

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-22-4 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña

1 MEMORIAL

2 CONSIDERATION OF AN EXEMPTION FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
3 FROM NEW MEXICO STATE STATUTE 3-12-1.1, WHICH REQUIRES CITY
4 COUNCIL DISTRICTS TO BE CONTIGUOUS.

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico State Statute, NMSA 1978, § 3-12-1.1 requires in
6 part that “members of governing bodies, excluding mayors, of municipalities
7 having a population in excess of ten thousand shall reside in and be elected
8 from single-member districts... Such districts shall be compact and
9 contiguous and composed of populations as nearly equal as practicable”; and

10 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures defines
11 contiguity as “All parts of a district being connected at some point with the
12 rest of the district”; and

13 WHEREAS, in the 2020 Census, Albuquerque has a population of 564,550
14 residents; and

15 WHEREAS, the City Charter established nine City Council districts for
16 Albuquerque; and

17 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande runs north/south through the middle of the city,
18 and bisects the municipal footprint with only a relatively narrow connection
19 across the two sides; and

20 WHEREAS, the east-west division is heightened by the few number of
21 Council districts that cross the river; and

22 WHEREAS, Albuquerque has a unique geography and could benefit from
23 City Council districts that are compact, and meet other traditional principles of
24 redistricting, but the contiguity requirement can be overly burdensome and
25 may not be in the best interest of the City given its unique geographic
26 footprint.

**BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:**

**Section 1. The Albuquerque City Council supports the consideration
of an exemption to New Mexico State Statute 3-12-1.1 to exempt City
Council Districts in Albuquerque from being required to be
“contiguous” within 1 (one) mile of the Rio Grande Valley State Park.**

**Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Memorial to
the City of Albuquerque State Legislative Delegation.**