

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-25-201 ENACTMENT NO. R. 2025-073

SPONSORED BY: Renée Grout

- 1 RESOLUTION
- 2 PRESERVING THE NAME "JUNIPER FLATS" FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED
- 3 AT 25 HOTEL CIRCLE NE.
- 4 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has committed to developing a variety
- 5 of housing solutions that meet different needs, ensuring that facilities and
- 6 programs are named appropriately and operated to reflect their distinct
- 7 missions and populations; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Gateway System is a comprehensive network of facilities
- 9 and services designed to address homelessness by providing pathways to
- 10 housing, treatment, and support for individuals and families; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Juniper Flats will serve as a critical housing resource for older
- 12 adults who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of becoming
- 13 unhoused, providing lasting stability, safety, and dignity through permanent
- 14 affordable housing; and
- 15 WHEREAS, many low-income senior citizens worked hard and dedicated
- 16 their lives to strengthening our community during an era that preceded 401(k)
- 17 and IRA retirement savings plans, relying instead on the promise that Social
- 18 Security would provide for their needs in retirement, only to now find
- 19 themselves in urgent and growing need of basic, affordable housing; and
- 20 WHEREAS, seniors deserve to live with dignity and respect, and their
- 21 homes at Juniper Flats should be recognized as independent affordable
- 22 housing, not mistaken as part of the Gateway shelter system; and
- 23 WHEREAS, the funds proposed for rebranding or signage should instead
- 24 be responsibly invested in meaningful amenities and services that directly
- 25 enhance the quality of life for the senior residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, the comfort, dignity, and well-being of residents must take
2 precedence over any effort to impose shelter-related branding on Juniper
3 Flats, which serves as permanent senior housing, not a shelter; and

4 WHEREAS, the property at 25 Hotel Circle NE is not a homeless shelter, but
5 rather a residential community providing essential, affordable housing for
6 adults over the age of 55 with limited incomes, and its name should reflect its
7 role as a valued part of the broader community, with residents who are vital
8 members of that community; and

9 WHEREAS, the name "Juniper Flats" conveys the image of a warm,
10 welcoming apartment community, while "Gateway Senior" suggests
11 institutional or shelter settings, reinforcing stigma and undermining trauma-
12 informed principles of dignity and recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, renaming Juniper Flats under the Gateway brand would risk
14 retraumatizing residents who have already experienced homelessness or
15 housing instability, while diverting limited public funds away from direct
16 resident needs; and

17 WHEREAS, the preservation of an accurate and dignified name for a City-
18 owned apartment community aligns with the City's intent to promote
19 transparency, clarity, and trauma-informed housing practices across all
20 programs.

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
22 ALBUQUERQUE:

23 SECTION 1. NAME PRESERVATION. The City Council hereby affirms that
24 the official name of the property located at 25 Hotel Circle NE shall continue to
25 be known as "Juniper Flats," and directs the City Administration and all
26 relevant departments to refrain from any action that would result in the
27 renaming or rebranding of the property to "Gateway Senior" or any other
28 name without prior Council approval.

29 SECTION 2. PROHIBITION ON EXPENDITURES. No City or State funds shall
30 be expended on signage, marketing, or other materials that reference the
31 property by any other name than "Juniper Flats," unless expressly authorized
32 by the City Council.

1 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
2 word, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or
3 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
4 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Resolution. The Council
5 hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each section,
6 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
7 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF November, 2025
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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9 Brook Bassan, President
10 City Council

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14 APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025

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17 Bill No. R-25-201

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22 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
23 City of Albuquerque

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27 ATTEST:

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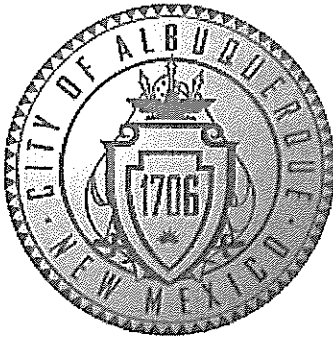
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30 _____
31 Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2025

TO: City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor 

SUBJECT: Preserving the Name “Juniper Flats” for the Property Located at 25 Hotel Circle NE.

While I have made the decision not to exercise my executive authority to issue a veto of R-25-201, I have also decided not to sign the Resolution. In my opinion, the Resolution violates of the separation of powers between the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch.

Section 2 is written as follows: *“No City or State funds shall be expended on signage, marketing, or other materials that reference the property by any other name than “Juniper Flats,” unless expressly authorized by the City Council.”*

As expressed by the Deputy City Attorney during the meeting on November 5, 2025, Section 2 of the Resolution may improperly impede the executive functions of the City to expend current or future legislatively approved funding expenditures in a manner consistent with the Charter. Through this overly detailed and intrusive action, City Council is placing undue interference and micromanagement of the Executive branch.

Lastly, as CAO Sengel also stated during the meeting, I too would have preferred that we had taken the opportunity and time to collaborate on a name that would best serve both the tenants and the City.