



Administrative Report

Council Action Date: February 10, 2015

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Mike Goodson, City Manager

Subject: Resolution No. 7690, A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Hawthorne, California Opposing The Closing Or Reduction Of Funding For the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) And The Space And Missile Systems Center (SMC)

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 7690

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) are critical assets to the aerospace industry and the nation's ability to design the military technology necessary to adequately provide for our national defense.

The SMC has provided the nation with highly sophisticated intelligence gathering infrastructure that has significantly contributed to the U.S. military's advancement in missions such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom where SMC is noted as having added "unimaginable speed and precision to American military operations" through the use of space-based surveillance, communications, navigation and meteorology.

Any attempt to relocate the Space and Missile Systems Center would be detrimental to national defense and the mission of the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Relocation of this center would have a monumental economic effect on our entire economic region and would not be in the best interests of our country's security.

This resolution formally authorizes the Mayor of the City of Hawthorne on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hawthorne to send a letter to the United States Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Air Force in conformity with the recitals of this resolution expressing opposition to relocation or reduced funding of the LAAFB and the SMC.

NOTICING PROCEDURES

A notice was not required to be published or posted.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Submitted by:

Approved for forwarding by:

Mike Goodson, City Manager

Mike Goodson, City Manager

Approved as to form:

Russell I. Miyahira, City Attorney

Attachment(s):

- Resolution No. 7690.

RESOLUTION NO. 7690

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING THE CLOSING OR REDUCTION OF FUNDING FOR THE LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE (LAAFB) AND THE SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS CENTER (SMC)

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) are critical assets to the aerospace industry and the nation's ability to design the military technology necessary to adequately provide for our national defense; and

WHEREAS, the SMC has provided the nation with highly sophisticated intelligence gathering infrastructure that has significantly contributed to the U.S. military's advancement in missions such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom where SMC is noted as having added "unimaginable speed and precision to American military operations" through the use of space-based surveillance, communications, navigation and meteorology; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to relocate the Space and Missile Systems Center would be detrimental to national defense and the mission of the Los Angeles Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, relocation of this center would have a monumental economic effect on our entire economic region and would not be in the best interests of our country's security.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Hawthorne hereby incorporates by reference all the recitals herein.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Hawthorne formally opposes any relocation or reduction of funding for the LAAFB and the SMC.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of Hawthorne formally authorizes the Mayor of the City of Hawthorne on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hawthorne to send a letter (attached hereto as Exhibit "A") to the United States Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Air Force in conformity with the recitals herein.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting the Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of February, 2015.

CHRIS BROWN, Mayor
City of Hawthorne, California

ATTEST:

NORBERT A. HUBER, City Clerk
City of Hawthorne, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RUSSELL I MIYAHIRA, City Attorney
City of Hawthorne, California

EXHIBIT “A”

February 10, 2015

Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense
Deborah Lee Jones, Secretary of the Air Force
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

RE: Opposition to the closing or reduction of funding for the Los Angeles Air Force Base and the Space and Missile Systems Center

Dear Secretary Hagel and Secretary Jones:

The Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) are critical assets to the aerospace industry and the nation’s ability to design the military technology necessary to adequately provide for our national defense. The biggest asset to our country’s safety, possessed by the LAAFB and SMC, is its unmatched skilled workforce based in Los Angeles. This brain trust, consisting of 5,879 directly employed military, civilian, and contractor workers and 11,776 indirectly employed, has made its home in Los Angeles and would be unlikely to migrate anywhere else if either the LAAFB or SMC moved some of its operations. This localized, highly skilled workforce is essential to the success of the LAAFB and the SMC, and has time and again proven itself crucial to the defense of the United States of America.

The SMC has provided the nation with highly sophisticated intelligence gathering infrastructure that has significantly contributed to the U.S. military’s advancement in missions such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom where SMC is noted as having added “unimaginable speed and precision to American military operations” through the use of space-based surveillance, communications, navigation and meteorology.

As national defense continues to rely more on intelligence gathering, the role SMC has played in developing, acquiring, fielding and sustaining our military space systems cannot be overstated. SMC has proven to be a critical infrastructure asset to our national defense both in the past as well as for the foreseeable future.

LAAFB’s and SMC’s location also bolsters its strategic importance to our national defense due to the following factors:

- Los Angeles County remains the top location for aerospace and defense in the nation—still home to major prime contractor operations, such as Northrop

Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, and Honeywell, as well as home to more small and mid-sized companies in the A&D supply chain than anywhere else in the nation.

- Los Angeles County also graduates more engineers than any other region and has developed sophisticated programs at community colleges and universities to meet the needs of the aerospace and defense industry well into the future.
- The proximity to a significantly large aerospace and defense ecosystem of companies coupled with an unmatched skilled workforce available only in L.A. provide the LAAFB with unparalleled built-in benefits to advance its mission.

Los Angeles provides vital talent and connections to the largest aerospace manufacturing base in the country to the LAAFB and SMC, which can be found nowhere else. Similarly, the Los Angeles Air Force base is a Los Angeles icon, keeping our region connected to the armed forces and the women and men who keep our country safe.

History has shown us that we must be forever vigilant so that this incredible asset to our national security and regional economy is not threatened by closure or relocation.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Hawthorne and its citizens I am joining with the Mayors of Los Angeles County's eighty-eight cities in expressing our firm support for the Los Angeles Air Force Base and stating that any attempt to relocate the Space and Missile Systems Center would be detrimental to national defense and the mission of the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Relocation of this center would have a monumental economic effect on our entire economic region and would not be in the best interests of our country's security.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown
Mayor
City of Hawthorne

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