

(Municipality Logo, Letterhead, or Proclamation Letter)



WHEREAS exploration and preservation of open space are hallmarks of human nature throughout American history; and

WHEREAS celebrating Arizona’s heritage and natural landscapes are inherent to our deep-rooted culture; and

WHEREAS pristine natural landscapes and ecological connectivity are recognized as central components of vibrant communities, strong economies and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains are known as “The Crown Jewel of the West Valley” for their expansive majestic backdrop and their vibrant, thriving ecosystem found only within the Sonoran Desert; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains resides within the embrace of multiple cities, county, state and federal arms at the western edge of the Phoenix metropolitan area in the Sonoran Desert’s Lower Hassayampa River Valley; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains are a regional destination that provides recreation, health, wellness, respite, and breath-taking beauty for nearly 700,000 visitors annually to two regional parks offering 38,000 acres and 46 miles of recreational trails; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains are an ecological, aesthetic, and economic asset for the nearly 5 Million Maricopa County residents, as well as public and private sectors across the state of Arizona; and

WHEREAS our fellow west valley cities and towns recognize an interdependent responsibility to balance the rapid population growth and related urbanization realized within our communities over recent decades; and

WHEREAS science indicates that habitat fragmentation and loss is one of the major threats to the Sonoran Desert, one of the most biodiverse deserts in the world; and

WHEREAS isolation will compromise the plant and animal biodiversity that sustains the very characteristics for which this mountain landscape is valued far and wide; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains Conservancy is a recognized regional convener and leader in the mission to protect the cultural and ecological resources by enhancing knowledge, experience, and stewardship of the mountains; and

WHEREAS municipalities regularly turn to nonprofit community organizations, such as the White Tank Mountains Conservancy, to provide regional strategy and programming to align connectivity for humans, wildlife, and ecosystems through the guiding principles of collaboration, connection and conservation; and

WHEREAS the White Tank Mountains Conservancy’s “Stay Wild” Connectivity Initiative is a regional interdependent and collaborative effort to envision, enable, and sustain the preservation of wildlife

corridors that connect the White Tank Mountains to other regional mountain ranges, a critical component to keeping the mountain alive for generations to come; and

WHEREAS we strongly believe that life thrives on connection; that we are dependent on our natural environments; and that conservation and development are not mutually exclusive efforts; and

WHEREAS our legacy is at stake and, therefore, we believe we have an exceptionally rare opportunity to plan for responsible development and sustainable growth around natural desert corridors; and conserve the natural heritage, ecological, and biological fragility of the White Tank Mountains while supporting a 21st century economy and quality of life for all.

Now THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2021, as

## **WHITE TANKS WILD DAY**

and encourage my fellow mayors and leaders across the great state of Arizona, as well as all current and future stakeholders, to visit the White Tank Mountains, to learn more about our local history, to educate themselves regarding the imperative for protecting place and passage for wildlife and people, and to support the White Tank Mountains Conservancy in its mission to conserve, connect and collaborate, so all future generations may enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the White Tank Mountains. The success of these efforts depends on our collective support.

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Signed

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Date