

**CITY OF CEDAR HILLS**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO EXERCISING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICAN FORK CANYON AND STATING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE CANYON'S PRISTINE NATURE, PROTECTING THE WATERSHED AND BALANCING RECREATIONAL INTERESTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills has environmental, economic, social and historical interests in American Fork Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills desires to establish best practices and policies regarding the management and use of such public property, recreational property, watershed land and other environmentally sensitive areas ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills has an obligation, as environmental stewards, to create thoughtful measures that protect the watershed, and the sources and quantities of water and natural resources that support local habitat, residents and industry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills desires to reasonably preserve historic sites, historic recreation, respites and uses; and

WHEREAS, our residents, and others living along the Wasatch Front, enjoy recreation in American Fork Canyon and the surrounding landscape; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to create safe, environmentally friendly and efficient rights-of-way for recreation and travel; and

WHEREAS, there are economic forces that will attempt to utilize public lands or privatize public lands for economic gain to the detriment of lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, we will stand with courage and hold our County and other elected officials accountable for the discharge and protections of these resources which have value that supersedes pure economics; and

WHEREAS, we support historic Utah County Commission ordinances, statutes and staff recommendations that have protected American Fork Canyon by reasonably limiting access by commercial entities who have other access points, namely from Salt Lake County; and

WHEREAS, all those who have gone before us would expect us to rise up with balanced measures to protect our borders; and

WHEREAS, those who will follow will benefit from environmental protections we, the ewlected officials on behalf of the citizens of Cedar Hills, demand for decades to come; for it is from whence life springs forth, from which clear waters flow for our crops and sustainment of our families, from which many early settlers gave their very lives as they toiled in the canyons to provide for their families, and this legacy must be preserved, the lands – protected with thoughtful and reasonable measures and

WHEREAS, these God given resources are dear to us and vital for our community; and

WHEREAS, the splendor of the wilderness, the unfettered views, and the breathtaking landscapes must be maintained in its current state because once the natural landscape is developed and commercialized it can never be reversed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hillswants to protect the open wilderness of American Fork Canyon for our children and our posterity so that they can continue to use, enjoy, and see the wonderment of the Canyon which we are currently able to behold; and

WHEREAS, we are fighting for Independence from processes in Salt Lake, Wasatch and Summit Counties that seem, at present, to potentially compromise our natural resources; and.

WHEREAS, we look forward to building healthy relationships with those in Mountain Accord, but we need to stand on our own merit to protect that which is of vital importance to our economy and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills wants to fully participate in the AFC Vision process where the City would be able to assist with the research, planning, and goals for the 416 acres of public use land that is currently being sought to be converted over to private use land; and

WHEREAS, it is a season to take courage, for our obligations to our Creator as environmental stewards for these lands and resources He has given us, andwe have an obligation and duty to do all within the scope of our abilities to take thoughtful and balanced measures to protect this crown jewel, our wilderness area of American Fork Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Cedar Hills realizes that there is strength in numbers and makes it known that Cedar Hills can only be represented by a majority voice of the five voting members of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, it shall be made publicly known that no member of the City Council or the Mayor may cast a binding vote on any board, committee or public/private group related to the issues surrounding American Fork Canyon without first getting formal direction from at least three voting City Council members in an open and publicly noticed Cedar Hills City Council meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Cedar Hills City Council that it has developed and now hereby formally adopts and approves an Environmental Stewardship of American Fork Canyon Policy in the form and substance attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we therefore ask our County Commissioners to stand alongside us and to use reasonable tools including legal actions or injunctions, or both, to protect our lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our County Commissioners to engage with open public meetings beginning on July 8th 2015, to be held in the City of Cedar Hills to begin critical discussions regarding our public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the U.S. Forest Service, Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) and other trusted groups to join with us in the democratic process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, since it is vital to the protections of our Canyon resources, therefore we call upon Mayor Ben McAdams of Mountain Accord to assist in the protection of our borders, to withdraw acreage in Utah County from the Mountain Accord processes until the time that Utah County citizens and civic leaders have been fully engaged in democratic processes in our County.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we ask Mayor McAdams to respond in writing or public statement no later than July 10, 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills, Utah on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

APPROVED

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Gary Gygi  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Colleen Mulvey, City Recorder

## EXHIBIT A

### CITY OF CEDAR HILLS

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STWERDSHIP OF AMERICAN FORK CANYON POLICY

The City of Cedar Hills is committed to creating policies and best practices that preserve natural resources and the watershed in American Fork Canyon while allowing public access for recreation by:

1. Establishing and utilizing best practices for watershed protections with other cities in our area.
2. Promoting and fostering environmental awareness and stewardship opportunities for citizens to help the U.S. Forest Service in maintaining and protecting resources.
3. Fostering outreach education efforts in Cedar Hills schools to encourage land preservation, environmental responsibility, and civic consciousness.
4. Fostering awareness among residents, businesses, and business partners through public education and participation as to the economic value American Fork Canyon provides.
5. Working to protect the lands bearing Cedar Hill's name that are gateways to the canyon.
6. Supporting public meetings and building relationships with Mountainland Association of Governments, the U.S. Forest Service, and other interested groups as those meetings become available and are scheduled.
7. Promoting discussion of options that may include watershed protections, procurement of water for future developments, land acquisitions for conservation easements, and fostering the public discourse regarding uses in the EC-1 and EC-2 zones and possible tax ramifications for citizens and local governments.
8. Pursuing measures, resolutions, and meetings that encourage the cooperation of civic leaders and cities including possible legal actions where necessary to secure our city and or county borders from forces that may diminish the quality of life for our citizens.
9. Ensuring that the canyon will continue to be an asset for the public and not overrun by commercial interests that would reduce access for those who enjoy this pristine and remarkable wilderness.
10. Effective immediately, relieving the Mayor for the City of Cedar Hills from all duties of serving on any and all committees, boards, or groups that are currently working on or meeting to discuss the issues facing American Fork Canyon.
11. If the City of Cedar Hills needs representation for any of the issues facing American Fork Canyon on any committee, board, or group then that representative will be chosen and appointed by a majority vote of the members of the Cedar Hills City Council at an open and public meeting.
12. Effective immediately, the City Council for Cedar Hills ceases all city-sponsored programs and events held in conjunction with Snowbird ski resort, including but not limited to the Cedar Hills Ski Bus to Snowbird.
13. The Cty of Cedar Hills will do everything within its means and powers to protect and maintain the 416 acres of wilderness that is currently being sought to be converted into private land.

