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1       WHEREAS, a series of circumstances effecting the use of the intersection  
2 requires that the City Council, to protect the public’s health and safety, act  
3 extraordinary to the Municipal Development Department’s requirements; and

4       WHEREAS, frequent violations of the 15 miles per hour school zone have  
5 mostly eliminated the safety provided by the zone and flashing beacons.  
6 Though the Albuquerque Police Department and Bernalillo County Sheriff’s  
7 Department frequently patrol the school zone they are not able to maintain a  
8 continued presence when it is in effect. The teachers at the two public schools  
9 were taking the responsibility of crossing the students. That practice was  
10 halted by the public school system due to liability issues; and

11       WHEREAS, students residing on the north side of Paradise must be bussed  
12 to school, due to the danger of crossing Paradise on foot. Installing a signal  
13 will allow them to walk to school. The City of Albuquerque has worked to  
14 improve safety for children where paths to school intersect with vehicle traffic  
15 by constructing traffic calming devices around schools and along school  
16 routes, and installing traffic signals where a vehicle entrance to the school  
17 intersects with an arterial road. These actions are consistent with the National  
18 Safe Routes to School Act adopted to improve safety on walking and bicycling  
19 routes to encourage children and families to travel between home and school  
20 using these modes; and

21       WHEREAS, policy II-D-4 of the Albuquerque Bernalillo Comprehensive Plan  
22 states it is the policy of the City to Balance the Street System by encouraging  
23 bicycling and walking in and between activity centers. In fulfillment of this  
24 policy the City adopted the Complete Streets Ordinance, which requires  
25 development and operation of the City Street System to accommodate for all  
26 modes of transportation including pedestrians; and

27       WHEREAS, the intersection of Paradise and La Paz provides access to the  
28 west side of the Paradise Hills Community from the regional arterial system  
29 and is the primary vehicle entrance to James Monroe Public Middle School  
30 and Sunset View Elementary. It is the arterial crossing for a walking trail that  
31 links the north and south sides of a de-facto activity center that includes the  
32 Petroglyph National Monument, the school campuses, the complex of  
33 gymnasiums located at the schools, the Paradise Hills Baseball Complex, the

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1 Ventana Ranch Park Soccer Complex and Tennis Courts, the Paradise Hills  
2 Community Center, and the Paradise Hills community and skate park and  
3 Swimming Pool. The trail and crossing of Paradise are used by pedestrians  
4 from nearby neighborhoods to walk the trail for exercise or to reach these  
5 facilities. Persons who travel by car to the recreation complexes and find  
6 parking on the opposite side of Paradise Boulevard from these facilities must  
7 also cross Paradise as a pedestrian to reach their destination; and

8 WHEREAS, a signal will support public health by allowing adults and  
9 children to safely cross Paradise, making it possible to walk to and from  
10 school, and the recreation complexes. Many Americans suffer from Type I and  
11 Type II diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol, and other illnesses associated with  
12 the lack of adequate exercise. Allowing adults and children the opportunity to  
13 walk to neighborhood destinations and school will improve physical health  
14 and for young people enhance the cognitive mapping capacity; and

15 WHEREAS, a signal at La Paz and Paradise, to minimize the impact on  
16 traffic flow on Paradise, can be designed and operated so that the stop  
17 command (red light) is only activated on Paradise when a vehicle and or a  
18 pedestrian activates a trigger on La Paz.

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
20 ALBUQUERQUE:

21 Section 1. The City Council, to provide for the health and safety of the  
22 people of Albuquerque, directs the Administration to install a traffic signal at  
23 the intersection of Paradise Boulevard and La Paz Drive Northwest.

24 Section 2. The following Capital Improvement Program Council Set-a-Side  
25 Funds are reserved for the design and installation of a signal at Paradise and  
26 La Paz:

27 CAPITAL ACQUISITION FUND-305

28 <u>Department Project</u>	29 <u>Source</u>	30 <u>Reserve</u>
31 DMD/STREETS		
32 2009 District 5 Street Projects	11 GO Bonds	\$330,000

33 These funds can be replaced in lieu thereof the appropriation of State  
Capital Outlay Funds.