

R-2018-081

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
CITY COUNCIL**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

FROM: Stephanie Yara, Council Finance Officer *SY 11/15/18*

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Legislation

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. R-18-82 Directing The Economic Development Department To Collaborate With The City Council Office And Other Local And State Government Agencies To Convene A Micro-Enterprise Development Fair (Peña), which was passed at the Special Council meeting of November 5, 2018, by a vote of 9 FOR AND 0 AGAINST.

In accordance with the provisions of the City Charter, your action is respectfully requested.

SMY:mh
Attachment

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-18-82 ENACTMENT NO. R-2018-081

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa J. Peña

1 RESOLUTION
2 DIRECTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO
3 COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OFFICE AND OTHER LOCAL AND
4 STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CONVENE A MICRO-ENTERPRISE
5 DEVELOPMENT FAIR.

6 WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is difficult to create regulatory,
7 business, and built environments that provide equitable access to engaging in
8 formal commerce for low-income individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, in regulatory, business, and built environments that make it
10 difficult for low-income individuals to access the mainstream labor market or
11 establish their own business as a means of earning an income, many of these
12 individuals end up participating in the informal economy; and

13 WHEREAS, although there is a need for the informal economy to provide a
14 safety net for low-income individuals who cannot find employment or
15 establish their own business, cities that do not take measures to support
16 these individuals sometimes end up expending more local funding towards
17 ensuring their public safety and well-being while also missing the opportunity
18 to accrue revenue from business registration and solicitation permitting; and

19 WHEREAS, one opportunity for low-income individuals to find a point-of-
20 entry into the market place, start generating some income of their own, and
21 contribute to the City of Albuquerque's tax base is to start their own micro-
22 enterprise; and

23 WHEREAS, micro-enterprises often operate on sidewalks and other public
24 spaces in ways that activate vacant, underutilized, underperforming
25 commercial districts, provide more "eyes on the street" to supporting

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1 surrounding businesses, and create business clusters that diversify the local
2 economy; and

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, cities like Albany, Georgia have been able to relax their
31 business registration requirements or enable micro-enterprises to conduct
32 business on the property of another business in order to provide low-income

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1 individuals with a point-of-entry into the market place to start earning liquid
2 income; and

3 WHEREAS, encouraging micro-enterprises to conduct business on
4 sidewalks and other public spaces would provide low-income individuals with
5 the most affordable option for bringing their products to the market, but might
6 also pose a threat to the general public by causing congestion if not
7 conducted responsibly or in coordination with nearby brick and mortar
8 business owners (per § 13-3-1-1 of the City of Albuquerque’s Code of
9 Ordinances); and

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

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

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

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

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
31 ALBUQUERQUE:

32 Section 1. City Council and Economic Development Department staff will
33 convene the first Micro-Enterprises Development Fair before the end of 2018.

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1 **Section 2. City Council and Economic Development Department staff will**
2 **collect all of the input received during the Micro-Enterprise Development Fair**
3 **to create a long-term plan for supporting the City’s emerging micro-enterprise**
4 **community and convening subsequent Micro-Enterprise Development Fairs in**
5 **low-income neighborhoods throughout the City.**

6 **Section 3. City Council and Economic Development Department staff will**
7 **assess which neighborhoods throughout the City of Albuquerque would most**
8 **benefit from convening subsequent Micro-Enterprise Development Fairs. This**
9 **will include identifying commercial districts that contain vacant buildings and**
10 **spaces for encouraging business-within-a-business lease agreements to be**
11 **established.**

12 **Section 4. The Economic Development Department will assess its business**
13 **registration and solicitation permitting processes and explore opportunities**
14 **for collecting a more comprehensive set of data related to applicants’**
15 **business types, sizes, and needs. The goal of expanding upon these data sets**
16 **is to strengthen the City’s ability to connect brick and mortar businesses with**
17 **micro-enterprise vendors in a way that supports business-within-a-business**
18 **practices. This is also intended to help identify opportunities for business**
19 **clustering and the expansion of the City of Albuquerque’s continuum of**
20 **commerce.**

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF November, 2018
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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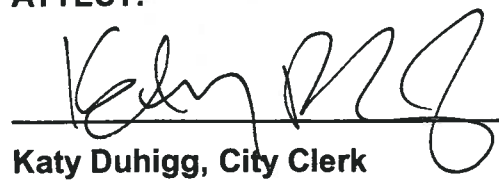
Ken Sanchez, President
City Council

APPROVED THIS 21 DAY OF November, 2018

Bill No. R-18-82



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:


Katy Duhigg, City Clerk

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