

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. RA-25-9 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Nichole Rogers, Joaquín Baca

1 **RULES AMENDMENT**

2 **AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE: ARTICLE III,**  
3 **SECTION 23 ALLOCATION OF COUNCILOR EXPENSES.**

4 **WHEREAS, City Councilors are responsible for maintaining strong lines of**  
5 **communication and engagement with their constituents, including more than**  
6 **22 neighborhood associations in certain districts that require ongoing**  
7 **support, coordination, and outreach; and**

8 **WHEREAS, community engagement activities such as neighborhood**  
9 **meetings, informational mailers, safety notifications, and public forums, are**  
10 **essential for building trust, transparency, and collaboration between residents**  
11 **and their elected officials; and**

12 **WHEREAS, the current annual allocation of \$20,000 for discretionary**  
13 **constituent outreach is no longer sufficient to meet the growing number of**  
14 **requests for support from neighborhood associations, community coalitions,**  
15 **small nonprofits, and district-led initiatives; and**

16 **WHEREAS, Councilors regularly receive numerous sponsorship requests**  
17 **for community events, public safety initiatives, cultural programming, youth**  
18 **activities, and other projects that directly support City goals and improve**  
19 **resident quality of life; and**

20 **WHEREAS, districts with high levels of community participation and**  
21 **engagement host multiple annual events, meetings, clean-ups, and public**  
22 **information campaigns that require accessible and reliable funding to be**  
23 **effective; and**

24 **WHEREAS, increased constituent outreach needs, including digital**  
25 **engagement, multilingual communication, printed materials, and expanded**

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New  
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New  
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 public participation processes, have raised the cost of effective governance,  
2 and made current funding levels inadequate; and

3 WHEREAS, providing Councilors with sufficient outreach resources  
4 ensures that all neighborhoods receive access to information, support, and  
5 engagement opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, raising the annual allocation to \$50,000 will better align  
7 Councilor resources with the scale of community engagement expectations  
8 and allow elected officials to respond more effectively to constituent needs  
9 and project requests; and

10 WHEREAS, strengthening Councilor capacity for district outreach and  
11 event sponsorship directly advances the City’s goals of resident participation,  
12 community safety, local economic vitality, and transparent governance.

13 SECTION 1. ARTICLE III, SECTION 23 of the City Council Rules of  
14 Procedure is amended as follows:

15 ARTICLE III – PROCEDURES

16 Section 23. Allocation of Councilor Expenses. Each Councilor shall be  
17 allocated a maximum annual amount of ~~[\$20,000]~~ [\$50,000] for Council  
18 expenses related to discretionary constituent outreach, including but not  
19 limited to mailing/notification expenses, District meetings, and small event  
20 sponsorships to governmental or not-for-profit entities. The Director of  
21 Council Services will evaluate requests for use of the funds, in consultation  
22 with legal staff, based whether 1) the expense advances an identifiable goal of  
23 the City, 2) the public benefit of the expense outweighs the incidental private  
24 benefit, and 3) the expense is in compliance with all applicable City  
25 regulations and policies. The annual amount shall be calculated on a fiscal  
26 year basis, from July 1 to June 30. The annual amount for newly elected  
27 Councilors shall be prorated for the period from January 1 to June 30. ~~[This~~  
28 ~~rule shall become effective July 1, 2019.]~~

29 SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,  
30 word or phrase of this Rules Amendment is for any reason held to be invalid  
31 or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall  
32 not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Rules Amendment.  
33 The Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Rules Amendment

1 and each section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof  
2 irrespective of any provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise  
3 invalid.

4 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Rules Amendment takes effect  
5 immediately upon adoption. Councilor discretionary funds shall be prorated  
6 as of January 1, 2026 as an increase to Councilor FY25 discretionary  
7 constituent outreach funds.

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New  
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion