

Proclamation

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has recently entered a short term lease intended to allow the SSA more time to consider moving from 253 W Superstition Blvd, to more than 20 miles away, into the town of Gilbert; and

WHEREAS, this current location in Apache Junction serves some of the most at-need retirees of greater Phoenix, and a move of this type, 20 miles away, represents an undue burden on these retirees, many of whom need to use public transportation to visit Social Security Offices in person; and

WHEREAS, the nearest location for Apache Junction and surrounding area is at 702 West Jerome Avenue in Mesa, which is 21 miles away from the Apache Junction office but only 5 miles from the proposed relocation to Gilbert with significantly far fewer Social Security Beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Apache Junction and areas on the east end of Greater Phoenix remain some of the largest growth areas for retirees, with residents in Apache Junction alone having an average age of 52.4 years old and a median income of \$21,000/year compared to the Gilbert proposed location with represents a much younger age group estimated at 33.9 years of age with a median income of \$84,000/year; and

WHEREAS, only 57.7% of Gilbert residents have income of under \$80,000 compared to nearly 90% of Apache Junction residents with an income under \$80,000. Gilbert's veteran population at an estimated 1.72 % compared to Apache Junction's 2.81%, with one zip code at nearly 4% veterans. Gilbert's zip code with the highest population of 65 or older is 9.81% compared to Apache Junction's zip code with the highest population of 65 or older is 39.79%; and

WHEREAS, the Average lease rates for office space in Gilbert are \$23.06/sf. in which does not include the additional tenant improvements that SSA would need to pay for updating the Gilbert location in comparison, Apache Junction has an office space average of \$17.95/ s f . with no need for tenant improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chip Wilson, find the SSA's decision to move the facility out of Apache Junction egregious to the population it is meant to serve, a gross neglect and disservice to our Veterans.

Signed and attested to this _____ day of _____, 2021.

CHIP WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIFER PENA
City Clerk