



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Timothy M. Keller  
Mayor

September 12, 2018

Barron Beneski  
Vice President of Corporate Communications  
Northrop Grumman Innovations Systems

Sent via email [barron.beneski@ngc.com](mailto:barron.beneski@ngc.com)

Re: Apollo 17 Statue

Mr. Beneski:

When the Sunport was asked to consider the donation of the Apollo 17 statue, we chose the third floor of the terminal building because that location is one of the most prominent locations in the State of New Mexico. Wherever the statue is located, please recognize that it will command a position of prominence.

A decision on the exact location of the statue was not made until recently. I made no prior agreement that the statue would be placed in the location of the clock, although that location was certainly promoted by Orbital ATK representatives. The written donation agreement which has been circulating for months but still is not signed is not specific, and merely indicates that the statue will be installed on the third floor of the terminal building. While more specific locations have been discussed, the determination has been tentative until recently.

In making our decision on where to place the statue, we considered many variables. The substantial size of the statue and large base creates a prominence of its own. All persons who have promoted the statue have indicated that, unlike the clock, it will be attractive and interesting to the extent people will congregate around it. In the final analysis, a congregating feature at the top of the escalators would present a significant obstacle to the proper flow of passenger traffic, which at times is quite significant.

A recent security event reminded us that when the checkpoint temporarily closes or is backed up, the third floor completely fills with passengers. The size and weight of the statue near the middle of the space create both traffic and structural concerns. An existing statue residing at the Sunport has also been moved to the side since this incident.

If the area identified last week was not preferred by Northrop Grumman, we may consider other possible areas such as the TSA check point, in the throughway from the parking garage or possibly against another column. Each location we discuss would be tentative and must be cleared by security and a structural engineer.



Nyika A. Allen  
Director of Aviation

P.O. Box 9948

Albuquerque, NM 87119-1048

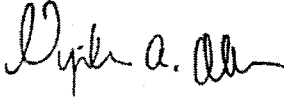
[www.cabq.gov/airport](http://www.cabq.gov/airport)

*Barron Beneski*  
*September 12, 2018*  
*Page 2 of 2*

With approximately 5 million travelers per year, the Sunport is a prominent space, worthy of fine art and inspiring memorials. We strive to combine these ingredients and still provide a safe and efficient airport, but operation of the airport is and will always be our first priority. We are hopeful Northrop Grumman can appreciate the City's willingness to locate the statue at the Sunport, and also understand our operational concerns. If Northrop Grumman chooses to proceed at a different venue which is more congruent with its objectives, we will understand its position.

Whichever you decide we may need to have a call to discuss. I can be available by phone today.

Respectfully,



Nyika A. Allen  
Director of Aviation

copy: 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))  
Sherri Brueggemann (by email to [sbrueggemann@cabq.gov](mailto:sbrueggemann@cabq.gov))  
Ed Fortunato (by email to [Edward.Fortunato@raytheon.com](mailto:Edward.Fortunato@raytheon.com))