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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024

RE: Addendum Item for the January 23, 2024 Meeting

Please add the following to the Pima County Board of Supervisors Addendum Agenda for Tuesday January 23, 2024:

Board of Supervisors

Discussion/direction/action: Resolution in support of preserving the Paolo Soleri Chapel at the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - ___

PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESERVATION OF THE PAOLO SOLERI CHAPEL

WHEREAS, the University of Arizona Cancer Center Chapel, designed by internationally recognized architect Paolo Soleri to honor his wife who died of cancer in 1982, is an important part of the cultural and historical heritage of Pima County and the City of Tucson; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the Paolo Soleri Chapel and its spatial integrity is essential and reflects Pima County's commitment to safeguarding historical and architectural resources; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2023, the Tucson Pima County Historical Commission convened and, in a rare public action, voted to advocate for the preservation of the Paolo Soleri Chapel; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Revised Statute 41-864 emphasizes the responsibility of entities, including the University of Arizona, to preserve historical and cultural resources, necessitating careful consideration and compliance with preservation measures during alterations or relocations of significant structures; and

WHEREAS, Pima County Supervisors expresses deep concern that the University of Arizona has apparently not complied with ARS 41-864, pursuing plans that jeopardize the integrity of the Paolo Soleri Chapel, even after being alerted to potential impacts on this architectural asset; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arizona Historic Preservation Plan, funded by a 2004 Getty Campus Heritage Grant, and policies detailed in the Comprehensive Campus Plan articulate a commitment to stewardship of historic resources and compliance with state preservation acts; and

WHEREAS, Pima County Board of Supervisors notes with dismay that the University of Arizona's actions appear to disregard the policies outlined in its own planning documents, raising concerns about the neglect of these critical measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that:

1. The University of Arizona is strongly urged to reevaluate its course of action concerning the Paolo Soleri Chapel and to fully commit to the preservation of this significant architectural resource.

2. The University of Arizona is implored to adhere to the provisions set forth in ARS 41-864, acknowledging its legal obligation and responsibility to protect the cultural heritage of Pima County and Tucson.

3. In the event relocation is deemed unavoidable, Pima County insists that it be executed with utmost care to retain the chapel's architectural and spatial integrity.

4. Pima County calls on the University of Arizona to engage in open dialogue with concerned stakeholders and to align its actions with the principles outlined in ARS 41-864.

5. Pima County calls on the City of Tucson Mayor and Council, the Arizona Board of Regents, the Governor of Arizona and the Attorney General of Arizona to do everything in their power to stop the destruction of this architectural landmark.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is urgently communicated to Dr. Robert C. Robbins, President of the University of Arizona, and relevant authorities, emphasizing the critical importance of preserving the cultural and historical legacy that the Paolo Soleri Chapel represents to the people of Tucson, Pima County and the State of Arizona.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of January, 2024.

_____
Hon. Adelita Grijalva, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____   _____
Melissa Manriquez,   Sam Brown,
Clerk of the Board   Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney