

May 22, 2023

Bluff Town Council/Planning & Zoning Commission/Bluff Residents:

I am writing this letter as a resident, property owner and business owner of Bluff.

As a resident, I believe it is beneficial for the welfare of the town to have a helicopter pad nearby. It is several miles out to the airport and in an emergency we all know that seconds count. I also welcome new opportunities for activities that Desert Rose Tours would bring to the area. My family has been coming here for visits since my father moved here in the late 80's. We have 8 children and 22 grandchildren and many of them choose to come to this area for recreation whenever possible. They were excited to hear about the possibility of helicopter tours and literally getting a bird's-eye view of this amazing country. They know we live and work right next door to Desert Rose and not even one of them were concerned about noise or dust or congestion. Every one of them expressed their excitement over the new business that might bring additional young people, maybe even the ability for them to find work in this area and do more than visit. As a parent, I also have great admiration for Amer's step into the tour business and providing an opportunity for his son to settle here and build a life in Bluff where he was born and raised. I commend Tarrik for making the efforts to develop the skills required of a pilot and his desire to utilize his knowledge of the terrain to not only give that bird's-eye view but to teach his customers about the incredible sights and resources of the area.

Secondly, as a property owner of Bluff, we understand the necessity of making the most out of every inch of land we own. Property costs are high in the area and utilization of it is not a want but a definite need. I believe the placement of a helicopter pad south of the resort along the wash is perfect, as is the planned flight pattern for landing and takeoff. We lived near the Airforce Academy for many years in Colorado with gliders, hot air balloons, helicopters, and fighter jets overhead often. I am not worried about one helicopter making day flights. As the closest neighbor to Desert Rose, we put a huge buffer between other homeowners and the place for the planned helipad. I was very surprised when the town placed the moratorium on this project without reaching out to us as adjacent landowners.

Thirdly, as a business owner I understand the careful thought and consideration of every facet that went into this business decision. I have heard through the years nothing but good things about Amer's business ethics from my father. Our business is located adjacent to the Desert Rose, and we have come to respect Amer's business acumen, ethical standards, and integrity. When he says he is going to do something he does it. He finds a way to make it happen. He is a great businessman and I know that I can trust he will make every decision count towards improving his resort. It is in his best interest to keep down the dust, avoid noise pollution and respect the privacy of the residents. I trust that this will happen because Amer will do what it takes to make it happen. I trust that our customers will have no adverse effects from the helicopter traffic because many of our customers are Amer's customers, too. I believe it will be an additional amenity that our guests will enjoy. We look forward to working with Desert Rose Tours towards a beneficial outcome for all.

As I have spoken about this topic to several property owners and residents of the area, I was appalled to find that many were afraid to voice their opinions for fear of retribution from members of the town council. How did this town turn into a place of bullies?? Perhaps we should be more conscious of our reactions and more deliberate in our responses. Let's find some common ground and build from there. I encourage our governing body to do just that.

Sincerely,

Pamela Yearous
Coral Sands RV Park