



BLACK HAWK ®



INCORPORATED 1864

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Fire Chief / Emergency Manager

Christopher K. Woolley

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Troy D. Cooper

Public Works Director

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**Community Planning & Development
Director**

Cynthia L. Linker

COLORADO'S SECOND OLDEST
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

August 21, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Reference: Attestation Letter for Protect Our Neighbors

Dear Director Hunsaker Ryan:

This letter is in support of the Gilpin County request for Protect Our Neighbors certification. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Black Hawk has collaborated with Gilpin County, the Colorado Gaming Association, casino operators, and local stakeholders to provide for the safety and health of residents, employees, and visitors. Subsequently, the City of Black Hawk will continue to support Gilpin County Public Health's work to meet the thresholds in the Gilpin County containment plan to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus

The closure of the gaming industry has created significant hardship for Black Hawk, Gilpin County, and the State of Colorado. The reduced visitation to Black Hawk's casinos has decimated the city's revenue and negatively impacted funding for local, county, and state services. As a partner with casino operators, the city has waived approximately \$2,000,000 in device fees for March, April, and May. The increase in casino occupancy afforded by Protect Our Neighbors can lessen the negative financial impact that has been brought on by the pandemic.

In closing, the city is a committed partner in maintaining the health and well-being of Black Hawk's residents, employees, and visitors. As such, the city will further commit to using its tools and resources to encourage and enforce compliance with the Gilpin County COVID -19 containment plan and accompanying Public Health Orders.

Respectfully,

Christopher Woolley
Fire Chief/Emergency Manager