

RESOLUTION 2017-009

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND STRONGLY OPPOSING ANY REDUCTION OF THE MONUMENT'S PROTECTION.

CITY OF ANTHONY 2017

Whereas, Doña Ana County is part of a special region in the United States known for its vast pristine Chihuahuan Desert landscapes, and

Whereas, these special lands include nationally and internationally known natural treasures including the Organ Mountains, Kilbourne Hole, Broad Canyon, and the Potrillo volcanic field, and

Whereas, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument additionally protects invaluable American and pre-American historical sites including the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, Gadsden Purchase International Boundary, thousands of petroglyph and other archeological areas, portions of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, World War II Aerial Targets, and Geronimo's Cave, and

Whereas, the City of Anthony shares a special connection to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument serving as a gateway to many historic sites that are also part of the Monument, including Bishops Cap, Aden Crater and the Potrillo Volcanic Field, and

Whereas, protection of these rich landscapes and history not only preserves these New Mexico and American treasures, but also local history important to preserving our rich multicultural traditions in the Mesilla and Rio Grande valleys, and

Whereas, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has had a positive influence economically on our region as the number of visitors to the Monument increased by 102 percent from 2015 (84,197 visitors) to 2016 (170,451 visitors), and

Whereas, new economic opportunities have emerged thanks to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument including the Monuments to Main Street Festival; helicopter, van, and recreation tours; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks branded products; community tourism and marketing collaborations; and attraction of conferences, retirees, and new businesses to Doña Ana County; and

Whereas, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has gained international travel media exposure for Doña Ana County through the Lonely Planet Guide, Trip Advisor, Los Angeles Times, Sunset Magazine, Readers Digest, and other outlets,

Whereas, the City of Anthony stands to benefit economically from our distinction of possessing a high quality of life, historic location and abundant stunning natural resources and vistas, and

Whereas, a diverse coalition of Doña Ana county leaders, citizens, and civic organizations came together to work for and support designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

Whereas, there has been continued and growing community support for protecting our unique landscapes and nationally significant historical and archeological sites, and

Whereas, the presidential proclamation establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument specifically recognized continuation of: existing valid grazing permits and leases, management of fish and wildlife by the State of New Mexico, tribal rights for access to religious and cultural sites, military overflights, private property rights, and other valid and existing uses, and

Whereas, the establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has been a significant enhancement to the cultural and economic foundation of the future prosperity of the City of Anthony,

Therefore be it resolved, by the City of Anthony and its Board of Trustees that the City of Anthony is in full and enthusiastic support of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

May it further be resolved that, the City of Anthony strongly opposes any efforts to rescind, minimize, or otherwise harm the Organ Mountains-Deseret Peaks National Monument by Congress or the President of the United States.

And may it further be resolved that, the City of Anthony strongly opposes any efforts to rescind, weaken, or otherwise change the Antiquities Act of 1906, the law that has been used to establish the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and so many other of our nation's national monuments that protect and preserve the United States' scientific and historic objects.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 5TH DAY OF JULY 2017.



Diana Murillo-Trujillo
Diana Murillo-Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Velma Navarrete

Velma Navarrete, City Clerk