

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-180 ENACTMENT NO. R-2021-050

SPONSORED BY: Peña, Sena, Bassan, Benton

1 RESOLUTION
2 DEDICATING THE SECTION OF COORS BOULEVARD FROM CENTRAL
3 AVENUE SOUTH TO BERNALILLO COUNTY LIMITS TO HONOR THE LIFE AND
4 SERVICE OF FATHER GRAHAM R. GOLDEN, O. PRAEM AND TO URGE THE
5 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE AND THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
6 TRANSPORTATION TO MAKE THE SAME DEDICATION.

7 WHEREAS, Father Graham R. Golden, O. Praem lived his life as a testimony
8 of God’s all-embracing love, mercy, and grace; and

9 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham was born to Dan and Deborah Golden on January 8,
10 1986, in Albuquerque; and died in an automobile accident on May 21, 2021 at
11 the age of 35; and

12 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham had been a part of the Norbertine Community of
13 Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey in Albuquerque, NM for 12 years, and he would
14 have celebrated his sixth year as an ordained priest on June 20, 2021; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout his years of communal life and service, Fr. Graham
16 was well-known for being present whenever and wherever he was needed or
17 invited; and

18 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham entered the Norbertine Community with a deep
19 desire to serve the poor, the oppressed, and the most marginalized members
20 of our community; and

21 WHEREAS, many members of our Albuquerque community have a
22 personal story of an encounter with Fr. Graham that has touched, impacted, or
23 greatly changed their lives; and

24 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham engaged in extensive work in the Albuquerque
25 community, including but not limited to working with teenagers and young
26 adults, preparing and facilitating homilies, supporting the expansion of the

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1 retreat center at the Abbey, committing himself to the Pilgrimage for
2 Vocations, and establishing a group of young Norbertines; and

3 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham served on several boards and committees for the
4 Archdiocese of Santa Fe, worked for the Catholic Foundation for a time, and
5 served as the previous pastor at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic
6 Community, most recent pastor at St. Augustine Church at Isleta Pueblo, and
7 the Vocations Director and Director of the Office of Christian Discipleship and
8 Religious Vocation at the Abbey, among other roles; and

9 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham’s untimely death shall serve as a catalyst for
10 encouraging more public investment among the New Mexico Department of
11 Transportation, the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Mid-Region
12 Council of Governments, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority,
13 and the New Mexico State Legislature to improve safety along Coors
14 Boulevard from Central Avenue south to Bernalillo County Limits; and

15 WHEREAS, in January 2021 the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County
16 adopted R-20-121 to establish Coors Boulevard and State Highway 45 as a
17 priority area for making improvements to the corridor to align with Urban
18 Arterial Standards; and

19 WHEREAS, through a continued collaboration amongst the City and
20 County, Bernalillo County will for its part consider a dedication and directives
21 substantially similar to those expressed here; and

22 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has recently launched two initiatives
23 aimed at honoring and responding to the increasing number of pedestrian,
24 bicyclist, and motor vehicle deaths attributed to careless and excessive
25 speeding – 1) Speeding Has A Name and 2) Vision Zero; and

26 WHEREAS, Speeding Has A Name is a City Council public education
27 campaign aimed at humanizing the impact that speeding has on the public
28 health, safety, and welfare of Albuquerque individuals and families; and

29 WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Initiative is a citywide commitment to create
30 safer streets for all, whether walking, biking, driving, or taking transit, and
31 regardless of age or ability; and

32 WHEREAS, the Norbertine Community and Fr. Graham have established a
33 strong long-term relationship with Mayor Tim Keller and the Norbertine

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1 Community would like to continue to work with the Mayor to ensuring public
2 safety; and

3 WHEREAS, the Norbertine Community would like to honor the life and
4 service of Fr. Graham by continuing to work with the City of Albuquerque to
5 help implement these campaigns and initiatives across City departments by
6 providing ongoing volunteer support; and

7 WHEREAS, Fr. Graham was an extraordinarily dedicated, talented, and
8 intelligent young priest in Albuquerque and his pastoral heart touched many
9 individuals and groups during the short six years of his priesthood.

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

12 Section 1. That the City will dedicate the section of Coors Boulevard
13 stretching from Central Avenue south to Bernalillo County Limits to honor the
14 life and service of Fr. Graham.

15 Section 2. That the City will urge the New Mexico Department of
16 Transportation and the New Mexico State Legislative to do the same
17 dedication.

18 Section 3. That the City will continue to work with the Norbertine
19 Community to support the implementation of the Speeding Has A Name
20 public education campaign, including holding a special event for volunteers
21 to post street signage aimed at improving public safety.


22 Section 4. That the City will prioritize transportation infrastructure
23 investment aimed at improving public safety along Coors Boulevard from
24 Central Avenue south to Bernalillo County Limits.

25 Section 5. That the City will urge the New Mexico State Legislature to
26 provide ongoing capital outlay funding to provide transportation
27 infrastructure investment along Coors Boulevard from Central Avenue south
28 to Bernalillo County Limits.

29 Section 6. Upon enactment of a substantially similar resolution by
30 Bernalillo County, the dedications and directives expressed by the City and
31 County will constitute a joint resolution of the two governments only as to the
32 matters expressed by each, respectively.

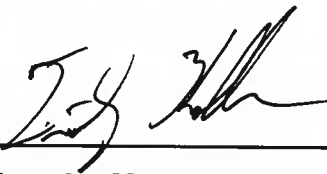
1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF June, 2021
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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Cynthia D. Borrego, President
City Council

APPROVED THIS 29 DAY OF June, 2021

Bill No. R-21-180


Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:


Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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