



TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR 

SUBJECT: VETO OF R-26-12, ADJUSTING FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN FUNDS AND PROGRAMS.

DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

As I stated in my previous line-item veto of C/S R-25-132, I support Bands of Enchantment. But my concerns regarding the appropriation of City funds to a private, for-profit business remain the same. It's my understanding that support for this appropriation was part of a broader agreement, and I respect Council's work to come to an agreement on important City issues. However, as with the prior appropriation, there are serious legal concerns about an appropriation of this amount to a private business. In particular:

- This would bring the total appropriation for Bands of Enchantment to \$860,000 for FY26. There is an additional appropriation of \$580,000 proposed for FY27. In total, this for-profit business is in line to receive approximately \$1.4 million in City funding.
- An expenditure of this amount to a private business violates the anti-donation clause. In addition, an appropriation of this amount to a business without a public procurement

process likely violates the City's Procurement Ordinance. Also, the Council transferred the authority this funding to itself, in violation of the principles of separation of powers.

Therefore, because I cannot support legislation that is unlawful, I have decided to veto R-26-12. I respect that this veto can be overridden, however if these funds are appropriated it will require legal action before this administration violates the law. A simple solution would be to appropriate money for tourist-related activities and marketing. That would avoid these difficult issues and any violation of City ordinances or the New Mexico Constitution.

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
CITY COUNCIL**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

FROM: Isaac Padilla, Director of Council Services 

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Legislation

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. R-26-12 Adjusting Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Appropriations For Certain Funds And Programs (Champine), which was passed at the Council meeting of April 6, 2026, by a vote of 6 FOR AND 2 AGAINST.

FOR: Baca, Bassan, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis

AGAINST: Peña, Rogers

RECUSED: Telles

In accordance with the provisions of the City Charter, your action is respectfully requested.

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SEVENTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-26-12 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Dan Champine

1 RESOLUTION

2 ADJUSTING FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
3 CERTAIN FUNDS AND PROGRAMS.

4 WHEREAS, *Bands of Enchantment* is an Emmy-winning music television
5 series that is filmed in Albuquerque and celebrates live music performances
6 across multiple genres, including rock, indie, hip-hop, folk, Latinx, and more;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the series is available nationally via PBS and internationally
9 through digital streaming platforms such as Tubi, Prime Video, the Roku
10 Channel, and All Arts; and

11 WHEREAS, *Bands of Enchantment* has produced multiple seasons
12 featuring local, national, and international musical artists, and has hosted live
13 performance tapings at iconic Albuquerque venues such as the historic KiMo
14 Theatre and the Rail Yards; and

15 WHEREAS, recent seasons of the series have included a free outdoor
16 *Bands of Enchantment Music Festival* in downtown Albuquerque, expanding
17 the reach of the television production into large-scale public music
18 experiences that promote community gathering and cultural enrichment; and

19 WHEREAS, providing free and accessible public music events such as the
20 *Bands of Enchantment Music Festival* supports community connection,
21 cultural participation, and quality-of-life opportunities for Albuquerque
22 residents across all ages and backgrounds; and

23 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque's Department of Arts & Culture
24 partners with *Bands of Enchantment* and its producers to present red carpet
25 premieres and associated events that showcase the City's creative energy and
26 elevate Albuquerque's presence in national media; and

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WHEREAS, supporting *Bands of Enchantment* contributes to the City’s arts and cultural economy by promoting Albuquerque as a distinctive cultural hub, attracting audiences and attention to local venues, artists, and creative industries; and

WHEREAS, the Bands of Enchantment program was previously funded through the City's Lodgers' Tax fund in the FY26 budget approved by the City Council, and activities that draw visitors and increase tourism-related events support lodging occupancy and the intended purpose of the Lodgers' Tax fund to promote tourism and Albuquerque's hospitality economy; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required to support ongoing program needs during the current fiscal year.

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

Section 1. That the following amounts are hereby adjusted and appropriated to the following programs from fund balance:

GENERAL FUND-110

Council Services Department

Council Services	280,000
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LODGERS' TAX FUND-220

Finance and Administrative Services Department

Transfer to Other Funds:

General Fund (110)	280,000
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The funding shall be used for programming funds for Bands of Enchantment.

1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF April, 2026
2 BY A VOTE OF: 6 FOR 2 AGAINST.

3
4 FOR: Baca, Bassan, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis

5 AGAINST: Peña, Rogers

6 RECUSED: Telles
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11 _____

12 Klarissa J. Peña, President
13 City Council

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15 APPROVED THIS 20 DAY OF April, 2026
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19 Bill No. R-26-12

20 **VETO**^K
21

22 _____
23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
24 City of Albuquerque
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26 ATTEST:
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28 _____
29 Ethan Watson, City Clerk
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