



May 3, 2019

Ed Zuercher, Phoenix City Manager

via email: ed.zuercher@phoenix.gov

Dear Mr. Zuercher,

Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association (ACMNA) supports the local residents' request for expedited relocation of the Cholla Trail from the residential street on Cholla Lane to the 100-foot easement granted in the 2017 Phoenician PUD.

On October 4, 2017 the Phoenix City Council approved the Phoenician PUD. It was recorded on 10/30/17 as Ordinance G-6368. On page 7, item 10 of the Stipulations, it states "A minimum 15-foot-wide easement shall be dedicated for a public natural hiking (foot only) trail at a mutually agreed upon location between the property owner and the Parks and Recreation Department within the 100 ft open space area along the norther boundary of the PUD with the expanded portion of Development AREA B per stipulation 1.b."

Per Stipulation #11, The Phoenician (Host) submitted \$100,000 to The Phoenix Parks Department in April 2018. It funded a Feasibility Study, completed in August 2018, that provided four options for a new trail. The costs to relocate and reconnect with the existing Cholla Trail are estimated to be much lower than anticipated. We request that the Cholla Trail easement relocation be submitted in the 2019-2020 Budget.

The residents living on Cholla Lane have been burdened with 600,000+ hikers annually as well as with cars, bikes, scooters and Ubers, Lyft and Resort vehicles dropping off passengers. The chaos results in obstruction of half of the road and a very dangerous situation for all. Hikers use the bushes to relieve themselves, as there is no bathroom. There is no water available unless there is a Ranger there to supply it from their truck. Parks Department does not have the resources to maintain, preserve, or protect the trail in its present configuration.

Since 12/30/18, there have been at least three separate actual or attempted burglaries on Cholla Lane striking multiple homes each episode. Each time, residents were home asleep in their bed or awakened by a stranger in their bedroom doorway, as thieves rummaged through their belongings stealing, valuables, electronics, phones, keys and cars. Many residents are afraid to stay in their own home. They feel this is a direct result of the heavy foot and vehicle traffic on their street due to the current trail access.

Host has stated that the relocation of the trail will not occur until after all construction is completed. However, **Host is not currently using this land and it is an excellent opportunity to relocate the trail now.** It will take several years to develop plans and obtain permits. Host has communicated that their *earliest* construction *start date* is late 2021. **This could be five to seven years or more from today.**

This is unreasonable and unacceptable and not what is stipulated in the PUD.

We respectfully support the local community's request that Cholla Trail access be relocated *immediately* to conform with the easement granted in the Phoenician PUD. This will restore the tranquility expected by residents, improve the safety, convenience and access to water and sanitation facilities for hikers. While providing easier access for the hikers, the reconfiguration will allow Park Rangers to enforce the no hiking after sunset regulation. The hiking community supports the relocation and has expressed willingness to collect signatures to show the incredible support for relocating the trail immediately.

If the trail cannot be relocated immediately, then close the Cholla Trail until the relocation of the easement can occur and hikers can still hike Camelback Mountain through Echo Canyon where there are restroom facilities, water, parking and Rangers to close the trail at night.

Hiking the Cholla Trail has become a destination for Phoenix visitors and residents alike. It would be unfortunate if public safety and lack of sanitation resulted in demands to eliminate access until the relocation onto the easement occur untold years in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Tristahn Schaub

Tristahn Schaub, President

cc: Mayor Kate Gallegos, mayor.gallego@phoenix.gov
Councilman Sal DiCiccio, council.district.6@phoenix.gov
Inger Erickson, Phoenix Parks Department, inger.erickson@phoenix.gov
Alan Stephenson, Planning and Development alan.stephenson@phoenix.gov
Sarah Porter, Phoenix Parks Board, c/o riley.buchanan@phoenix.gov