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1       WHEREAS, there are many vacant properties in various commercial  
2 districts throughout the City that could be activated by micro-enterprises in  
3 the same way San Antonio’s pop-up program encourages Downtown property  
4 owners to host short-term tenants in vacant spaces with all lease payments  
5 being waived and tenants only being responsible for insurance and signage.

6       WHEREAS, micro-enterprises operating on sidewalks and other public  
7 spaces do not have to pay for rent and insurance, but can also pose a threat to  
8 the general public by causing congestion if not conducted responsibly or in  
9 coordination with nearby brick and mortar business owners and pedestrians;

10       WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque and other cities throughout the country  
11 have recently experienced an increase in the number of informal street  
12 vendors, street performers, and other self-employed individuals who rely on  
13 access to sidewalks and other public spaces to earn a living; and

14       WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque would benefit from formalizing  
15 informal commerce into micro-enterprises that conduct business on sidewalks  
16 and public spaces because the City would not only be able to receive more  
17 revenue from individuals registering their businesses and purchasing  
18 solicitation permits, but it would also increase standards of behavior and  
19 safety while occupying those spaces; and

20       WHEREAS, for the purposes of this Resolution and according to the U.S.  
21 Census Bureau, the City of Albuquerque defines micro-enterprise as a  
22 business with five or fewer employees (one or more of whom owns the  
23 business), an operation that generally needs less than \$35,000 in loan capital,  
24 and an enterprise that does not have access to the conventional commercial  
25 banking sector; and

26       WHEREAS, cities like Albany, Georgia have been able to relax their  
27 business registration requirements or enable micro-enterprises to conduct  
28 business on the property of another business in order to provide low-income  
29 individuals with a point-of-entry into the market place to start earning liquid  
30 income; and

31       WHEREAS, encouraging micro-enterprises to conduct business on  
32 sidewalks and other public spaces would provide low-income individuals with  
33 the most affordable option for bringing their products to the market, but might

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1 also pose a threat to the general public by causing congestion if not  
2 conducted responsibly or in coordination with nearby brick and mortar  
3 business owners (per § 13-3-1-1 of the City of Albuquerque’s Code of  
4 Ordinances); and

5 WHEREAS, convening a Micro-Enterprise Development Fair would provide  
6 an opportunity for low-income individuals to learn more about the business  
7 registration process, how to secure micro-enterprise loans, how to grow their  
8 businesses, and how to responsibly occupy sidewalks and other public  
9 spaces; and

10 WHEREAS, convening a Micro-Enterprise Development Fair would provide  
11 an opportunity for low-income individuals to provide public input on local and  
12 state regulation related to micro-enterprise development that City Council staff  
13 could use to inform the development of a longer-term plan; and

14 WHEREAS, a Micro-Enterprise Development Fair needs to involve a  
15 continuum of businesses of all sizes and types, micro-enterprise development  
16 organizations, financial institutions, merchant associations, intermediary  
17 organizations, and state and local public agencies in order to explore  
18 opportunities for encouraging more business-within-a-business practices; and

19 WHEREAS, a Micro-Enterprise Development Fair would help perpetuate a  
20 win/win/win situation in which the City of Albuquerque would benefit from  
21 increased revenue from business registrations, micro-enterprises would  
22 receive more education on how to start and grow their businesses, and brick  
23 and mortar business owners/property owners would have their properties  
24 being more fully utilized.

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
26 ALBUQUERQUE:

27 Section 1. City Council and Planning Department staff will convene the  
28 first Micro-Enterprises Development Fair before the end of 2018.

29 Section 2. City Council and Planning Department staff will collect all of the  
30 input received during the Micro-Enterprise Development Fair to create a long-  
31 term plan for supporting the City’s emerging micro-enterprise community and  
32 convening subsequent Micro-Enterprise Development Fairs in low-income  
33 neighborhoods throughout the City.

1           Section 3. City Council and Planning Department staff will assess which  
2 neighborhoods throughout the City of Albuquerque would most benefit from  
3 convening subsequent Micro-Enterprise Development Fairs. This will include  
4 identifying commercial districts that contain vacant buildings and spaces for  
5 encouraging business-within-a-business lease agreements to be established.

6           Section 4. The Planning Department will assess its business registration  
7 and solicitation permitting processes and explore opportunities for collecting  
8 a more comprehensive set of data related to applicants' business types, sizes,  
9 and needs. The goal of expanding upon these data sets is to strengthen the  
10 City's ability to connect brick and mortar businesses with micro-enterprise  
11 vendors in a way that supports business-within-a-business practices. This is  
12 also intended to help identify opportunities for business clustering and the  
13 expansion of the City of Albuquerque's continuum of commerce.

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