

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-20-6 ENACTMENT NO. M-2021-001

SPONSORED BY: Diane Gibson, Pat Davis, Lan Sena, and Brook Bassan

1 MEMORIAL
2 URGING THE NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A STATE
3 PUBLIC BANK, OWNED BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO, DURING
4 THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

5 WHEREAS, a state public bank established and chartered in the state of
6 New Mexico would be a publicly-owned financial institution to improve the use
7 and management of the state's funds for investment within New Mexico and
8 fulfill the need for alternative affordable lending resources for local business
9 and non-profit organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, the taxpayers of New Mexico desire and require responsible
11 and equitable use of public funds for public benefit and accountability in their
12 financial system, and a New Mexico Public Bank would operate according to
13 state and federal financial and banking laws; and

14 WHEREAS, an independent governing board will ensure that the
15 management is sound and the board members will consist of New Mexico
16 residents and have clearly demonstrated personal and professional integrity
17 and impartiality, be very familiar with the needs of our communities, and a
18 portion of which must have sound financial industry banking experience; and

19 WHEREAS, all investment practices will be in keeping with the state public
20 bank's mission and its management and staff, who are banking professionals,
21 are overseen by a governing board of directors, and its policies and reporting
22 requirement assure compliance and transparency for how public funds are
23 managed; and

24 WHEREAS, investing in a state public bank will enhance the economic
25 stability of New Mexico's citizens and improve the vitality and viability of New

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1 Mexico's communities and economic sectors by leveraging gross receipts for
2 the public good; and

3 WHEREAS, a state public bank encourages the growth of locally-owned
4 banks and credit unions with their partnership and by offering low cost
5 partnership "gap" loans; and

6 WHEREAS, a state public bank promotes the state's public and private
7 economic well-being, enhances human and social capital, builds and reinvests
8 in a strong economic infrastructure that complements economic and
9 environmental goals, especially in under-served communities; and

10 WHEREAS, because public banks are created in the interest of the state's
11 citizens, they can invest in community development and economic
12 diversification projects, and promote public/private partnerships that enhance
13 affordable housing, renewable energy, agricultural development, and other
14 needed infrastructure; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs a more robust and diversified economy to
16 balance the volatile revenue from oil and gas production that are subject to
17 significant market swings; and

18 WHEREAS, a public bank owned by and created for New Mexicans will
19 provide greater transparency and lower lending costs to the state and local
20 governments compared to for-profit banks; and a public bank will partner with
21 community banks, credit unions, and community development financial
22 institutions (CDFIs), would keep taxpayer dollars in New Mexico, and has been
23 endorsed by the Credit Union Association of New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, a public bank can direct New Mexico's investment decisions to
25 support and diversify the economy, and it can facilitate additional goals, in
26 eco-tourism, food security, broadband expansion, health clinic upgrades, and
27 clean energy infrastructure projects; and

28 WHEREAS, a public bank chartered in New Mexico, and approved by the
29 legislature and Governor, could lower financing and debt service costs to the
30 City of Albuquerque, while supporting local community development efforts;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, public banking is the preferred model of public development in
33 many high-achieving economies throughout the world, in both developed and

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1 developing countries, and state and cities in the U.S. are now introducing and
2 passing laws to charter public banks; and

3 WHEREAS, as the City, State, and country rebuild in the wake of the
4 COVID-19 pandemic, a state public bank could be particularly helpful as a
5 financial tool to assist small-and medium-sized local businesses to survive
6 and grow; and

7 WHEREAS, the Bank of North Dakota, a public bank founded in 1919, has
8 helped the state's residents weather recessions, including the current
9 recession created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and has provided hundreds of
10 millions of dollars to North Dakota's treasury; and

11 WHEREAS, what was a good idea previously is all the more important as a
12 tool the State could use to keep local funding in the State and to put dollars to
13 work where the need is greatest with locally-owned small- and medium-sized
14 businesses that experienced the most negative impacts from the pandemic,
15 due to a jump in online purchases.

16 BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
17 CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

18 Section 1. The Council urges the New Mexico State Legislature to establish
19 a state public bank owned by and for the people of New Mexico.

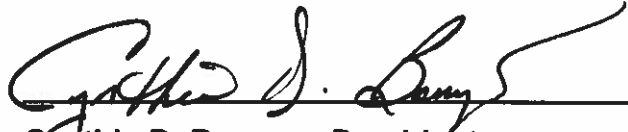
20 Section 2. The Clerk of the City Council is directed to transmit a copy of
21 this Memorial to the Governor of New Mexico, leadership of the House and
22 Senate, Albuquerque legislative delegation, and the New Mexico State
23 Treasurer.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF January, 2021
2 BY A VOTE OF: 7 FOR 2 AGAINST.

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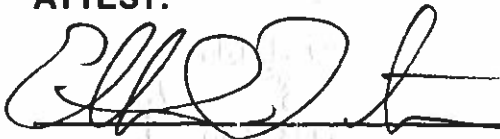
Against: Harris, Jones


Cynthia D. Borrego, President
City Council

Bill No. M-20-6

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ATTEST:



Ethan Watson, City Clerk