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## Pima County Sheriff's Department

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Clarence W. Dupnik  
Sheriff

*Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865*

February 17, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
United States House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

I offer this letter in support of the Southern Arizona Rescue Association's (SARA) request for a FY2011 appropriation to complete a paving project for their new headquarters. The new facility is located at 5990 North Sabino Canyon Road and is the culmination of years of planning and effort. Unfortunately, the funding they have acquired is not enough to pave access roads and adjacent areas including an overflow parking area for Sabino Canyon visitors, trail access, and a restroom facility.

As you know, SARA has served our community for over 50 years, providing search and rescue services to lost and injured hikers. They do this on a strictly volunteer basis. The Pima County Sheriff's Department greatly depends on these volunteers to fulfill its public safety mission. SARA's new facility will greatly assist them with recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers.

Sabino Canyon is one of Tucson's premier attractions, drawing visitors from the community and around the world. Current parking facilities available to Sabino Canyon visitors are limited and often at capacity. As part of the planning for the new SARA headquarters, land has been prepared for overflow parking for season pass holders. Additionally, establishment of trailhead and restroom access for future construction is greatly needed. These improvements and facilities would greatly improve visitor access by creating additional space in the existing parking lot.

The construction of the new facility is truly an exciting time in the search and rescue community. I certainly support this project to its fullest completion and look forward to many more years of collaboration with SARA and its volunteer organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence W. Dupnik".

Clarence W. Dupnik  
Sheriff of Pima County

c: Mr. Richard Kunz, SARA Association President  
Mr. John Perchorowicz, SARA Capital Campaign Committee