

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-17-230 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Diane G. Gibson

1 RESOLUTION
2 CREATING A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS AND MAKE
3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING VACANT AND ABANDONED
4 HOUSES IN THE CITY.

5 WHEREAS, the City presently administers several local ordinances aimed
6 toward enforcement of minimum health and safety requirements for vacant or
7 abandoned residential properties; and

8 WHEREAS, the City's enforcement agencies are presently monitoring over
9 600 properties across the City that already are, or are in danger of becoming,
10 public nuisances; and

11 WHEREAS, these hundreds of vacant or abandoned houses across the City
12 impact the home values in their respective neighborhoods and the resale
13 opportunities for Albuquerque families; can disrupt quality of life in our city's
14 neighborhoods; and can present safety threats because of dilapidation and
15 attraction of illicit activities; and

16 WHEREAS, because of the property rights and other issues involved the
17 City's process for enforcement and nuisance abatement enforcement against
18 these properties can take several months to years and be very resource
19 intensive; and

20 WHEREAS, given the intensive nature of enforcement efforts the sheer
21 volume of these properties overwhelms the City's resources such that City
22 staff can focus on only a handful of problem properties at a time on this list of
23 hundreds; and

24 WHEREAS, while nuisance abatement and zoning enforcement is and will
25 remain a key mechanism to address these properties, other more proactive
26 methods of dealing with this issue may be available; and

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1 WHEREAS, exploring ways to address this issue in a well-reasoned and
2 methodical way could help address the problems associated with vacant and
3 abandoned houses in the city, help reduce property crime, and better leverage
4 city resources.

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

7 Section 1. A seven (7) member Vacant and Abandoned Houses Task
8 force is established.

9 Section 2. The Task Force shall be made up of the following members:

10 A. One City staff member from the City's Zoning Enforcement
11 Department knowledgeable in the area of residential nuisance abatement and
12 enforcement;

13 B. One City staff member from the Family and Community Services
14 Department knowledgeable in housing and housing related needs in the City;

15 C. One City Staff member from the City Legal Department
16 knowledgeable in nuisance abatement and zoning enforcement against vacant
17 or abandoned residential properties;

18 D. One Staff member from each the City Council Services Department
19 and Mayor's Office; and

20 E. Two community members appointed by the Council with special
21 knowledge or interest in issues and community impacts associated with
22 vacant or abandoned residential properties.

23 Section 3. This Task Force shall explore: a) options for efficient
24 enforcement methods to address the most pressing problems associated with
25 vacant and abandoned houses; b) options for collaborative and proactive
26 programs to prevent the dilapidation or deterioration of such houses; c)
27 options for the city to help facilitate re-commissioning such houses for people
28 and families, d) and any other relevant and helpful options relating to this
29 issue. This Task Force shall prepare a list of recommendations for potential
30 programs or legislation that could help address issues related to vacant and
31 abandoned houses in the City by no later than January 1, 2018. This list of
32 recommendations shall be made available to all Councilors and the Mayor.

1 Section 4. This Task Force is a fact finding and recommending body and
2 not a final policy making body; accordingly, any meetings of this Task Force
3 are not subject to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

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