

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO THE INCLINE FRIENDS FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MT. MANITOU INCLINE

WHEREAS, the Incline began life in 1907 as a cable tram built as part of a larger hydroelectric project. After construction of the hydro plant, the Incline was converted into a cog train designed for tourists. From 1909 until its last trip in 1990, the Incline train was a popular stop for visitors to the Pikes Peak Region; and

WHEREAS, the Incline is now a popular 1-mile long hiking trail, with 2,741 steps and a 2,000' gain in elevation. The Incline averages a 43% slope and has a slope of 68% at its steepest section, making the Incline foot for foot perhaps the most grueling trail in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, the Incline punishes all users equally, from the professional athletes, local college students, aspiring Olympians, firefighters, Fort Carson soldiers, out-of-state tourists, die-head fitness buffs, and casual hikers, to the people who huff and puff with every step. The addictive appeal of the Incline is not limited by age, demographics, geography or experience level; and

WHEREAS, the Incline is a place of inspiration and challenge, a place to test one's self and a chance to enjoy the serenity that only time spent in nature can provide; and

WHEREAS, the Incline Friends is organized exclusively for civic, charitable, health, and educational purposes, to make the Incline legally accessible to the public, promote fitness and good mental health, maintain and develop the Incline and supporting trails, and preserve the natural beauty and the historic legacy of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Incline Friends have hosted numerous volunteer projects, several successful fundraising events, and was a leader in the 2013 Indy Give! Program; and

WHEREAS, the Manitou Incline Trail Enhancement Project will make necessary improvements to the Incline, with a total project value in excess of \$1.6 million, with the Friends providing \$60,000 in funding and materials, as well as raising awareness for the importance of improving the Incline; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative and cooperative partnership between the Incline Friends and the City of Colorado Springs is truly an exemplary model of caring citizens stepping forward to work with the City of Colorado Springs to benefit both the community and the hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit the Incline each year; and

WHEREAS, the lasting commitment and passion of the Incline Friends will ensure the Incline continues to be a treasured natural resource that contributes greatly to our community's quality of life and forever remains the hardest workout in Colorado Springs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

That the City Council of Colorado Springs expresses gratitude to the Incline Friends for their significant donation of resources to make the Manitou Incline Trail Enhancement Project a reality and much appreciation for their continued commitment and partnership to ensure the Incline is protected and valued for generations to come.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado, this 10th day of June, 2014.

Keith King, Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk