

September 10, 2018

Nyika Allen  
Director of Aviation  
City of Albuquerque Aviation Department  
Administration Office, 3rd Level  
2200 Sunport Blvd. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
[nallen@cabq.gov](mailto:nallen@cabq.gov)

**Sent via email and FedEx**

Dear Ms. Allen:

I am writing to urgently bring your attention to a matter related to the installation of the Apollo 17 statue that features New Mexico native the Honorable Harrison H. Schmitt, PhD. This issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible so we can continue to move forward together with a plan that has been agreed to for weeks. As you know the statue is intended to serve as a source of pride for the thousands of New Mexico residents who travel to and from the Sunport, and in particular will provide New Mexico children interested in STEM topics with the inspiration that a native son of their state, and a scientist by formal training, was able to walk on the moon. What a great message to send to your citizens, but it is now at risk due to a unilateral decision to change the location of where the statue will be emplaced.

As you know, our team recently visited the Albuquerque International Sunport to plan the October 3 dedication event of the Apollo 17 memorial statue. During that visit, we were very disappointed to learn, through a staff member, the City did not plan to honor our agreement for the location for the statue, directly at the top of the escalator on the third level concourse. The staff member informed us that the City had decided not to locate the Apollo 17 memorial where the historical clock now sits, but instead at a location to the side of the concourse adjacent to the entrance and exit of the restrooms. This change was not communicated to us through any formal channels and is not consistent with Northrop Grumman's intention, and the City's agreement, that the statue will be "prominently display[ed]," as described in the Donation Agreement.

We strongly urge you to reconsider and commit to placing the statue at the original, agreed-upon location in the center of the third level concourse facing the escalators. Until we have confirmation that the City plans to honor the parties' original agreement, we do not plan to

move forward with the October 3, 2018 dedication ceremony and reception, and may be forced to reevaluate the donation altogether.

In order to hold the dedication ceremony and reception as planned on October 3, we will need to know by close of business on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, whether the statue will be placed in the original, agreed-upon location.

I am available at your convenience to discuss this matter. My contact information is included below. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Respectfully,

Barron Beneski  
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Northrop Grumman Innovations Systems  
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cc: Honorable Harrison H. Schmitt, PhD (by email to [hhschmitt@earthlink.net](mailto:hhschmitt@earthlink.net))  
Peter Pierotti (by email to [ppierotti@cabq.gov](mailto:ppierotti@cabq.gov))  
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