



CITY OF PHOENIX

Office of the Mayor
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

85003

John D. Driggs
MAYOR

October 21, 1970

Mrs. Elbert R. Gilbert
480 East Ocotillo Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Mrs. Gilbert:

We share your concern for preserving the natural and scenic beauty of Squaw Peak and the Phoenix Mountains. As you know, the City Council approved a resolution in 1966 encouraging the protection and preservation of open space and wilderness areas within the Phoenix Mountains. The basic idea was to preserve the entire undeveloped portion of the Phoenix Mountains as a second wilderness park within the City. The City Council resolved that a land acquisition program be developed to insure preservation of these natural areas.

A great deal of progress has already been made toward this end. In the past five years, the City of Phoenix has applied for all of the federally owned land in the Phoenix Mountains. This amounts to over 800 acres and includes 400 acres in the area north of and adjoining Squaw Peak Park. In 1969, Phoenix received the first 162 acres of this public land, 23 of which were in a tract north of Squaw Peak Park. Unfortunately, most of the land is tied up in mining claims and presently awaits a decision by the Secretary of the Interior.

The City of Phoenix is doing a number of things right now. The Parks Department has hired Paul Van Cleve of Scottsdale to develop a workable plan for the preservation of the Phoenix Mountains. The plan will show recreation uses, roads, private development and "preserve" areas. The study will be completed in January 1971. A hillside development ordinance has been drawn up by staff, and it is expected to be considered by the City Council in the near future.

Information and problem discussion meetings have been held with interested citizen groups, such as the Western Saddle Club. A group of private citizens in the Phoenix Mountains area has organized in an effort to help preserve this natural beauty. It is felt that a hillside development ordinance, plus a possible housing safety ordinance, plus the existing planned area development (PAD) zoning will help control development on the mountain slopes.

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To create a permanent preservation of the natural and scenic beauty of the mountains will require additional federal funds and private aid. With 70 percent of the mountains privately owned, the City, at present, does not have sufficient funds to purchase all of the land needed.

The Phoenix Parks Department is preparing to spearhead a drive to preserve the wilderness areas of the mountains following the results of the Van Cleve Study. A successful effort will involve the continued active support and involvement of interested citizens such as yourself.

It would be great if we could make a profit on the Centennial Ball and earmark it for preserving the Phoenix Mountains. However, the expenses of the Ball are considerable, and we expect only to cover these expenses with the revenues. If there should be a small "profit," it would go to help finance other Centennial events.

I sincerely appreciate your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. King". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "MAYOR".

MAYOR