



City of Albuquerque  
Office of the City Clerk

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Ethan Watson, City Clerk

Interoffice Memorandum

September 26, 2023

To: CITY COUNCIL  
From: Camille Chavez, Assistant City Clerk *cc*  
Subject: BILL NO. R-23-164; ENACTMENT NO. R-2023-075

I hereby certify that on September 22, 2023, the Office of the City Clerk received Bill R-23-164 as signed by the president of the City Council, Pat Davis. Enactment No. R-2023-075 was passed at the September 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Mayor Keller did not sign the approved Resolution within the 10 days allowed for his signature and did not exercise his veto power. Pursuant to the Albuquerque City Charter Article XI, Section 3, this Resolution is in full effect without Mayor's approval or signature. This memorandum shall be placed in the permanent file for Bill No. R-23-164.

Sincerely,

Ethan Watson  
City Clerk

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-164 ENACTMENT NO. R-2023-075

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TO  
3 INSTALL STREET TREES AT THE ALBUQUERQUE BIO PARK, MAKING AN  
4 APPROPRIATION.

5 WHEREAS, the business community and neighborhoods located near the  
6 segment of Central Avenue between Rio Grande Boulevard and the Rio  
7 Grande have striven to redevelop the roadway segment and the adjoining land  
8 uses as a multi-modal mixed-use corridor of Historic Route 66 that links the  
9 Albuquerque Old Town Historic and Cultural District and the Country Club  
10 District with the nationally renowned ABQ Bio Park and Rio Grande  
11 Bosque/River; and

12 WHEREAS, one of the many initiatives along this segment of Central  
13 Avenue has included street beautification, especially the addition of shade  
14 trees; and

15 WHEREAS, section 6-6-2 of the City's Street Tree Ordinance states that it is  
16 the intent of the Ordinance to enhance the appearance of the City's major  
17 streets; to enhance the appearance of sidewalks and pedestrian ways within  
18 street corridors; to provide physical and psychological buffering between  
19 pedestrians and automobile traffic; and to improve the desirability of walking;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to pedestrian safety and appearance, street trees  
22 also benefit a roadway through cooling a corridor's micro-climate in a time of  
23 climate change; and

24 WHEREAS, an objective of creating this corridor is to improve the  
25 landscaping between the curb line and the Bio Park's fence line between New

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1 York Avenue and the Bio Park Service entrance, especially placing appropriate  
2 street trees in the planting strip between the curb and sidewalk; and

3 WHEREAS, a City Council initiative requested these improvements and the  
4 City of Albuquerque's Cultural Affairs Department subsequently prepared a  
5 final design plan that included the street trees in the planting strip; and

6 WHEREAS, the Cultural Affairs Department submitted the final plans to the  
7 Councilor for the District for their consensus, and the Councilor concurred  
8 with the plans as they met the goal of providing shade bearing street trees;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, after receiving the concurrence, the project manager identified  
11 a number of challenges to planting the trees in the planting strip, including  
12 access to irrigation, restricted planting areas, planting near utility lines, and  
13 traffic sight line issues. These are challenges common to planting street trees  
14 in existing congested urban environments for which design solutions have  
15 been developed and successfully deployed throughout the world and the  
16 nation, including in Albuquerque. In addition, § 6-6-2-5 of the Street Ordinance  
17 recognizes challenges exist and allow for there to be cut-outs in sidewalks if a  
18 6-foot width is maintained, and where it is not possible, trees can be placed in  
19 tree wells topped with walkable grates; and

20 WHEREAS, the Cultural Affairs Department made a decision to remove the  
21 street trees from the project through an amended final plan set, absent of a  
22 consultation with the Councilor to determine if the trees should be removed  
23 from the project or if additional funding should be committed to work through  
24 the challenges of planting the street trees; and

25 WHEREAS, it continues to be a goal for the corridor to plant street trees in  
26 a planting strip along the Central Avenue fence line of the Bio Park and there  
27 is a desire to move forward with and fund a project to install the trees; and

28 WHEREAS, § 6-6-2-6 of the Street Tree Ordinance states that all applicants  
29 for building permits for construction of a new building or building addition of  
30 200 square feet or more shall submit a street tree plan for those parts of the lot  
31 abutting a major street, a major local street, or another street where street  
32 trees are required; and

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1       WHEREAS, § 6-6-2-6 of the Street Tree Ordinance commits the City to use  
2 the Capital Improvement Program to plant street trees as follows: “The Mayor  
3 shall, through the Capital Improvements Program, cause street trees to be  
4 planted near the street frontages of all City-owned lots, at least meeting the  
5 requirements of § 6-6-2-1 et seq.”; and

6       WHEREAS, the Bio Park Quality of Life Tax, as adopted through  
7 Resolution-16-68 and Resolution-2016-64, includes landscaping as stated in  
8 the text of the scope as follows; “plan, design, construct, equip and furnish  
9 new facilities, repair and renovate current facilities, including utilities, public  
10 amenities, electronic equipment, landscaping, life support systems and animal  
11 enclosures and remodel existing outdated facilities”; and

12       WHEREAS, planting street trees along this segment of Central Avenue in  
13 front of the Albuquerque Bio Park Botanic Garden is an opportunity to utilize  
14 the Albuquerque Bio Park Quality of Life Tax to provide a model of street tree  
15 landscaping in a congested urban environment that can become a best  
16 practice for other such projects.

17 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**  
18 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

19       SECTION 1. The Administration of the City of Albuquerque, to comply with  
20 § 6-6-2-6 of the City Code of Ordinance, is directed to install shade covering  
21 street trees in the planting strip located in the public right-of-way on the North  
22 Side of Central Avenue Northwest located between New York Avenue and the  
23 existing street trees located directly east of the Bio Park’s Central Avenue  
24 Service entrance. If feasible, irrigation for the planting strip landscaping shall  
25 be from the Bio Park’s metered irrigation system located on the north side of  
26 the sidewalk that abuts the planting strip.

27       SECTION 2. The Administration is encouraged to utilize the advantage of  
28 this location at the Botanic Garden to install a configuration of street trees that  
29 provides a living, and if feasible, an innovative example of the best practice for  
30 installing street trees in urban environments with limited space.

31       SECTION 3. That the appropriations are hereby made and/or changed and  
32 that decreases in interest/contingency for activities/projects are transfers of  
33 revenues to the specific projects as indicated.



1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF September, 2023  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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10 Pat Davis, President  
11 City Council

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15 APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

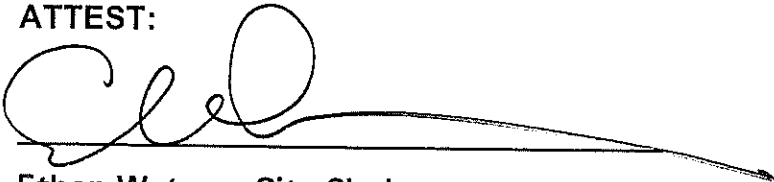
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Bill No. R-23-164

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23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor  
24 City of Albuquerque

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28 ATTEST:



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31 Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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