



TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT / JIM RONSTADT, DIRECTOR
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May 4, 1984

Ms. Diane Hlava, Editor
Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
1804 North Van Ness
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Dear Ms. Hlava:

We were pleased to receive your inquiry regarding Tucson's Garden of Gethsemane. Mr. Hernandez, to whom your inquiry was addressed, has recently retired; hence, we are several days late with regard to your suggested deadline.

The site is owned by the City. The City is ultimately responsible for maintenance of the grounds and the statues. The Knights of Columbus have established a program by which they assist in grounds maintenance on a volunteer basis. The City became involved in 1948 when the site was deeded to the City for \$10.00 by its owners, Tucson Sand and Soil. There is no resource person on the site to answer questions. However, Oleaun Underwood of our Department has been involved over the years with the development of the site, and in making repair/restoration efforts on the statues. He, therefore, is a good resource person on the subject. We have no statistics on visitors to the site. However, approximately 50 weddings are scheduled annually at the site, and on any given day, visitors may be observed admiring the facility and statuary.

Dolores Lucero is still living and she may be reached through our Department. Due to her advanced age and need for privacy, we do not feel it appropriate to release her address.

Interestingly enough, a news article was published in the Tucson newspaper this past week on the subject of the Garden. I am enclosing a copy of the article for your perusal. Documented therein is the project whereby the statuary was relocated to a newly constructed enclosure in 1982. The picture graphically shows the lovely setting which resulted.

If you wish additional information, pictures, etc., please contact Oleaun Underwood of our Department at 602-791-4870.

Sincerely,

Laura Nichols
Laura Nichols
Assistant Director

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cc: Ronstadt
Underwood

