

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-24-5 ENACTMENT NO. R-2024-005

SPONSORED BY: Reneé Grout and Nichole Rogers

1 RESOLUTION
2 CREATING A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE OPTIONS AND MAKE
3 RECOMMENDATIONS TO REIMAGINE THE MOTEL VOUCHER PROGRAM
4 WITHIN THE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITALITY RENEWAL
5 INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP.

6 WHEREAS, to address the emergency overnight needs of the residents of
7 the City, the City currently funds a motel voucher program which is
8 administered through various non-profit organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of providing dignified and
10 effective temporary housing solutions for our community members in crisis;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the current motel voucher program presents challenges to
13 agencies, hotel operators, and voucher holders; and

14 WHEREAS, the Overnight Lodging Ordinance for the City of Albuquerque
15 has not been updated since 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, a very limited number of hotels throughout the City accept
17 motel vouchers, making it difficult to place a motel voucher holder in a safe
18 and secure motel; and

19 WHEREAS, some motels throughout the City are blighted and are hotspots
20 for criminal activity; and

21 WHEREAS, blighted motels within the City cause significant concerns,
22 posing threats to public safety, health, and community well-being; and

23 WHEREAS, an updated and strengthened motel voucher program has the
24 potential to serve as an effective tool in providing temporary relief and support
25 to individuals and families facing housing challenges due to unsafe or
26 inadequate living conditions; and

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1 **WHEREAS, acknowledging the evolving nature of housing issues and the**
2 **need for a responsive and adaptable strategy, the City is committed to**
3 **regularly reviewing and enhancing existing programs to meet the changing**
4 **needs of the community; and**

5 **WHEREAS, collaboration among various stakeholders, including local**
6 **government, law enforcement, hotel partners, social services, and community**
7 **organizations, is essential to creating a multifaceted approach to address the**
8 **complexities associated with blighted motels; and**

9 **WHEREAS, this complex issue requires partnerships with local**
10 **businesses, residents, and advocacy groups to create initiatives aimed at**
11 **reducing the impact of blighted motels on the City while creating a motel**
12 **voucher system that better serves the utilizers.**

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

15 **SECTION 1. An eleven-member Hospitality Renewal Initiative Working**
16 **Group is established.**

17 **SECTION 2. The Working Group shall be made up of the following**
18 **members:**

19 **A. One City staff member from the Department of Health, Housing, and**
20 **Homelessness (HHH);**

21 **B. One City staff member from the Planning Department's Code**
22 **Enforcement Division;**

23 **C. One City staff member from the Albuquerque Community Safety**
24 **Department (ACS) with knowledge about emergency shelters, especially**
25 **pertaining to Domestic Violence placements;**

26 **D. One City staff member from the Fire Marshal's ADAPT program;**

27 **E. One City staff member from the Albuquerque Police Department**
28 **(APD);**

29 **F. One City staff member from the City Council Services;**

30 **G. One City Staff Member from the Mayor's Office;**

31 **H. Four community members appointed by the Council, two with**
32 **knowledge about the hotel industry and operations and two with knowledge**
33 **about the City funded voucher program; and**

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1 I. Appropriate community members, including persons with lived
2 experience, and City staff may be invited to the Working Group meetings as
3 needed as advisory only members.

4 SECTION 3. This Working Group shall explore:

5 A. Options for efficient enforcement methods to address the most
6 pressing problems associated with problem motels;

7 B. Options for collaborative and proactive programs to assist motel
8 operators in providing safe and secure accommodations for guests;

9 C. Options for the City to reimagine the motel voucher program to best
10 serve individuals and families who need an emergency hotel room for a night
11 or a short extended stay; and

12 D. Any other relevant and helpful options relating to this issue. This
13 Working Group shall meet bi-weekly until the final recommendations are
14 issued.

15 SECTION 4. The Working Group shall convene its first meeting within one
16 month after the enactment of this Resolution. The Working Group shall
17 prepare recommendations for improving the City's motel voucher program
18 and/or legislation that could help address the issue by no later than six
19 months after the enactment of this Resolution. These recommendations shall
20 be made available to all Councilors and the Mayor.

21 SECTION 5. This Working Group is a fact-finding and recommending body
22 and not a final policy-making body; accordingly, any meetings of this
23 Working Group are not subject to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.
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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF February, 2024
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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6 _____
7 Dan Lewis, President
8 City Council

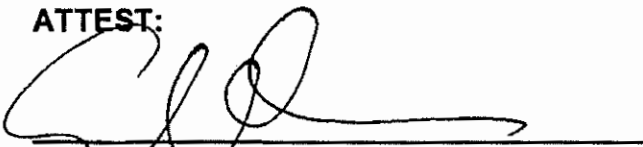
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11 APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF February, 2024

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15 Bill No. R-24-5

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18 _____
19 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
20 City of Albuquerque

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24 ATTEST:

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26 _____
27 Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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