

RESOLUTION NO. 08-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO SUPPORTING THE EFFORT OF R. D. HUBBARD AND THE RUIDOSO DOWNS RACETRACK AND CASINO TO ACHIEVE EQUAL STATUTORY TREATMENT FOR THE RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK AND CASINO

WHEREAS, the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack is an integral part of the custom, culture, and history of the Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County and Southeast New Mexico and has been for several decades since its opening in 1947 as the Hollywood Park; and

WHEREAS, the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack during its 61 year history in the community has served as one of the State's and Southeast New Mexico's cornerstones for tourism, convention and visitors business development; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Ruidoso Downs Race Track entered a new era with the opening of the Billy the Kid Casino in which racing fans and visitors may enjoy a variety of slot machines, Billy the Kid Bar and Grille, Billy's race book and gift shop all created in the look of Billy the Kid; and

WHEREAS, wise public policy and judgement indicate that creating a new tax level for New Mexico's smallest race tracks and casinos as recognized by the legislature in its consideration and approval of gaming compacts containing a lower rate of taxation for the smallest tribal casinos in the state; and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that the 2008 session of the Legislature was a short thirty day session, House Bill 484 was passed unanimously in the House of Representative and died while under consideration by the New Mexico Senate; and

WHEREAS, the lack of parity is damaging to small racetrack and casino operations, upkeep and capital improvements due to the disparate financial burden created thereby; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico as well as communities of Carlsbad, Artesia, Ruidoso, Roswell and Counties of Eddy and Chaves have committed public and private funds to market the many tourism and business development advantages associated with Southeast New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2007 Roswell, Ruidoso, Carlsbad and Artesia initiated daily jet air service provided by American Airlines, successful recruitment of the air service was based upon anticipated year round ridership via American Eagle to the Roswell International Airport (ROW) to communities and tourism attractions throughout Southeast New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, with the extremely competitive nature of the airline industry today, maintaining adequate ridership is a critical factor of retaining air service, any loss due to lack of tourism and business travel could very well jeopardize this vital air service to Southeast New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, concomitantly with these effects, badly needed employment and jobs will be lost to all the communities of Southeast New Mexico.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY, the Roswell City Council supports gaming and racetrack operations such as the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack and Casino in order to protect the economic vitality of the enterprise and preserve its important historical and cultural contribution to Ruidoso, and surrounding areas of Lincoln County and Southeast New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 20th day of November, 2008.

SEAL



SAM LAGRONE, MAYOR



DAVE KUNKO, CITY CLERK