

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 11/17/20 ITEM NO. RA 15

From: Bill Du Pont
To: District1; DIST2; District3; District4; District5; COB mail
Subject: FW: Agenda Item #15 New Sig Standard
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 4:11:15 PM

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November 13, 2020

RE: Board of Supervisor Hearing
November 17, 2020
Agenda Item #15
New Sign Standards

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a member of the Billboard Review Committee for over two decades, I oppose the draft ordinance before you that would revise the signage requirements in the Pima County Code as primarily found in Chapter 18.79, Sign Standards. The proposed revisions amount to deregulation on a large scale, allowing the considerations for numerous types of currently prohibited signs. The Sierra Club Rincon Group and Scenic Arizona agree about the negative effects and impacts of these proposed revisions.

As many of the members of the Billboard Review Committee see it, this has been a distorted process with undue influence by the billboard industry selling the changes as merely being an "update" or a "simplification" to the current standards in place. The organization presented as backing these new changes may be influential in the County but what is lacking is the support from environmental and scenic organizations or those involved with one of Tucson's most important industries, astronomy, all working for the protection of the visual environment.

I bring up astronomy as I spent time listening to my neighbor of almost three decades, the late Michael J. Belton, as he would tell me about his adventures as an astronomer. He joined Kitt Peak National Observatory in 1964 and carried out numerous studies under planetary science. He was part of the Mariner 10 team that flew a space probe by Mercury and Venus and later the Voyager missions and on and on. It was the dark skies of Tucson that brought Michael to our city and allowed these historic events in astronomy to happen. Our you really willing to just throw away Tucson's standing in this field of science to have one more billboard signs light up the sky advertising hamburgers 2 for \$5.00. With the important of science being challenged today by our leaders in

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Washington, D.C., I can only hope you consider the importance of astronomy in Tucson and to the University of Arizona before you make your decision. The more and larger signs add light pollution that harms dark skies the less interest will be in Tucson as a place for astronomy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Bill Du Pont, Member
Billboard Review Committee

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