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1 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Commission, in its advisory role on historic
2 preservation matters recommended City Council approval of the Landmark
3 designation for the Main Library at their January 8th 2020 hearing.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
5 ALBUQUERQUE:

6 SECTION 1. That the Main Library be designated a City of Albuquerque
7 Landmark.

8 SECTION 2. FINDINGS ADOPTED. The City Council adopts the following
9 Findings as recommended by the Landmarks and Urban Conservation
10 Commission:

11 (A) This is a request by the property owner to designate the property at 501
12 Copper Ave. NW, specifically described as Lots 16-37, Block B, Springer
13 Addition as a City Landmark. The approximately 1.72 acre property is located
14 on the north side of Copper Ave NW between 5th and 6th Streets NW.

15 (B) The subject site contains the Albuquerque Main Library, a 1970s
16 Brutalist building designed by George Pearl in 1975.

17 (C) The City of Albuquerque is the owner of the property and initiated this
18 application for landmark designation.

19 (D) Part 14-16-6-7(C) of the Integrated Development Ordinance of 2018 (IDO)
20 provides procedures and criteria for evaluating the suitability of a property for
21 landmark designation.

22 (E) The Main Library has historical and cultural significance and integrity,
23 is suitable for preservation, and has educational significance. As detailed in the
24 staff report, the Main Library is located in one of only two small concentrations
25 of Brutalist buildings in New Mexico. It is a highly visible public building in the
26 avant guard style that was promoted, largely by university professors, in the
27 1960s and 1970s in the United States. Brutalism embraced individual expression
28 that addressed individual design programs rather than the uniform simplicity of
29 the International style. The rarity of Brutalist buildings in New Mexico makes the
30 strong massing and monumental forms of the Main Library all the more
31 significant.

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1 (F) The Main Library meets the criteria for designation of a city landmark in
2 that it is listed on both the New Mexico Cultural Properties Register and the
3 National Register of Historic Properties.

4 (G) The Main Library meets the criteria for designation of a city landmark in
5 that it represents the work of George Clayton Pearl, a leader of the regionally-
6 responsive design and historic preservation movement and one of
7 Albuquerque’s most prolific architects, whose individual work has influenced
8 the development of the city.

9 (H) The Main Library meets the criteria for designation of a city landmark in
10 that it embodies elements of Brutalist architecture as exemplified by a
11 unification of structure and walls, brick construction, and its expression of the
12 specific design program rather than repetitive design elements.

13 (I) The features of the Main Library that are significant and help to define
14 the architectural character of the building include the use of a 9-ft square grid
15 system on the ceiling that allows for temporary wall treatments to modify a main
16 rectangular space.

17 (J) The architectural features of the coffered ceiling module consisting of
18 lighting, air supply and return, and connections to electrical systems so that
19 they may function independently if necessary.

20 (K) The architectural features of the stark, unadorned brick walls.

21 (L) The architectural feature of the main sign set at a 45-degree angle from
22 the main entrance of the building towards the intersection of Copper Avenue
23 and 5th Street. The sign is concrete and features a common Brutalist chiseling
24 pattern. The sign reads: “ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY.”

25 (M) The architectural features of lower level courtyards provide space for
26 visitors to utilize outdoor space. These exterior spaces also serve as temporary
27 refuge for visitors in case of an emergency; there are multiple points to exit the
28 building from the lower level. Large windows encase this level of the library,
29 providing light and views of the courtyard that make the space seem as though
30 it is on the street level (rather than below).

31 (N) The architectural feature of dark, vertical pane windows in anodized
32 frames.

1 (O) The federal Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation shall
2 be incorporated into the specific development guidelines for the Main Library
3 by reference.

4 SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence,
5 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
6 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
7 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council
8 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,
9 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
10 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

11 SECTION 4. OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. The City Planning Department shall
12 update the Official Zoning Map to reflect the adopted City Landmark designation
13 for the Main Library, located at 501 Copper Avenue NW.

14 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five days
15 after publication by title and general summary.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF August, 2020
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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Patrick Davis, President
City Council

APPROVED THIS 17 DAY OF August, 2020

Bill No. O-20-6



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:



Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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