

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-170 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Dan Lewis, Brook Bassan, Louie Sanchez, and Renée Grout

1 RESOLUTION

2 URGING COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND

3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been grappling with a significantly elevated

5 violent crime rate; and

6 WHEREAS, the state's prison population has consistently declined over the

7 past six years, with a projected 3% reduction anticipated in 2024; and

8 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the state to take proactive measures to

9 prevent crime and ensure the incarceration of dangerous criminals; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has recorded substantial revenue surpluses in

11 recent years, demonstrating the state's capacity for substantial investments in

12 public safety and healthcare; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico Annual Financial Report for 2020

14 indicated a total revenue of \$7.8 billion; and

15 WHEREAS, the Legislative Finance Committee's (LFC) August Money

16 Matters report has projected recurring revenues for FY23 at \$11.641 billion,

17 reflecting a significant increase of \$1.966 billion or 20.3% from FY22; and

18 WHEREAS, the same report estimated that revenue for 2024 would reach

19 \$12.611 billion; and

20 WHEREAS, the Legislative Finance Committee Activity Report has noted

21 recurring revenues for FY23 through March at \$8.99 billion, a substantial

22 increase of \$1.9 billion or 27.7% from the same period in the previous year,

23 surpassing the December estimate by 7.8%; and

24 WHEREAS, the behavioral health system in New Mexico, particularly

25 substance abuse treatment, has been failing its residents, causing widespread

26 harm; and

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1 WHEREAS, drug addiction has been identified as a root cause of crime,
2 necessitating comprehensive efforts to address both property and violent
3 crime; and

4 WHEREAS, people charged with violent crimes pose a significant threat to
5 our community; and

6 WHEREAS, in August of 2021, Governor Lujan Grisham unequivocally
7 declared her support for a "rebuttable presumption" as a critical measure to
8 address the revolving door of violent crime that has plagued our state stating,
9 "I believe a rebuttable presumption for individuals accused of violent crimes
10 can be a wedge in the revolving door of repeat violent offenses that have
11 characterized the worst aspects of the crime our state continues to
12 experience"; and

13 WHEREAS, the State House and the State Senate appropriated \$10 million
14 for warrant enforcement, and

15 WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham said, "If you're abusing the pretrial
16 system in New Mexico: Your time is up," in her press release announcing the
17 release of the warrant enforcement funds; and

18 WHEREAS, repeat violent offenders who use firearms in the commission of
19 their crime pose a greater threat to the public; and

20 WHEREAS, Alex Piquero, a criminologist at the University of Texas at
21 Dallas, said "A routine finding in the criminological literature is that about half
22 of the crime is committed by a very small fraction of the population."

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
24 ALBUQUERQUE:

25 Section 1. The Governor should call a special legislative session, and the
26 Governor, New Mexico House, and New Mexico Senate should prioritize
27 addressing the behavioral health crisis in New Mexico and create a
28 comprehensive plan allocating the necessary resources to combat the opioid
29 and methamphetamine addiction epidemic, enhance mental health services,
30 and improve addiction treatment access throughout the state.

31 Section 2. The Governor should call a special legislative session, and the
32 Governor, New Mexico House, and New Mexico Senate should prioritize
33 reform of the pretrial detention system including the implementation of a

1 "rebuttable presumption" for individuals charged with murder, gun crimes,
2 rape, human trafficking, or other serious sex crimes.

3 Section 3. The Governor should call a special legislative session, and the
4 Governor, New Mexico House, and New Mexico Senate should prioritize
5 continued funding of the warrant enforcement program at current levels for
6 the next five years.

7 Section 4. The Governor should call a special legislative session, and the
8 Governor, New Mexico House, and New Mexico Senate should prioritize
9 passing legislation that imposes a lifetime sentence for repeat offenders who
10 use firearms in the commission of the violent crime after committing a third
11 violent offence.

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