

**CITY of ALBUQUERQUE  
TWENTY-SECOND COUNCIL**

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-16-17 ENACTMENT NO. R.2016.017

SPONSORED BY: Dan Lewis

**1 RESOLUTION**

**2 DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE  
3 INTERSECTION OF PARADISE ROAD AND LA PAZ, ASSIGNING COUNCIL  
4 CAPITAL SET-A-SIDE MONIES FROM FUND 305.**

**5 WHEREAS, it is the Charter Duty of the Albuquerque City Council to adopt  
6 legislation that is beneficial to the people of Albuquerque; and**

**7 WHEREAS, the Department of Municipal Development contracted with  
8 Souder Miller and Associates to complete a Traffic Signal Warrant Study at the  
9 Intersection of Paradise Boulevard and La Paz Drive Northwest. This was in  
10 response to safety concerns regarding pedestrians crossing Paradise at La  
11 Paz and to efficiently and safely egress and ingress traffic to and from the  
12 campuses of the James Monroe Middle School and Sunset View Elementary  
13 School; and**

**14 WHEREAS, the study determined the intersection met Warrant 5 "School  
15 Crossings" of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for authorizing  
16 the installation of a traffic stop control device that fulfills federal standards;  
17 and**

**18 WHEREAS, the findings of the Traffic Signal Warrant Study do not fulfill the  
19 Department of Municipal Development's requirements for warranting traffic  
20 signals. These requirements are established to maintain a balanced flow of  
21 motorized vehicle traffic throughout the region and to not unduly impede or  
22 frustrate motorists. Additionally, the study determined the existing school  
23 crossing beacons and school zone provided appropriate protection for  
24 students crossing from neighborhoods on the north side of Paradise  
25 Boulevard to the school campuses; and**

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

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

1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF March, 2016  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

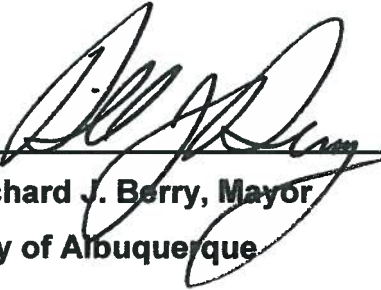
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Dan Lewis, President  
City Council

APPROVED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF April, 2016

Bill No. R-16-17



Richard J. Berry, Mayor  
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:



Natalie Y. Howard, City Clerk

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