City of Benson
City Council Communication

Regular Meeting **October 14, 2013**

To: Mayor and Council Agenda Item # 3

From: Jim Cox, Interim City Manager

Subject:

Resolution 28-2013 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona expressing its support for the continued operation of the Queen Mine Tour in Bisbee, Arizona

Discussion:

This item in on the agenda at the request of Mayor King.

Staff Recommendation:

Council pleasure

RESOLUTION 28-2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE QUEEN MINE TOUR IN BISBEE, ARIZONA

WHEREAS, the Copper Queen Mine was one of the greatest copper camps the world has ever known; and

WHEREAS, In almost 100 years of continuous production before the Bisbee mines closed in 1975, the local mines produced one of the largest production valuations of all the mining districts in the world; and

WHEREAS, Phelps Dodge Corporation closed the Bisbee mines in the summer of 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Queen Mine Tour was officially opened to visitors on February 1, 1976 and since then, more than a million visitors, from all 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries, have enjoyed the ride into the mountain on the underground mine tour train; and

WHEREAS, according to the Arizona Office of Tourism, the Queen Mine Tour is a top Arizona tourist attraction; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2013 City of Bisbee officials were informed by Freeport-McMoRan that the operational lease for the Queen Mine Tour was being terminated; and

WHEREAS, the operations of the Bisbee Visitor Center will be affected as it is located at the Queen Mine and assists over 60,000 tourists annually; and

WHEREAS, last year there were 43,442 paid admissions to the Queen Mine Tour; and

WHEREAS, there will be a loss of sales tax revenues and a lack of tourist spending in the Bisbee community; this would be a devastating hit to the local economy, including Cochise County and all of southeastern Arizona.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona that it hereby expresses its support for the continued operations of the Queen Mine Tour.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA this 14th day of October, 2013.

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TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

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VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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MICHAEL J. MASSEE, City Attorney