Bond Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the YMCA Board of Directors and the 200,000 annual participants in our programs.

We appreciate the daunting task of selecting bond projects that will move forward for a public vote and, while we have not filled meeting rooms with Y advocates or asked for a letter writing campaign in support of the Regional YMCA at the University of Arizona Tech Park, please know that there is no lack of support for this project.

As a model collaboration that puts the needs of the community first, the Regional YMCA at the University of Arizona Tech Park, is a highly anticipated and much needed addition to the area. Here are a few highlights:

- In a marketing survey by Strongpoint marketing, 81% of the employees at the Tech Park indicated they would join a YMCA at this location.
- The branch will support worksite wellness and the live, learn, work, and play needs of the Tech Park.
- 61% of the neighbors of a future branch indicated they would join if a Y was built at this location.
- The Tech Park has an annual $2.4 billion economic impact on Pima County.
- The area has 146,000 residents in a 3 mile radius.
- On September 25th, the Arizona Board of Regents unanimously approved the 10 acre parcel of land to Pima County for the purpose of building a YMCA and Public Library.
- The YMCA is raising $6,000,000 in private funds in support of the project.
- There are cost savings on construction and operations by having the Y and the library share the site as well as numerous programming opportunities.
- The YMCA would grow its reach to 250,000 annual participants or one in four Pima County residents. (And, yes, they vote!)
- With the reconfiguration of entry roads at the Tech Park there will be park space open for the community under YMCA scheduling and management. The park amenities will include a soccer field, ramadas, barbeque area, two outdoor basketball courts, and two tennis courts. All of which will not require additional bond funding.
At the Y we strengthen communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. From diabetes prevention to support of the families of deployed soldiers; from hosting swim meets to community forums; from family events to sports teams for all ages; at the Tech Park, we will continue to keep our commitment that no child be turned away due to an inability to pay.

As you know, we were asked to make our presentation to you within a three minute window. During that time, I hope that we were able to demonstrate our track record of having consistently exceeded our commitments in community collaborations with Pima County and the City of Tucson.

This record is something we pride ourselves on and hope you will take into consideration, along with the points above, as you make your decision to move the Regional YMCA at the University of Arizona Tech Park forward for a public vote.

Again, thank you and the committee for your dedication to making Pima County a better place to work, play, and raise our children.

Sincerely,

Dane Woll
President/CEO
YMCA of Southern Arizona

CC: Deseret Romero