



Friends of Tucson's Birthplace

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October 20, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As the City of Tucson opens a discussion on the Infill Incentive District (IID), including the Core Downtown IID, we, the Friends of Tucson's Birthplace (FOTB), would request that the City of Tucson remove the entire Tucson Origins Heritage Park (TOHP) property from this overlay district in order to protect this important land known as the Birthplace of Tucson.

The FOTB have dedicated the past ten years to bring to fruition what the residents of Tucson voted for back in 1999 with the passage of Proposition 400. This vote created the area known as the Rio Nuevo District with the main feature being the restoration of the historic area known as Tucson's birthplace. As the Tucson Weekly stated in their publication concerning Prop. 400:

The land curving around the foot of A Mountain nourished archaic period peoples as early as 2000 B.C. Hohokam lived here from about 700 to 1200 A.D., Spanish missionaries and Pima Indians arrived in the late 18th century, followed in the 19th century by Mexicans, Apaches, Anglos and Chinese, all of them attracted by the once-flowing waters of the Santa Cruz.

It has always been the goal of FOTB to recognize this neglected and abused land as a true "world-class archaeological site" and have it become a valuable tourist destination for Tucson. Already many articles, including two written in the New York Times, have brought national attention to the Garden and our mission to recreate historic buildings on this site. Visitors across the country have made their way to the Garden in order to see the "oldest continuously cultivated site in the United States." We have even had our share of international tourists, most notably visitors from Padre Kino's birthplace in Italy.

We, the Friends of Tucson's Birthplace, do have a critical concern when this land is covered by an overlay which lures developers through incentives found only in this district know as the IID. We are dedicated to fulfilling the promises made to Tucsonans by the City of Tucson back in 1999. Due to the previous mismanagement of this district's funding, the rules were changed so that funding is not allowed to be used in what is known as TOHP. The FOTB remain committed to pursue funding for all projects found in TOHP, but we need your assistance to protect and secure this land for the intended purpose found in Prop. 400.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Yours truly,

Roger Pfeuffer

Katya Peterson

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