FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
City Council

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November 4, 2026

Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy
c/o National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Submitted through the Arizona Commerce Authority

RE: Flagstaff City Council Support for Locating the United States Space Academy in Flagstaff, Arizona

Dear Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Flagstaff City Council, I write in full support of Arizona's proposal to locate the United States Space Academy (USSA) in Flagstaff. In partnership with Northern Arizona University, the City is prepared to support the academy from its interim launch in 2028, with an inaugural class of approximately 300 students, through its growth to a permanent campus serving 1,200 students by 2031.

Flagstaff's role in space exploration is long and direct. Lowell Observatory astronomers discovered Pluto here in 1930. The U.S. Geological Survey's Astrogeology Science Center, founded in Flagstaff in 1963, produced the lunar maps for the Apollo program, and Apollo astronauts trained at crater fields just outside the city. In 2001, Flagstaff became the world's first International Dark Sky City. Today, Northern Arizona University, Lowell Observatory, the USGS, and the U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station would give USSA students daily access to working scientists and active research. Few communities in the country can offer that.

A USSA campus aligns with the City of Flagstaff Economic Development Strategic Plan's priority sector of astronomy and builds on the City's strategic partnership with Northern Arizona University. It would anchor a talent pipeline in Northern Arizona and give students from across the country, including rural and tribal communities in our region, a direct path into public service in space.

We respectfully urge the Commission to select Flagstaff, Arizona as the home of the United States Space Academy.

Sincerely,

Becky Daggett

Becky Daggett,

Mayor, City of Flagstaff, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council

The views and opinions expressed in this letter are my own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Flagstaff City Council.