

Gallup New Mexico Quiet Zone

June 25, 2010

Dear Mayor Mendoza,

Enclosed is information gathered on how to establish a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approved train horn Quiet Zone (QZ) at 2nd Street, 3rd Street, and Allison Road crossings. Your packet has information explaining what a QZ is, how to go about establishing one, contacts, and examples.

The residents and the businesses of Gallup want you and the City Council to remedy the noise pollution problem caused by the train horns by: 1. Having City Council place an item on the agenda at the next Council meeting to discuss a Motion to establish a Quiet Zone for our city. 2. Have City Council file a written Notice of Intent to the FRA. 3. To put on the agenda at following council meetings announcements regarding the progress of the work being done on the QZ's.

There are two issues at stake here. First is a quality of life issue for residents that live on both sides of the tracks at the 2nd and 3rd Street rail crossings, and residents south of the Allison Road crossing. The noise caused by the train horns at all hours of the day and night (especially at night) constantly affects many resident's lives. For instance, it has been well documented and researched to the benefits of a full night sleep and harms that lack of sleep can cause the human body and mind. Who knows how many residents are unaware that they are dealing with some degree of sleep deprivation caused by constantly waking up because of the blaring train horns going though Gallup throughout the night. Many residents are unaware of the fact that they are not getting the type of sleep they need for a healthy mind and body.

Second is an economic issue for our local businesses. Most residents have been downtown on Front Street when a train goes through 2nd and 3rd Streets. The decibel level is beyond amazing. We've all seen people (especially tourists) cover their ears as the train blasts its way through the intersections. We've all been in Front Street shops where you have to stop talking because the train horn is so loud. At events on or near the Plaza, the train horns interrupt speakers during their talks. The list can go on and on.

For two and a half years now I have talked with many residents, and they in turn have talked with their friends and neighbors, about the train noise and how a Quiet Zone could remedy this noise pollution while enhancing the

quality of life in our community. I've also discussed the same issue with business in the downtown area sharing with them that a Quiet Zone is available.

Albuquerque, Belen, Milan, Holbrook, Flagstaff all have FRA approved Quiet Zones which have improved the quality of life for their citizens and in some instances enhanced economic environments. Gallup has up to 100 trains a day going through town - 1 every 15 minutes. It is time for Gallup to establish its Quiet Zones to enhance Quality of Life and Economic Development. We just need the leadership to make it so.

Respectfully,

Martin Neal

Enclosures: (7)

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