

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-22

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORTING FOR THE WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, the City of Alamogordo is proud to be the gateway community to White Sands National Monument; and

WHEREAS, White Sands National Monument is enjoyed by Alamogordo residents and others for its spectacular scenery and unique recreational and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alamogordo is continually working to improve quality of life for its residents, expand opportunities for its businesses, and raise awareness of what the City has to offer residents, the service members, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, White Sands National Monument was established in 1933 to preserve the largest gypsum dunefield in the world; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, a number of exceptional, nationally significant discoveries have been made in White Sands National Monument, and these discoveries qualify White Sands National Monument as a national park; and

WHEREAS, elevating White Sands National Monument to national park status will provide more appropriate recognition of its diverse array of remarkable resources, including those intimately intertwined with the history of Alamogordo and the Tularosa Basin; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the City of Alamogordo is heavily reliant on Department of Defense installations, the City is working to diversify its economy, and growing tourism is an important way through which to further diversify; and

WHEREAS, 2016 was the centennial of the National Park Service and visitors around the world are taking new interest in experiencing National Park Service units; and

WHEREAS, since 1995 White Sands National Monument has been the most visited unit of the National Park Service in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 visitor spending at White Sands National Monument supported over 430 jobs and \$33.6 million in economic impact to the local economy, and spending by non-local visitors generated over ninety eight percent of this impact; and

WHEREAS, monuments that become national parks tend to draw more visitation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alamogordo is home to other attractions that can benefit from increased public awareness of the monument once it becomes White Sands National Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alamogordo values the critical contributions of the military missions in our region to the national security of our nation and will continue to support those missions; and

WHEREAS, White Sands Missile Range and White Sands National Monument have been working to exchange lands to simplify management since the 1970s, and the White Sands National Park Establishment Act would complete an updated land exchange which creates new opportunities to enhance the visitor experience and fulfill of elements of White Sands Missile Range's Thirty Year Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the White Sands National Park Establishment Act: provide reasonable and practical flexibility to the Army for meeting statutory obligations with respect to legacy munitions; preserve the Department of Defense's ability to execute military missions now and in the future at White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base, and Fort Bliss; and safeguard the Department of Defense's jurisdiction over and use of its restricted airspace; and

WHEREAS, the White Sands National Park Establishment Act will bring White Sands National Monument the prestige and attention it deserves through redesignation of the monument as a national park, increase the economic impact of tourism, and enhance the operations of White Sands National Monument and White Sands Missile Range.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION:

Section 1. That the City of Alamogordo supports the White Sands National Park Establishment Act; and

Section 2. That the City of Alamogordo respectfully requests that Congress work to pass the White Sands National Park Establishment Act in the 115th Congress.

DONE this 24th day of April, 2018.

ALAMOGORDO CITY COMMISSION
A New Mexico Municipal Corporation

By _____
Richard Boss, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rachel Hughs, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Petria Schreiber, City Attorney