

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-160 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Don Harris, Brook Bassan

1 RESOLUTION  
2 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BALLOON LANDING TASK  
3 FORCE.

4 WHEREAS, the Council adopted Resolution-18-19 which established the  
5 Balloon Landings Task Force to explore potential solutions for preserving,  
6 preparing, or acquiring properties for balloon landings for the Albuquerque  
7 International Balloon Fiesta and other ballooning events to preserve the viability  
8 of Ballooning in Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, the task force was composed of local experts in the fields of  
10 ballooning, taxation, policy-making, land use, real estate, and neighborhood  
11 development, and included representatives from various jurisdictions, including  
12 the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Sandia Pueblo, Sandoval County,  
13 and Rio Rancho; and

14 WHEREAS, from August, 2018 through December, 2019 the task force  
15 assessed the viability of 1) improving parking lots and other open spaces on  
16 private properties and 2) acquiring private properties in their entirety, and

17 WHEREAS, the task force developed recommendations and initiated several  
18 programs to provide ample balloon landing spaces, these include:

- 19 - Improve the parking fields in small, medium, and large properties for  
20 balloon landing areas. Improvements would include relocating light  
21 poles and trees to the perimeters of the sidewalk and other landscape  
22 and hardscape features that would create a landing field in a parking  
23 lot. The Balloon Fiesta and the City would acquire access to the land  
24 through a license agreement with the property owners.
- 25 - Acquire one large or several medium size properties for balloon landing  
26 areas and other recreational activities. This follows the City's

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- 1           successful purchase and development of a dual use balloon landing  
2           and sports field at Osuna and Vista Del Norte. The task force  
3           identified multiple properties in the North Valley as landing field  
4           candidates.
- 5           - Acquire multiple small sized properties for balloon landing sites and  
6           other recreational activities. The task force identified a number of  
7           small lots throughout the North Valley and the North I-25 Corridor to  
8           purchase and convert for landing.
  - 9           - Continue to develop the “X Marks the Spot Program”. Balloon Fiesta  
10          Staff expanded the program as part of the study effort. Through the  
11          program land owners are recruited to place, an “X” made of bed  
12          sheets on open areas of their property, to notify balloonists they may  
13          land on the site.
  - 14          - Development of Balloon Landing Site Application. Albuquerque  
15          Geographical Information System Staff, Balloon Fiesta Staff and  
16          Council Staff developed an interactive map app to guide balloon pilots  
17          to landing sites. This was part of the identification of available and  
18          potential landing sites for the study. The map is downloaded onto cell  
19          phones and the pilots can use it to identify landing sites that are safe  
20          for landings and where the landowner has provided permission to do  
21          so.

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

24           **SECTION 1. The Balloon Landing Task Force Report, Attachment 1 to this**  
25   **Resolution, is hereby accepted by the City Council.**

26           **SECTION 2. The City Council urges the seating of a City Staff and Public**  
27   **Working Group to develop action plans to implement the recommendations in**  
28   **the Balloon Landing Task Force Report to achieve ample landing areas for**  
29   **balloonists participating in events in Albuquerque.**

30   X/CL/Users/CCOTGM/Harris/Balloon Land Area /Report/Accepting Resolution