

Members of the Council,

I am Ron Sable and my address is 6561 N Mesa View Drive, Tucson. I am here as a disabled veteran small business owner, one who is involved in supporting Davis Monthan, and the University, and in helping those less fortunate via several non profits in the region. I serve on the Tucson Airport Authority, and the Board of Directors of the DM 50 and am among the overwhelming majority of citizens in Tucson who appreciate the role Davis Monthan and the Air National Guard play in securing our freedoms. We are very fortunate to have them and their families in Tucson.

Speaking directly to the General Plan, I note that the document reflects a primary objective -- to provide a " ...stabilized local economy, with opportunity for diversified economic growth..."

The United States Air Force employees and military members in the community, represented in Tucson by Davis Monthan AFB and the 162nd ANG unit, with over 10,000 combined employees, provide an economic contribution to the community that in combination is as significant as Raytheon or the University.

Additionally, the economic impact of Tucson International Airport exceeds 11,000 jobs and \$1.5B.

Curiously, the economic impact from these regional assets is conspicuously absent from the General Plan. I would ask that it be included, since they represent a sizable portion of the community's major resources which contribute to that "stabilized local economy."

To expand on that suggestion, it is a well known fact that if you don't ensure the economic growth of your community, you won't have the resources to finance the many improvements needed to support the population in its growth or it's stability. Failure to provide that stability and growth will result in reduced services, deferred maintenance and an increase in taxes-the very situation we face today.

As the Plan shows, there is ample opportunity in front of us for Tucson. And yet, there is a small, but vocal minority whose goal would seek to reverse that opportunity. Having been confronted by members of this group at your last meeting on the Plan, I searched for information on their purpose. They

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The City of Tucson General Plan
Ronald K. Sable, President, Concord Solutions Ltd., rkssable@aol.com, 520-971-4318 May 29, 2013.

call themselves Tucson Forward, and by their own declaration, this secret organization opposes military flight operations at Davis Monthan and TIA - a goal that is incompatible with the objective of the General Plan-namely stabilizing and growing the local economy. If all military flying ceased at DM and TIA as they propose, there is no doubt that the Tucson economy would be destabilized and any opportunity for growth would be denied. Would they then move to have all commercial flying ended at TIA as well? Perhaps they should change their name to Tucson Backwards, as that is exactly where their plan would take the community.

Finally, You have been charged to develop a comprehensive plan for economic growth and then do the heavy lifting of leading implementation of that plan. We commend your willingness to address the many related issues, but emphasize that any effort to reduce the scope and mission of flying activity in the Tucson area is a recipe for economic decline. I can't imagine that is what you have in mind. Quite the contrary, your final plan should laud the community contribution of DM, the 162nd, and TIA.

I thank you for the opportunity to address you and respectfully request my remarks be included in the record of these hearings. I welcome any questions you might have.

Ron Sable
President
Concord Solutions Ltd.
6561 N Mesa View Drive
Tucson AZ 85718
520-971-4318