

RESOLUTION 2017 - ____

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPPORTING THE 1966 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
THAT PROTECTS CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES IN PIMA COUNTY
CONSISTENT WITH THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**

The Pima County Board of Supervisors finds:

1. Pima County is a rich mosaic of historic places, cultural diversity, living traditions, and regional character, which define our collective cultural heritage and community identity; and
2. Pima County has a long and proud tradition of respect for, and protection of our history and diverse cultural heritage; and
3. Pima County has actively worked for many years to protect our finite and non-renewable cultural and historic sites that embody our ancestral Native American, Spanish Colonial, Mexican, and American history that include archaeological and historic sites, traditional cultural places, historic buildings, districts, objects and landscapes; and
4. In 1983, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 1983-104, which acknowledges *“the need of adequate documentation and professional preservation of the City and County’s historical and archaeological sites as required by law;”* and
5. In 1998, Pima County identified the protection of archaeological and historic sites as an important element of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan to ensure a balance between development and protection of these cultural resources; and
6. In 2008, the Pima County Board of Supervisors in recognizing the importance of preserving our region’s heritage adopted Board of Supervisors Policy C.3.17, Protection of Cultural Resources, *“to conserve and protect cultural resources and to mitigate any negative effects that Pima County operations and land use planning decisions may have on cultural resources;”* and
7. At the national level and in Pima County, extensive federal development programs, construction of the national highway system and urban renewal following World War II caused the destruction of numerous historic buildings, neighborhoods, and archaeological sites throughout the United States that erased the historic cores of many cities and towns; and

8. In response to this widespread destruction of historic places across the United States by federal agencies, the United States Conference of Mayors responded by releasing With Heritage So Rich, which championed the preservation of America's historic places as a living part of our communities; and
9. The findings and recommendations of With Heritage So Rich formed the basis for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which states:

"The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people; [and] the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans"

10. The National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.) was signed into law on October 15, 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, to tell the full story of our nation's history and to identify, acknowledge, and protect previously undervalued places and underrepresented communities in order to capture the full breadth and diversity of our national heritage; and
11. The National Historic Preservation Act created the Historic Preservation Fund, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Certified Local Governments, the National Historic Landmarks program, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Register of Historic Places, which is the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation, and the Section 106 review process; and
12. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 800, mandate that federal agencies undergo a review process for all federally funded and permitted projects that will impact sites listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the federal agency to "take into account" the effect a project may have on historic properties to minimize damage to historic properties although this process ultimately does not prevent any site from demolition or alteration; and
13. Pima County is a Certified Local Government, and in working with the National Historic Preservation Act, the County has received a number of grants from the Historic Preservation Fund, worked with federal agencies, tribes, and the State Historic Preservation Office on numerous projects to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to historic properties in Pima County, and owners of historic properties have benefited from the federal historic preservation tax credit program; and

14. Pima County now has some 183 archaeological and historic sites and districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which include more than 6,500 contributing historic properties that serve as living parts of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

1. Remains committed to the protection, conservation and preservation of cultural resources to benefit its citizens of today and to preserve this rich heritage as a living part of Pima County for its citizens of tomorrow.
2. Concludes that for more than 50 years, the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Section 106 review process established a highly effective legal framework, procedural protections, and tax incentives to preserve historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological sites in the nation and in Pima County.
3. Supports retaining the full text and authorities of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, that formally recognizes historic preservation as an important policy of the United States.
4. Reaffirms its support for the Section 106 review process in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to cultural and historic sites affected by federal agencies consistent with Board Policy C.3.17, and the findings and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
5. Authorizes and directs the County Administrator and appropriate staff to effect this resolution and urge the United States of America through the Secretary of Interior and Arizona's Congressional delegation to retain the full text and authorities of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Passed, adopted and approved, this ___ day of _____, 2017.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Regina L. Nassen, Deputy County Attorney