



Resolution of the Governing Board in support of the multi-purpose performing arts and entertainment facility, or “arena”, as stipulated in the 2012 Quality of Life Bond which was passed by the voters of El Paso on November 6, 2012.

The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce is committed to economic prosperity for our region and is proud to have supported some of El Paso’s most recent and significant bond initiatives and community projects, including the \$473 million Quality of Life Bond which was passed by the voters in November of 2012. The Chamber believes that local investment in quality of life amenities will continue to attract business to our community and improve El Paso’s tax base. We also strongly support downtown revitalization and redevelopment efforts and were early supporters of the Triple-A ballpark, now home to the El Paso Chihuahuas. As such, the Chamber has consistently advocated for the planning and development of the 2012 Quality of Life signature projects, including the children’s museum, cultural heritage center, and multi-purpose arena, each of which is to be located in downtown El Paso.

Progress on the multi-purpose arena came to a halt in December of 2016 when City Council reversed its decision on a previously selected site for the project in Union Plaza and reopened the discussion with a focus on the current site of the Judson F. Williams Convention Center. Given the geographic boundaries of downtown El Paso, the Chamber understands that there are few viable options for placement of a large arena within the area. We also acknowledge the concerns of residents in the Union Plaza neighborhood and recognize the importance of historical buildings in downtown El Paso. However, the Chamber does not agree that the current Convention Center should be a potential location for this project. Construction of a multi-purpose arena in the Convention Center’s footprint could be harmful to businesses surrounding the convention center, including hotels who have recently received state and local incentives. While we appreciate that City Council has committed to keeping the Convention Center “operational” under any circumstance, the potential for the multi-purpose arena to be located within its footprint is sure to be a tremendous challenge for entities and organizations planning to utilize or bring business to the Convention Center in the near future. Looking for ways to combine the already existing Convention Center with the multi-purpose arena is simply incompatible with the continued development and revitalization of downtown El Paso.

Additionally, the City of El Paso has already expended nearly \$1.7 million in the process to select a location for the multi-purpose arena, \$750,000 of which is specific to the Union Plaza site. Further feasibility studies for the Convention Center site will only serve to prolong the

process and increase the costs of the project which will lead to less return for the taxpayers' investment.

After more than four years of implementing the Quality of Life bonds, the Chamber urges City Council to continue making progress on the three signature projects and not let disagreements over the site of the arena significantly and unnecessarily delay the project. Each of the initiatives set forth in the 2012 Quality of Life bonds serve to improve the local economy and enhance the quality of life of the residents of El Paso.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce supports continued progress in the planning, development, and construction of a multipurpose facility to be located within 1,000 feet of the convention center while maintaining operation of the current convention center and parking facility.

This resolution was presented to and passed by the Governing Board of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.



Jack T. Chapman
Chairman of the Board



Richard E. Dayoub
President and CEO