

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS, VIC

WHEREAS, the NM Tourism Department Secretary closed four visitor information centers throughout New Mexico on September 20, 2016 resulting in the loss of staff and services at the Raton Visitors Center; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of our proximity as the Gateway to all of New Mexico, the Raton Chamber of Commerce Board conceived a plan to keep the visitor's center open and therefore created a Core of Volunteers to operate the VIC; and

WHEREAS, residents of Raton came together to support the mission of the Core of volunteers allowing for staffing the Raton Visitor's Center seven days a week including major holidays; and

WHEREAS, Through the forward thinking of the City Manager Scott Berry the Chamber provided and continues providing orientation and training for all volunteers; and

WHEREAS from September 26, 2016, to September 4, 2017, the Raton Visitor's Center logs demonstrate volunteers have been the first point of contact to Raton and New Mexico; assisting more than 17,700 tourists and visitors with information highlighting Raton and the surrounding area's attractions, events and local natural attributes, as well as assisting in providing relocation information and data about the area to include climate, population, and real estate. Additionally travelers have received travel information for their destinations throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, On September 26, 2016 the Visitor's Center will celebrate its first birthday as a 100% volunteer staff and over the course of the year has provided orientation and training to 50 volunteers with the majority continuing to be the first point of contact providing all visitor's who stop in a warm welcoming smile and assistance needed whether it be a stay overnight in Raton or to continue on to their destination.

NOW THEREFORE, do I, Mayor, Sandra Mantz, Mayor of the City of Raton, New Mexico on behalf of the City of Raton, hereby thank all of those involved in staffing of the Raton Visitor's Information Center and providing people coming to and through Raton with information and personable, outstanding service. The impression left on visitors as they enter our State and Town is a huge key piece of the tourism and economic development industry for Raton and New Mexico.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal and caused the Seal of the City of Raton to be affixed this 12th day of September 2017.

CITY OF RATON

ATTEST:


Aricia Mascarenas, City Clerk

Sandra Mantz, Mayor

