AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Letter of Support; Pioneer Museum

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Please see the attached draft support letter, requested by the Museum.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Submitted by: Katherine Haase **Submitter's Email Address:** khaase@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 10/2/2020

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: Correspondence

Agenda Date: 10/6/2020

Revised April 2015

October 6, 2020

Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, Inc.
145 S Cascade Ave.
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Re: Enterprise Zone Contribution Project Designee Status for the Gunnison County Pioneer Museum and Historical Society

Dear Region 10,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports the Gunnison County Pioneer Museum and Historical Society's (Museum) request for Enterprise Zone Contribution Project Designee status. The Museum qualifies for this designation as it attracts tourists and brings revenue into our community.

The Museum has been in existence since 1964. It is located on 16 acres at the eastern edge of town, has 32 different display buildings and numerous equipment displays outdoors. In 2019, nearly 5,000 visitors from all 50 states and 31 countries went through the Museum. Admissions paid by the visitors provide nearly 60% of the Museum's yearly income. Memberships are held by the community and throughout the nation. Nearly 100 volunteers are involved in the workings of the Museum, which is normally open seven days a week, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., from mid-May through September.

As tourists stop to visit the Museum, they may also be eating in local restaurants, staying in motels, parks and campgrounds, and shopping in local stores. The students in Gunnison and Crested Butte utilize the Museum in the classwork, as do students from Western Colorado University.

The Museum has hosted the Colorado Grand Car Rally for three years, and Rally organizers have indicated they will be returning for additional lunch stops in coming years because participants love driving over Cottonwood Pass. The Rally has provided additional revenue of between $4,000-5,000 for restaurants who cater lunch for the event, it has provided an $8,000 college scholarship for each of three students, and it provided $20,000 in grant money for two new 10'x32' display buildings.

The Museum has also been hosting the Mountain Dog, LLC sponsored search activity and, although it was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, the activity is planned again for next year. This three-day activity attracts around 100 participants who patronize the local hotels and restaurants.

We urge you to consider the Museum's request for Enterprise Zone Contribution Project Designee status. If you have any questions, please reach out to our office.

Best Regards,

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson	Liz Smith, Commissioner	Roland Mason, Commissioner