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1 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Detention Center is the largest mental health
2 institution in our state. 60% of the MDC population is either mentally ill, has
3 severe substance abuse problems or both; and
4 WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals released from the MDC receive only
5 three days' worth of medication and no other follow up assistance is provided;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, 70% of the homeless struggle with mental illness and/or
8 substance abuse issues; and
9 WHEREAS, we need to develop coordination efforts between
10 governmental, quasi-governmental, community based and non-profit mental
11 health providers with local law enforcement and incarceration
12 agencies/institutions to ensure the safety of the mentally ill and the public;
13 and
14 WHEREAS, the City Council has proposed a new "Essential Services Tax",
15 from which 50% of the revenue generated will pay for the types of programs
16 that are needed to help reverse the mental health crisis here in Albuquerque.
17 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**
18 **ALBUQUERQUE:**
19 Section 1. The Director of Council Services is hereby authorized to enter
20 into an agreement with a consultant to study and assess the gaps in the City's
21 funding for inpatient and outpatient mental health services, services related to
22 homelessness, the developmentally disabled, substance abuse and at-risk
23 populations. As a part of the study, the consultant will hold at least one public
24 forum with the community at large and one public forum with service
25 providers to gather their input and suggestions.
26 The consultant will then submit the results of the study, together with
27 recommendations for areas which may need additional funding through the
28 Essential Services Tax, to the City Council within 120 days.
29 Section 2. The Council hereby declares that the priority for the use of the
30 revenue generated by the 50% portion of the Essential Services Tax dedicated
31 to capital improvements shall be for either cash or bond funding of projects
32 that relate to behavioral health, homelessness, the developmentally disabled,
33 substance abuse and at-risk populations. Examples of such projects might

1 include, but not be limited to, the conversion of the winter emergency shelter
2 into a year-round homeless facility and/or the construction of, or assistance in
3 the construction of, an inpatient mental health facility on the west side.

4 Section 3. Thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is hereby appropriated
5 within the General Fund (110) to the Council Services Department in FY/13 to
6 carry out the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution.

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31 x:\city council\share\cl-staff_legislative staff\legislation\resolutions\essential services tax funding
32 study.doc