

Exemption 6

RECEIVED

APR 05 2016

(b) [REDACTED] DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001 Washington, DC
March 25, 2016

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

This is a letter of support for the petition of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, Petitioner #5, to achieve their long sought federal recognition as an Indian tribe.

Las Cruces is a diverse community with a history of friendliness toward newcomers and visitors, and I believe it totally appropriate to honor with respect all who live here now and all who have lived here in the past. Doing so starts with respecting those whose ancestors first walked in this place.

Historically, the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, Petitioner #5, Las Cruces, New Mexico, was living on land that would become the City of Las Cruces when the Town of Las Cruces was established in 1849, and a significant percentage of tribal members still live within a few blocks of the old Tribal community and cacique's plaza near downtown Las Cruces.

The Tribe's current Cacique, Ed Roybal, Sr., was born on that historic property, just a few blocks from my office at City Hall, which originally belonged to his grandfather, Felipe Roybal, the Tribe's Cacique at the turn of the 20th century.

We in this community honor and value the many contributions of members of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe and of the rich culture of the Tribe to our community. It was my honor and pleasure to be in charge of our local commemoration of the Centennial of Statehood for New Mexico in January of 2012. I believed then, and continue to believe now, that it was totally appropriate to have the Piro/Manso/Tiwa be the first group in the parade.

Thus, I offer my full support for the petition of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, Petitioner #5, to achieve their long sought federal recognition and be officially known as what I know the Piro/Manso/Tiwa to be: an extant Indian tribe.

Respectfully,



Gregory Z. Smith

Mayor Pro Tem

Councillor for District 2

The Gateway District

404-12

Exemption 6

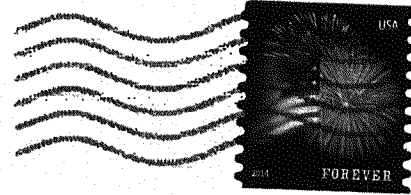
GREGORY Z. SMITH

(b)(6)

LAS CRUCES, NM 88001

EL PASO TX 799

26 MAR 2016 PM 2 T



RECEIVED

APR 05 2016

DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-
INDIAN AFFAIRS
ATTN: OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
1951 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20240