



March 13, 2018

RE: COUNCILMEMBERS KEEP THEIR WORD TO CITIZENS

Our City Council deserves credit for voting unanimously to keep Desert EDGE on track.

Five months ago, councilmembers agreed that citizens should be responsible for collecting enough signatures to place Desert EDGE on this year's election ballot. Citizens will have until July 5th to submit approximately 24,000 valid signatures of registered voters to the City Clerk's Office.

Last week, Mark Stuart, chairman of the Save Our Preserve Ballot Initiative Committee, attempted to persuade the council to go around citizens and refer his proposal directly to the November ballot.

All seven councilmembers voted to reject Stuart's proposal.

According to Stuart's attorney: "With assurances that the SOP (Save Our Preserve) charter amendment will be sent to voters, Mr. Stuart would be willing to discuss dismissing some of his claims against the City." It wouldn't be the first time Stuart has sued the city. After the court recently dismissed his suit against the City of Scottsdale in connection with how costs for improvements at TPC were handled by the city, the court ruled that Stuart is responsible for paying the city \$50,000 in court costs.

The petition campaign that Stuart says he is managing is one of two signature-gathering efforts that are competing against one another. The other petition drive is called "Protect Our Preserve" (POP). A spokesperson for POP has encouraged citizens not to sign Stuart's petition.

Desert EDGE Advocates respect the City Council's continued commitment to citizens and are grateful that councilmembers are keeping the project on track.

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Our mailing address is:

Desert Edge Advocates

#260

7349 North Via Paseo del Sur #515

Scottsdale, Az 85258

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