



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Contract with Downtown Tucson Partnership and Accompanying Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Tucson - Downtown Safety**

Over the past year, I have reported to you about our new Facilities Safety and Security Manager and the ongoing review of County employee safety procedures and our overall security posture. That review has involved numerous discussions with County staff and department leaders. Several concerns brought up in those meetings have been addressed while some are being reviewed for solution options as they require long-term funding plans (retrofitting security systems in older buildings, for instance).

One issue noted by the security review and also brought up by staff is the safety of employees walking from parking garages to their workplaces around downtown, especially during the winter months when those walks are often in the dark. There have been a few instances of employees being accosted walking to a garage.

City of Tucson leadership has similar concerns about the safety of City employees. To address this issue, the County, the City of Tucson, Rio Nuevo, and the Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP) have negotiated a unique partnership that will provide a fare-free employee shuttle service to and from downtown County/City workplaces and the various parking garages and lots.

Pima County proposes to contract with DTP, which will provide the personnel to operate the ride service. Rio Nuevo would purchase the vehicles and donate them to DTP for this purpose.

The proposal before the Board of Supervisors includes a recommended Intergovernmental Agreement between Pima County and the City of Tucson, which specifies that the City will reimburse Pima County for half the cost.

The details for the shuttle service are still being worked out, such as pick-up and drop-off locations, times of service, and when it will start. I will provide an update to you and County staff when that information is available.

This is a pilot project for this winter and the partnership members will review its performance in the spring and whether to recommend continuing it year-round.

JKL/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management